



Good Shepherd Trust

Life in all its fullness

Overarching Safeguarding Statement

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Values

In keeping with our Trust vision, every member of the Trust family of schools will be valued and encouraged to fulfil their potential. In our Trust we believe:

- Everyone has something to offer
- Trust, honesty, empathy and social responsibility are the Christian values that frame our work
- We are here for the whole person, spiritually, morally, educationally and socially
- In working with transparency and openness

Roles and terminology within the Good Shepherd Trust

Throughout this document the following terminology is used to describe the roles within the Trust.

Role/Term	Alternatives, description and meaning
Members	Members appoint the Directors. Membership is described in the Trust's Articles of Association
Directors	Also 'the Trust board' or 'the board' The Trust Directors are accountable in law for all decisions about member schools and are accountable to the Secretary of State for Education for the performance of each school within the Trust.
LGB	Also 'Local Governing Bodies' or 'LGB Members' The local governing body is a standing committee of the Trust which has delegated powers to oversee the running of its individual school. The LGB may choose to delegate some of these powers to smaller committees or the Headteacher as it deems fit to fulfil its responsibilities. Where the document refers to the LGB this might be through some committees or further delegation but with the understanding that the ultimate responsibility remains with the LGB.
CEO	Chief Executive Officer A significant number of responsibilities under the scheme of delegation lie with the CEO. It is recognised that the CEO may choose to delegate some of their duties to the Chief Finance Officer and School Improvement Consultants and other staff in their team.
Central Team	Refers collectively to the: Business Manager, Finance Support Officers, School Improvement Consultants, Admin Support Officers and Development Officer Any other staff appropriate to the responsibility or task who work from the Trust's central administration office in Penrith rather than being based in a school.
SLT	Senior Leadership Team The Headteacher/Executive Headteacher, Head of School, Deputy Headteacher or other Senior staff member as appropriate to the individual school's senior leadership structure ' Headteacher ' in policies will usually refer to the Headteacher or Executive Headteacher as appropriate for the leadership structure of the school

Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually and more often should legislation or statutory guidance change and to keep up to date with safeguarding issues as they emerge and evolve, including lessons learnt.

Introduction

This Safeguarding Statement has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and related guidance. This includes the DfE statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#); the DfE revised [Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage](#) and [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#). We will also refer to and follow the guidance and procedures developed by the relevant local Safeguarding children partnership (Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) or Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP).

Because of our close day to day contact with children, education staff have a crucial role to play in helping to promote safety, reduce risks and to identify welfare concerns and indicators of possible abuse and neglect at an early stage.

Staff across the Good Shepherd Trust take seriously their responsibility under Section 175 Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils, to minimise risk and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements are in place within our schools to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm and to keep them safe and secure whilst in our care.

Our Statement and supporting Policies and procedures relate to all members of the Trust community including pupils, staff, LGB members, visitors/contractors, volunteers and trainees working within the Trust and its schools. It is fully incorporated into the whole Trust and school ethos and is underpinned throughout the teaching of the curriculum, within PHSE and within the safety of the physical environment provided for the pupils

Definition of Safeguarding

The statutory guidance '[Working together to Safeguard Children](#)' defines the term Safeguarding as "protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development; ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes".

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It relates to aspects of school life including pupils' health, safety and wellbeing including their mental health; managing behaviour and the use of reasonable force; meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions; meeting the needs of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities; providing first aid; educational visits; intimate care and emotional wellbeing; online safety and associated issues; and appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the local context.

It includes issues for schools such as neglect; physical abuse; sexual and emotional abuse; face to face, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying; racial, disability, and homophobic or transphobic abuse; risks linked to using technology and social media, including cyber/online bullying, the risks of being groomed online for exploitation or radicalisation, and risks of accessing and generating inappropriate content e.g. the sharing of nude and/or semi-nude images and/or videos; child on child abuse (such as sexual violence and sexual harassment between children); gender-based violence/violence against women and girls; radicalisation and/or extremist behaviour; children missing education; child sexual exploitation and trafficking; child criminal exploitation including county lines; teenage relationship abuse; substance misuse; issues that may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity and youth violence; and particular issues affecting children including domestic violence, homelessness, so-called honour-based abuse (female genital mutilation, forced marriage, breast ironing etc.); fabricated or induced illness and poor parenting, particularly in relation to young children.

