

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

1. Statement of Intent

RD Homeschool Ltd is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We recognise our moral and legal responsibility to ensure that all students are protected from harm, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and radicalisation.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff working with RD Homeschool share a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to maintain a culture of vigilance.

This policy applies to all staff, contractors, volunteers, and anyone working on behalf of RD Homeschool Ltd.

2. Legal Framework

This policy is informed by relevant safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, including:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty)

3. Safeguarding Principles

RD Homeschool will:

- Provide a safe, structured, and respectful online learning environment
- Ensure safer recruitment practices are followed
- Ensure all staff have appropriate DBS clearance
- Provide regular safeguarding training
- Maintain clear reporting procedures
- Act promptly and appropriately on safeguarding concerns
- Work in partnership with parents, local authorities, and relevant agencies

The welfare of the child is paramount in all decision-making.

4. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

RD Homeschool Ltd will appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is responsible for:

- Managing safeguarding concerns and referrals
- Acting as the main point of contact for safeguarding issues
- Liaising with local safeguarding partners and external agencies
- Ensuring safeguarding training is up to date
- Maintaining accurate, confidential safeguarding records

Deputy arrangements will be in place where appropriate.

5. Safer Recruitment

RD Homeschool Ltd is committed to safer recruitment practices. This includes:

- Enhanced DBS checks for all teaching staff
- Verification of identity and right to work
- Verification of qualifications
- Professional reference checks
- Suitability checks where required

No individual will be permitted to teach or support students without appropriate clearance.

6. Online Safety

As an online provider, RD Homeschool places particular emphasis on digital safeguarding.

Measures include:

- Delivery of lessons through secure, monitored platforms
- Professional conduct expectations for staff and students
- Clear guidance on appropriate online behaviour
- Recording or monitoring arrangements where appropriate
- No private communication between staff and students outside approved systems
- Parental awareness of lesson scheduling and expectations

Students are educated on safe and responsible use of technology.

7. Recognising Abuse and Harm

Staff are trained to recognise signs of:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Child-on-child abuse
- Exploitation (including CSE and criminal exploitation)
- Radicalisation
- Online harm

Any concern, however small, must be reported to the DSL immediately.

8. Reporting Procedures

If a safeguarding concern arises:

1. The concern must be reported immediately to the DSL.
2. A written record must be completed as soon as possible.
3. The DSL will assess the concern and determine appropriate action.
4. Where necessary, referrals will be made to Children's Social Care, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), or the Police.

In cases of immediate risk, emergency services will be contacted without delay.

Confidentiality will be maintained, however safeguarding concerns cannot be kept secret where a child is at risk of harm.

9. Supporting Students with SEN and Additional Needs

RD Homeschool recognises that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) may be more vulnerable to abuse. Additional vigilance and adapted communication methods will be used to ensure these students are able to express concerns and feel safe.

10. Allegations Against Staff

Any allegation against a member of staff will be taken seriously and referred to the appropriate authority, including the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), in line with statutory guidance.

Staff may be suspended where appropriate pending investigation.

11. Training

All staff will:

- Receive safeguarding induction training
- Complete regular safeguarding updates
- Be trained in recognising signs of abuse
- Understand reporting procedures
- Be aware of the Prevent duty

Training records will be maintained.

12. Record Keeping

Safeguarding records will be:

- Accurate and factual
- Stored securely
- Kept confidential
- Shared only on a need-to-know basis

Records will be retained in accordance with data protection legislation.

13. Policy Review

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if statutory guidance changes or safeguarding concerns require revision of procedures.

Approved by: RD Homeschool Ltd

Date: 25/11/2025

Review Date: 25/11/2026