



Safeguarding Statement

2026–2027

Status and scope. This statement applies across The Rainbow Multi Academy Trust and should be read alongside each school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, Behaviour Policy, Attendance Policy, Online Safety Policy, Low-Level Concerns and Allegations procedures, and relevant Trust procedures.

Statutory framework. It reflects Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, the Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales (2023), the Education Act 2002, the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, the Equality Act 2010, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Working Together to Improve School Attendance, and applicable local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Our commitment

The health, safety, welfare and well-being of every child are our highest priorities. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Trustees, Members, executive leaders, staff, School Community Board Ambassadors, volunteers, contractors and visitors are expected to maintain a child-centred approach, act in the best interests of the child and adopt the professional attitude that "it could happen here".

We believe that:

children and young people should never experience abuse, neglect or exploitation of any kind;

every child has an equal right to protection from harm, including harm occurring within or outside the home, in the community or online;

children must be listened to, taken seriously and supported to express their wishes, feelings and lived experience in ways appropriate to their age, development and communication needs;

some children face additional barriers or vulnerabilities, including children with SEND or health conditions, children with a social worker, children in care or kinship care, young carers, children absent from education and children experiencing discrimination; and

effective safeguarding depends on timely information sharing and purposeful partnership with children, families and safeguarding agencies.

How we will keep children safe

Leadership and governance: Maintain effective Trust and school safeguarding leadership, appropriately trained DSL and deputy DSL capacity, suitable cover arrangements, clear accountability, quality assurance, audit trails and regular reporting to governance.

Policies and procedures: Keep safeguarding and child protection policies clear, accessible, locally contextualised, reviewed at least annually and aligned with current statutory guidance and local safeguarding arrangements.

Staff knowledge and training: Ensure all staff, including those who do not work directly with children, read Part One of KCSIE 2026 and receive appropriate induction, safeguarding, child protection and online safety training, with regular updates. Trustees will receive training appropriate to their strategic safeguarding responsibilities.

Early support and Family Help: Identify needs as soon as problems emerge, understand community-based early help and Family Help pathways, contribute to multi-agency assessments and plans, and escalate concerns promptly where a child may be in need or at risk of significant harm.

Responding to concerns: Require staff to act immediately, report concerns without delay to the DSL or deputy, and contact children's social care or the police directly when necessary. No member of staff is expected to investigate a concern before reporting it.

Recording and information sharing: Create clear, timely and secure records that include the concern, action taken, decisions, rationale and outcomes. Data protection will never be treated as a barrier to proportionate information sharing needed to safeguard a child.

Safer culture and allegations: Maintain safer recruitment and ongoing vigilance. All concerns about adults working with children, including low-level concerns and allegations involving staff, supply staff, trainee teachers, volunteers or contractors, will be reported, recorded and managed under KCSIE and local LADO procedures.

Child-on-child abuse: Take all forms of child-on-child abuse, harassment and violence seriously, including conduct online. We will not dismiss harmful behaviour as banter or part of growing up, and will provide appropriate safeguarding support to all children involved.

Online safety and emerging technology: Use a whole-school approach to online safety covering content, contact, conduct and commerce risks. Leaders will oversee filtering and monitoring, information security and access management, and consider risks associated with artificial intelligence, deepfakes, misinformation and technology-facilitated abuse.

Attendance and visibility: Treat unexplained, persistent or repeated absence as a potential safeguarding indicator; act promptly where a child's whereabouts or safety is uncertain; and work with families, the local authority and other agencies to improve attendance and reduce risk.

Alternative and off-site provision: Remain responsible for safeguarding pupils placed in alternative or off-site provision, undertake appropriate due diligence, obtain suitable safeguarding assurances, monitor attendance and welfare, and review placements when circumstances or risks change.

Prevent and radicalisation: Meet the Prevent duty through proportionate leadership, partnership, capability, risk assessment and appropriate IT arrangements. Concerns about susceptibility to radicalisation will be treated as safeguarding concerns and referred through agreed pathways.

Safe environment and curriculum: Provide a safe physical and digital environment, teach children how to keep themselves and others safe through an age-appropriate and inclusive curriculum, and use restrictive interventions or reasonable force only lawfully, proportionately and in accordance with policy.

Partnership, challenge and learning: Work openly with children, parents, carers and agencies wherever safe and appropriate, use professional challenge and escalation where needs remain unmet, and learn from concerns, complaints, incidents, audits and safeguarding practice reviews.