

Will my child be taken away from me?

This is often a very real concern for families, in a lot of cases, it is assessed that it is in the best interests of the child to remain at home with their families. This is often where problems are sorted out most effectively.

However, the law says that children's social care must make sure that children are safe, if it is not safe for a child to continue to live at home the social worker will see if the child can stay with another member of the family. If that is not possible, the social worker will arrange for the child to stay with a foster carer or in a children's residential home until it is safe for the child to go back home.

FAQs

Who should I speak to for more information, or if I have a safeguarding concern?

You can speak to any member of staff, but we recommend that your first point of contact is your child's pastoral team or-

Year 7 8 or 9 concerns- Mr McLoughlin

Yr 10 or 11 concerns – Mrs Harris

Yr 12 or 13 concerns – Mrs Lock

Who should my child speak to if he/she has a concern?

Your child can speak to any trusted adult in school. The adult will refer to the DSL or any other member of the safeguarding team if there is a concern about the safety of the child.

How can I access more relevant information or policies?

www.stjohnplessington.com

On the website, there is a section for our policies.

Where to go for more information

See our policies

Include links to relevant policies and procedures, such as:

- Child protection/safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Staff behaviour/code of conduct
- Whistle-blowing
- Anti-bullying
- Allegations against staff
- Attendance

External sources

Keeping children safe in education: statutory

guidance for schools and colleges, Department for Education (Adobe pdf file)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf

Safeguarding children: what organisations need to do to protect children from harm, NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/safeguarding/>

Wirral Safeguarding

<https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/>

This template was created by The Key for School Leaders, the trusted national information service for school leaders.



Safeguarding at SJP

What is safeguarding?

Schools have a statutory responsibility to keep children safe from harm. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) defines safeguarding as:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- Preventing harm to children's health or development
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes

What are schools expected to do?

Schools must comply with the current safeguarding guidance from the Department for Education, called Keeping Children Safe in Education. This means, for example:

- Having a designated safeguarding lead (DSL),(or Deputies) who are trained to support staff, children and liaise with other agencies.
- Having a child protection policy, and procedures covering specific safeguarding issues
- Ensuring that adults working in the school are safe to work with children, by carrying out background checks (through the Disclosure and Barring Service) and having someone on interview panels who is trained in 'safer recruitment'
- Ensuring that all staff receive safeguarding and child protection training, and that this is regularly updated

What does safeguarding look like at SJP?

If a member of staff is concerned that a child is at risk of suffering harm, they will report it to the senior members of staff responsible for child protection matters.

Mr P McLoughlin	Yr 7 8 9
Mrs V Harris	Yr 10 11
Mrs A Lock	Yr 12 13

The Safeguarding Officer or Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, will then investigate the matter and decide whether it is necessary to contact social services. If the senior member of staff does have concerns about the child's welfare, they must by law, refer this on to a social worker.

When the child is referred, school must share all relevant information about the pupil. The Data Protection Act allows schools to share personal information with other agencies where there are child protection concerns about a child.

School may let the child's parent(s) know when the child is referred, but will not contact parents if we think this could put the child at risk. School will seek advice first.

- *We protect information about your child and only share it appropriately*
- *We respond appropriately to an unplanned absence, or to a pattern of poor attendance*
- *We track concerns about children confidentially through an online secure system called CPOMS*

- *We teach pupils about safeguarding issues, including how to respond to concerns, in lessons on personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, 'Healthy Lifestyles' days, through the curriculum and through our 'Be more' curriculum.*
- *We supervise pupils as they enter and leave the school building at the start and end of the day and as they board buses at the end of the day.*

Please note, if a referral is made by one of the team:

A social worker, sometimes together with a police officer, will talk to everyone in the family. The social worker will talk to all children who are old enough to find out how they feel and what worries them.

Children and young people have a right to be protected from harm. Families have a right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment.

If there are a lot of concerns about a child, a meeting called a child protection conference will be arranged. People who know the child and their family, for example a teacher, a doctor or a health visitor, will be invited to this meeting, together with parents, partners and in some cases older children.

The conference will talk about what has happened and what can be done to help. If necessary a child protection plan will be agreed of all the things people should do to help the child and the family.

Sometimes it may be necessary for a doctor to see the child. This will normally be a doctor who has a lot of experience working with children. If there are other children in the family they may also need to be seen to make sure that they are OK. Parents will be asked permission before the child is seen by a doctor.

Social services will contact the parents/carers to let them know what is happening as soon as possible.