

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT – TKAT SCHOOLS

Person responsible for statement: Chief Executive Officer
Statement Date: Summer 2026
Review Date: Summer 2027

Introduction

The Keys Academy Trust (TKAT) is committed to ensuring that all children and young people in its schools are safe and protected from emotional, sexual or physical harm and from neglect or bullying. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and all staff have an important role to play in identifying concerns and taking prompt action. Trustees expect everyone working in our schools, including all staff, employees, contractors and volunteers to share this commitment. In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE, 2026 and subsequent statutory updates), Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023 and subsequent updates), and The Children Act 1989/2004.

The welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, belief or socio-economic background. The Trust recognises safeguarding as protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health or development, ensuring children grow up with safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. The Trust promotes pupil voice and a culture of safeguarding where children feel confident to report concerns. The Trust recognises that abuse can occur between children and will not tolerate child-on-child abuse in any form, including sexual violence, sexual harassment, bullying, cyberbullying, initiation or hazing behaviours and harmful sexual behaviour.

We recognise that some children can be vulnerable and may be at greater risk of harm or require additional support, including children with SEND, from ethnic minority communities, children in need, looked-after and previously looked-after children, young carers and children experiencing mental health difficulties. We accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.



The Trust recognises online safety as a safeguarding issue and ensures that schools address online behaviour, filtering and monitoring, cyberbullying, online exploitation, misinformation and emerging digital risks.

This statement outlines the requirements for schools, the Trust Central Team and Trustees.

Individual School Policies

It is a requirement that all schools in The Keys Academy Trust have their own version of our model Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which is adapted where specifically allowed to be relevant to their context and reviewed annually. All schools report safeguarding concerns through CPOMS. The Trust has procedures for managing allegations and concerns about adults working with children, including low-level concerns, whistleblowing and referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). Strategic overview and management of safeguarding is led by the Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead who reports to the Safeguarding Trustee and Board of Trustees.

All Keys Academy Trust school staff working with children and young people undertake annual safeguarding training which incorporates the latest updates from Keeping Children Safe in Education.

All schools will use SSSCPD which maintains a record of the dates all training was completed by members of the schools' communities. This is monitored for compliance by members of the Central Team and reported to Trustees. All staff also complete PREVENT training regularly. The Trust adheres to the Prevent Duty and understands the Channel referral process for concerns about radicalisation. There is an ongoing programme of training throughout the year to make sure that safeguarding is at the forefront of people's minds.

In all TKAT schools, at least one member of any recruitment panel must have an up to date certificate in safer recruitment. All panel members should be aware of low-level concerns and the Trust's Whistleblowing Policy. Post appointment all statutory vetting procedures are completed and recorded on the school's single central record. All offers of employment are conditional until satisfactory pre-employment checks are complete.

Adults working with children and young people while awaiting receipt of an Enhanced DBS certificate will be subject to a risk assessment and all other required checks, including a children's barred list check, will have been completed.

The Trust Central Team

Members of the Central Team must follow both the Trust's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and be aware of individual school policy adaptations when working within them.



The Safeguarding Lead for TKAT, is Level 3 safeguarding trained and works with individual schools to make sure that they are compliant in all areas related to safeguarding. All Designated Safeguarding Leads receive training and updates in accordance with KCSIE requirements.

All other members of the Central Team who visit schools will complete Level 2 safeguarding training so that they can play a part in ensuring that children and young people are safe.

All Trustees will receive annual training and are responsible for ratifying all TKAT level policies.

All members of the Central Team and those Trustees who lead on interviews will have received Safer Recruitment Training in order to ensure that all employees and volunteers are safe to work with children and young people.

Designated Safeguarding Leads in the Trust

All Designated Safeguarding Leads receive training and updates in accordance with KCSIE requirements. A current list of Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and any additional or deputy DSL for TKAT schools is held by the Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead. When people in these roles change, it is the responsibility of the Headteacher/Head of School at each TKAT school to inform the person responsible for the record so that the list may remain up-to-date.

Each school will have a named governor on its Local Governing Body (LGB) with special responsibility for safeguarding. Safeguarding will be a standing item on every LGB agenda.

The Trust Board will appoint a Trustee with special responsibility for safeguarding while recognising that safeguarding remains the responsibility of the full Board. They will liaise with TKAT's Designated Safeguarding Lead and Safeguarding link governors to ensure Trust Board meetings regularly consider and monitor safeguarding matters across its schools.

Monitoring

TKAT's policy will be reviewed annually by Trustees and by all Local Governing Bodies after its development. Between reviews changes will be made should:

- changes occur in legislation and/or government guidance
 - local safeguarding partnership makes changes to local policy
- or,
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

so that TKAT's policy and guidance is always up-to-date. Policies also address online safety and digital safeguarding risks.





Contacts

All school policies and websites will state who and how to contact key individuals in the schools concerning safeguarding and child protection matters. Should parents or other partners wish to contact TKAT directly about a safeguarding or child protection matter they should contact the Chief Executive Officer at the Trust Central Office:
email admin@keysacademytrust.org or telephone 0118 324 7265

If parents/carers have concerns about a child or want to find out more about how a child's school carries out their safeguarding procedures, they should contact the Headteacher/Head of School or visit the school's website.

Parents and other partners can also contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Wokingham LADO	Website Report a concern about a child Telephone 07801664588 E-mail LADO@wokingham.gov.uk
Bracknell LADO	LADO Referral Form LADO 01344 351572
West Berkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership	https://www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp BWSCP Business Unit - BWSCP@reading.gov.uk Contact Advice Assessment Service (CAAS) within working hours on 01635 503090 for a member of staff to deal with your concern, alternatively email child@westberks.gov . For concerns out of hours contact the Emergency Duty Service (EDS) - out of office hours: 01344 351999