This Safeguarding Statement should therefore be read and understood alongside other Policies and procedures which fall under the safeguarding 'umbrella' as listed at the end of this document. Many of these policies are available to access via the school and Trust websites or on request. A hard copy of the Child Protection Policy should be available at each site.

All relevant Policies and supporting procedures will be reviewed in accordance with the latest DfE Guidance and agreed schemes of delegation by the Trust or the Local Governing Body (or the persons nominated by them to approve such documents) that has responsibility for oversight of school safeguarding and child protection systems. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will ensure regular reporting on safeguarding activity and systems in school to LBG. The LGB members will not receive details of individual pupil situations or identifying features of families as part of their oversight responsibility. The LGB members will liaise with the Designated Officer(s) from the Local Authority and

partner agencies in the event of a concern/allegation made against the Headteacher or in a situation where there is a conflict of interest in reporting the matter to the Headteacher. There is also a nominated member who will take leadership responsibility for the setting's safeguarding arrangements.

Our Trust and schools are a community and all those directly connected (staff, LGB members, volunteers, parents, families and pupils) have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure. We welcome suggestions and comments from all these stakeholders contributing to this process.

Ethos

The Trust recognises the importance of providing an ethos and environment within its schools that will help children to feel safe, secure and respected; encourage them to talk openly; and enable them to feel confident that they will be listened to.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence are likely to have low self-esteem and may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The trust will endeavour to support the welfare and safety of all pupils through:

- maintaining children's overall wellbeing as our paramount concern
- ensuring the content of the curriculum includes social and emotional aspects of learning
- developing and implementing procedures for tackling bullying (including face to face, prejudice-based, discriminatory and cyber bullying); racist abuse and harassment and ensuring these are included for discussion in the curriculum
- ensuring that all aspects of child protection are included in the curriculum to help children stay safe; to understand what constitutes a healthy relationship both online and offline and to recognise when they don't feel safe
- the provision of suitable support and guidance so that pupils have a range of appropriate adults to approach if they are in difficulty
- promoting a culture and environment of openness, trust and transparency so that both children and staff feel comfortable to discuss matters of concern both within, and where appropriate, outside the school which may have implications for the safeguarding and welfare of children; where pupils can develop a sense of being valued and heard and where opposing issues and ideologies can be discussed in a controlled manner
- working with parents to build an understanding of the school's responsibility to ensure the welfare of all children including the need for referral to other agencies in some situations
- ensuring all staff (and, where appropriate, other adults) can recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse through ongoing training and support and are aware of the school's procedures for reporting concerns, lines of communication and whistleblowing procedures
- promoting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and, within this, the concept and inclusion of fundamental British values
- ensuring that staff and other adults are aware of the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- provision of training for staff (paid and unpaid) which will be updated regularly and inclusion of child protection and other safeguarding issues in the induction of new staff and other adults
- ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and other adults including volunteers to work with children
- ensuring that allegations or concerns at any level made against adults or other pupils in the school are dealt with quickly and appropriately and in line with other Policies and procedures
- monitoring children who have been identified as having welfare or protection concerns, particularly those who are identified as 'carers' and those looked after and previously looked after by the Local Authority
- keeping robust confidential records which are stored securely and shared appropriately with other professionals
- ensuring we have adequate and appropriate procedures in place for responding to children missing education whether as a one-off occasion or persistent absenteeism
- having arrangements in place to support children with special educational needs, disabilities (SEND) or other health conditions having regard to the [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#) and have identified a member of staff to act as Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO);

