Pendle
Education Trust

Policy/Procedure/Guideline Review

Policy/Procedure/Guideline:	Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Statement
Senior Manager Responsible:	Chief Executive
Trust Approval:	2026
Review date:	Annually

PET Overarching Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

1. Background

Pendle Education Trust (the Trust) is committed to ensuring and promoting the safeguarding and wellbeing of all its students and staff and expects all staff and volunteers to proactively share this commitment.

This policy reflects the requirements and duties of the September 2026 Department for Education Publication Keeping Children Safe in Education, the Educations and Skills Act 2008 and the relevant sections of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and associated Regulations.

2. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people within the Trust from harm.
- To provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

Pendle Education Trust expects all adults within the Trust, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers and agency staff to be aware that they have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm whether at school, at home or in the community.

The statutory requirements together with the values of Pendle Education Trust mean that the Trust as well as its academies must ensure compliance at local level but also has a strategic ai of ensuring that safeguarding practice is of the highest standard.

3. We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them

4. We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm and abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

5. We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening 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
- 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, 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.

6. Safeguarding Leads

The safeguarding leads for the Trust are:

- Chief Education Officer – Lynne Blomley

The designated Trustee is David Franklin.

Each academy has its own designated professional lead and a designated local governor for safeguarding.

	Designated Safeguarding Lead	**Safeguarding Governor**
Casterton Primary	Raz Taj	Salmah Akram
Castercliff Primary	William Switzer	Alison Masheder
Pendle Primary	Catherine Jermyn	Usman Rasul
Colne Primet	Carl Thomas	Tim Horsley
West Craven High School	Andrea Smith	Joy Sharpe

7. Responsibilities for individual academies

Each academy within the Trust will:

- have a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; including a Statement of procedure for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff; which is on their website and available on request in hard copy
- ensure that there are effective procedures in place to deal with any safeguarding issues which may arise and that these are shared and followed by everyone within the academy community
- appoint safeguarding and child protection leads who have clearly defined roles and that staff, students, parents and volunteers are aware of these roles
- ensure that the identified leads with designated responsibility for safeguarding and/or child protection are appropriately trained and have adequate resources and support to perform their duties
- ensure all staff and governors receive regular training on safeguarding and child protection and are aware of their responsibilities
- adhere to safer recruitment procedures including carrying out an online search as part of our due diligence on shortlisted candidates.
- provide all staff and volunteers with written information on the standard of conduct required to ensure that they can work safely and avoid any conduct which could call into question their actions
- continuously engage with students on safeguarding and child protection matters so that they are equipped with the information and skills needed to keep themselves safe and know who to speak to if they have any concerns
- ensure that there are effective procedures for dealing with allegations made against staff or volunteers and that these procedures are followed in the event of an allegation
- ensure that the Trust Complaints Policy and Whistleblowing Policy are well publicised

8. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

The Trust and its academies will ensure that child protection records are kept confidential except for any disclosure necessary to safeguard the welfare of a child.

The Trust and each academy will co-operate with relevant local authorities and/or the police to ensure that all relevant information is shared in relation to a child protection investigation. The Trust and each academy will work in accordance with the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children, The Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales and Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting Vulnerable People From Being Drawn into Terrorism.

9. Monitoring and Reporting

The Trust will regularly monitor the effectiveness and robustness of safeguarding and child protection both centrally and at its academies. It will do this by:

- any requirements for the Trust Safeguarding Lead to be informed of any safeguarding or child protection issues or concerns relating to a member of staff, volunteer or visitor where it is felt that there is a significant risk to a child

- providing anonymised reports to every meeting of the Trust Board on any significant safeguarding or child protection issues and action taken

- reviewing the safeguarding procedures within an academy following any significant child protection incident and reporting the findings to trustees and local governors including recommendations on any improvements required. The Safeguarding Lead will appoint the reviewer who may be a safeguarding lead from another Trust academy or external specialist

- undertaking an annual review of this policy and assessing the effectiveness with which the duties within it have been fulfilled at the academies

10. Additional Information*

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026

Working Together to Safeguard Children

The Prevent Duty