

INTRODUCTION

SKAPE is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all students. This Child Protection Policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding children and young people, ensuring their welfare, and promoting their well-being.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children and young people from harm.
- Outline the responsibilities of staff and volunteers in relation to child protection.
- Provide a framework for responding to concerns about a child's welfare.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, and anyone involved in the provision services at SKAPE.

PRINCIPLES

- The best interest of the child.
The safety and the welfare of children are paramount. All actions taken will prioritise the child's best interest.
- Participation
Children and young people have the right to express their views, feelings, and wishes. Their voice will be heard and considered in decisions which affect them.
- Prevention
Skape will take proactive steps to minimise the risks to children and young people, including, but not limited to, appropriate training for staff and fostering a positive environment.
- Intervention
All staff members are mandated to report any concerns regarding child protection to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Kelly Watson). In the event of the DSL not being available, all staff will report any concerns to the DDSL Linda James. SKAPE will respond promptly and appropriately to any allegations or disclosures, following their own safeguarding procedures.

RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff and volunteers must familiarise themselves with this policy, as well as the safeguarding policy and the Keeping Children Safe In Education 2024 Part 1. All staff must be aware that they should report any safeguarding concerns to the DSL (K Watson) immediately.

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

The DSL is responsible for overseeing any child protection concerns. In the event of the DSL (K Watson) being unavailable, the DDSL (L James) will oversee any concerns. The DSL is responsible for ensuring that appropriate actions are taken, liaising with commissioning school and external agencies where deemed necessary. The DSL is responsible for ensuring that staff training is up to date and providing updates to staff regarding child protection issues.

PROCEDURES

Recognising signs of abuse

All staff should be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect, including physical, emotional, sexual, online and neglect.

CHILD ON CHILD ABUSE

SKAPE acknowledges that children may sometimes harm each other. If an incident on child- on- child abuse is reported or witnessed, staff must intervene immediately to ensure the safety of all pupils. Staff must report the incident to the DSL immediately, providing all relevant details. The DSL will conduct an investigation of the incident, involving parents, commissioning school and external agencies where required.

REPORTING CONCERNS

If a staff member has concerns about a child's welfare, they must report it to the DSL. If a disclosure has been made, the staff member must provide the DSL with a written statement, detailing what was said in the child's words. The DSL must report this to the commissioning school and any other necessary external agencies before the child leaves the SKAPE premises.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Any information regarding child protection concerns must be treated confidentially and shared only with those who need to know.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF

Any allegations made against staff members will be taken seriously and investigated promptly. In the event of further advice being needed, DSL will contact Liz Best at DBC.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect any changes in legislation, guidance or practice.

CONCLUSION

SKAPE is dedicated the safety and well-being of all children. By implementing this Child Protection Policy, we aim to create a secure environment where children and young people can thrive.

Signed:



Date:01.09.25

Print Name: K Watson

Reviewed: Annually

Review Date: 1.09.26

Date	Reason for Change	Approved By	Revision Number
08/10/24	Initial policy	K Watson	01
01/09/25	Review	K Watson	02