- developing effective and supportive liaison with other agencies
- implementation of documented safeguarding and health and safety Policies and procedures including the organisation and arrangements for maintaining the health, safety and welfare of all those involved with the schools, including pupils, which include:
 - assessing risks to children and developing and implementing effective controls to prevent accidents, incidents and infectious diseases
 - ensuring there is sufficient first aid provision in the form of equipment and appropriately trained staff both in school, extended school sessions and on educational visits
 - ensuring that procedures in line with OEAP National Guidance <http://oeapng.info/> are followed and implemented in relation to learning outside the classroom/educational visits including the need for adequate planning, supervision and risk assessment
 - ensuring a clear Policy and procedures on supporting pupils with medical conditions is implemented to meet the needs of pupils with short or long-term medical needs and medication is only administered in accordance with trusts Policy and procedures and the DfE statutory guidance [Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions](#);
 - ensuring staff and other adults are familiar with the protocols for intimate care and maintaining dignity in line with school procedures
 - ensuring staff, pupils and parents are familiar with the Child-on-child abuse procedures and the Behaviour Policy and procedures which include the use of discipline, sanctions and rewards and which also focus on preventing and reacting to cases of bullying and cyberbullying both during and outside the school day
 - ensuring staff are aware of the definition of reasonable force, when this can be used, and that sufficient staff have been trained in de-escalation and positive handling techniques
 - ensuring accidents are recorded, reported and investigated where necessary to prevent similar incidents from occurring
 - keeping a written record of accidents or injuries and first aid treatment and informing parents of any accident or injury sustained by the child on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable, of any first aid treatment given
 - notifying local child protection agencies of any serious accident or injury to, or the death of, any child whilst in our care, and must act on any advice provided by those agencies
 - ensuring that any confirmed cases of coronavirus (Covid-19) in the setting (either child or staff member), and if the setting is advised to close as a result, is swiftly reported to Ofsted through the usual notification channels.
 - inspection and maintenance of the grounds including trees and physical site security measures to safeguard pupils, staff and any other users of premises
 - inspection and maintenance of equipment, machinery and services in line with current legislation and manufacturer's instructions by competent persons with records held in the School Buildings Register
 - ensuring staff, and where relevant, other adults receive adequate induction and regular training and instruction in subjects which maintain the health, safety and welfare of themselves and others (including children) such as safeguarding and child protection; first aid, manual handling, moving and handling pupils, positive handling, food hygiene, use of machinery, safe use of hazardous substances, physical education, educational visits, fire safety, risk assessments etc.
 - staff and children receive regular instruction in fire safety and participate in regular fire drills/practices
 - ensuring hazardous substances including asbestos containing materials, radon and water hygiene (legionella) risks are managed in line with relevant legislation
 - ensuring meals, snacks and drinks provided to children are healthy, balanced and nutritious and ensuring fresh drinking water is always available
 - obtaining information before a child starts school about any special dietary requirements, food allergies and special health requirements, and ensuring all relevant personnel are aware of these
 - ensuring there are suitable facilities for the hygienic preparation of food and ensuring that those responsible for preparing and handling food are competent to do so
 - securely maintaining pupil data, including digital images in line with the Data Protection Act 2018/UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and the Trust Data Protection Policy

- ensuring appropriate online safety protocols are in place including Acceptable Use Agreements for pupils and staff
- ensuring appropriate monitoring and filtering protocols are in place to provide the highest level of online safety to both pupils and staff
- including online/internet and communication safety in the curriculum in line with Trust Policies to enable children to access technology safely
- ensuring that the use of mobile technologies (including phones, cameras and smart watches) by pupils, staff and others is managed effectively in line with Trust policies and procedures are in place to prevent and manage instances of cyberbullying and sexting both during and beyond the school day
- ensuring children are adequately supervised during the school day (including break times and before and after school), extended school sessions and on off site visits
- ensuring there is adequate pedestrian-vehicle separation on school grounds
- ensuring only local transport, where seat belts are fitted, is hired and ensuring children wear the seatbelts
- ensuring appropriate child restraints are used in private vehicles transporting pupils on behalf of the school
- ensuring vehicles in which children are being transported, and the driver of those vehicles, are adequately insured
- ensuring we only release children into the care of individuals who have been notified to us by the parent, and will ensure that children do not leave the premises unsupervised
- in line with our security risk assessment, ensuring we take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises and appropriately challenge those we do not recognise
- ensuring the dangers of the sun form part of the PSHE/science curriculum; parents are informed of school sun safety procedures and staff are proactive in sun safety measures.

Partnerships with others

Our schools do not operate in isolation. The welfare of children is the corporate responsibility of the entire Trust, working in partnership with other public agencies, the voluntary sector and service users and carers. All Local Authority services have an impact on the lives of children and families, and together we have a particular responsibility towards children and families most at risk of social exclusion.

The trust recognises that it is essential to establish positive and effective working relationships with other agencies. Professionals can only work together to safeguard children if there is an exchange of relevant information between them. The trust follows LA inter-agency safeguarding procedures (as endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership), will work within the local SCP Multi-agency Thresholds Guidance and has links with the Local Authority, the Integrated Care Board for the area, the local Police, Children's Centres and the Education Social Care Service.

