



SEAX Trust Overarching Safeguarding Statement

Removing Barriers, Widening opportunity, Creating futures

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

Our commitment

At SEAX Trust, safeguarding is the foundation upon which all our work is built. The welfare, safety and wellbeing of every child and young person is our highest priority and informs every decision we make as a Trust.

We believe that every child has the right to feel safe, valued, respected, listened to and protected. We are committed to creating environments in which children and young people can thrive academically, socially and emotionally, free from harm, abuse, neglect, exploitation or discrimination.

Safeguarding is not merely a statutory responsibility. It is a collective moral responsibility shared by every Trustee, Governor, leader, colleague, volunteer and partner working within our schools. We expect safeguarding to be embedded in every aspect of Trust life, underpinned by vigilance, professional curiosity, accountability and a culture where concerns are identified early, acted upon promptly and never ignored.

A Culture of Safeguarding

The Trust is committed to fostering a strong safeguarding culture across all schools and services.

We recognise that effective safeguarding is achieved not only through policies and procedures but through creating communities where:

- Children know they will be listened to, respected and taken seriously.
- Staff feel empowered and supported to raise concerns.
- Professional challenge is welcomed where it is in the best interests of children.



- Safeguarding considerations are central to leadership and decision-making.
- Diversity, inclusion and belonging are actively promoted.
- Vulnerable children receive timely and appropriate support.
- Every adult understands their responsibility to safeguard children and young people.

We are committed to ensuring that safeguarding remains visible, proactive and integral to the daily life of every school within the Trust.

Child-centred practice

Children and young people are at the heart of our safeguarding practice.

We are committed to:

- Listening to the voice of the child and taking account of their wishes, feelings and lived experiences.
- Recognising that some children may face additional barriers to being heard or protected.
- Promoting positive relationships based on trust, empathy and respect.
- Supporting children to develop resilience, confidence and the skills they need to stay safe.
- Ensuring that children know who they can speak to when they need help or support.

We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that the best outcomes are achieved when children, families, schools and external agencies work together.

Our Safeguarding Responsibilities

SEAX Trust is committed to ensuring that safeguarding arrangements across all its schools are robust, effective and compliant with current legislation, statutory guidance



and best practice, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, *working together to safeguard children* and all relevant safeguarding requirements.

We will:

- Maintain effective safeguarding and child protection arrangements across all Trust schools.
- Ensure safeguarding practices are regularly monitored, evaluated and reviewed to improve outcomes for children.
- Provide strategic leadership and oversight of safeguarding through the Trust Board, Committees, Local Governance Groups and Executive Leaders.
- Ensure all staff receive appropriate safeguarding training, induction and ongoing professional development.
- Promote safer recruitment practices and maintain a strong safeguarding workforce.
- Support effective multi-agency working and information sharing.
- Ensure concerns regarding the safety or welfare of children are responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Monitor the experiences and outcomes of vulnerable groups, including children in need, children subject to child protection plans, children in care and previously looked-after children.
- Prioritise safeguarding considerations within estate management and capital investment decisions.
- Seek continuous improvement and learning from safeguarding practice, audits, reviews and external scrutiny.

Safeguarding Risks and vulnerabilities

We recognise that safeguarding concerns can arise from a wide range of circumstances and that risks continue to evolve.

Our safeguarding arrangements are designed to identify, prevent and respond to issues including, but not limited to:



- Child abuse and neglect.
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Child criminal exploitation.
- County lines activity.
- Domestic abuse.
- Peer-on-peer abuse.
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Online harm and digital safety risks.
- Serious violence.
- Radicalisation and extremism.
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing concerns.
- Children missing education.
- Contextual safeguarding risks within communities and online environments.

We recognise that safeguarding concerns rarely exist in isolation and require a coordinated, informed and child-centred response.

Expectations of all Trust Schools

The Trust expects every school to:

- Maintain clear and effective safeguarding arrangements.
- Appoint suitably trained Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.
- Provide regular safeguarding training and updates for all staff.
- Operate effective systems for recording, monitoring and responding to concerns.
- Promote a culture of openness, vigilance and professional curiosity.
- Ensure safeguarding is regularly reviewed and scrutinised by leaders and governors.
- Work collaboratively with families, safeguarding partners, local authorities and other agencies.



- Implement effective policies relating to child protection, staff conduct, whistleblowing and safer recruitment.
- Support children to understand risk, build resilience and keep themselves safe, including online.
- Respond appropriately to allegations, disclosures and concerns involving children or adults working with children.
- Fulfil all statutory safeguarding responsibilities and duties.

Raising a concern

The Trust actively encourages anyone who has concerns regarding the safety or welfare of a child to report them immediately.

Every school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead who acts as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns. Contact details can be found on individual school websites or by contacting the school directly.

Concerns may also be raised with the Trust's Safeguarding Trustee: **Caroline Pardy**

Email: caroline.pardy@seaxtrust.com

Telephone: **01245 963000**

No concern about a child's safety is ever too small. If in doubt, we encourage people to speak up. Early intervention can make a significant difference to a child's life.

Statement of Commitment

SEAX Trust is unwavering in its commitment to safeguarding. We will continue to nurture a culture where children are protected, staff are empowered, concerns are acted upon without delay and safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility.

The welfare of children will always come first

