Trinity St Stephen Church of England First School
Vansittart Road, Windsor, SL4 5DF
01753 862540 | office@tssfirst.co.uk
Headteacher: Linda Pennington /Chair of Governors: Trevor Kirby

❤️ **Compassion** 🤝 **Trust** 🦉 **Wisdom** 👥 **Friendship** 🕊️ **Peace** 🏠 **Fellowship**

Trinity St Stephen Church of England First School

Child on Child Abuse Policy

DRAFT

Date:	November 2026	Approved: Safeguarding Governor
Review Date:	November 2027	Signed K Smets Title: Safeguarding Governor

1. Our Christian Ethos and Vision

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." — **John 15:12**

At Trinity St Stephen CE First School, we aim to ensure that everybody **Thrives and Achieves within our Caring Christian Community**. We use our Christian Values and our guiding Bible verse to shape every interaction across our school. We believe that keeping this commandment at the heart of everything we do enables everyone within our school community to flourish in a safe, respectful, and nurturing environment.

Because we are committed to loving and valuing one another, we recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. We maintain a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of abuse, sexual violence, and sexual harassment. We never dismiss harmful behaviour as "banter," "just having a laugh," "part of growing up," or "boys being boys." At Trinity St Stephen, we operate with an attitude of **"it could happen here."**

2. Purpose and Statutory Framework

This policy has been written in accordance with the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance, ***Keeping Children Safe in Education*** **(KCSIE)**, *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, and the local inter-agency procedures of the **Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) Safeguarding Partnership** and **Achieving for Children (AfC)**. It should be read alongside our overarching **Safeguarding (Including Child Protection) Policy**, **Behaviour Policy**, and **E-Safety (online) Policy**.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Prevent child-on-child abuse through proactive education, clear boundaries, and our Christian ethos.
- Ensure all staff, governors, and volunteers can recognise the signs and indicators of child-on-child abuse.
- Provide a clear, consistent, and age-appropriate framework for reporting, recording, and responding to allegations in a first school setting.
- Outline how we support both the victim and the child displaying harmful behaviour, integrating our restorative approach where safe and appropriate to do so.

3. What is Child-on-Child Abuse?

Child-on-child abuse occurs when a child or young person harms another child or young person. Given our age range as a first school, we pay particular attention to developmentally inappropriate behaviours, physical aggression, relational bullying, and early exposure to online content.

In line with KCSIE, child-on-child abuse can take many forms, including (but not limited to):

- **Bullying:** Including cyberbullying, prejudice-based, and discriminatory bullying.
- **Physical abuse:** Such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens, and/or encourages physical abuse).
- **Sexual violence and sexual harassment:** Including inappropriate touching, sexualised language, or non-consensual sharing of images (even at a first school level, children may mimic older siblings or online media).
- **Up-skirting:** Taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission.
- **Causing someone to engage in sexual activity.**
- **Sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos** (also known as sexting or youth-produced sexual imagery).
- **Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.**

We recognise that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), children who are perceived as different, and girls are statistically at greater risk of experiencing child-on-child abuse, and staff remain extra vigilant to their needs.

4. Prevention: Helping Everyone to Flourish

Preventing abuse is rooted in our daily worship, curriculum, and school culture:

- **Christian Values & Collective Worship:** Daily worship reinforces John 15:12, teaching children empathy, forgiveness, kindness, and respect for the dignity of every individual.
- **PSHE and RSE Curriculum:** Through age-appropriate Relationships and Health Education, children learn about healthy friendships, consent (in simple terms like personal space and body autonomy), safe boundaries, and how to speak up if something makes them feel uncomfortable.
- **Online Safety:** We educate children and work in partnership with parents to ensure safe internet use at home and school.
- **Open Culture:** Children are taught to identify trusted adults in school and know that any worry they share will be listened to seriously and without judgement.

5. Reporting, Recording (CPOMS), and Local Referral Procedures

All staff are trained to follow our internal safeguarding reporting procedures immediately if child-on-child abuse is suspected, witnessed, or disclosed:

1. **Listen and Reassure:** Staff will listen carefully to the child, take them seriously, and reassure them that they are safe and will be supported. Staff will never promise confidentiality.

