



## Visitors to School Policy

Created: January 2018

Reviewed: July 2022

Review by: Summer 2024



### Statement of Intent

This policy is designed to outline St Mary's Catholic High School's policy regarding visitors to our school grounds.

This policy will enable our school to:

- Safeguard and protect the welfare of pupils and staff members.
- Prevent unnecessary disruption to lessons and other educational activities.
- Protect our grounds and facilities from vandalism and misuse.
- Engage with the community and outside educational influences in a structured and productive manner.

### Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- DfE (202) 'Keeping children safe in education 2021'
- Childcare Act 2006
- Education Act 1996

- **[New]** DfE (2021) 'Prevent duty guidance'

**[Updated]** This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- DBS Policy
- Contractors Policy
- Volunteer Policy
- First Aid Policy
- **[New]** Prevent Duty Policy

**[Updated]** The DSL is responsible for ensuring visitors receive copies of and understand the following school policies:

- Social Media Policy
- Personal Electronic Devices Policy
- Staff and Volunteer Confidentiality Policy
- **[New]** Fire Safety Policy

## Authorisation

- Individuals who would like to visit the school, but are not in contact with a member of staff regarding this, should arrange their visit through the school office, who can be contacted on 01772 421909.
- The office will record the date and time of the proposed visit, reason for the visit, name of the visitor(s), and the name of the organisation they belong to where applicable.
- The school office will be contacted about a proposed visitation at least one week in advance.
- The school office will pass all details on to the relevant member of staff for a final sign-off before getting back to the visitors and confirming the details of their visit.
- Teachers, or other staff members, arranging visitors to the school for educational purposes will collate all the above required information and pass this on to the school office.
- Visitors who arrive at the school without a prior appointment may be permitted to meet with the headteacher/other staff members where these members of the school

staff are happy to do so. The visitor will not be allowed into the school without supervision.

- Parents are discouraged from visiting the school during school hours unless for a school event or emergency. Where a parent arrives at the school, they must follow the visiting procedures outlined below.

## Safeguarding

The school is committed to promoting the safety of all pupils and may require visitors to undertake a DBS check depending on the purpose of their visit.

A visitor will require an enhanced DBS check with children's barred list information if they work in 'regulated activity'.

DBS checks will be undertaken in accordance with the DBS Policy.

The DSL and headteacher will be responsible for determining whether DBS checks need to be carried out and ensuring that they are undertaken, where required.

Under no circumstance will a visitor who has not undergone a DBS check be left unsupervised with pupils.

The school will manage the risk of potential harm to pupils by taking steps to segregate pupils from visitors.

**[New]** The school will adhere to the Prevent Duty Policy at all times when managing the risk of potential harm to pupils from visitors.

## Visiting Procedure

All visitors to the school, including parents, will comply with the following procedure:

- Immediately report to the school reception area on arrival

- Provide their details to the reception staff, including:
  - Name
  - Purpose of visit
  - Name of pupil the visit pertains to/staff member who arranged the visit
  - Expected length of visit
- Sign-in using the Inventory system
- Display ID badges provided at all times while on school property
- Sign-out using the Inventory system upon departure
- Return ID badges to the school office before departure

Visitors are made aware of relevant school policies, including that in relation to health and safety, reporting a concern and emergency procedures.

Visitors are advised that our school is a non-smoking area and smoking is not permitted anywhere within school grounds.

Prior to the visit, all visitors are made aware of any specific parking arrangements which the school has in place.

Unless they have undergone the necessary DBS check, visitors to the school will not work in regulated activity and will be supervised at all times.

## Exceptions

Visits to the school by contractors are governed by our Contractors' Policy.

Parents/caregivers/friends/relations, etc. attending scheduled open days, sports events or other 'by-invitation' school activities will be exempt from the visiting procedures outlined above.

Anyone attending school events should keep to the areas of the school grounds where the events are taking place (for example the sports field, school hall, etc.).

## Unidentified Individuals

It is the responsibility of all staff members to politely question any individual who enters the school premises unaccompanied and/or without a clearly displayed name badge.

Any such visitors will be directed to the school office where they can sign-in.

If a visitor refuses to report to the school office, or becomes aggressive or abusive, they will be asked to leave the premises and the police may be called to assist.

## Visitor Conduct

Visitors to the school will be required to act in accordance with the school's **Code of Conduct** and other relevant school policies at all times.

St Mary's Catholic High School reserves the right to escort individuals from the premises who act in an aggressive or threatening manner towards staff members, pupils, governors, parents or other visitors.

Under section 547 of the Education Act 1996, it is an offence for any person to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises; therefore, the police may be contacted to assist in the removal of individuals from the premises, where necessary.

In the event of persistent occurrence of unacceptable behaviour on the school site, St Mary's Catholic High School has the right to request a banning order from the LA for the individual in question.

## Visitor Self-declaration Form

At St Mary's Catholic High School, we feel it is important that all visitors to our site understand and adhere to our principles and procedures, as outlined within this policy.

All visitors must complete this self-declaration form at the school reception prior to entering the school site, agreeing to follow our school procedures put in place to keep themselves, our pupils and staff safe.

**Please note:** if you do not agree to the school's procedures, you are not permitted to enter the school site. Visits may need to be re-arranged in this case.

### Declaration

I agree to:

- Follow the school's safeguarding procedures
- Follow the school's conduct procedures
- Follow the school's procedures regarding the use of technology and social media on-site
- Follow the school's procedures regarding confidentiality
- Follow the school's visiting procedures
- To follow the school's coronavirus (COVID-19) procedures

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Contact number</b>	
<b>Company (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Reason for visit</b>	

<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Date</b>	