Early Years
Safeguarding & Welfare Policy

Inspire ● Enrich ● Enjoy ● Succeed

'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.'
Matthew, 5:16

We **inspire** a love of learning, confidence and resilience; to strive to shine before God and others.
Our unique curriculum **enriches** well-being, learning attitudes, and the ability to fulfil potential; **enjoying** a life according to God's teaching.
We are a Christian family, celebrating faith, individuality and diversity, giving the opportunity to **succeed**.

Approved by:	Governing Body	**Date:** November 2026
Next review due by:	September 2027	

This policy operates alongside the Federation's range of policies related to child protection, Whistleblowing and the EYFS Policy.

The Federation has regard to the current version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), Working Together to Safeguard Children and EYFS Statutory Framework requirements. In formulating this policy, due regards was also given to th Federation's Christian Vision and Values and 'Valuing All God's Children' document (Church of England).

All adults working within EYFS understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and maintain a child-centred approach, acting in the best interests of the child at all times.

Introduction:

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them.
At the Federation of Snape Community & Thornton Watlass CE Primary Schools, we take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. We are committed to safeguarding our children, ensuring the suitability of adults who have contact with them, promoting their health and wellbeing, supporting positive behaviour and maintaining appropriate records, policies and procedures.

This policy reflects the **Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework for group and school-based providers, dated 13 July 2026 and effective from 1 September 2026**. Section 3 of that framework sets out the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

This policy should be read alongside the Federation of STW's Child Protection Policy and other relevant whole-school policies and procedures.

Safeguarding and Child Protection:

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Our detailed safeguarding and child protection arrangements are set out in the whole-school Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

All EYFS staff have a responsibility to act upon concerns about children's safety or welfare and follow the Federation's safeguarding procedures.

The 2026 framework separately identifies requirements relating to safeguarding policies and procedures, whistleblowing, concerns about children's safety and welfare and child absences.

Allegations of harm

From September 2026, the EYFS requirement has been strengthened so that providers must inform Ofsted, or the relevant childminder agency where applicable, of allegations of **"harm" rather than "serious harm"** by anyone living, working or looking after children at the premises.
The Federation of STW will therefore ensure that allegations concerning adults working with children are managed promptly and in accordance with the Federation's safeguarding procedures, the EYFS statutory requirements and other relevant statutory guidance.

Whistleblowing (p23)

All staff understand how to raise concerns regarding unsafe practice or safeguarding failures. Whistleblowing procedures are communicated during induction and regular safeguarding updates. Concerns will be treated seriously and investigated appropriately. The Federation's detailed arrangements are set out in the whole-school Whistleblowing Policy.

Attendance and Persistent Absence (p24)

We recognise the link between attendance, safeguarding and children's wellbeing. Unexplained, persistent or recurring absences will be followed up promptly and safeguarding procedures initiated where concerns remain.

We recognise the importance of good attendance and the relationship between attendance, safeguarding, wellbeing and children's educational outcomes.

The Federation of STW maintains robust attendance procedures. Parents/carers are expected to inform the school when their child will be absent.

Attendance is recorded on the daily register, and unexplained, prolonged or recurring absences are followed up in accordance with the Federation's Attendance and Safeguarding procedures.

Unexplained or prolonged absences are followed up promptly with families. Where concerns remain, safeguarding procedures may be initiated, including consultation with children's social care or other agencies where appropriate.

Child-on-Child Behaviour and Safeguarding Concerns

Whilst recognising the age and developmental stage of children within the EYFS, staff understand that harmful behaviours can occur between children, even within the Early Years. Any behaviour which causes concern will be addressed promptly, proportionately and in a developmentally appropriate manner. Concerns will be shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with the Federation's safeguarding procedures. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 makes clear that child-on-child abuse can occur in any setting and should never be dismissed as being part of growing up.

Early Help

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children, the Federation recognises that safeguarding includes providing help and support as soon as problems emerge. Staff understand that Early Help is a key part of safeguarding and are alert to any concerns that may indicate a child or family would benefit from additional support. Concerns relating to attendance, behaviour, emotional wellbeing, family circumstances, neglect, unmet needs or emerging vulnerabilities will be discussed promptly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Through our vision to **Inspire, Enrich, Enjoy and Succeed**, and guided by our values of **compassion, respect, love, justice, forgiveness, hope and honesty**, we work in partnership with families and external agencies to ensure children receive the right support at the right time and are enabled to flourish and achieve their full potential.

