

Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Learn to Love; Learn to Believe; Learn to Achieve.

*In our school Christ is at the centre and children are
at the heart of all that we do:*

*We inspire everyone to succeed to reach their potential in
a safe inclusive happy environment;*

*We develop resilient hard working independent individuals who
are confident to take risks.*

Visitor Policy

Date: 01 April 2024

Review Date: 31 Mar 2025

Signed by Chair of Governors: Mrs S Buller

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Statement of intent

This policy is designed to outline Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy's procedures regarding visitors to the premises.

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

1. 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 Act 1974
- DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023
- Childcare Act 2006
- Education Act 1996
- DfE Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales 2023

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- DBS Policy
- Volunteer Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Lettings Policy

2. Authorisation

Individuals who would like to visit the school, should arrange their visit through the school office, on 01457 854473 or by emailing info@mgl.srscmat.co.uk

Visitors are required to sign in on arrival through the school's visitor pod system which records the reason for the visit, the name of the visitor(s), and the name of the organisation they are from where applicable.

Anyone wishing to visit the school or arrange a meeting must do so prior to arrival, without a prior appointment it is not always necessary to accommodate meetings with members of staff. The visitor will not be allowed into the school without the supervision of a member of school staff.

Parents are discouraged from visiting the school during school hours unless for a school event, pre-arranged meeting or emergency. Where a parent arrives at the school, they will follow the visiting procedures outlined in the visiting procedures section of this policy.

3. Visiting procedures

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 school office staff, including:
 - Name
 - Purpose of visit
 - Name of pupil the visit pertains to/staff member who arranged the visit
- Sign-in using the visitor pod at reception
- Display ID stickers provided at all times while on school property
- Sign-out using the visitor pod at reception

4. 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.

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

5. Exceptions

Visitors attending scheduled open days, sports events or other by-invitation school activities will be exempt from the visiting procedures but maybe asked to sign in to meet Fire regulations.

Anyone attending school events will keep to the areas of the school grounds where the events are taking place (eg the sports field, school hall).

6. 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 cannot be identified, the Headteacher or member of SLT will be informed immediately.

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.

7. 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.

The 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, the school has the right to request a banning order from the LA for the individual in question.

8. Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis by the Head of School and

Executive Headteacher.

Amendments to the policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.