



<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Safeguarding Policy</b>
<b>Created by</b>	Christopher Allan, Owner (Lead Practitioner)
<b>Date Reviewed</b>	June 2023
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	June 2024
<b>E &amp; D Disclaimer</b>	This policy has been reviewed in line with the Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following categories as Protected Characteristics: Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex (gender) and Sexual orientation. We will continue to monitor this policy to ensure that it provides equal access and does not discriminate against anyone, especially any person/s listed under any protected characteristic.

## **Safeguarding Policy for School Avoidance Solutions (SAS)**

### **Introduction**

School Avoidance Solutions (SAS) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children and young people with whom we work therapeutically. This safeguarding policy outlines the processes and procedures to be followed when providing face-to-face therapeutic services to families and young people. The policy is designed to protect children and young people from harm and ensure their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

SAS will appoint Christopher Allan, the owner and Lead Practitioner, as the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) within the organisation. The DSL will have overall responsibility for safeguarding and will receive appropriate training and support to carry out their role effectively. Christopher Allan will be the main point of contact for all safeguarding concerns and will liaise with relevant agencies, such as local authorities and child protection services, as required.

### **Recruitment and Training**

All staff and practitioners working directly with families and young people will undergo thorough recruitment procedures, including appropriate background checks, in line with statutory requirements and best practices. This may include enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and reference checks.

Staff and practitioners will receive regular safeguarding training to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to identify signs of abuse, respond appropriately to concerns, and understand their reporting responsibilities. Training will also include awareness of the specific risks and vulnerabilities associated with school avoidance and emotional well-being.

### **Risk Assessment and Management**

Prior to commencing therapeutic services, SAS will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each family and young person. This assessment will include factors such as safeguarding concerns, the presence of risk factors, and the need for additional support. Risk assessments will be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain up to date and any changes in circumstances are addressed promptly.

If a safeguarding concern is identified during therapy sessions, the practitioner will follow the organization's safeguarding procedures, which may include reporting the concern to the DSL, Christopher Allan, and/or making a referral to the appropriate authorities. The safety and well-being of the child or young person will always be the priority.

## Confidentiality and Information Sharing

SAS recognizes the importance of confidentiality in therapeutic relationships. However, the welfare and safety of children and young people take precedence over confidentiality. Practitioners will explain the limits of confidentiality to families and young people at the outset and seek their consent to share information when necessary to safeguard their welfare.

Information sharing will be carried out in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance, including the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Records will be maintained securely and accessed only by authorized personnel on a need-to-know basis.

## Multi-Agency Collaboration

SAS acknowledges the importance of collaborative working with other agencies and professionals involved in the welfare of children and young people. We will actively cooperate and share relevant information with local authorities, schools, social services, and other appropriate agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of those we work with.

## Complaints and Allegations

SAS will maintain a robust procedure for handling complaints and allegations related to safeguarding. Any concerns or allegations regarding the conduct or behavior of staff or practitioners will be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated in line with the organization's complaints and safeguarding procedures. Appropriate actions will be taken promptly, which may include suspension of staff pending investigation or reporting to the relevant authorities.

## Review and Monitoring

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually or whenever there are significant changes in legislation, best practices, or the organization's services. The effectiveness of the policy will be monitored regularly to ensure compliance and continuous improvement in safeguarding practices.

This safeguarding policy will be communicated to all staff, practitioners, and relevant stakeholders, and made available to families and young people accessing SAS services. It is the responsibility of all individuals associated with SAS to familiarize themselves with this policy and adhere to its principles and procedures.