

Strategic Safeguarding

Boards have a duty to create safe environments for their children through ensuring robust safeguarding practices. This duty crosses all aspects of school life and safeguarding should be the 'golden thread' running through all the work of the board, ensuring that all children are safe.

Overview

Your board has a duty to ensure that your school or trust is a place where children and young people are safe and can be prevented from any harm. Information about this is set out in **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE)**. Governors should read all of this guidance including Part 2 which is specifically about the role of the board.

The board works at a strategic level to agree policies and practices that comply with the law and fulfil this duty. The school team operates the policies and processes. The board then evaluates the success of these policies and practices in keeping children safe.

Information about the inspection of safeguarding can be found here: [How we inspect safeguarding in schools – Ofsted: schools and further education & skills \(FES\) \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2019/05/21/how-we-inspect-safeguarding-in-schools-ofsted-schools-and-further-education-skills-fes/)

Information about the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) can be found here: [Home - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board \(oscb.org.uk\)](https://www.oscb.org.uk/)

The Board's Role

- Safeguarding policies are in place, up to date, relevant and effective.
- The agreed child protection and behaviour policies are published on the school website.
- A lead safeguarding governor is appointed; the board, however, still retain collective responsibility.
- Staff and governor safeguarding training is up to date.
- A member of the school's leadership team is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the school.
- Processes and policies specific to the school are shared, understood and followed. Children can be identified and helped.
- There is oversight of the monitoring and filtering systems used by the school.
- There is oversight of the training provided to governors, staff and children in cyber security; this training should be provided annually or more often if there is a known risk.
- The curriculum actively teaches all children how to stay safe, including about online safety.

Contact us

Governor Services:

- email: governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- Phone: 0330 0249 046

The Lead Safeguarding Governor

Roles include:

- Focusing the board's attention on safeguarding at every meeting.
- Monitoring on behalf of the board and reporting back. *This does not prevent all governors from having a regard for safeguarding.*
- Is up to date on new guidance, area specific issues and advice.
- Meets regularly with the DSL to be 'professionally curious'.
- Ensures the board receives information from the school to allow oversight and challenge.

*Are policies fit for purpose? Are children being helped to stay safe? Do we work with other agencies proactively? Is our training up to date? How do we compare in terms of local and national priorities? **What difference are we making? Where do we need to improve and how do we know?***

Culture

Safeguarding should run through all the decisions, policies, processes and behaviours within the school.

*How do we know the adults in our school do not pose a risk to your children? Do staff know how to spot abuse, understand the systems in place and use them consistently? Does training make a difference? Is it understood and applied? Is the curriculum relevant to the safeguarding needs of our children? Do children feel safe in school? Have we been able to keep children from harm? **How do we know? What difference have we made?***

Board Minutes

Record all safeguarding questions in your minutes. Challenge concerns and keep children at the forefront of your work. Safeguarding should be on **every** agenda.

Training Best Practice

All governors should complete **Level 2 safeguarding training** at least every three years and **Prevent training** as often as the board determines.

The lead safeguarding governor should **also** complete **Level 3 safeguarding training every two years.**

Some governors should complete **safer recruitment training** every five years and **cyber security training** as the board determines. [Cyber security training for school staff - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/industry-sectors/education)

Keep in mind succession planning and complete the training in good time for new roles.

Single Central Record (SCR)

The board should check that all staff are recruited following safer recruitment procedures and that checks are completed on all staff, volunteers and governors.

These checks are recorded on the SCR and the board checks that this is complete and that it is being monitored by the Headteacher.

For specific safeguarding information, please contact:

ESAT.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Contact us

Governor Services:

- email: governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- Phone: 0330 0249 046