



AUTUMN TERM 2025

Safeguarding Newsletter

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding at St Francis



At St Francis we ensure safeguarding and child protection is at the forefront and underpins all relevant aspects of process and policy development.

Our belief that "it could happen here" for all aspects of safeguarding and bullying, supports us to address any underlying bias in order to achieve equality for all children and adults within our school.

We encourage pupils to respect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We work together with the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership to stay informed, trained and to be able to signpost families to the support they need, when they need it. Walsall Safeguarding Partnership offer guidance for:

Children and young people: <https://walsallsp.co.uk/children/> and

parents and carers: <https://walsallsp.co.uk/children/parents-carers/>

as well as information surrounding procedures and available training.



Our Safeguarding Team



Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL) Allison Wright



Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead (DDSL) Dawn Richards



Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead (DDSL) for EYFS, Samantha Peters



Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead (DDSL) for KS1, Emma Guy



Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead (DDSL) for LKS2, Niamh Rowley

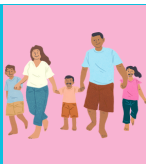


Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead (DDSL) for UKS2, Ellis Garratt

If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can contact a member of the safeguarding team via the school office, or contact MASH on 0300 555 2866

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Families First

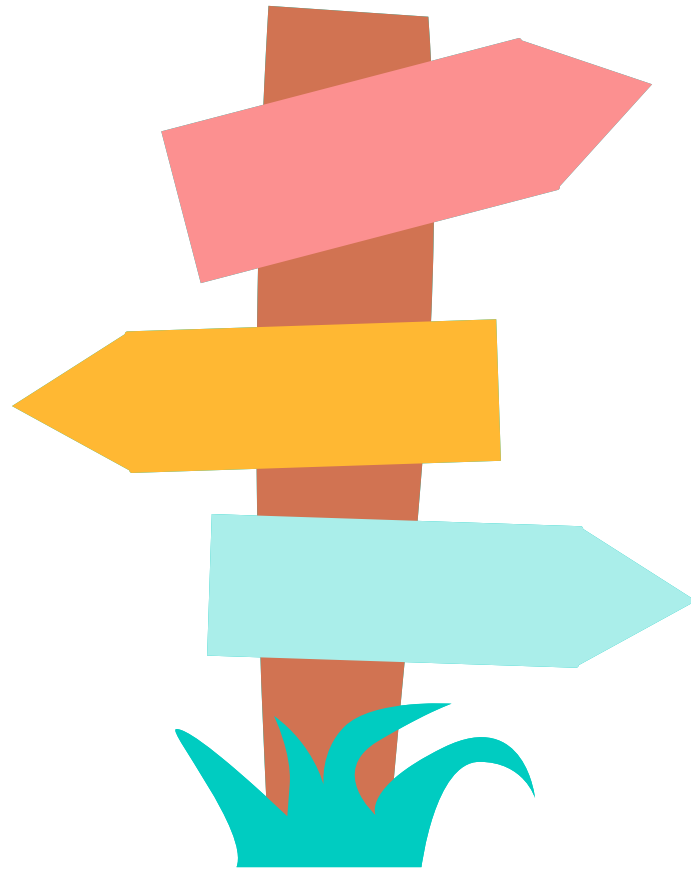


The Families First for Children (Pathfinder) Programme

Walsall is one of seven new areas in England selected to pilot the 'Families first for children' pathfinder programme – a national reform to children's social care, which is designed to keep more children in safe and loving homes and improve child protection.

As a 'pathfinder' area, Walsall will test new ways of working to help more children stay with their families, and further strengthen the Early Help partnership to ensure families suffering from issues such as domestic abuse, addiction, and poor mental health, can receive Family Help at the earliest opportunity.

The Families First For Children's Newsletter can be found here: <https://walsallsp.co.uk/children/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/06/Families-First-Pathfinder-newsletter-June-2024.pdf>



Online Safety



We have been teaching our children to stay safe online for many years. The Online Safety Act 2023 has been working to protect children and adults online by imposing new duties on social media companies and search services to ensure user safety and reduce illegal content. With the increase of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the internet being at our finger tips 24/7 and the access our children have to the internet via smart devices, games consoles, TV's and computers, we all need to be extra vigilant.

In July 2025, age verification for access to adult content sites (and apps that allow adult content) came into force as part of the [Online Safety Act](#). When you consider that 8% of children aged 8 to 14 have viewed online adult content this really couldn't come soon enough.

September 2025 saw the introduction of age verification on Roblox, this will require facial scanning across the platform by the end of 2025. This has caused much discussion in the online world, and on our playground, hopefully it is the beginning of more online companies taking responsibility to protect minors from predators.

There are many websites available to support parents keeping their children safe online, two that are used in school regularly are:

NSPCC, Keeping Children Safe Online: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/>



Ofsted New Framework



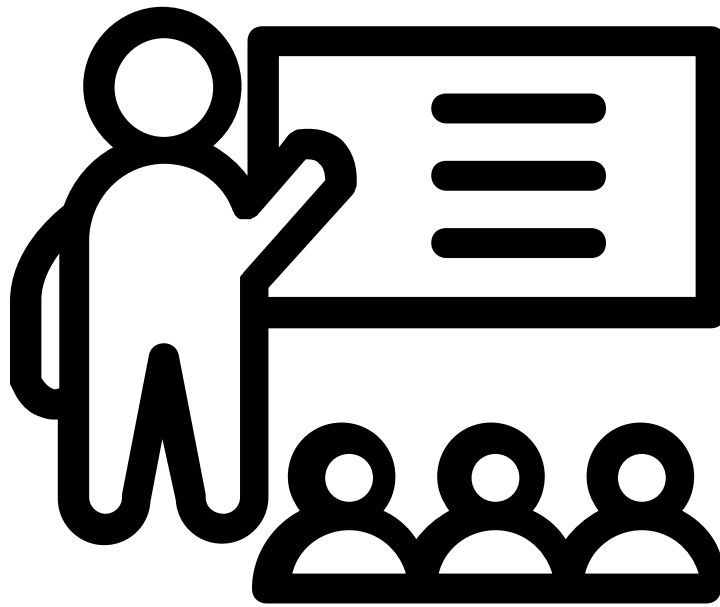
What do parents need to know about safeguarding and the new Ofsted framework?

Parents should be aware of the following key updates regarding safeguarding in Ofsted inspections for 2025:

Enhanced Focus on Safeguarding: The new Ofsted framework places a significant emphasis on the effectiveness of safeguarding systems, culture, and outcomes, recognizing that safeguarding is not just about having policies but creating a culture where children feel safe.

Core Areas Evaluated: Schools will be evaluated across several core areas, including leadership and governance, governance oversight, safeguarding procedures, record-keeping, information sharing, staff recruitment and vetting processes, multi-agency working arrangements, staff understanding of safeguarding responsibilities, quality and frequency of safeguarding training, identification of pupils needing support, early help provision, and safety education.

Context Considered: The new framework recognizes that schools operate in different circumstances and considers factors such as local challenges, intake, SEND levels, and wider community needs.



Safeguarding Questionnaire



Your views will support us in keeping our St Francis community safe.

Please complete the following Parent Safeguarding Survey by the end of January 2026.

<https://forms.gle/dFbv56mrVDQuLfh19>

The data will be analysed, the results and responses will be shared with parents during the Spring Term.

A final thought...



...do you know who you are sharing your information with?

One final thought for you, do you know who is viewing your social media content? This short video from the Irish Data Commission, explains the importance of checking your privacy settings.

[Data Protection Commission - Pause Before You Post \(2025, Ireland\)](#)

Pause before you post!