

# School Visitors Policy

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**Statement of Intent**

This policy aims ensuring that all children are safeguarded both during school hours and during out of school hours activities which are arranged by the school. The ultimate aim is to ensure that students at St Michael’s Church of England High School can learn and enjoy extra-curricular experiences, in an environment where they are safe from harm.

The adoption and implementation of this policy will ensure that a clear protocol is in place for the admittance of external visitors to the school which is understood by all staff, governors, visitors and parents and conforms to child protection and safeguarding guidelines.

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of governors                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **1. Context**

The governing board assures all visitors a warm, friendly and professional welcome to St Michael's Church of England High School, whatever the purpose of their visit.

The school has a legal duty of care for the health, safety, security and wellbeing of all pupils and staff. This duty of care incorporates the duty to safeguard all pupils from subjection to any form of harm, abuse or nuisance. It is the responsibility of the governing board and senior staff to ensure that this duty is uncompromised at all times.

In performing this duty, the governing board recognises that there can be no complacency where child protection and safeguarding procedures are concerned. The school therefore requires that ALL VISITORS (without exception) comply with the following policy and procedures. Failure so to do may result in the visitor's escorted departure from the school site.

## **2. Policy Responsibility**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the member of staff responsible for implementation, coordination and review of this policy. This person will also be responsible for liaising with the school's security staff and, as appropriate, the Assistant Headteacher, Facilities and Resources. All breaches of this procedure must be reported to the DSL.

## **3. Where and to whom the policy applies**

The school is deemed to have control and responsibility for its pupils anywhere on the school site (i.e. within the school boundary fence), during normal school hours, during school organised after school activities and on school organised (and supervised) off-site activities.

The policy applies to:

- All staff employed by the school
- All external visitors entering the school site during the school day or for after school activities (including peripatetic tutors, sports coaches, and topic related visitors e.g. authors, journalists)
- All governors of the school
- All parents and volunteers
- All pupils
- Other Education related personnel (Local Authority Advisors, Inspectors)
- Building & maintenance and all other Independent contractors visiting the school premises
- ICT managed service and all other Independent contractors visiting the school premises associated to this
- Independent contractors who may transport students on minibuses or in taxis

## 4. Protocol and Procedures

### Visitors to the School

All visitors to the school may be asked to bring formal identification with them at the time of their visit (unless they are named on the approved visitors list as set out below). They must follow the procedure below.

- When on site, all visitors must report to reception first. No visitor is permitted to enter the school via any other entrance under any circumstances.
- At reception, all visitors must state the purpose of their visit and who has invited them. They should be ready to produce formal identification upon request.
- All visitors will be asked to sign the Inventory Visitors System. This is make note of their name, organisation, who they are visiting, car registration and it will produce a photograph visitor badge.
- All visitors will be required to wear this visitor badge throughout their visit. The badge must remain visible at all times.
- Visitors will be escorted to their point of contact OR their point of contact will be asked to come to reception to receive the visitor. The contact will be responsible for the visitor while they are on site. The visitor must not be allowed to move about the site unaccompanied unless they are registered on the Approved Visitor List.

### Approved Visitor List

The school will hold an approved visitor list for visitors who frequently visit the school site to undertake work within the school (including contractors and supply staff).

To qualify for this list, the visitor must have demonstrated prior to the visit that they have a current clear enhanced DBS check and a copy of this has been registered on the school's Central Record (a current DBS is defined as no more than 3 years old).

Visitors on the approved list MUST follow the same procedures on entry to the premises (i.e. come to reception and sign in via the Inventory Visitors System). A copy of the approved visitor list will be kept at reception at all times.

### Visitors Departure from School

On departing the school, visitors MUST leave via reception and:

- Scan the barcode on the Inventory Visitors System
- Return the identification badge to reception
- A member of staff should escort the visitor to the staff car park (ensuring the visitor does not re-enter the school site, potentially breaching security).

### Unknown/Uninvited Visitors to the School

Any visitor to the school site who is not wearing an identity badge should be challenged politely to enquire who they are and their business on the school site.

They should then be escorted to reception to sign the Inventory Visitors System and be issued with an identity badge. The procedures under "Visitors to the School" above will then apply.

In the event that the visitor refuses to comply, they should be asked to leave the site immediately and the headteacher (or a member of the senior leadership team if the headteacher is not available) should be informed promptly.

The headteacher or member of the senior leadership team will consider the situation and decide if it is necessary to inform the police.

If an unknown/uninvited visitor becomes abusive or aggressive, they will be reminded of Sandwell's Zero Tolerance Policy and asked to leave the site immediately and warned that if they fail to leave the school grounds, police assistance will be called for.

### **Governors and Volunteers**

All governors and parent helpers must comply with Criminal Records Bureau procedures, completing a DBS disclosure form (if not already held) via the School office. The school must check all governors' and volunteers' DBS certification is current (i.e. less than 3 years old).

Thereafter, procedures as per this policy should apply. Please note that governors should sign in and out using the Inventory Visitors System.

New governors will be made aware of this policy and familiar with its procedures as part of their induction. This is the responsibility of the headteacher, chair of governors or the clerk to governors.

New volunteers will be asked to comply with this policy by staff they first report to when coming into school for an activity or class supporting role.

### **Staff Development**

As part of their induction, new staff will be made conversant with this policy for external visitors and asked to ensure compliance with its procedures at all times.

### **Linked policies**

This policy and procedures should be read in conjunction with other related school policies, including but not limited to:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Healthy and Safety Policy
- Fire Safety Policy

## **5. Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher in agreement with the governing board.

Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.