



Summary Safeguarding Statement (2021/22)



- 1. Introduction:** The Trust Board and staff of The Learning for Life Trust (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Trust’) take seriously our responsibility under Section 175 Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils, to minimise risk and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements are in place within our schools to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm and to keep them safe and secure whilst in our care. Our Statement and supporting policies and procedures relate to all members of the school community. It is fully incorporated into The Trust’s ethos and is underpinned throughout the teaching of the curriculum, within PHSE and within the safety of the physical environment provided for the pupils.
- 2. Definition of Safeguarding:** ‘Working together to Safeguard Children’ defines the term Safeguarding as “protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development; ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes”. Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It relates to all aspects of school life including pupils’ health, safety and wellbeing including their mental health. This summary safeguarding statement should therefore be read and understood alongside other, school-lead policies and procedures, which fall under the safeguarding ‘umbrella’. Related policies and procedures can be found on each school’s website and/or as a hard copy in schools.
- 3. Ethos:** The Trust recognises the importance of providing an ethos and environment within its schools that will help children to feel safe, secure and respected; encourage them to talk openly; and enable them to feel confident that they will be listened to. The schools will endeavour to support the welfare and safety of all pupils at all times and have strong procedures, policies and systems in place in order to achieve this (a detailed list of which is outlined in their Overarching Safeguarding Statements and Child Protection Policies).
- 4. Partnerships with others:** The Trust recognises that it is essential to establish positive and effective working relationships with all relevant agencies. The Trust recognises that professionals can only work together to safeguard children if there is an exchange of relevant information between them. Where it is believed that a child is suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm, schools will follow the referral procedures as outlined on the Cumbria Safeguarding Children Board website and within their Child Protection Policy and procedures. In other cases, our schools will put in place appropriate ‘early help’ strategies, working with other agencies as appropriate and where necessary.
- 5. Training and Support:** The Designated Safeguarding Lead (at each school) will ensure that all training is up-to-date and that all adults in school have undertaken relevant safeguarding training to the appropriate level. There is a training plan in place to ensure all relevant staff receive appropriate training as per legislative requirements and good practice to protect both themselves and children. In addition, all staff members will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates in order to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.
- 6. Professional Confidentiality:** Each school has a clear confidentiality statement that forms part of the School Child Protection Policy and procedures which is reviewed annually by the Local Governing Boards, is discussed with all staff and shared with all working (paid and unpaid) adults within each school.
- 7. Safe Recruitment and Selection:** The Trust pays full regard to the DfE statutory guidance ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ (September 2021). We will deter and prevent people who pose a risk of harm from working with children by adhering to statutory responsibilities to carry out appropriate checks on staff or others who work (paid or unpaid) unsupervised with children, taking proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required and ensuring those without full checks are appropriately supervised. The Trust has a written Recruitment, Selection and Pre-Employment Vetting Policy and procedures in place. In line with the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009, the Local Governing Boards ensure that at least one person on any appointment panel has attended safer recruitment training.

Further details can be found in each school’s Overarching Safeguarding Statement, their Child Protection Policy and within the School Recruitment, Selection and Pre-Employment Vetting Policy.