



Westfield School

Nurturing Individuality & Progress

Safeguarding Statement 2026–27

At Westfield, safeguarding is at the heart of our work. As a specialist setting, we are committed to ensuring that every pupil feels safe, valued, respected and heard.

We work with parents, carers and professionals to understand each child's individual strengths, needs and communication, helping pupils to develop confidence, independence and prepare for the next stage of their lives. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we maintain a culture of vigilance in which concerns are recognised and acted upon promptly.

Our safer recruitment procedures include appropriate checks on staff, governors, contractors and volunteers, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and other pre-employment checks where required by current legislation and statutory guidance.

Our safeguarding arrangements reflect Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (KCSIE) and our statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Our Safeguarding Team

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Child Protection is Ms E Skeldon-Kennedy, Deputy Headteacher.

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs T Deakes, Headteacher
Ms Dodge, Senior Assistant Headteacher
Mr Burgess, Assistant Headteacher

Amy Crowle, Assistant Headteacher

Our Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Erin Clare.

These members of the senior leadership team have received appropriate safeguarding training and are responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are effective throughout the school.

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, please contact a member of the safeguarding team immediately via the school office.

Our Safeguarding Commitment

Safeguarding means protecting children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and harm, while promoting their health, well-being and development. At Westfield this includes child protection; mental health and emotional well-being; online safety; attendance; child-on-child abuse; bullying, racism and prejudice-based harm; exploitation; domestic abuse; serious violence; radicalisation and extremism; and support for vulnerable pupils and families.

We take seriously what children tell us and ensure that their voices are heard and acted upon, whatever their level or method of communication.

All staff receive regular safeguarding and child protection training, read the relevant statutory guidance and understand their responsibility to identify, respond to and report concerns promptly.

Staff understand the additional safeguarding challenges children and young people with SEND may face, including that concerns may present differently and some pupils may need additional support to communicate their experiences.

Online Safety and Technology

Technology is an important part of pupils' lives, learning and communication. We teach pupils to use it safely and responsibly in ways appropriate to their age, development, communication and individual needs.

The school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems, reviewed at least annually. We work with families to establish appropriate boundaries and provide personalised online safety education and targeted support where needed.

We remain alert to risks including cyberbullying, grooming and exploitation, harmful or inappropriate content, social media and gaming, and emerging risks associated with generative artificial intelligence (AI), including manipulated content and harmful imagery.

Understanding Vulnerability

As a special school, we recognise that additional needs, communication differences, social understanding, sensory needs or reliance on others can increase vulnerability.

Safeguarding is therefore tailored to each child's individual needs and circumstances.

Pupils may communicate through speech, signing, symbols, communication aids, assistive technology, behaviour, facial expressions or gestures. Staff understand each pupil's preferred communication methods and recognise that changes in behaviour, communication, presentation or emotional well-being may indicate a safeguarding concern.

Attendance and Safeguarding

Attendance can be an important indicator of a child's welfare. Where concerns arise, we work with families and relevant agencies to understand barriers and provide support; persistent absence may be treated as a safeguarding concern where it affects a child's safety or well-being.

Early Help and Family Help

We aim to identify concerns early so that children and families receive the right support at the right time. This may include community-based early help or, where targeted support is needed, Family Help with partner agencies.

Working with Other Agencies

We work with parents, carers and partner agencies to protect children. Information may be shared without consent where necessary to safeguard a child or where seeking consent could increase risk. We follow local safeguarding partnership procedures and our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Operation Encompass

Westfield is part of Operation Encompass. The police notify the school before the next school day when a child has been involved in or exposed to a domestic abuse incident, enabling timely and sensitive support.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We promote an inclusive environment in which every child is valued, respected and safe. Discrimination, harassment, bullying, racism and prejudice-based harm are not tolerated.

Reporting Concerns

Pupils, parents, carers, staff and visitors are encouraged to report any safeguarding concern, however small. If you are concerned about a child's safety or welfare, contact the school immediately and ask to speak with a member of the safeguarding team. All concerns are taken seriously and acted upon.

Policies and Further Information

Our detailed safeguarding arrangements are set out in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Related information can also be found in the following:

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Behaviour Policy

Online Safety Policy

Staff Code of Conduct

Whistleblowing Policy

Attendance Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Prevent Duty Statement

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

SEND Information Report

Useful contacts:

Childline – 0800 1111

NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

If a child is in immediate danger, always call 999.

For concerns outside school hours, parents and carers may also contact Buckinghamshire Children's Social Care First Response Team using the contact details available on Buckinghamshire Council's website.

