

South Cumbria Pupil Referral Service

OVERARCHING SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

2025/26

Head teacher

Signed: 

Date: 1/9/25.

Chair of Management Committee

Signed: 

Date: 17.9.25

**This Statement will be reviewed annually.
This Statement will be next reviewed in July 2026**

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 DfE statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(DfE: 2025\)](#), [DfE Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage \(March 2014\)](#), and [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(DfE 2023\)](#). The school will also refer to and follow the policies and procedures developed by the [Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) which replaced the Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership in April 2025.

Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single professional can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action. (*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023*).

The Management Committee and staff of **South Cumbria Pupil Referral Service** take seriously our responsibility under Section 175 Education Act 2002 (Section 157 for independent schools) to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils/students, to minimise risk and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements are in place within our school 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 related policies and procedures relate to all members of the school community including pupils, staff, Management Committee members, visitors, volunteers and trainees working within the school. It is fully incorporated into the whole school ethos and is underpinned throughout the teaching of the curriculum and within PSHE and within the safety of the physical environment provided for the pupils.

DEFINITION OF SAFEGUARDING

In relation to children and young people, safeguarding and promoting their welfare is defined in 'Working together to safeguard children' as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, inside or outside the home, including online
- 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
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with new national professional practice standards.

Safeguarding is the process of protecting children from abuse, neglect or exploitation, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully. Harm can include children witnessing the ill-treatment of others and this is particularly relevant when children see, hear or experience domestic abuse and its effects.

Safeguarding action may be needed to protect children and learners from:

- neglect
- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- bullying, including online bullying and prejudice-based bullying
- racist, disability and homophobic or transphobic abuse
- gender-based violence/violence against women and girls
- radicalisation and/or extremist behaviour
- child sexual exploitation and trafficking
- child on child abuse including sexual violence and sexual harassment between children.
- the impact of new technologies on sexual behaviour, for example sexting
- teenage relationship abuse
- substance misuse
- issues that may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity and youth violence
- serious violence

- domestic violence
- female genital mutilation
- forced marriage
- fabricated or induced illness
- poor parenting, particularly in relation to babies and young children
- other issues not listed here but that pose a risk to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children, learners and vulnerable adults from deliberate harm, neglect and failure to act. It relates to broader aspects of care and education, including:

- children's and learners' health and safety and well-being
- the use of reasonable force
- meeting the needs of children and learners with medical conditions
- providing first aid
- educational visits
- intimate care and emotional well-being
- online safety and associated issues including appropriate filtering and monitoring on school devices and networks
- appropriate arrangements to ensure children's and learners' security, taking into account the local context.

This Statement should thus be understood alongside other school policies which fall under the safeguarding 'umbrella' as listed on Page 6 of this document. Related policies can be found in the policies folder on the school system.

All relevant policies will be reviewed in accordance with the latest DfE Guidance by the Management Committee which has responsibility for oversight of school safeguarding and child protection systems. The Designated Person Safeguarding (DSL), Lisa Balderstone will ensure regular reporting on safeguarding activity and systems in school to the Management Committee. The Management Committee will not receive details of individual pupil situations or identifying features of families as part of their oversight responsibility. There is also a link Management Committee member for Safeguarding & Child Protection (Sarah Campbell).

Our school is a community and all those directly connected (staff, Management Committee members, 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

South Cumbria Pupil Referral Service recognises the importance of providing an ethos and environment within school 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 (see or hear) 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. Our school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in their lives.

We aim to protect all children regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. We recognise there are additional risks and vulnerability factors for LGBTQ+ children and young people and those who are gender questioning.

South Cumbria Pupil Referral Service will endeavour to support the welfare and safety of all pupils through:

- maintaining children's welfare as our paramount concern.
- ensuring the content of the curriculum includes social and emotional aspects of learning.
- developing and implementing policies for tackling child on child abuse; bullying; racist abuse; harassment and discrimination and ensuring these are included in the curriculum.
- ensuring that child protection and safeguarding is included in the curriculum to help children stay safe, recognise when they don't feel safe and identify who they might/can talk to.
- providing suitable support and guidance so that students have a range of appropriate adults to approach if they are in difficulties.
- promoting a positive, supportive, neutral and secure environment where pupils can develop a sense of being valued and heard in their own right.

