St John Fisher Catholic College
Martyn's Law Policy
Adopted by Governors: 17 March 2025
Review Date: 17 March 2027

1. Introduction

St John Fisher Catholic College is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all learners, staff, and visitors. In light of Martyn's Law (also known as the Protect Duty), this policy outlines the measures the school takes to protect against and prepare for potential threats, particularly acts of terrorism. This policy aligns with government guidance and aims to foster a culture of vigilance, preparedness, and safeguarding.

2. Aims and Objectives

- To implement proportionate and effective security measures to safeguard the school community.
- To ensure all staff are trained to recognise potential threats and respond appropriately.
- To develop and maintain a robust emergency response plan, including lockdown and evacuation procedures.
- To work in partnership with external agencies, including law enforcement and local authorities, to strengthen security.
- To promote awareness among learners and staff about security risks and personal safety.

3. Security Measures and Risk Assessment

Risk Assessments: Regular threat and vulnerability assessments will be conducted to identify potential risks and necessary countermeasures as required and in line with the whole school's approach to risk management.
Controlled Access: Strict visitor management procedures will be in place, including sign-in protocols, ID checks, and supervision of guests.
Perimeter Security: Regular reviews of fencing, gates, and CCTV systems will be conducted to ensure they are effective.
Bag and Belongings Policy: Learners and staff will be encouraged to remain vigilant and report any unattended items immediately.
Event Security: Additional security measures will be put in place for school events, trips, and large gatherings.

4. Training and Awareness

Staff Training: All staff will receive annual security awareness training, including how to identify suspicious behaviour and respond to threats.

Learner Awareness: Age-appropriate safety awareness sessions will be delivered to learners to promote vigilance and responsible behaviour.
Drills and Exercises: Regular lockdown and evacuation drills will be conducted to ensure readiness in an emergency.

5. Emergency Response Procedures
Lockdown Procedures: In the event of an immediate threat, the school will initiate the school lockdown procedure, ensuring all staff and learners remain in secure locations.
Evacuation Procedures: If necessary, evacuation plans will be activated, with designated safe zones identified for assembly.
Communication Approach: The school will have a clear strategy for informing parents, carers, and emergency services during a security incident based in the situation unfolding.
Post-Incident Support: The school will provide necessary emotional and psychological support to learners and staff affected by any security incident.

6. Partnerships and External Support
Collaboration with Authorities: The school will maintain close links with the local police, counter-terrorism units, and local government agencies for guidance and updates.
Community Engagement: Working with local faith groups, charities, and organisations to promote safety awareness and resilience.
Information Sharing: Ensuring appropriate reporting of concerns related to security threats in line with safeguarding policies.

7. Monitoring and Review
This policy will be reviewed biennially and updated in response to new threats, government guidance, and feedback from security assessments.
Regular security audits and reports will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of measures in place.

8. Conclusion
St John Fisher Catholic College is committed to upholding the principles of Martyn's Law by fostering a culture of security and preparedness. Through vigilance, training, and collaboration, we aim to provide a safe and supportive environment for all members of our school community.