

# Safeguarding at St. Benedict's C of E VA Junior School



**Safeguarding is of the utmost importance to the staff and governors at St. Benedict's and our pupils' safety and welfare are our number one priority.**

We believe that our school should provide a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment in which pupils can learn and which promotes the social, physical and emotional wellbeing of each individual pupil. This leaflet is intended to outline our approach to the safeguarding of children and your role in this as parents and carers.



As such, we have a team in place that is dedicated to safeguarding at St. Benedict's. This team comprises:

**Piers Ranger – *Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)***,

**Jane Newbury – *Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)***

**Mimi Kirby – *Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)***

**Amanda Thorpe – *PFSA (please see next page)***

**Bill Burrow – *Safeguarding Governor***

**Helen Roper – *Chair of Governors***



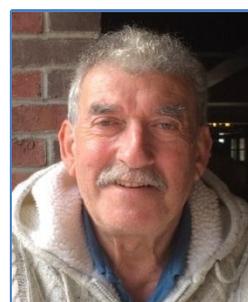
**Piers Ranger**



**Jane Newbury**



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**Bill Burrow**



**Helen Roper**

# Working Together to Safeguard Children

Child Protection can seem like a difficult topic to discuss, but keeping the children at St. Benedict's safe is our most important role and we believe it is everyone's responsibility; from the office team, to the lunchtime staff and from teachers to TAs, we all have a duty of care to our pupils and we are not afraid to talk about it!

We recognise our responsibilities and duties to report Safeguarding and Child Protection concerns to Children's Social Care and assist Social Services in supporting Children in Need. We are very fortunate to have an excellent Parent and Family Support Adviser (PFSA), Mandy Thorpe, who is also part of our



Safeguarding team, and whose role it is to support families when necessary.

**Parent and Family Support Adviser, Mandy Thorpe**

St. Benedict's Junior School is proud of its excellent engagement with parents and carers and we think the home-school partnership is vital in every child's development and learning. We will raise safeguarding/Child Protection concerns with parents/carers at the earliest appropriate opportunity and will always strive to help families who need support of any kind.

The school ensures that all staff are given appropriate and regular training in Safeguarding and Child Protection issues. As well as comprehensive annual staff training by the Headteacher, staff are given frequent safeguarding updates throughout the year.

# Working with us to support your child...

## What can you do to help us safeguard your child?

*When considering children's safety, we cannot emphasise enough the importance of regular communication between home and school.*



It is extremely important that you keep us informed about the following things:

- Let us know as soon as possible in the morning if your child is going to be absent so that we know where they are. If they are ill on subsequent days, please let us know again **each** morning.
- If your child has an injury, please let us know as soon as possible.
- If your child's pick-up arrangements are changing, please notify the class teacher via a note or, if the arrangements change during the day, please contact the school office.
- Please keep your contact details up to date with the school office by letting us know if your circumstances change. This includes mobile number, e-mail address and emergency contact details.

## **ATTENDANCE IS PART OF SAFEGUARDING**

Attendance has long been considered an important aspect of safeguarding. If children are absent from school for unknown reasons or their absence is in regular patterns, e.g. certain days of the week, this can raise safeguarding concerns. As of September 2019, if your child is absent from school for eight sessions (four days) within a ten week period concerns may be raised. Please complete absence request forms ahead of any planned absences (available from the office).

# Keeping your child e-safe...

Perhaps the greatest threat facing many of our pupils is that of e-safety. With online bullying become ever more common and self-esteem issues related to social media at an all-time high, here are a few tips on helping your child stay e-safe:

- Only e-mail people they know (why not set up an address book?)
- Ask permission before opening an e-mail from someone they don't know,
- Don't use internet chat rooms,
- Don't use their real name when playing games online (create a nickname),
- Never give out home address or phone number,
- Never arrange to meet someone they have 'met' on the internet,
- Never tell a person who they don't know where they go to school,
- Only use a webcam with people they know,
- Tell an adult immediately if they see something they are unhappy with,
- Limit their use of screen time,
- Talk to your child about e-safety,
- Locate their tablet/computer in a family area,
- Stay savvy yourself – do you know how to:
  - ✓ Check their browser history?
  - ✓ Set filters on their tablet/device?
- Be approachable. Most children would rather have someone they can turn to – make sure it's you!

**Our full 'Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy' can be found on our school website. Please take a look at the e-safety section of the website too!**

**[www.stbenedictsjuniorschoolglastonbury.org](http://www.stbenedictsjuniorschoolglastonbury.org)**