Suitable People and Safer Recruitment

The Federation of STW is committed to ensuring that people looking after children are suitable to fulfil the requirements of their roles.

Recruitment processes follow safer recruitment principles. References are obtained and scrutinised before appointment wherever possible. Identity, qualifications, employment history, suitability and right-to-work checks are completed before staff commence duties.

From September 2026, the EYFS framework requires enhanced criminal record checks for volunteers, including volunteers who are supervised, and prevents new employees from commencing employment before their required criminal records check has been received.

The 2026 framework also amends requirements regarding the information providers must tell staff they are required to disclose where information may affect their suitability to work with children.

Staff are expected to disclose relevant information in accordance with statutory requirements and Federation safeguarding procedures.

Volunteers will receive appropriate induction and safeguarding information, must follow Federation policies and procedures, and report any safeguarding concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Staff qualifications, training, support and skills

To provide children with safe, high-quality provision, it is essential that adults working within the EYFS have appropriate knowledge, skills, experience and training.

Staff development is supported through induction, mentoring, professional development and ongoing training.

Induction training includes:

- emergency evacuation procedures;
- safeguarding and child protection;
- health and safety;
- relevant Federation policies and procedures.

The 2026 statutory framework specifically addresses qualifications, safeguarding training, staff training and skills, staff supervision and Paediatric First Aid.

The Federation of STW verifies relevant qualifications and training as part of its appointment and safeguarding procedures.

All EYFS staff receive regular safeguarding training and updates, including online safety, filtering and monitoring awareness, and emerging risks to children. The Federation of STW records safeguarding training undertaken by all EYFS practitioners. Safeguarding updates are provided regularly throughout the year and staff receive training proportionate to their role. Practitioners are supported to apply safeguarding learning effectively in day-to-day practice.

Key Person

Each child is assigned a key person. At STW, the key person for children in Reception is the class teacher.

The key person's role is to:

- help the child become familiar with the setting;
- help the child feel safe, secure and confident;
- ensure that the child's learning and care respond appropriately to their individual needs;
- support the child's emotional wellbeing;
- develop effective relationships with parents and carers.

The key-person requirement remains explicitly included in the September 2026 statutory framework.

Staff child ratios

For children aged three and over in maintained nursery schools, nursery classes in maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in maintained schools;

- There must be at least one member of staff for every 13 children.
- At least one member of staff must be a school teacher as defined by section 22 of the Education Act 2002.
- At least one member of staff must hold an approved Level 3 qualification and at least half of all other staff must hold an approved level 2 qualification.

Reception classes in maintained schools and academies are subject to infant class size legislation. Regulations 2012 limit the size of infant classes to 30 pupils per school teacher while an ordinary teaching session is conducted. ‘School teachers’ do not include teaching assistants or other support staff. Consequently, in an ordinary teaching session, a school must employ sufficient school teachers to enable it to teach its infant classes in groups of no more than 30 per school teacher.

Some schools may choose to mix their Reception classes with groups of younger children (nursery children) in which they must determine ratios within mixed groups, guided by all relevant ratio requirements and by

the needs of individual children within group. In exercising this discretion, the school must comply with the statutory requirements relating to the education of children of compulsory school agenda infant class sizes.

Paediatric First Aid

Appropriate Paediatric First Aid arrangements are maintained in accordance with the statutory EYFS requirements.
At least one person who has a current Paediatric First Aid (PFA) certificate must always be on the premises and available when EYFS children are present and must accompany children on outings where required by the framework.

PFA training must meet the criteria established within the statutory framework. The September 2026 framework includes the criteria for effective Paediatric First Aid training in **Annex A.**

Online Safety

The Federation recognises that online safety is an essential part of safeguarding. Children are taught age-appropriate online safety through planned learning experiences and supported use of technology. Staff understand risks associated with internet use, online content, communication, gaming platforms and emerging technologies, including AI-enabled services. Appropriate filtering, monitoring and supervision arrangements are in place to support children in accessing technology safely.

Health & Medical Needs:

We promote the good health and wellbeing, including oral health, of children attending the Federation of STW.

When a child becomes unwell or is injured, staff use their professional judgement and follow Federation procedures to determine the appropriate response and when parents/carers should be contacted. Our procedures for infection, illness and exclusion are consistent with those applied across the Federation and relevant current health guidance. The EYFS statutory framework includes specific requirements concerning health, medicines, allergies & medical conditions, food and drink (safer eating and food poisoning), safer sleeping and screen use.

