



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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At Oaktree, we are committed to ensuring that the children in our care feel safe and well looked after. As such, we aim to provide an environment that allows them to be safely and effectively cared for, which protects them from maltreatment and allows them good health and full personal development so that they leave school happy and confident and ready to achieve their fullest potential.

Overview of Safeguarding Children

“Safeguarding children – the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm – is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play’ Working together to Safeguard Children 2023.

Key principles

Child-Centred Approach

The welfare of the child is paramount, and all decisions must prioritise their best interests. Recognise that every child has the right to feel safe, valued, and respected, regardless of their abilities or needs.

Inclusivity and Equality

Safeguarding practices must be inclusive, ensuring that all children, including those with complex needs or disabilities, are protected from harm. Recognise the increased vulnerability of children with special needs and ensure proactive measures to address these risks.

Awareness of Increased Vulnerability

Acknowledge that children with special needs may face higher risks of abuse or neglect due to communication barriers, dependency on caregivers, or difficulty recognising or reporting abuse. Ensure staff are trained to identify signs of abuse specific to children with disabilities, such as changes in behaviour or unexplained injuries.

Multi-Agency Collaboration

Work closely with families, local authorities, healthcare providers, and other professionals to provide a coordinated response to safeguarding concerns. Ensure a seamless approach to child protection through shared responsibility and clear communication.

Tailored Communication

Develop accessible and effective methods for children to express concerns, including non-verbal communication tools or augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems. Ensure safeguarding information is presented in ways that are understandable to all students.

Safe and Supportive Environment

Promote a positive, inclusive school culture that fosters trust and ensures every child feels secure. Implement robust policies to prevent bullying, harassment, or discrimination, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Robust Policies and Procedures

Maintain clear, comprehensive safeguarding policies tailored to the unique context of the school. Ensure these policies are regularly reviewed and comply with national safeguarding guidance, such as *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)* in the UK.

Parental Engagement

Work in partnership with parents and carers, keeping them informed and involved in safeguarding practices. Respect the unique insights parents bring about their child's needs and behaviours.

Early Intervention and Prevention

Focus on identifying and addressing concerns early to prevent escalation. Provide proactive support to students and families to mitigate risks.

Procedures and protocols

We work closely with Enfieldlcsb (www.enfieldlcsb.org) who in turn follow the pan London Safeguarding Children Procedures and Protocols as laid out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' DfE 2024.

Specifically, we are vigilant in the issues of:

- Pupils' health and safety
- Child protection concerns
- Radicalisation (Prevent Duty)
- Children's Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- FGM
- Bullying
- Racist abuse
- Harassment and discrimination
- Use of physical intervention
- Meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions
- Providing First Aid
- Intimate care
- Educational visits
- Internet Safety
- Issues which may be specific to a local area or population, for example, gang activity
- School security

Relevant School Policies and Guidelines

Our procedures and monitoring arrangements are set out in the following school policies/guidelines, which overlap and cross reference and which are subject to regular review:

- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Disability Equality Duty
- Health and Safety Policies
- Teaching and Learning Guidelines
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- E-safety & Online Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Sexting Policy

All policies and guidelines are available for parents via the school office and website.

Review

Our Safeguarding policies, procedures and protocols are reviewed regularly.