Vita Et Pax Preparatory School

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

6a Priory Close, Green Road, Southgate, London N14 4AT
Tel: 020 8449 8336 | Email: info@vitaetpax.co.uk

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Review Date:	February 2026	**Responsible:**	Head Master / DSL
Head Master:	Darren May	**Chair of Proprietorial Body:**	Pushkar Acharya
DfE URN:	102064	**Charity No:**	281566

1. Introduction and Purpose

Vita Et Pax Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in our care. This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, governors and visitors. It has been developed in accordance with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004

- The Education Act 2002 (Section 175)

- Independent School Standards Regulations (ISSRs) 2014

- Enfield Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESCP) procedures

2. Key Principles

The welfare of children is paramount. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from harm. All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment and to identify children who may be in need of extra help or who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is a senior member of the school leadership team with lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.

DSL Details

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Darren May

Deputy DSL: Kate Newton

Nominated Safeguarding Governor: Maria Poulos

The DSL will undertake inter-agency training at least every two years and will undertake Prevent awareness training. They will carry out their role in accordance with Annex C of KCSIE 2025.

4. Recognising Abuse and Neglect

All staff must be aware of indicators of abuse and neglect so that they can identify children who may be in need of help or protection. The four categories of abuse are:

4.1 Physical Abuse

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

4.2 Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

4.3 Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

4.4 Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development.

5. Specific Safeguarding Issues

All staff should be aware of specific safeguarding issues including, but not limited to:

- Child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child criminal exploitation (CCE)
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Forced marriage
- Preventing radicalisation (the Prevent duty)
- Peer-on-peer / child-on-child abuse
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children
- Domestic abuse
- So-called "honour-based" abuse
- Mental health concerns
- Children missing from education

6. Online Safety

The school recognises the growing risks to children online. All staff must be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. The school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in accordance with KCSIE 2025 Part 2. The school's IT Acceptable Use Policy provides further detail.

7. Reporting Procedures

All concerns about a child must be reported immediately to the DSL or Deputy DSL. Staff should:

- Report concerns verbally to the DSL as soon as possible
- Record concerns in writing using the school's safeguarding recording system (CPOMS or equivalent)
- Not investigate concerns themselves
- Not promise confidentiality to a child — explain that information may need to be shared
- If a child is in immediate danger, contact the police (999) and/or children's social care directly

Local Authority Referrals

Referrals to Enfield Children's Services (MASH): 020 8379 2507. Out of hours: 020 8379 1000. The school follows the Enfield Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESCP) thresholds and procedures.

8. Allegations Against Staff

Any allegation against a member of staff (including supply staff, volunteers and contractors) must be reported immediately to the Head Master. If the allegation concerns the Head Master, it must be reported to the Chair of the Proprietorial Body. The school will follow the procedures set out in Part 4 of KCSIE 2025 and contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) at Enfield: 020 8379 2850.

9. Whistleblowing

The school has a culture of openness. Staff who have concerns about poor or unsafe practice or potential failures in safeguarding should report these in accordance with the school's Whistleblowing Policy. The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is: 0800 028 0285.

10. Safer Recruitment

The school follows safer recruitment practices in accordance with Part 3 of KCSIE 2025, including DBS checks, identity verification, prohibition checks and single central record maintenance. At least one member of every recruitment panel will have completed safer recruitment training.

11. Training

All staff receive safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) at induction and at regular intervals thereafter. The DSL and Deputy DSL undertake training every two years. All staff receive regular safeguarding updates at least annually, and are required to read Part 1 (and Annex B where appropriate) of KCSIE 2025.

12. Record Keeping and Information Sharing

All safeguarding records are stored securely, separate from the child's main school file. Information is shared on a "need to know" basis in the best interests of the child, in accordance with data protection legislation and the guidance in KCSIE 2025 and Working Together 2023.

13. Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Anti-Bullying Policy

- Behaviour & Discipline Policy
- IT Acceptable Use Policy
- Low-Level Concerns Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy
- RSE/PSHE Policy