- working with parents/carers 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 are able to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse through ongoing training and support and are aware of the school's procedures and lines of communication.
- ensuring that staff are aware of the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputies (DDSLs);
- provision of further training for staff/Management Committee members and inclusion of child protection issues in the induction of new staff/Management Committee members.
- ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff, Management Committee members and volunteers to work with children.
- monitoring children and young people who have been identified as having welfare or protection concerns; keeping confidential records which are stored securely and shared appropriately with other professionals.
- developing effective and supportive liaison with other agencies.
- implementation of documented safeguarding and health and safety policies including the organisation and arrangements for maintaining the health, safety and welfare of all those involved with the school, including pupils, which include:
 - assessing risks to children and developing and implementing effective controls to prevent accidents or incidents.
 - ensuring there is sufficient first aid provision in the form of equipment and appropriately trained staff both in school, extended schools on educational visits.
 - ensuring that procedures in line with OEAP National Guidance <http://oeapng.info/> guidelines 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 on the administration of medication is implemented to meet the needs of pupils with short or long-term medical needs and medication is only administered in accordance with school policy.
 - ensuring staff are familiar with the protocols for intimate care and maintaining dignity in line with school policy.
 - ensuring staff, pupils and parents are familiar with the Relationships & Behaviour Regulation Policy which includes the use of rewards and consequences, and which also focuses on preventing and reacting to cases of bullying.
 - ensuring staff are aware of the definition of reasonable force and when this can be used, and that sufficient staff have been trained in de-escalation and positive handling (Team Teach) techniques.
 - ensuring accidents are recorded, reported and investigated where necessary to prevent similar incidents from occurring.
 - 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 person with records held in the School Buildings Register.
 - ensuring staff 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, lifting and handling, positive handling, food hygiene, use of machinery, safe use of hazardous substances, physical education, educational visits, fire safety, risk assessments etc.
 - children receive regular instruction in fire safety and participate in regular fire drills/practices.
 - ensuring hazardous substances including asbestos containing materials and water hygiene (legionella) 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 accessible at all times.
 - 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.
 - notifying Ofsted of any food poisoning affecting two or more children looked after on the premises within 14 days of the incident.
 - securely maintaining pupil data, including digital images in line with the Data Protection Act and school Policy.
 - including internet and communication safety in the curriculum in line with school Policies to enable children to access technology safely.
 - ensuring that the use of technologies including mobile phones and cameras by pupils, staff and others is managed effectively in line with school policies (including ensuring appropriate filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place).
 - ensuring children are adequately supervised during the school day, extended schools and on off site visits including break times and before and after school.
 - ensuring there are adequate pedestrian-vehicle separation on school grounds.
 - ensuring only local transport is hired where seat belts are fitted and ensuring children wear them.
 - ensuring booster seats/cushions are used in private vehicles for pupils under 12 years and 4ft 5in.
 - 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 in line with school policy.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHERS

The school 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. **South Cumbria Pupil Referral Service** follows Westmorland and Furness Child Protection Procedures (as endorsed by the Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Children Partnership) and has links with the Local Authority, the School Health Service, the local police, Children's Centre's, the Social Care Service.

Where it is believed that a child is suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm, we will follow the procedures as outlined on the [Cumbria Safeguarding Children partnership website](#) (where you can now access the Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Children partnership Safeguarding Arrangements document), [Westmorland and Furness Council website](#) and within the School's **Child Protection Policy**.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Our school will ensure that the Designated Lead/Deputy Designated Lead (Lisa Balderstone/ Jeremy Mark/Sara Rose/Leeann Bell/Megan Bland) and the Designated Management Committee member (Sarah Campbell) attend training relevant to their role. We will ensure that all staff and Management Committee members have access to Safeguarding training, which is relevant and appropriate to their role and that this is implemented. All other staff who work with children will undertake appropriate child protection awareness training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for child protection effectively.

