Safeguarding Principles

DoWA†

Safeguarding principles incorporating the values of **empowerment, prevention, proportionality**, **protection**, **partnership**, and **accountability**, while reflecting a Catholic ethos of care and compassion.

1. Empowerment – Helping Children to Speak Up

Create a culture of trust and openness where children feel safe to express concerns.
Teach pupils about their rights, personal safety, and respectful relationships.
Encourage children to make informed decisions about their well-being.

2. Prevention – Stopping Harm Before It Happens

Promote safe and nurturing environments through Catholic values of dignity and respect.
Provide ongoing safeguarding education for pupils, staff, and families.
Establish clear policies and procedures that prevent harm and abuse.

3. Proportionality – A Balanced Approach

Respond to concerns sensitively and appropriately, without unnecessary intrusion and avoid excessive restrictions.
Ensure all interventions are justified, fair, and measured, guided by trauma-informed approaches that prioritise empathy, safety, and trust.

4. Protection – Keeping Children Safe

Ensure rapid, effective responses to safeguarding concerns.
Prioritise the welfare and dignity of every child, in line with Catholic social teaching.
Provide pastoral care and emotional support for pupils facing challenges.

5. Partnership – Working Together for Safety

Collaborate with parents, carers, local authorities, and faith leaders.
Foster a strong community approach to safeguarding, rooted in shared responsibility.
Encourage open communication and teamwork in child protection efforts.

6. Accountability – Transparent and Responsible Practice

Ensure all staff and volunteers uphold safeguarding duties with integrity.
Maintain rigorous training, monitoring, and auditing of safeguarding practices.
Hold individuals accountable for their actions, ensuring justice and fairness.
Promote safe and nurturing environments through Catholic values of dignity and respect.