Changing Lives Learning Trust

INCLUSION · RESPECT · RESILIENCE · ASPIRATION

Overarching Safeguarding Statement

Document Control

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Version	Date	Comments	Author
01	Sept 2025	New statement	Sue Blair

Changing Lives Learning Trust – Overarching Safeguarding Statement

At **Changing Lives Learning Trust**, safeguarding is central to our mission of "Changing Lives through Learning." We are committed to creating a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where all children and young people can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Purpose and Scope

This statement aims to:

- Protect children and young people who engage with our academies from harm, including children of adults who use our services.
- Provide staff, volunteers, students, and families with clear principles guiding our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

This statement applies to all individuals working on behalf of the Trust, including:

- Senior leaders, trustees, governors
- Paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff, and students

Our Safeguarding Approach

We believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Our approach includes:

- **Robust policies and procedures** aligned with *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, *Children Acts 1989 and 2004*, and other relevant legislation.
- **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)** in every academy, supported by trained deputies and safeguarding governors/trustees.
- **Regular training and updates** for all staff on child protection, online safety, peer-on-peer abuse, mental health, and more.
- **Clear reporting mechanisms** for concerns, ensuring swift and appropriate action.
- **Partnerships with external agencies**, including local safeguarding boards, social services, and law enforcement.
- **Promotion of a safeguarding culture**, where students feel safe, respected, and empowered to speak up.
- Ensuring upward **professional development for Trustees** so they hold the Executive Team to account and resources are appropriately allocated.

Legal Framework

This policy is informed by legislation and guidance relevant to England, including:

- *Children Act 1989 & 2004*
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children*
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education*
- *Data Protection Act 2018* and *UK GDPR*

Supporting Documents

This statement should be read alongside our Trust-wide and academy-specific policies, including:

- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Behaviour codes for children and young people
- Online safety and anti-bullying policies
- Safer recruitment procedures
- Whistleblowing and complaints procedures
- Health and safety protocols
- Induction, training, supervision, and support frameworks

Our Commitment

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to, and respecting them
- Ensuring inclusive protection for all, regardless of background or identity
- Recognising and responding to additional vulnerabilities
- Sharing safeguarding information appropriately and securely
- Creating an anti-bullying environment
- Providing safe physical spaces
- Ensuring radicalisation and extremist views are dealt with quickly and effectively.
- Building a culture of openness, respect, and vigilance

Review and Accountability

We are committed to continuous improvement and will review this statement annually. The most senior safeguarding lead within the Trust will sign off on each review. The Trust will remain alert to new and emerging risks and ensure appropriate actions are taken to address them.

All establishments within Changing Lives Learning Trust have individual safeguarding policies and procedures that underpin the statement above. Please see individual setting's websites if you wish to read their individual policies.