There is a designated Health and Safety Coordinator in school (Jonathan Elvy) who has received appropriate training in relation to their role i.e. IOSH Managing Safely in Schools training or similar. We also have a Management Committee Link Member role for Health & Safety (Rob Waddington)

Although this is now no longer a legal requirement, in accordance with good practice guidelines, there is also a designated Educational Visits Coordinator (Nick Jones working with Shaun Mason and Jess McGaffin) who have received training in planning and managing off-site visits.

There is a staff training plan in place to ensure all relevant staff 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, fire safety, positive handling, moving and handling, minibuses drivers, risk assessment, food hygiene and other training commensurate with the roles and responsibilities of departmental staff.

PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENTIALITY

Our school has a clear confidentiality policy which forms part of the school's Child Protection Policy which is reviewed annually by the Management Committee and is part of new staff induction and is presented to all working adults within the school.

SAFER RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

The school pays full regard to DfE guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE: 2025). We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works in the school who is likely to be perceived by the children as a safe and trustworthy adult including e.g. volunteers and staff employed by contractors. Safer recruitment practice includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic or vocational qualifications, obtaining professional and character references, checking previous employment history and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. It also includes undertaking interviews and, where appropriate, undertaking Disclosure and Barring Service checks. This process applies to both employed staff and volunteers.

There will always be at least one member of any interview panel for new staff, volunteers and contracted services who has received Safer Recruitment training. Shortlisted candidates are informed online checks are carried out

Further details can be found in the **Child Protection Policy**.

DBS REFERRAL

The Disclosure and Barring Service's (DBS) role is to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults.

Referrals are made to the DBS when an employer or an organisation, has concerns that a person has caused harm or poses a future risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults. In these circumstances the employer or regulatory body **must** make a referral to the DBS. If we dismiss or remove a member of staff or a volunteer because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult, or we would have done so if they had not left, we must tell the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) [Click here to find out how to refer to the DBS.](#)

The responsible senior manager will **also** contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) if the member of staff has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.

The advice of the LADO can also be sought if there is uncertainty as to whether a referral should be made or for example there are concerns about the staff members conduct outside work which may raise concerns about their suitability to work with children. Further guidance can be found on the [Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership website](#) and the **Child Protection Policy**.

PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND CHALLENGING EXTREMISM

Under the Counterterrorism and Security Act, schools have duties to help prevent pupils from being drawn into terrorism. These came into effect on 1 July 2015. Schools should assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism and have procedures in place to identify pupils at risk and refer them to appropriate authorities, including relevant training for staff. The service undertakes a risk assessment activity which is reviewed at least annually.

If there is a concern about an individual child being vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism, schools must work through usual safeguarding processes in partnership with the CSCP, the local Channel officer and, in the last resort, the police.

Robust ICT policies are in place to protect students from exposure to violent extremist material.

These responsibilities are linked to the duty to promote British values in school.

The Service's Prevent Lead is Lisa Balderstone

RELATED SCHOOL POLICIES

(To be read and followed alongside this document)

- Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Online Safety Policy and Cyber Security Resilience Strategy
- Relationships & Behaviour Regulation Policy including procedures for preventing and dealing with Child-on-Child abuse, Bullying and Racism, Positive Handling, Support and Physical Intervention Procedures etc.
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy
- School Single Central Record
- Self-harm policy & Suicide Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Children - Induction Leaflet for Visitors and Contractors
- Single Equality Scheme/Objectives & Accessibility Plan
- Managing Medicines Procedures
- Educational Visits Procedures (including procedures for assessing risks)
- First Aid and Accident Procedures
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Risk Assessments (inc. Fire Safety)
- Premises Management including Security Measures (Formal Inspections and Buildings Register)
- Extremism and radicalisation risk assessment
- South Cumbria Pupil Referral Service Local Offer