



Safeguarding and Child Protection statement

Last reviewed: September 2024

This document applies to all schools and operations of the Vale Academy Trust. www.vale-academy.org

Document Control	
Review period	12 Months
Owner	Chief Executive
Next review	September 2025

Introduction

The Vale Academy Trust is committed to ensuring that all children and young people in its schools are safe and protected from harm.

Each school within the Vale Academy Trust has its own Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. All Trust schools are committed to safeguarding children. This statement outlines the requirements for schools and for the Trust central team. It also outlines the role of Local Authority and the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Individual School Policies

It is a requirement that all schools in the Vale Academy Trust have their own Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. A model policy template is drawn up by the Trust based on the Local Authority model document, with reference to the Local Authority and the Local Safeguarding Children Board. This model policy must be adopted by schools and reviewed annually.

All Vale Academy Trust school staff working in regulated activity with children and young people receive appropriate training each year. There is an ongoing programme of training throughout the year to make sure that safeguarding is at the forefront of people's minds. All staff are trained to know safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

All vetting procedures are in place and recorded on the school's single central records before adults are allowed to commence work with children and young people.

The Trust Central Team

Members of the Vale Academy Trust Central Team should follow both the Trust Central Team guidance and the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for the school where they are based/visiting.

Our Head of Inclusion has a strategic overview of Safeguarding across the Trust. Our Trust Safeguarding Lead, who is Level 3 safeguarding trained, works alongside individual schools to ensure they are compliant in all areas related to safeguarding.

In addition, all members of the Central Team who visit schools have completed the appropriate safeguarding training so that they can play a part in ensuring that children and young people always remain safe.

Trustees receive annual training and are responsible for ratifying all Trust policies which can be found on the Trust website. The Safeguarding Trustee liaises closely with our Trust Head of Inclusion to provide robust oversight of safeguarding practices across the Trust.

All members of the Central Team who lead on interviews have received safer recruitment training in order to ensure that all employees and volunteers are safe to work with children and young people.

The Role of the Local Authority

Vale Academy Trust schools are still accountable to the Local Authority. The Local Authority update their model safeguarding and child protection policy every September, and this will be used as the basis for Trust school policies.

Local Safeguarding Children Board

The OSCB (Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board) is made up of senior safeguarding representatives from all member agencies. The OSCB aims to keep children in Oxfordshire as safe as possible by making sure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding through training, learning and local resources.

Designated Safeguarding Leads in the Trust

A current list of Designated Safeguarding Leads for the Trust is held by the Head of Inclusion and Trust Safeguarding Lead. If these roles change, it is the responsibility of the Headteacher at each Trust School to inform the person responsible for the statement so that the list may remain up-to-date.

Contacts

Please refer to school policies which state who and how to contact key individuals in the schools concerning safeguarding and child protection matters. Should you wish to contact the Trust directly about a safeguarding or child protection matter please contact the Head of Inclusion : email – lspiers@vale-academy.org or telephone 01235 754070

If you have concerns about a child or want to find out more about how your child's school carries out their safeguarding procedures, please contact the headteacher or visit the school's website.

You can also contact the Local Authority Designated Officer or Education Safeguarding Advisory Team–

(LADOs) Jo Lloyd, Sandra Barratt, Amie Pilcher, Becky Langstone, Sophie Kendall
01865 810603
Lado.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk
ESAT.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Or the Oxfordshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 0345 050 7666

Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team (EDT) 0800 83