Trust Safeguarding Policy

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Related policies:

This policy should be read alongside relevant Trust and school policies, including;

- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Equality Policy
- Data Protection Policy

Detailed operational safeguarding procedures are contained within each school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

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1. Child Protection Statement

Endeavour Partnership Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child and young person. We believe that all children have the right to be protected from harm and to learn within environments where they feel safe, valued, respected and listened to. Safeguarding is fundamental to our moral and statutory responsibilities and underpins every aspect of our work.

The Trust promotes a culture in which safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We expect all adults working within our schools to maintain an attitude of professional curiosity, vigilance and openness and to act in the best interests of children at all times. We recognise that safeguarding concerns can arise in any school, family or community and therefore promote the principle that "it could happen here".

This policy establishes the Trust's strategic safeguarding framework and sets out expectations for safeguarding leadership, governance, accountability and quality assurance across all schools within Endeavour Partnership Trust. Operational procedures and local safeguarding arrangements are detailed within individual school safeguarding and child protection policies.

2. Statutory Framework

This policy reflects the principles and expectations contained within Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, Working Together to Safeguard Children, the Governance Handbook and relevant safeguarding legislation. Schools within the Trust are expected to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements remain compliant with current statutory guidance and local safeguarding partnership procedures.

Safeguarding encompasses more than child protection. It includes preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health and development, protecting children from maltreatment, ensuring they receive safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to achieve the best possible outcomes. The Trust recognises that safeguarding is a shared responsibility requiring effective collaboration between schools, families and external agencies.

3. Safeguarding Culture and Principles

The Trust is committed to maintaining a strong safeguarding culture across all schools. Effective safeguarding is built upon positive relationships, clear systems, informed professional judgement and strong leadership. Safeguarding is not viewed as a separate function but as an integral part of school improvement, leadership and daily practice.

All schools are expected to foster environments where children feel safe to speak, where staff feel confident to report concerns and where safeguarding concerns are responded to promptly and appropriately. Safeguarding concerns, regardless of perceived significance, should never be dismissed, minimised or ignored.

The Trust recognises that some children face additional barriers to recognising, reporting or disclosing abuse. Particular consideration will be given to children with special educational needs and disabilities, looked after and previously looked after children, young carers, children who are missing from education, children experiencing disadvantage and those who may face discrimination or additional vulnerabilities.

4. Responsibilities of Trustees

Trustees hold ultimate accountability for safeguarding across Endeavour Partnership Trust. Trustees are responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements remain effective across every school and that statutory duties are fulfilled.

Trustees will ensure that safeguarding remains a strategic priority and that appropriate policies, procedures, resources and reporting arrangements are in place. Through regular assurance reports and monitoring activity, Trustees will seek evidence that safeguarding systems are functioning effectively and that children are receiving appropriate support and protection.

Trustees will ensure that safeguarding training is undertaken regularly and that safeguarding remains central to strategic decision-making across the Trust. They will provide robust challenge and support to leaders and hold schools accountable for safeguarding performance and compliance.

Trustees will seek appropriate assurance that safer recruitment arrangements and Single Central Records across the Trust are compliant, effective and subject to appropriate oversight.

5. Responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring that safeguarding remains a priority throughout the Trust and that schools receive appropriate support, challenge and strategic oversight.

The Chief Executive Officer will work alongside the Trust Safeguarding Lead, Headteachers and Trustees to ensure high standards of safeguarding practice are maintained. The Chief Executive Officer will also ensure that concerns regarding Headteachers are managed appropriately and that Trustees are kept informed of significant safeguarding matters.

The Chief Executive Officer will ensure that robust safer recruitment arrangements are implemented consistently across the Trust in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education. This includes ensuring that those involved in recruitment receive appropriate safer recruitment training, that all required pre-appointment and suitability checks are completed and recorded appropriately, and that the Trust maintains an accurate and compliant Single Central Record. SCR and safer recruitment arrangements will be subject to regular checks and quality assurance by Headteachers, the Trust Safeguarding Lead, the Chief Executive Officer and governors, as appropriate, providing Trust-wide oversight and assurance to Trustees that statutory requirements are being met.

