

Safeguarding Statement 2025

Our Commitment

The Wessex Learning Trust is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We believe that every child has the right to be safe, happy, and able to learn, free from harm, neglect, or abuse. We expect all staff, Partners, volunteers, and visitors to share this commitment and uphold the highest standards of safeguarding practice.

Our Responsibilities

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to:

- Protect children from maltreatment.
- Prevent the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development.
- Ensure children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Take action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Our Approach

Safeguarding at The Wessex Learning Trust goes beyond compliance – it is central to our culture and embedded in everything we do. Our approach includes:

- Safe recruitment of staff and volunteers, in line with the latest statutory guidance.
- Vigilance and early intervention through staff training, awareness, and robust reporting processes.
- Partnership working with children, parents/carers, local authorities, and safeguarding partners.
- Curriculum provision that teaches pupils how to stay safe, make positive choices, and know where to seek help.
- Child-centred decision-making, ensuring the voice and needs of every child are prioritised.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Each school within the Trust has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team within their School, and trained Deputy DSLs.

If You Have a Concern

If you are worried about the safety or welfare of a child, contact the school's DSL immediately. Concerns can also be reported directly to Children's Social Care or the Police.

Key Documents & Guidance

- Our safeguarding policies reflect statutory guidance, including:
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 Keeping children safe in education 2025
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance
- Prevent Duty Guidance <u>Prevent duty guidance GOV.UK</u>
- Local safeguarding partnership arrangements <u>Children's Safeguarding Board | Children's Safeguarding Board Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership</u>

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Gavin Ball

Chief Executive – Wessex Learning Trust

1 September 2025