



Wedmore First School Academy – Safeguarding Statement

At the Wedmore First School Academy we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The Governors of Wedmore First School Academy are committed to the safeguarding of all pupils, staff and visitors at the Academy. Safeguarding is a high priority, with arrangements in place to ensure pupils feel, and are safe, both on Academy premises and during off-site activities. The Academy follows the Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges 'Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2018' and 'Working together to safeguard children July 2018'. The learner experience and individual achievement and development are paramount and safeguarding initiatives are developed to impact positively upon this. The Academy also ensures that safeguarding legislation and guidance is adhered to and taken into account when developing and revisiting policies, procedures and associated arrangements.

The Academy provides a safe physical environment for its pupils, staff and visitors, ensuring that campus and premises are of a good standard. Health and Safety arrangements are in place to ensure adherence to current legislation and guidance and Safeguarding is included as a regular agenda item on all routine Academy meetings.

Applicants applying for vacancies will be subject to recruitment and selection procedures designed to emphasise the Academy's commitment to the safeguarding of its pupils and staff. The procedures include the use of application forms, pre-employment vetting, enhanced DBS checks, barred list checks, prohibition checks, references and interview questioning. The Academy has a robust induction plan for all new staff and volunteers which includes Safeguarding, Prevent and Health and Safety training.

The Academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team. They are supported by deputies. The DSL is responsible for Child Protection and Safeguarding. The Academy has specific Governors with responsibilities for overseeing Safeguarding and Health and Safety matters within the Academy environment.

The Academy has policies and procedures in place to deal effectively with Child Protection and Safeguarding issues together with recording and monitoring processes.

All staff are trained to an appropriate level to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. Training is updated annually, together with ongoing safeguarding briefings, training sessions, staff meetings, and awareness sessions, throughout the academic year.