



# SENnections Child Protection Policy

**Version:** 1.0

**Effective Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Policy Owner:** SENnections Management

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## Purpose

This Child Protection Policy sets out how all candidates and representatives of SENnections must respond to concerns that a child or young person may be suffering, or at risk of suffering, harm.

Child protection is a key part of safeguarding and requires immediate and appropriate action when concerns arise.

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## Scope

This policy applies to:

- All candidates registered with SENnections
  - All staff working on behalf of SENnections
  - Any individual placed in an educational setting via SENnections
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## Legal Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

All candidates must comply with the procedures of the placement setting and statutory guidance at all times.

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## What is Child Protection?

Child protection refers to action taken to protect children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

This includes concerns relating to:

- Physical abuse
  - Emotional abuse
  - Sexual abuse
  - Neglect
  - Exploitation
  - Domestic abuse
  - Online harm
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## Recognising Child Protection Concerns

Candidates must be alert to possible indicators such as:

- Unexplained injuries or frequent injuries
  - Sudden changes in behaviour
  - Withdrawal, anxiety or fearfulness
  - Disclosures from a child
  - Signs of neglect
  - Sexualised behaviour that is not age appropriate
  - Concerns raised by colleagues or other professionals
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## Reporting Child Protection Concerns

If a candidate has a concern about a child, they must:

1. Report the concern immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) within the school or setting
2. Provide clear, factual information if recording is required

3. Inform SENnections as soon as possible after reporting
4. Never attempt to investigate the concern themselves
5. Never delay reporting under any circumstances

If a child is in immediate danger, emergency procedures must be followed without delay.

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## **Allegations or Concerns About Staff**

If a candidate has concerns about the behaviour of a staff member, they must:

- Report immediately to the DSL or Headteacher
  - Inform SENnections management as soon as possible
  - Avoid discussing concerns with others unless required for safeguarding purposes
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## **Record Keeping**

Where required, candidates must ensure that any information shared is:

- Factual and accurate
  - Written clearly and professionally
  - Free from opinion or assumption
  - Shared only with appropriate safeguarding personnel
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## **Professional Responsibilities**

All candidates must:

- Treat all children with dignity and respect
  - Maintain professional boundaries at all times
  - Follow all school safeguarding and child protection procedures
  - Act immediately when concerns arise
  - Never assume someone else will take action
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## **Confidentiality**

Child protection concerns must be treated as strictly confidential and only shared with:

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Appropriate safeguarding authorities
- SENnections management (for escalation purposes only)

Information must never be discussed informally or shared inappropriately.

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## **Whistleblowing**

Candidates have a duty to report unsafe practice or failure to follow child protection procedures.

Concerns may be raised with:

- School DSL or Headteacher
  - SENnections management
  - Relevant external safeguarding authorities if required
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## **Failure to Comply**

Failure to follow this policy may result in:

- Immediate removal from assignment
  - Suspension or termination of registration with SENnections
  - Referral to relevant safeguarding authorities where appropriate
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## **Policy Acknowledgement**

By registering with SENnections, candidates confirm that they:

- Have read and understood this Child Protection Policy
- Understand their responsibilities in relation to child protection
- Agree to comply with this policy at all times during assignments