



Safeguarding



Bishop Alexander Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Keeping Children Safe

A simple guide for parents and carers



What is in this **guide**

This guide explains how we keep children safe at Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy, what we look out for, and how you can talk to us if you are worried about a child.

Speak to a member of staff, or ask to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead.
Call 01636 680040 or email safeguarding@bishopalexanderacademy.co.uk

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Our promise to **keep children safe**

At Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy, keeping children safe is our top priority.

Our Responsibility

Everyone who works or volunteers at the academy has a responsibility to:

- Protect children from harm
- Help children feel safe, listened to and respected
- Act quickly if they are worried about a child

Who we work with

We work closely with:

- Parents and carers
- Social care
- Health services
- The police
- Other support services



Our goal

To make sure every child is
safe, happy and able to learn.



Safeguarding is **everyone's responsibility**

Staff, governors, volunteers, parents and carers all have a part to play.



Types of harm **we look out for**

Children can be harmed in different ways. Staff are trained to notice warning signs and act accordingly.

Physical abuse

- Hitting, shaking or hurting a child
- Burns, bruises or injuries that cannot be explained

Emotional abuse

- Constant shouting or name-calling
- Making a child feel worthless or unloved
- Ignoring a child's feelings

Sexual abuse

- Any sexual activity involving a child
- Sexual messages or images
- Children being pressured or tricked into sexual acts, including online

Neglect

- Not having enough food, clothes or warmth
- Not being looked after properly
- Not getting medical care when needed

Our duty to act

Where we believe a child is at risk of significant harm, we have a duty to make a referral to Children's Social Care without delay, and we may do this without parental consent if necessary to keep a child safe.





Keeping children safe from harm outside school

Some risks happen outside the family home, or online.

Online safety

We know children use phones, tablets and computers every day.

The Academy

- Uses filtering and monitoring systems on school devices
- Teaches children how to stay safe online
- Shares online safety advice with parents

Online risks include

- Bullying or harassment
- Strangers contacting children
- Sexual images or messages
- Fake news or harmful content

Please talk to your child about

- Not sharing personal information
- