

Safeguarding Statement

BCHS is a school where:

- Where aspiration, knowledge and kindness are at the heart of all that we do.
- Where every child is respected, valued and supported to achieve their very best.
- Where high expectations, engaging learning and a culture of respect enable every child to succeed.
- Where children feel safe, happy and encouraged to grow into independent and responsible young people.
- Where achievement, character, leadership and personal development are recognised and celebrated.
- Where strong partnerships between staff, students, parents and governors support a thriving school community.

Policy owner (Name):	Jenni Richards
Policy owner (Job Title):	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Governing body oversight:	FGB
Date of review:	September 2025
Date of next review:	September 2026

This policy applies to the whole of Birchwood Community High School.

Purpose

The basis of this statement is provided by the latest version of the statutory '[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)' and '[Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#)'. This statement and the linked guidance cover all children in our School, where a child is defined as anyone under the age of eighteen.

Keeping Children Safe in Education states, “Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding. Safeguarding is defined as protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.”

The purpose of this statement and the directions it provides are planned, implemented and regularly reviewed in order to:

1. Protect children from maltreatment and significant harm
2. Prevent impairment of children's health and wellbeing

Most important, this involves taking action to enable all children achieve the best outcomes.

Our safeguarding network is underpinned by an ethos of constant vigilance. All staff have a pivotal role to safeguard children and they are duty bound to provide help for all. We should identify concerns early and implement school policy to prevent concerns from escalating to a point where a child is at risk of significant harm. Action will be taken to promote the welfare of all children and this will be done even if they are not suffering harm or are at immediate risk. Where a child is suffering significant harm, or is likely to do so, action will be taken to protect the child. In the case of physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect, the school will make a referral to Children's Social Care.

Our Safeguarding Commitment

At [Birchwood Community High School](#), we are committed to the welfare and protection of all students in our care. We recognise that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility** and expect all staff, volunteers, and visitors to share this unwavering commitment.

In accordance with the latest statutory guidance, including **Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025)** and **Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2026)**, Birchwood Community High School maintains a culture of constant vigilance. We aim to provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where every student is valued, respected, and protected from harm.

Key Designated Staff

If you have any concerns about a student's safety or well-being, please contact our **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)** immediately:

- **Jennifer Richards**, Designated Safeguarding Lead jrichards@birchwoodhigh.org
- **Matthew Taylor**, Designated Safeguarding Lead mtaylor@birchwoodhigh.org

The **DSL for the Creedo School** (on site alternative provisions) is **Samantha Rigby-White**.

If you have **any** concerns, please discuss these promptly and make a direct report to the DSL.

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of significant harm, you must report it straight away to the DSLs named above or in their absence, please contact Emma Mills, the Headteacher emills@birchwoodhigh.org

Please find more information and guidance on the school's [official safeguarding portal](#).

Our Statutory Duties

As part of our commitment to national standards, we ensure that:

- **Proactive Prevention:** We identify concerns early to prevent them from escalating, using a child-centered approach that prioritises the student's voice.
- **Modern Risk Management:** Our staff are trained to recognise emerging risks, including **misinformation, disinformation, and conspiracy theories**, alongside established concerns like online harm and domestic abuse.
- **Collaborative Action:** We work seamlessly with families and external agencies, such as children's social care and health services, to provide timely and effective support.
- **Attendance as Safeguarding:** We recognize that persistent or unexplained absence is a primary safeguarding indicator and follow the legal requirements to ensure no student is missed.
- **Inclusion & Anti-Discrimination:** We are dedicated to anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practices, ensuring that safeguarding is inclusive of all students, including those in kinship care or under other care arrangements.

In order to fulfil our safeguarding duties, Birchwood Community High School have a robust suite of Safeguarding Policies and Procedures:

Policy	
1. Staff Code of Conduct	2. OCT Child Protection & safeguarding
3. Safeguarding Statement	4. Behaviour, Standards & Discipline
5. Early Help Statement	6. Online Safety Policy
7. Safer Recruitment	8. School Visitors
9. Attendance	10. Health and Safety
11. Anti-bullying	12. Educational Visits
13. Whistleblowing Procedures	14. Managing Allegations Against Staff
15. Relationships & Sex Education	16. Special Educational Needs
17. Special Educational Needs	18. Children with health needs who cannot attend school
19. Home visits	20. Supporting students with medical conditions
21. Mobile phone policy	22. OCT Critical Incident Plan

This Statement complies with:

1. Children's Act 1989 and 2005
2. Section 175 of the Education Act 2002
3. Working Together to Safeguard Children - Statutory Guidance (December 2023)
4. Keeping Children Safe in Education - Statutory Guidance (September 2024)

Useful links

['Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024'](#)

['Working Together to Safeguard Children'](#)