Medical Conditions and Healthcare Plans

The Federation of STW works in partnership with parents, carers and relevant health professionals to ensure that children with medical conditions receive appropriate support, enabling them to access learning safely and fully. Effective healthcare planning and robust procedures help safeguard children's health, wellbeing and inclusion:

- All medical conditions are identified at admission and reviewed regularly with parents/carers.
- Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) are in place for children with significant medical needs, allergies, or long-term conditions.
- Healthcare Plans clearly outline symptoms, triggers, daily management, medication requirements, and emergency procedures.
- Relevant staff receive appropriate training to support children with specific medical conditions.
- Medicines are stored safely, securely, and administered only with parental consent and in accordance with policy.
- Accurate records are maintained of all medication administered, with parents informed as appropriate.
- Emergency medication (e.g. inhalers, adrenaline auto-injectors) is readily accessible and checked regularly.

- Up-to-date photographs of children with severe allergies or medical conditions are available to relevant staff where appropriate.
- An annual review of medical needs and allergy registers is undertaken, with updates made promptly following any changes.
- Dietary, allergy and medical information is shared confidentially with staff responsible for the child's care.
- Risk assessments are completed for activities, visits and experiences where a child's medical needs may require additional control measures.
- Staff know how to respond to medical emergencies and summon emergency assistance without delay.
- Information sharing arrangements ensure continuity of care between parents, health professionals and the setting.
- Medical information is handled in accordance with data protection requirements while ensuring children's safety.

Food and Drink:

We ensure that meals, snacks and drinks provided for children are healthy, balanced and nutritious.

Before children start school, parents/carers are asked to provide information about:

- allergies;
- intolerances;
- special dietary requirements;
- medical requirements relating to food and drink.

Safer Eating and Choking Prevention

The 2026 framework contains specific statutory sections relating to both **Food and Drink** and **Safer Eating**.

Children are appropriately supervised while eating.
Staff recognise the choking risks associated with young children. Food and snacks are selected and prepared with children's age, development and individual needs in mind.

Children are supervised appropriately during meals and snacks so that staff can respond to difficulties and support safe eating. Where children have difficulties involving eating, drinking or swallowing, additional individual arrangements are made.

The only routine drinks provided by school are water and milk, where parents choose to participate. Mid-morning snacks are provided through the fruit and vegetable scheme and school meals follow relevant nutritional requirements. Healthy choices are encouraged for packed lunches.

Staff remain alert to the risk of allergic reactions during meals, snacks, cooking activities and other food-related learning experiences.

How to reduce the risk of choking – food preparation

- Remove any stones and pips from fruit before serving;
- Cut small round fruit like grapes, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, lengthways and into quarters;
- Cut large fruit like melon, and hard fruit like raw apple and carrot into slices instead of small chunks;
- Sausages should be avoided due to their high salt content, but if offered to children these should be cut into thin strips rather chunks and remove skins;
- Do not give whole nuts or seeds to children under 5 years old;
- Cut cheese into strips rather than chunks;
- Do not give popcorn as a snack;

- Do not give children marshmallows or jelly cubes from a packet;
- Do not give children hard sweets.

Supervision

Young children should never be left alone while they are eating, and staff should be familiar with paediatric first aid advice about choking in children.

Supervision is line with current guidance, ensuring that children are supervised by PFS trained adults whilst eating and, wherever possible, sit facing an adult whilst they eat so they can make sure children are eating in a way to prevent choking, can prevent food sharing and be aware of any unexpected allergic reactions. Where a child has particularly need with eating, drinking or swallowing steps are taken to ensure that they can do so safely, for example cutting food into smaller pieces.

Food and Drinks to avoid:

Drinks

Provide only fresh tap water and plain milk for children to drink. Fruit juice, smoothies, squash, fizzy drinks and flavoured milk, even when diluted, contain lots of sugar and can cause tooth decay. These drinks can fill children up so they are not hungry for healthier food.

When offering dairy alternatives to cow's milk, do not give children under 5 rice milk to drink because of the level of arsenic it contains.

