

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (Exams)

2026-2027



Approved by: UCH

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Key Staff

Role	Name(s)
Head of centre	Chris Steed
Designated safeguarding lead	Oliver Yates
Designated safeguarding lead (deputy)	Julie McAllister, Chris Steed
Exams officer	Aidan Rothnie

Purpose of the policy

This policy details how Atam Academy ensures that the moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is met in relation to the management, administration, and conducting of examinations and assessments.

The policy also details how staff are trained and supported to be alert to, and report, the signs of abuse and neglect and how they will follow centre procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection, and justice.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff associated with the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments at Atam Academy.

Atam Academy ensures compliance with the statutory guidance for schools and colleges as set out in the Department for Education's *Keeping children safe in education 2026* publication.

Policy aims

- To provide all exams-related staff at Atam Academy with the necessary information to enable them to meet their safeguarding and child protection responsibilities
- To ensure consistent good practice
- To demonstrate the commitment with regard to safeguarding and child protection to students, parents/carers and other partners when taking examinations and assessments at Atam Academy
- To contribute to the wider centre Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

All staff involved in the management, administration, and conducting of examinations at Atam Academy are made aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. This includes raising awareness and understanding of the role played by these staff members in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children whilst they are undertaking their examinations/assessments.

As part of the training given to staff involved in the management, administration, and conducting of examinations/assessments, the following are highlighted as part of an induction/training programme:

- Child protection policy (which should amongst other things also include the policy and procedures to deal with child-on-child abuse)
- Behaviour policy (which should include measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based, and discriminatory bullying)
- Staff behaviour policy (sometimes called a code of conduct) should amongst other things, include low-level concerns, allegations against staff, and whistleblowing
- Safeguarding response to children who are absent from examinations, particularly on repeat occasions, and/or prolonged periods
- The role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies)

Staff involved in invigilating examinations and assessments are provided with access to online training through The Exams Office. This training covers the safeguarding guidance outlined in the Department for Education's *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)* document, as well as guidance on managing a range of examination-related safeguarding scenarios.

Section 1 – Roles and Responsibilities

Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

- (and any deputies) will take lead responsibility for child protection and safeguarding in relation to examinations and assessments. The DSL will offer advice, support and expertise in all matters relating to child protection and safeguarding in relation to examinations and assessments
- Will provide mandatory Child Protection Training to invigilators upon recruitment and annually

Exams manager/officer

- Will support the DSL as directed, and undertake all relevant training
- Will maintain a log of invigilator Child Protection Training and ensure that all invigilators attend prior to start of exams
- Will assist invigilators in reporting child protection and safeguarding issues/concerns in line with centre processes/policy

Invigilators

- Will undertake training as directed by the DSL, report child protection and safeguarding issues/concerns in line with centre processes/policy

Teaching staff

- Will ensure that where candidates are taking non-examination assessments, they will check that the tasks and approach being taken are appropriate and in line with ethical standards and the centre's safeguarding responsibilities

Section 2 – Staff

Atam Academy ensures that only 'suitably qualified and experienced adults' are employed in the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments. This is supported by the safer recruitment process which includes:

- completing an application form which includes their employment history and explains any gaps in that history
- providing two referees, including at least one who can comment on the applicant's suitability to work with children
- providing evidence of identity and qualifications
- verifying their mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities
- verifying their professional qualifications, as appropriate
- carrying out further additional checks, as appropriate, on candidates who have lived or worked outside of the UK, including (where relevant) any teacher sanctions or restrictions imposed by a European Economic Area professional regulating authority, and criminal records checks or their equivalent
- asking for written information about previous employment history and check that information is not contradictory or incomplete. We will seek references on all short-listed candidates, including internal candidates, before interview. We will scrutinise these and resolve any concerns before confirming appointments.
- if offered employment, be checked in accordance with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) regulations as appropriate to their role. This will include:
 - an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check for those including unsupervised volunteers engaged in Regulated Activity
 - an enhanced DBS check without a barred list check for all volunteers not involved in Regulated Activity but who have the opportunity of regular contact with children
- ensuring that this member of staff has a subscription to the DBS Update Service (where relevant)

- if offered employment, provide evidence of their right to work in the UK
- be interviewed by a panel of at least two school leaders/governors, if shortlisted.

DBS check information

All information on the checks carried out on those who are employed solely for the purpose of periodic exams-related activity, such as external invigilators/facilitators, will be recorded in the centre's single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals' personnel files.

The level of DBS check will be appropriate for the role as an invigilator and external invigilators and facilitators are included in the centre's **safer recruitment** procedures.