We recognise the importance of information sharing between professionals and local agencies and take account of guidance issued in [Working together to safeguard children](#); [Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#) and the Cumbria SCP [Information Sharing Protocol](#).

Where it is believed that a child is suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm, we will follow the referral procedures as outlined on the local SCP website and within the **trusts Child Protection Policy and procedures**. In other cases where the child or family would benefit from early intervention, we will put in place appropriate 'early help' strategies, working with other agencies as appropriate and where necessary.

Training and Support

Our schools will ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and deputy DSL attend suitable child protection training which is updated every 2 years; all staff including the Headteacher, the designated teacher (looked-after and previously looked-after children) and LGB members receive safeguarding and child protection training (including in relation to online safety) at induction (relevant to their roles) which is updated regularly. In addition, all staff members will receive regular safeguarding

and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings) as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. All other adults who work in the school and/or with children will undertake appropriate child protection awareness training to equip them to meet their responsibilities for child protection effectively.

The DSL has attended/undertaken Prevent Awareness Training to enable them to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation and extremism. Other staff to receive this training will be determined through risk assessment.

There is a designated Health and Safety Coordinator in each school who has received appropriate training in relation to their role e.g., IOSH Managing Safely in Schools training or similar.

There is a Designated Mental Health Lead in each school will work with the DSL when children are identified with mental health concerns.

Although this is now no longer a legal requirement, in accordance with good practice guidelines, there is also a designated Educational Visits Coordinator who has received training and refresher training in planning and managing off-site visits.

There is a staff training plan in place to ensure all relevant staff and LGB members receive appropriate training as per legislative requirements and good practice to protect both themselves and children. Designated staff training will include for example health and safety induction; first aid; supporting pupils with medical needs including general awareness training; training in the administration of medication and any training regarding complex medical needs of children (from a medical professional as necessary); asbestos management; fire safety; positive handling; moving and handling; minibus driving; risk assessment; food hygiene; safe use of machinery and other training commensurate with the roles and responsibilities of staff.

Professional Confidentiality

The Trust has a clear confidentiality statement that forms part of the Child Protection Policy and procedures which is reviewed annually by the Trust and will be presented to all staff and shared with all working (paid and unpaid) adults within the trust.

Safe Recruitment and Selection

The trust pays full regard to the DfE statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#). The LGB will deter and prevent people who pose a risk of harm from working with children by adhering to statutory responsibilities to carry out appropriate checks on staff or others who work (paid or unpaid) unsupervised with children, taking proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is statutorily required and ensuring those without full checks are appropriately supervised. In line with the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 the LGB must ensure that at least one person on any appointment panel has attended safer recruitment training.

Further details can be found in the trusts ***Child Protection Policy and procedures and the Safer Recruitment & Continuous Safeguarding Policy and Procedures***.

Related School Policies

(To be read and followed alongside this document)

- Child Protection Policy and procedures
- Child on child Abuse Policy
- Health and Safety Policy (which includes fire safety information, first aid and accident reporting procedures and risk assessments)
- Online Safety Policy and procedures (which includes Acceptable Use Agreements)
- Behaviour Policy including procedures for preventing and dealing with bullying (in all its forms) and discrimination, unacceptable behaviour, drug misuse etc.
- Attendance Policy and procedures
- Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education Policy and procedures
- Recruitment, Selection and Pre-Employment Vetting Policy and procedures including the Single Central Record (restricted access)
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and procedures

- Code of Conduct for staff and others who work with children
- Single Equality Scheme/Equality Objectives
- Data Protection Policy and related Privacy notices
- Accessibility Plan
- SEND Policy/Information report
- Guidance on the Use of Photographic Images
- Safeguarding, Health and Safety Induction procedures
- Positive Handling procedures
- Missing Child procedures
- Intimate Care procedures
- Off-Site Visits procedures
- First Aid and Accident Recording and Reporting procedures
- Emergency procedures (including Lockdown procedures and cyber response plan)
- Risk Assessments (incl. Fire Safety)
- Premises Management including security measures (formal Inspections and Buildings Register/Maintenance records)
- Hire Arrangements
- Safeguarding Children – Contractors Code of Conduct leaflet