OUR SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Woodlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This statement reflects the duties and expectations set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023).

- Woodlands School is a safe place for children, where our responsibilities for safeguarding children are taken seriously.
- Through our curriculum, we teach pupils about personal safety, wellbeing, and emotional regulation, including how to seek help if they are worried about themselves or others, both in person and online.
- There is a strong anti-bullying ethos evident throughout the school. We teach our children how to recognise bullying, how to keep themselves safe from bullying behaviour and how to report to it. We listen to our children.
- Our curriculum includes opportunities to discuss feelings and emotions, and helps our children to think about their own personal safety and their rights as individuals to be kept safe from harm.
- Our sex education programme teaches our children about keeping themselves safe from harm, at an age appropriate level.
- We have clear guidance to help children to use the internet (including social media) safely.
- Our policies and agreed practices for child protection, health and safety, behaviour management, attendance and cared for children all comply with the recommendations for safeguarding children at school. We have a trained designated child protection officer and five deputy officers, and a designated governor with responsibility for child protection practices at the school.
- Safeguarding at Woodlands extends beyond the school gates. We work closely with families, health and social care professionals, and community partners to identify and support children who may be at risk in any context.
- We have policies to manage potential allegations against staff, whistleblowing and the use of physical intervention.
- We recognise that attendance is a safeguarding indicator and follow the DfE's Working Together to Improve School Attendance (2024) statutory guidance.
- All safeguarding concerns are recorded on CPOMS and monitored by the safeguarding team to ensure timely action and oversight.
- Our staff recruitment policies and practices are rigorous and comply with safe recruitment and selection requirements. We always pursue identity checks and qualification checks and we take up and scrutinise written references before confirming employment.
- We require clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) before employing any staff.
- All supply teachers and agency staff are required to provide evidence of DBS clearance.
- The governing body is regularly updated about child protection, bullying and safeguarding policies and practices by the Headteacher.
- It is the responsibility of every adult in this school to ensure that we maintain the highest level of awareness about possible unsafe practices and deal with any issues immediately and appropriately.
- This statement is shared with all staff, volunteers, parents, and carers and is published on the school website.

Lead Safeguarding Officer	Karen Haworth – Headteacher
Deputy Safeguarding Officers	Sarah Peachey – Deputy Headteacher Charlotte Weber – Family Liaison and Pastoral Support Joanne McConnell, Hannah Macleod, Carly Aspden
Link Governor for Safeguarding	Jemma Kells