Foods to avoid up to 5 years old:

- **Nuts** – especially peanuts, can cause severe allergic reactions in some children and all settings should have an allergy plan in place. Whole nuts, peanuts and seeds should be given to children under 5 years old as they pose a choking risk;
- **Raw eggs** – or food containing partially cooked eggs, for example uncooked cake mixture and runny boiled eggs (unless they have the red lion stamp or you see the words 'British Lion quality');
- **Foods high in salt** – sausages, bacon, crackers, crisps, ready meals and takeaways;
- **Sugar** – both in sugary snacks and by not adding sugar to food;
- **Foods high in saturated fat** – such as biscuits, crisps and cakes;
- **Fresh pate** – (meat, fish or vegetable-based) to reduce the risk of food poisoning;
- **Unpasteurised milk, milk drinks and cheese** – mould ripened cheese and soft blue-veined cheese, to reduce the risk of food poisoning. However, these cheeses can be used as part of a cooked recipe as listeria is killed by cooking;
- **Shark, swordfish and marlin** – as levels of mercury in these fish can affect a child's developing nervous system;
- **Raw shellfish** – to reduce the risk of food poisoning.

Food Hygiene

Food will be stored, prepared and presented in a safe and hygienic manner.

Children are supported to understand appropriate personal hygiene, including:

- washing hands appropriately before eating;
- washing hands after using the toilet or handling animals;
- not eating food that has fallen onto the floor.

Food preparation and eating surfaces and equipment will be maintained hygienically in accordance with Federation procedures.

Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment:

Safety of premises

We ensure that our premises (indoors and outdoors are fit for purpose and suitable for the age of children and activities provided.

Security, Visitors and Site Safety

The Federation of STW maintains effective security, visitor management and site safety procedures to safeguard children, staff and visitors. All staff share responsibility for ensuring the premises remain secure and that any concerns relating to site safety or security are reported and addressed promptly:

- Secure perimeter fencing and gates maintained and checked regularly.
- External doors kept secure and monitored throughout the day.
- Clear procedures for opening and closing the site safely.
- Regular site risk assessments conducted, with prompt action taken to address hazards.
- Staff remain vigilant and challenge unknown adults appropriately.
- All visitors sign in and out, provide identification where required, and wear a visitor badge at all times.
- Visitors are informed of safeguarding, emergency evacuation and lockdown procedures on arrival.
- Contractors are supervised where appropriate and risk assessed before commencing work.
- Children are never left unsupervised with visitors or contractors who have not been appropriately vetted.
- Staff immediately report any security breaches, suspicious behaviour, or unauthorised access to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or senior leader.
- Attendance and collection procedures are robust, ensuring children are only released to authorised adults.
- A clear system is in place for managing late collections and changes to collection arrangements.
- Daily checks ensure indoor and outdoor learning environments are safe, secure and suitable for children.
- Hazardous substances, tools, medicines and maintenance equipment are stored securely and out of children's reach.
- Emergency evacuation and lockdown procedures are practised regularly and reviewed following drills or incidents.
- Appropriate measures are in place to manage vehicle movement, parking and pedestrian access to minimise risks to children and families.
- Site security arrangements are reviewed regularly in line with safeguarding risk assessments and emerging national guidance.

Accident, Injury and First Aid

We ensure that there is a first aid box accessible at all times with appropriate content with use with children. We keep a written record of accidents and injuries and first aid treatment. We inform parents and/or carers of any accident or injury sustained by the child on the same days, or as soon as reasonably practicable to do so, and of any first aid given.

In line with local authority policy and procedures, we notify BeSafe of any accident, illness or injury which requires hospital treatment. In addition, we are aware of the need to notify Ofsted ‘of any serious accident, illness, or injury to, or death of, any child while in their care, and of the action taken’.

Sleeping arrangements

The 2026 EYFS framework brings **explicit safer-sleep requirements into the main body of the statutory framework**, rather than requiring providers to refer out to separate guidance.

Although Reception-aged children would not ordinarily require scheduled sleep at school, individual children's needs will be recognised.

If a child falls asleep or has an identified need to sleep during the school day:

- staff will provide an appropriate and safe sleeping arrangement;
- the child will be appropriately supervised;
- their wellbeing will be monitored;
- parents/carers will be informed;
- where a child has a regular need for sleep, staff will work with parents/carers to agree appropriate individual arrangements.