6. Responsibilities of Local Academy Committee

The Local Academy Committee plays an important role in monitoring safeguarding arrangements within individual schools. The Local Academy Committee is responsible for ensuring that safeguarding remains a standing item within governance activity and that leaders are held appropriately accountable for safeguarding practice.

The Local Academy Committee should appoint a safeguarding governor who will maintain oversight of safeguarding arrangements and work with school leaders to gain assurance that safeguarding remains effective. Governors should ensure that safeguarding policies are implemented consistently and that any identified weaknesses are addressed without delay.

7. Responsibilities of Headteachers

Headteachers are responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively within their schools and that safeguarding remains a visible priority within school leadership.

Headteachers must ensure that staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities, receive appropriate safeguarding training and follow agreed procedures. They are responsible for ensuring that Designated Safeguarding Leads have sufficient time, authority, status and resources to fulfil their statutory duties.

Headteachers are expected to foster a culture where safeguarding concerns can be raised openly and confidently and where concerns are responded to promptly and effectively.

8. Designated Safeguarding Leads

Each school must appoint a suitably trained Designated Safeguarding Lead and one or more Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads in accordance with statutory requirements.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for leading safeguarding and child protection arrangements within the school, providing advice and support to staff, maintaining safeguarding records and overseeing referrals to external agencies where appropriate.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is also responsible for maintaining strategic oversight of online safety, filtering and monitoring arrangements and ensuring the school remains responsive to emerging risks, including those associated with artificial intelligence, social media and new digital technologies. Schools should ensure that sufficient safeguarding leadership capacity exists at all times, including during periods of absence.

9. Trust Safeguarding Lead

The Trust Safeguarding Lead provides strategic leadership, professional challenge and quality assurance across all schools within Endeavour Partnership Trust.

The Trust Safeguarding Lead will monitor safeguarding effectiveness, support school leaders and Designated Safeguarding Leads, coordinate safeguarding training and ensure that safeguarding developments are communicated across the Trust. The role includes undertaking safeguarding audits, monitoring trends, supporting policy development and providing assurance reporting to Trustees.

The Trust Safeguarding Lead does not replace the statutory responsibilities of school Designated Safeguarding Leads but works collaboratively with school leaders to ensure consistent and effective safeguarding practice.

10. Training and Professional Development

The Trust expects all staff, governors and Trustees to receive safeguarding training appropriate to their responsibilities.

Safeguarding training must be provided at induction and refreshed regularly in accordance with statutory guidance. Schools should ensure that staff remain aware of safeguarding updates, local safeguarding priorities and emerging risks.

The Trust will maintain oversight of safeguarding training compliance and will support schools through a coordinated programme of safeguarding professional development. Trustees and governors will receive safeguarding training that enables them to fulfil their strategic and governance responsibilities effectively.

11. Record Keeping and Information Sharing

Accurate and secure record keeping underpins effective safeguarding practice. Schools must ensure that safeguarding records are factual, timely, comprehensive and maintained securely in accordance with statutory guidance and relevant data protection legislation.

The Trust expects all schools to use approved safeguarding recording systems, currently MyConcern, and maintain clear oversight of safeguarding information. Information sharing should always be undertaken in the best interests of the child and in accordance with statutory guidance and professional judgement.

All EPT schools must meet their responsibilities under the Prevent duty and recognise vulnerability to radicalisation as a safeguarding concern. Staff must be alert to indicators that a child may be susceptible to radicalisation or being drawn into terrorism and must report concerns promptly to the DSL. Schools will assess and respond to such concerns through their established safeguarding procedures, seeking advice and making referrals, including to Channel where appropriate. The Trust will ensure that all staff have regular training.

Operational procedures relating to safeguarding records are detailed within individual school safeguarding policies.

12. Online Safety

Schools are expected to maintain effective filtering and monitoring arrangements that meet current Department for Education standards. SchoolProtect is the Trust's approved filtering and monitoring system and must be used in

accordance with agreed Trust and school procedures. Filtering and monitoring arrangements will be reviewed at least annually and will be subject to appropriate leadership, governance and Trust oversight to provide assurance that they remain effective and responsive to identified risks. Online safety will form part of the whole-school safeguarding approach, and children will be taught how to engage safely, responsibly and critically with technology throughout their education.

