

Woodside Academy



Safeguarding Statement 2026-27

Woodside Academy is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people.

We believe that every child has the right to learn in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment, protected from harm, abuse and neglect. Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do — from classroom practice to our work with families and the wider community — and is a core part of our school's ethos.

What Safeguarding Means at Woodside

At Woodside Academy, safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, bullying and other forms of harm
- Promoting a safe, inclusive and respectful environment for every child
- Ensuring children feel safe, valued and respected by their peers and by adults
- Listening to children and ensuring they know who they can speak to if they are worried or need help
- Ensuring that staff are appropriately trained, vigilant and responsive to safeguarding concerns
- Taking a child-centred approach and putting the child's best interests at the heart of our safeguarding practice

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

If you have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please speak to a member of our trained safeguarding team:

- **Ms Ryder** – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- **Mrs Wing** – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Mrs Joiner** – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Mr Radford** – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

The DSL team can be contacted via the school office.

If a child is in immediate danger, concerns should be reported to the emergency services by calling **999**.

Our Safeguarding Approach

- We have a clear Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place, in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026*, *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026* and the arrangements of our local safeguarding partnership -Thurrock.
- All staff receive appropriate safeguarding training and understand their responsibilities for identifying, responding to and reporting concerns about children.
- Staff are aware of the signs and indicators of abuse, neglect, exploitation and other safeguarding concerns, including risks that may occur online.

- Staff understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that concerns must be reported without delay.
- We use CPOMS to record, monitor and report safeguarding concerns accurately and promptly.
- We maintain appropriate records of safeguarding concerns, actions taken, decisions made and outcomes.
- We work to ensure that children receive the right help at the right time.

Working in Partnership

Safeguarding children is a shared responsibility. We work closely with parents and carers, children's social care, the police, health services and other relevant agencies to promote and protect children's welfare.

Where there are safeguarding concerns, we will normally work openly with parents and carers. However, there may be circumstances where information needs to be shared with another agency without prior discussion with, or consent from, a parent or carer.

This may be necessary where discussing the concern could place a child or another person at increased risk of harm, or where doing so could otherwise prejudice a safeguarding response.

Any information sharing will be undertaken appropriately, proportionately and in accordance with relevant legislation, statutory guidance and our safeguarding procedures. Current statutory guidance makes clear that data protection should not prevent necessary information sharing where this is required to safeguard a child. ([GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))

Allegations or Concerns About Staff

Any allegation or safeguarding concern about the behaviour or conduct of a member of staff, volunteer, supply staff member, contractor or any other adult working with children will be taken seriously and dealt with promptly in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures and relevant statutory guidance.

Concerns will be reported to the appropriate senior safeguarding or leadership lead and, where required, referred to the **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** or another relevant agency.

Where a concern relates to the Principal/Headteacher, it will be reported to the appropriate person within the school's governing body or trust arrangements, in accordance with the school's procedures.

We will ensure that concerns and allegations are handled fairly, confidentially and appropriately, with the safety and welfare of children remaining the highest priority.

Our Commitment

At Woodside Academy, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We are committed to creating an environment where children feel safe, listened to, respected and able to thrive. We encourage children, parents, carers, staff and members of our community to speak up whenever they have a safeguarding concern.

If you are worried about a child, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team.