



Worcestershire County Council - Education, Early Years Inclusion and Education Place Planning

Safeguarding Policy

July 2024

"Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility"

This policy is informed by:

Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (Dec 2023)

[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115276/working-together-to-safeguard-children-2023-statutory-guidance.pdf)

Keeping Children Safe in Education Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges

[Keeping children safe in education 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115276/keeping-children-safe-in-education-2024-statutory-guidance.pdf)

Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five (Sept 2024)

[Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115276/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-statutory-framework-2024.pdf)

Regional Child Protection Procedures for West Midlands [West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](https://www.westmidlands.gov.uk/child-protection-procedures)

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership [WSCP]

[WSCP - Worcestershire Safeguarding Boards \(safeguardingworcestershirescp.org.uk\)](https://www.safeguardingworcestershirescp.org.uk/)

Safeguarding Principles within Worcestershire County Council Education, Early Years Inclusion and Education Place Planning

Our principles

The purpose of this document is to provide Policy and procedure for all staff in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of those pupils who are part of the Worcestershire County Council Education, Early Years Inclusion and Education Place Planning (WCC Education). WCC Education recognises that the safety and welfare of children is paramount and that we all have a responsibility to protect children in all of our schools. We take all

needs of our vulnerable children/young people and keep them safe. We will be vigilant in our work with children and young people and will respond with appropriate action in a timely manner for those children who may need help or be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

All staff are encouraged to report any concerns that they have and not see these as insignificant. On occasions, a referral is justified by a single incident such as an injury or disclosure of abuse. More often however, concerns accumulate over a period of time and are evidenced by building up a picture of harm over time; this is particularly true in cases of emotional abuse and neglect. In these circumstances, it is crucial that staff record and pass on concerns in accordance with this policy to allow the safeguarding lead for WCC to build up a picture and access support for the child at the earliest opportunity. A reliance on memory without accurate and contemporaneous records of concern could lead to a failure to protect.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment

- Preventing impairment of children's; mental and physical 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

In our work we:

Treat all children/young people with respect regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity

Work to the guidance provided by Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Ensure that any training or events are managed to the highest possible safety standards

Review ways of working to incorporate best practice. Including this policy being regularly reviewed and updated to reflect current best practice and Government expectations

Carefully recruit and select all employees, contractors and volunteers.

Respond swiftly and appropriately to all complaints and concerns about poor practice or suspected or actual child abuse

Education Safeguarding Lead for Worcestershire County Council is:

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The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) within the Virtual School is:

Child Abuse

There are four types of child abuse as defined in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2023).

1. Physical Abuse

May involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning/scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

2. Emotional Abuse (Domestic abuse)

Is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

- It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.
- It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or

To support schools and colleges to meet this duty, the Department for Education has published [Filtering and Monitoring Standards](#) which sets out what schools and colleges should do.

Further resources can be found at:

[Cyber security training for school staff - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)

Children or young people

is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point.

All suspected or actual cases of CSE are a Safeguarding concern in which Child Protection procedures must be followed. If any staff are concerned about a pupil, they must refer to the DSL and the CSE lead within the school/setting (inc. alternative provisions)/provider where the child or young person is on roll as well as sharing the information with their team DSL.

Radicalisation/PREVENT

The WCC

Useful Information

Appendix A -