2. **Immediate Safety:** Staff will take immediate steps to ensure all children involved are physically and emotionally safe, separating them if necessary.
3. **Internal Staff Reporting:** Staff must report the concern immediately to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**, Deputy DSL, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) following our **internal reporting procedure**. Staff must provide a clear, factual account using the exact words spoken by the child(ren).
4. **Recording and Triage on CPOMS:** Upon receiving an internal report, the **DSL or SLT will formally log the incident on CPOMS** under the appropriate safeguarding/child-on-child category. The DSL/SLT will then review the chronology, assess the level of risk, and decide whether to manage and monitor the situation internally or escalate to external agencies.
5. **Risk and Needs Assessment:** For any incident involving sexual violence, sexual harassment, or serious physical harm, the DSL will complete a formal written **Risk and Needs Assessment** (stored securely on CPOMS) considering the victim, the alleged perpetrator, and all other children at Trinity St Stephen.
6. **External Referrals (Achieving for Children – RBWM):** Guided by the RBWM Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance, the DSL will determine whether external support or statutory intervention is required:
    - **Early Help:** Where a child or family would benefit from coordinated early support.
    - **Single Point of Access (SPA) / MASH:** Where a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, the DSL will make a referral to the Achieving for Children RBWM Single Point of Access (SPA) / Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on **01628 683150** (or email MASH@achievingforchildren.org.uk for advice).
    - **Out of Hours / Emergencies:** Outside office hours, referrals are made to the RBWM Emergency Duty Team on **01344 351999**. If a child is in immediate danger or a criminal offence has occurred, the Police will be contacted immediately on **999**.
7. **Informing Parents/Carers:** The DSL/SLT will contact the parents/carers of both the victim and the child displaying the behaviour promptly, unless advised otherwise by Achieving for Children or the Police because doing so would put a child at further risk of significant harm.

6. Restorative Justice, Reflection, and Accountability

At Trinity St Stephen CE First School, our behaviour policy is built on **restorative justice and reflection**, reflecting our Christian belief in accountability, healing, and forgiveness.

When child-on-child harm occurs, we balance robust safeguarding with age-appropriate restorative practices:

- **Safeguarding First:** Restorative work will **never** be used to force a victim to confront or forgive a perpetrator, nor will it replace statutory referrals to Achieving for Children (MASH) or the Police where thresholds are met. Restorative steps only take place when the victim feels safe, supported, and willing to participate, and when it is deemed appropriate by the DSL.
- **Reflection Forms:** To help young children understand the impact of their actions on others, the child who caused harm will be supported by a trusted adult to complete an age-appropriate **Reflection Form**. This encourages them to think about what happened, who was affected, which Christian Value was broken, and how they can make better choices in the future.
- **Partnership with Parents & Letters of Apology:** We believe parents are vital partners in helping children learn and grow. Where appropriate, the child will take their reflection work home to discuss with their parents/carers. Together at home, the child and their parents may write a **letter to the victim** (or draw a picture/dictate a message, depending on the child's age) to express genuine remorse and take responsibility for repairing the relationship.
- **Ongoing Monitoring and Support:** Both the child who has been harmed and the child who has caused harm will receive tailored pastoral support, with ongoing actions and updates logged and monitored on **CPOMS** by the DSL/SLT. We recognise that a child displaying harmful or abusive behaviour may have unmet needs or be experiencing trauma themselves, and we work closely with families to address root causes.

7. Monitoring and Review

The DSL, SLT, and Safeguarding Governor will regularly review **CPOMS** logs and trends regarding child-on-child incidents to identify any emerging patterns, hotspots in school, or specific cohort needs. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure ongoing compliance with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* and RBWM Safeguarding Partnership procedures.

Continued on next page…

DRAFT

Appendix 1

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)  Linda Pennington l.pennington@tssfirst.co.uk 01753 862540	**Deputy Safeguarding Lead**  Alison Brech a.brech@tssdfirst.co.uk 01753 862540
Chair of Governors **Trevor Kirby** **t.kirby@tssfirst.co.uk**	**Designated Governor for Safeguarding Child Protection** **Kaat Smets** **k.smets@tssfirst.co.uk**
Designated Teacher for Children Looked After  Linda Pennington l.pennington@tssfirst.co.uk 01753 862540	**SENDCo**  Carolyn Avramovic c.avramovic@tssfirst.co.uk 01753 862540

Our School Health and Safety Officer is: Linda Pennington, Headteacher

Linked Policy

Behaviour & Attendance Policy

Safeguarding Policy (Includes Child Protection)

Attendance Policy

Anti Bullying Policy

Appendix 2

Significant Information

Achieving For Children (RBWM)

SPA: 01628 683150

OUT OF HOURS: 01344 786543

LADO: 07774 332675
lado@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Slough Children First (Slough Borough Council)

SPA: 01753 875362

Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) to sloughchildren.referrals@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk. The operating hours (for this team only) are 9am to 5pm.

General enquiries: 01753 477321 between 9am and 5pm.

OUT OF HOURS: 01344 351999
EDT@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or **dial 999**.

LADO: 07927 681858
LADO@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk

DRAFT