Safeguarding Statement

SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a duty on local authorities and the governors of maintained schools to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 and the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 require proprietors of independent schools (including academies) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the school. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 provides statutory guidance for schools and colleges and places a duty on schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 defines safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- 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.

At Silvertrees Academy we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. Our Safeguarding Policy reflects current legislation, accepted best practice and complies with statutory guidance, including Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026. We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that all staff have a role in protecting children from harm and promoting their welfare.

The main purpose of this policy is to provide staff, volunteers and governors with the framework required in order to keep children safe and secure in our school and to inform parents and carers how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care. We want to work in partnership with parents and carers to help their child(ren) achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution. There are occasions when a concern about a child may mean that we have to consult other agencies. We will share concerns with a child's parents/carers unless we have reason to believe that doing so would not be in the child's best interest and may put them at further risk.

Safeguarding children is consequently more than contributing to the protection of individual children and Silvertrees Academy is committed to the development of policy and practice that supports children and their families to be safe, healthy, enjoy and achieve, contribute positively and achieve economic wellbeing. Where safeguarding is concerned, we uphold an attitude of "it could happen here". We recognise that safeguarding incidents and behaviours can occur both inside and outside of school, including online. All staff maintain a culture of vigilance and take a child-centred approach, acting in the best interests of the child at all times. We are committed to working effectively with safeguarding partners, parents, carers and relevant agencies to ensure the best possible outcomes for children.

Silvertrees Academy strives to promote the welfare of our pupils by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures

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- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- Making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Silvertrees Academy has adapted the Safeguarding and Child Protection Model Policy from Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership to ensure the safety of all. This Policy, and others that are designed to support us in meeting our safeguarding responsibilities, are available on request or via the school website.

If you would like to know more about our safeguarding procedures, please speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a member of the safeguarding team.

Safeguarding Team

Karen Kirkham	DSL/SENCO/Deputy Head
Donna Wallace	Deputy DSL/Pastoral Lead
Ruth Turvey	Headteacher
Gemma Coombs	Assistant Head
Natalie Porter	SEND LSP
Leah Jenner-Flukes	LSP
Jenni Cox	Business Support/Rainbow Club Manager
Nicola Timms	Safeguarding Governor

For support or to raise a concern about a child please:

- call Sandwell Children's Trust on 0121 569 3100; or.
- contact the NSPCC helpline **0808 800 5000**

If a child is in **immediate danger**, you should contact the police (**101** for non-emergencies and **999** for emergencies).

If a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999 immediately. For non-emergency police concerns, contact 101 or call an ambulance

Agreed September 2026