



Vita et Pax
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Vita et Pax Preparatory School
Established 1936

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

Policy Originator	Head Teacher
Approved by	Governing Body
Date Approved	1 March 2026
Status	Statutory
Review Period	Annually (next: March 2027)

1. Introduction and Legal Framework

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, governors and visitors. It is informed by Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, the Children Act 1989/2004, the Education Act 2002 and ISSRs 2014.

2. Key Principles

The welfare of the child is paramount. All children are entitled to equal protection from harm, and all staff share responsibility for early identification, support and referral.

3. Safeguarding Leadership

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Darren May.
- Deputy DSL: Kate Newton.
- Nominated Safeguarding Governor: Maria Poulos.
- DSL training and updates are maintained in line with KCSIE 2025.

4. Recognising Abuse and Neglect

1. Physical abuse.
2. Emotional abuse.
3. Sexual abuse.

4. Neglect.

5. Specific Safeguarding Issues

- CSE and CCE, FGM, forced marriage and honour-based abuse.
- Child-on-child abuse, sexual violence and harassment.
- Domestic abuse, mental health concerns and children missing education.
- Radicalisation risks under the Prevent duty.

6. Online Safety

Technology risks are addressed through filtering and monitoring, staff awareness and curriculum teaching in line with KCSIE 2025 and the Online Safety Act 2023.

7. Reporting and Allegations

- Concerns are reported immediately to DSL/Deputy DSL and recorded on the school system.
- Staff do not investigate concerns themselves or promise confidentiality.
- Immediate risk triggers emergency contact with 999 and/or children's social care.
- Allegations against staff are managed under KCSIE 2025 Part 4 and LADO procedures.

8. Record Keeping and Related Policies

Safeguarding records are stored securely and shared on a need-to-know basis in the child's best interests. This policy should be read alongside anti-bullying, behaviour, IT acceptable use, low-level concerns, safer recruitment, staff code of conduct, whistleblowing and RSE/PSHE policies.

Approved by: Governing Body of Vita et Pax Preparatory School

Date: 1 March 2026