Existing staff

Although there is no statutory requirement to update DBS checks for existing staff, external invigilators/facilitators will undertake a 'rolling DBS check'.

If there are concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with children, all relevant checks will be carried out as if the individual was a new member of staff. This action will also be taken if an individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is.

Anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult will be referred to the DBS:

- Where the 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e., that no action or inaction occurred but the present risk that it could was significant)
- Where the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence
- If there is reason to believe that the individual has committed a listed relevant offence, under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009
- If the individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left

'Break in service'

To comply with 'break in service' regulations, all external invigilators/facilitators will be required to register with the DBS Update Service on an annual basis and provide consent for the designated senior member of staff in charge of safeguarding arrangements to carry out an online check to view the status of their existing enhanced DBS certificate. This will not apply to any invigilators who meet the 'frequency test' at Atam Academy – e.g., working 3 or more times in a 30-day period, or attending the centre at least every 3 months for training, updates etc.

By registering with the Update Service, these staff will be permitted to attend on any day during an exam series (providing they can supply an updated Disclosure Certificate and ID) without the need for additional checks or any additional attendance at Atam Academy.

Agency staff

To comply with 'break in service' regulations, all external invigilators/facilitators will be required to register with the DBS Update Service on an annual basis and provide consent for the designated senior member of staff in charge of safeguarding arrangements to carry out an online check to view the status of their existing enhanced DBS certificate. This will not apply to any invigilators who meet the 'frequency test' at Atam Academy – e.g., working 3 or more times in a 30-day period, or attending the centre at least every 3 months for training, updates etc.

By registering with the Update Service, these staff will be permitted to attend on any day during an exam series (providing they can supply an updated Disclosure Certificate and ID) without the need for additional checks or any additional attendance at Atam Academy.

Section 3 – Supporting staff

All exams staff at Atam Academy:

- Are made aware of the good practice guidelines and staff code of conduct in relation to child protection and safeguarding
- Receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training during their induction to the role, at the centre's annual exam update training session, or via online training which includes an assessment to confirm knowledge and understanding of the regulations. This training is regularly updated to include the most up-to-date guidance from the relevant authorities
- Receive safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) updates as required, and at least annually, to continue to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. This includes updates on the centre's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy by training sessions, online information, and hard copy information.

Section 4 – Areas covered

All exams staff will be trained/updated on the following areas to ensure that they are complying with the centre policy on child protection and safeguarding:

- Who the key staff involved in child protection and safeguarding are
- The types of abuse and how one might identify them
- The processes by which they can make a referral
- Expectations on what they must and must not do if a student chooses to disclose to them
- The role that technology plays in safeguarding and wellbeing issues
- How to deal with exam-related scenarios in line with child protection and safeguarding requirements/protocols, including:
 - A candidate who is not responding whilst in the lavatory
 - An anxious candidate
 - A candidate who (repeatedly) falls asleep
 - A candidate faints during the exam
 - Two candidates start fighting as they enter the exam room
 - Prevent Duty

Section 5 – Reporting

The process for staff to report issues/concerns relating to child protection and safeguarding is:

- Referrals must be logged on CPOMs. If an invigilator does not have access to CPOMs, they may request that the Exams Officer makes one on their behalf or speak to the DSL directly

If a member of staff needs to make a complaint/report a colleague or other adult who works with children (whistleblowing), they should report this to the head of centre.

Section 6 - Protocols for one-to one support/supervision

Where staff are engaged in invigilation/facilitation and/or centre supervision on a one-to one basis with a candidate the following protocols should be followed.

Summoning immediate assistance in case of any concern

Invigilators engaged in a one-to-one supervision with a candidate will be allowed to carry their mobile phone, which they can use to summon assistance from senior leaders and/or the pastoral team on call and the exams officer. The mobile phone is not to be used for any other purpose.

Leaving the examination room temporarily

Where a member of staff may accompany a candidate with a medical pass requiring a toilet break, they must first check that the facilities are unoccupied. The candidate is reminded that exam conditions still apply. The candidate will be allowed into an empty cubicle, but the invigilator must

stand outside the entrance to the facility, where they have clear line of sight to the cubicle door and the hand-washing facilities. The invigilator will then escort the candidate back to the exam venue

Where a member of staff may accompany a candidate who is feeling unwell, they will first notify senior leaders, pastoral leaders, and the exams officer via text and then escort the candidate to the first aid room. The invigilator will accompany the candidate while first aid administered, until the candidate is deemed well enough to continue with the exam or not. If the exam is to be stopped, the exams officer will apply for special consideration.