13. Attendance, Children Missing Education and Alternative Provision

The Trust recognises the strong link between attendance and safeguarding. Persistent absence, severe absence, suspensions, exclusions, alternative provision placements and children missing education may indicate wider safeguarding concerns and should be considered within safeguarding decision-making.

Schools are expected to maintain robust attendance procedures and ensure that children who are absent from education receive timely support and intervention. This overseen by the Trust Office manager and DSLs also monitor through safeguarding perspective. Where elective home education is requested, schools should ensure that any safeguarding concerns are considered carefully and shared with the local authority in accordance with statutory and local procedures.

14. Child-on-Child Abuse

The Trust adopts the definition of child-on-child abuse contained within Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 and expects all schools to maintain robust systems for identifying, reporting and responding to child-on-child abuse.

Schools must ensure that harmful behaviours are recognised and addressed appropriately and that children receive appropriate support, protection and intervention. Behaviour should never be dismissed as banter, harmless fun or part of growing up where safeguarding concerns may exist.

Operational procedures, risk assessment processes and support arrangements are contained within each school's safeguarding policy.

15. Allegations, Low-Level Concerns and Whistleblowing

The Trust expects schools to maintain clear procedures for managing allegations against adults working with children, low-level concerns and whistleblowing matters. These procedures apply to staff, supply staff, volunteers, contractors and organisations or individuals using school premises to provide activities for children.

Concerns regarding adults must be managed in accordance with statutory guidance and local authority procedures. The Trust is committed to maintaining a culture of openness and transparency where concerns can be raised confidently, considered appropriately and acted upon promptly.

Staff should feel supported to report safeguarding concerns and should never fear adverse consequences for raising genuine concerns in good faith. Concerns about the Headteacher must be reported through the Trust's agreed escalation route; concerns about the Headteacher must be raised with the CEO and concerns about the CEO must be reported to the Chair of Trustees.

16. Monitoring, Review and Safeguarding Oversight

The Trust monitors and reviews safeguarding arrangements through a range of proportionate oversight activities, including safeguarding audits, policy review, scrutiny of safeguarding records, attendance and exclusion data, training compliance, pupil voice and online safety checks. This work supports continuous improvement and helps Trustees, the CEO, the Trust Safeguarding Lead, Headteachers and governors maintain oversight of safeguarding practice across the Trust.

17. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner where changes to legislation, statutory guidance or local safeguarding arrangements require amendment.

All schools within Endeavour Partnership Trust are expected to review their local safeguarding and child protection policies annually and ensure that local procedures remain aligned with this Trust framework and statutory safeguarding requirements.

Appendix A

Key Safeguarding Legislation and Guidance

This policy is informed by, and should be read alongside, the latest versions of the following statutory guidance, legislation and national standards:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- The Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004
- The Education Act 2002
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR
- The Prevent Duty Guidance
- Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services
- Filtering and Monitoring Standards for Schools and Colleges
- Children Missing Education: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities
- Working Together to Improve School Attendance
- Statutory guidance and local procedures relating to safer recruitment, allegations management and the Local Authority Designated Officer
- Local safeguarding partnership procedures applicable to each Trust school

Where any document listed above is updated, the most recent published version will apply. Schools must also follow the procedures of their local safeguarding partnership and local authority.

Appendix B

Trust Safeguarding Reporting Structure

The reporting structure below provides a strategic overview. It does not replace the immediate reporting and escalation arrangements set out in each school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Level	Primary responsibility	Assurance / escalation
School	Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead	Local Academy Committee and Trust Safeguarding Lead
Local governance	Local Academy Committee and safeguarding governor	Trustees through agreed assurance routes
Trust oversight	Trust Safeguarding Lead and Chief Executive Officer	Trust Board
Trust accountability	Trust Board	External statutory and regulatory bodies, where applicable

Immediate safeguarding concerns must always be reported in accordance with the relevant school procedure. If a child is at immediate risk of significant harm, staff must act without delay and contact emergency or statutory services as required.

Appendix C

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Referral Flowchart