



**LIFE** Education Trust

## **SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Safeguarding &amp; Child Protection Statement</b>
<b>Policy adopted by Trust Board</b>	<b>5.9.24</b>
<b>Reported to LGCs for implementation</b>	<b>7.9.24</b>
<b>Implementation Date</b>	<b>7.9.24</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Sept 2025</b>
<b>Policy Source</b>	<b>Own source</b>

## 1. Introduction

LIFE Education Trust is committed to the safeguarding of all students. The Trust takes student welfare very seriously and work tirelessly to minimise any risk of potential harm students may suffer. The Trust aims to ensure all students feel safe and secure in the knowledge all LIFE Education Trust Staff have their best interests at the heart of everything we do, so our students are able to thrive and reach their full potential.

The Trust Safeguarding Policy can be found via the LIFE Education Trust website, together with Safeguarding contact details for each school within the Trust.

*(Keeping Children Safe in Education – DfE, 2024)*

**This Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is for all Staff, Parents, Governors, Volunteers and the wider school community of LIFE Education Trust. It forms part of the safeguarding arrangements for our Trust. It should be read in conjunction with the specific and very detailed Safeguarding Policy of each individual school within the Trust as well as the following policies where applicable: Safer Recruitment Policy, Staff Code of Conduct Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Behaviour Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Equality & Diversity Policy, Educational Visit Policy, E-safety Policy, Designated Teacher for Looked After Children and previously looked After Children Policy. It should also be read in conjunction with Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2024).**

**Schools within the Trust will always follow the locally agreed procedures for the management of safeguarding concerns. In most cases these external agencies will be within either the London Borough of Havering or Essex County Council. However, in some instances, these outside agencies could be an alternative Local Authority. This is because referrals are made to the authority of the child's registered home address.**

**LIFE Education Trust is committed to early help, safeguarding and child protection in order to promote the welfare of all its students.** Trustees expect all Trust staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All Trust staff must demonstrate their understanding of how each individual adult working on behalf of the Trust has an active part to play in identifying a child or young person's concerns early - to prevent needs escalating and to protect those at risk from harm. All staff will undertake formal Safeguarding Training, so they fully understand the rules and procedures they are required to follow in the event a concern is raised with regard to a child's safety.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

## 2. Statutory framework

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a statutory responsibility on the Board of Trustees of LIFE Education Trust to have policies and procedures in place that safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are students of schools within the Trust.

Our schools also work in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (DfE, 2024)

[Working Together to safeguard children](#) (DfE 2023)

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Act](#)

[\(HMG, 2015\)](#) [Serious Crime Act 2015](#)

(Home Office, 2015) [Sexual Offences](#)

[Act \(2003\)](#)

[Education \(Pupil Registration\) Regulations 2006](#)

[Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners \(HMG,](#)

[2015\)](#)

[Data Protection Act \(2018\)](#)

[What to do if you're worried a child is being abused](#) (HMG,

[2015\)](#)

[Searching, screening and confiscation](#) (DfE, 2022)

[Children Act \(1989\)](#)

[Children Act \(2004\)](#)

[Preventing and Tackling Bullying \(DfE, 2017\),](#)

[Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 \(S. 74 - Serious Crime Act 2015\)](#)

[Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)

[\(DfE, 2021\)](#)

### **3. Roles and responsibilities**

All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to protect them and to provide a safe environment in which they can learn and achieve their full potential.

However, there are key people within schools and the Local Authority who have specific responsibilities under child protection procedures. The names of those in each school in the Trust with these specific responsibilities (the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) are shown in each school's specific Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, which must also be published on the individual school's website.

#### **The Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees of LIFE Education Trust ensures that the policies, procedures and training in our schools are effective and comply with the law at all times. It ensures that all required policies relating to safeguarding are in place and that the child protection policy reflects statutory and local guidance and is reviewed at least annually.

The Board of Trustees of LIFE Education Trust ensures there is a named Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in place in every school within the Trust. The Board of Trustees of LIFE Education Trust ensures each school contributes to inter-agency working, in line with statutory and local guidance. It ensures that information is shared and stored appropriately and in accordance with statutory requirements.

The Board of Trustees of LIFE Education Trust ensures that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction and that it is then regularly updated. All staff members receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates, at least annually, to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to keep our children safe.

The Board of Trustees of LIFE Education Trust ensures that children are taught about safeguarding, including online, ensuring that appropriate filters and monitoring systems for online usage are in place. Our children will be taught how to keep themselves safe through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Board of Trustees of LIFE Education Trust and school leadership team are responsible for ensuring the schools follow recruitment procedures that help to deter, reject or identify people who might abuse children. It adheres to statutory responsibilities to check adults working with children and has recruitment and selection procedures in place (see the individual school's 'Safer Recruitment' policy for further information). It ensures that volunteers are appropriately supervised in school.

The Board of Trustees, Local Governance Committees and Designated Safeguarding Leads of individual schools within the Trust will work together on any aspect of safeguarding and child protection that is identified as an area of development over the coming year.

Review will take place annually by the Board.