Staff are trained in safer sleep practices and ensure that babies are placed on their backs to sleep in a clear, flat and separate sleep space, with regular monitoring and appropriate records maintained. Individual sleep arrangements are discussed and agreed with parents, whilst always prioritising the safety and welfare of the child

Toilets and Intimate Care

Suitable hygienic changing facilities are in place and include those for changing children in nappies. We review our risk assessment for intimate care and keep a record when this is carried out. Records are maintained as per the retention guidance.

Children's Screen Use

From 1 September 2026, EYFS providers are required to have regard to the Department for Education's screen-use guidance for early years settings.

At the Federation of STW, screen-based technology within the EYFS will therefore be considered carefully and used purposefully.

Its use will be balanced against children's need for:

- physical activity;
- communication and language;
- face-to-face interactions;
- social development;
- creative experiences;
- outdoor learning;
- first-hand exploration;
- purposeful play.

Staff will consider the appropriateness and purpose of screen-based activities when planning EYFS provision

Prohibited Dog Breeds

In accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, children will not be cared for in any area where a prohibited dog breed is present. The Federation will ensure that all school premises and activities remain compliant with current legislation and that appropriate risk assessments are undertaken to safeguard children from potential harm. The safety and welfare of children will always be prioritised.

Supporting and understanding Children's Behaviour:

We support children to develop self-regulation, understand feelings and learn how their behaviour can affect themselves and others.

Adults model positive, respectful relationships and provide clear, consistent and developmentally appropriate expectations.

Our approach is consistent with the Federation's Behaviour Policy while recognising the developmental needs of children in the Early Years.

Supporting and understanding children's behaviour remains specifically addressed within Section 3 of the September 2026 framework.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities:

We aim to ensure that every child can participate fully and safely within our EYFS provision.

Where children have identified SEND, medical, sensory, communication, dietary, mobility, intimate-care or other additional needs, staff work with parents/carers, the SENDCo and relevant professionals to make appropriate provision.

The September 2026 safeguarding and welfare requirements continue to include specific provision concerning special educational needs.

Information for parents/ carers:

We maintain open and effective communication with parents and carers.

Information made available includes:

- how the EYFS is delivered and how parents can access further information;
- the experiences, activities and routines available;
- ways parents/carers can support and contribute to children's learning;
- how children with SEND are supported;
- information concerning food and drink;
- relevant safeguarding, welfare and health arrangements;
- how parents/carers can raise concerns or complaints.

The 2026 framework continues to include requirements concerning information about the child and information for parents and carers

Monitoring:

The EYFS Leader, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead will monitor implementation of this policy through ongoing safeguarding practice and appropriate review processes.

An EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements audit may be used alongside existing Federation safeguarding monitoring and professional knowledge to support compliance.

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner where statutory requirements, guidance or Federation procedures change.

EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements – Checklist

Date Checklist Completed: ……

By Whom: …….

Safeguarding & Child Protection	
Current safeguarding/child protection policy in place and reviewed annually.	
DSL and DDSL appointed and trained.	
All staff receive safeguarding, KCSIE and Prevent training.	
Early Help processes implemented.	
Child-on-child behaviour concerns managed appropriately.	
Attendance and persistent absence monitored.	
Safer Recruitment	
Enhanced DBS checks completed for staff and volunteers/	
Single Central Record maintained.	
Staff suitability declarations obtained and reviewed.	
Training & Staff	
EYFS induction completed for all staff.	
Paediatric First Aid cover available at all times.	
Key person assigned to every child.	
Staff ratios meet EYFS requirements	
Health & Medical Needs	
Medical conditions and allergies recorded and reviewed.	
Individual Healthcare Plans in place where required.	
Medication records maintained.	
Allergy register reviewed annually.	

Food & Drink	
Dietary needs identified and communicated to staff.	
Safe eating and choking prevention procedures followed.	
Fresh drinking water available at all times.	
Premises & Security	
Visitor sign-in and identification procedures in place.	
Daily site safety checks completed.	
Emergency evacuation and lockdown procedures practised termly.	
Children released only to authorised adults.	
Risk assessments completed and reviewed.	
Safety & Welfare	
Accidents, injuries and first aid recorded.	
Safer sleep arrangements in place where required.	
Screen use follows DfE guidance.	
Prohibited dog breed requirements complied with.	
Relationship and Behaviour policy implemented consistently.	
SEND procedures and support arrangements in place.	
Information & Records	
Child records complete and up to date.	
Confidential records stored securely.	
Parents receive required EYFS information.	
Complaints procedure available and records maintained.	