



Designated Safeguarding Lead

Start Date: April 2026 Contract Type: Full time
Contract Term: Permanent Salary: NJC Grade 8 £39,152 - £42,839

About Us

Birchwood Community High School is a vibrant and inclusive secondary school committed to ensuring that every student feels safe, supported, and empowered to achieve their full potential. We pride ourselves on our strong pastoral care, positive relationships, and a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The Role

We are seeking an experienced, highly motivated, and knowledgeable **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** to join our team. The successful candidate will take strategic and operational responsibility for all aspects of safeguarding and child protection across the school.

This is a key position requiring a deep understanding of statutory safeguarding guidance, strong partnership working skills, and the ability to act decisively in the best interests of children.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead on all safeguarding and child protection matters in line with statutory guidance, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.
- Act as the main point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Work closely with external agencies including children's social care, the local authority, and other statutory bodies.
- Ensure accurate, secure, and confidential record keeping.
- Provide safeguarding advice, support, and training to staff.
- Promote a culture of vigilance and safeguarding awareness across the school community.
- Contribute to safeguarding audits, policy development, and compliance monitoring.

The Ideal Candidate Will Have:

- Significant experience in safeguarding and child protection within an educational setting.
- Up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance.
- DSL training (or willingness to undertake training immediately).
- Strong leadership, communication, and decision-making skills.
- The ability to handle sensitive situations with professionalism, discretion, and resilience.

What We Offer

- A supportive and collaborative leadership team.
- Ongoing professional development and training.
- A strong safeguarding culture embedded across the school.
- Opportunities to shape and develop safeguarding strategy.
- No expectation to be in work during the school holidays, only as and when needed.

Safeguarding Statement

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to apply for a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Check. Further details can be found at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/dbs. This position is subject to a disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

How to Apply

Application forms and further details are available via the school website or by contacting the school directly.

For further details and an application form please visit: www.birchwoodhigh.org

Closing date for application: 9am Friday 27th February. Interview date: Week commencing 2nd March 2026.

Application forms should be returned to joinus@birchwoodhigh.org and preferably not through TES.