



## **Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement**

St Mary's College is actively committed to fostering communities of safeguarding that recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and young people.

We encourage open communication whereby families and communities are informed of relevant issues and participate in decisions about the safety of children and young people. It is particularly important to us to look for avenues to empower children and young people to have a say and be listened to.

We actively seek to become and remain informed of the causes and signs of child abuse and neglect.

When we receive information about concerns or witness any matter relating to abuse of a child or young person, we respond appropriately and report any such concerns to the appropriate authority. This includes contacting the police immediately where there may be immediate risk of harm to any person, especially a child.

Every person within St Mary's College who comes into contact, or works, with children and young people seeks to uphold the dignity of all children and commits to establishing safe and supportive relationships.

St Mary's College has documented policies and procedures to prevent risks to children and young people and build a strong culture of safeguarding. All priests, brothers, sisters, staff and volunteers are expected to follow these policies and procedures and contribute to the culture of care and protection of all children.

We plan, organise and review all activities with children and young people, proactively considering potential risks and strive to ensure risks are reduced, and eliminated where possible. Everyone is encouraged to communicate any area of concern or where you think our approach may need improvement.

Anyone who brings forward a suspicion, concerns, knowledge or allegation of current or past abuse of a child or young person to St Mary's College will be responded to sensitively, respectfully, actively and in a timely manner, in line with our lawful obligations and our own Complaints Handling Policy.

We regularly undertake internal and external auditing of our safeguarding policies and practices to make sure that they always support a culture and practice that puts the safety of children at the centre of our thinking and action.

We listen to the voices of children and young people as we constantly strive to remain vigilant and make improvements.

For more information or to raise a concern, please contact:

***Lorna Starrs – Safeguarding Coordinator***