Governing Board Safeguarding Information

Sept 2026

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 and follow this guidance.**

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 assures itself that the policies and practices are effective in keeping all 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)

Information about the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP) can be found here: Home - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Board's Role

- Safeguarding policies are in place, up to date, relevant and effective, including for safer recruitment. They reflect emerging risks including, for example, AI-generated abuse, online harms and exploitation.
- 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 and effective.
- 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.
- Appoint a lead governor to ensure the monitoring and filtering standards are effective, regularly reviewed and supported by appropriate staff and governor training. *This can be the lead safeguarding governor.*
- There is oversight of the training provided to governors, staff and children in cybersecurity; 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.
- Seek assurance that training, systems, processes and procedures are effective in keeping all children safe from harm. Records are compliant and complete.

Contact us

Governor Services:

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

Governor Services

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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The Lead Safeguarding Governor Role:

- Focusing the board's attention on safeguarding at every meeting.
- Provide strategic challenge regarding safeguarding trends, emerging risks and lessons learned from local and national safeguarding reviews.
- Monitoring on behalf of the board and reporting back. *This does not substitute for **all governors** 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'; monitors safeguarding data and themes, *not individual cases*.
- Ensures the board receives information from the school to allow oversight and challenge, including assurances around safer recruitment, volunteer management and the Single Central Record.

*Are policies fit for purpose? Are children receiving the right help at the right time through Family Help and statutory services? How do we know safeguarding is effective? How do children tell us they feel safe? Are there emerging safeguarding themes or patterns? How effective are our filtering and monitoring arrangements? Are vulnerable children receiving appropriate support? How do we know training changes practice? How do we compare with local and national safeguarding priorities? **What difference are we making and what evidence supports this?***

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? Were they safer recruited? Do staff know how to spot abuse, understand the systems in place and use them consistently? Does our culture encourage children to speak out? Do staff maintain professional curiosity? 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? Are low level concerns reported appropriately? Are child-on-child, online abuse, misogyny, misandry, serious violence and AI-enabled safeguarding risks recognised and addressed? Have we been able to keep children from harm? Does safeguarding influence strategic decision making across the school? **How do we know? What difference have we made?***

Board Minutes

Record all strategic safeguarding challenge, discussions, assurance and agreed actions in your minutes. Challenge concerns and keep children at the forefront of your work. Safeguarding should be on **every** agenda.

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Training *Best Practice* Advice

All governors should complete **Level 2 safeguarding training** at least every three years and **Prevent training** Prevent duty training: Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation | Prevent duty training. There is now a refresher awareness course for those who have previously completed the awareness course. This is **recommended to be repeated annually.**

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

Some governors should complete **safer recruitment training** evey five years and **cyber security training** as the board determines. Cyber security training for school staff - NCSC.GOV.UK

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

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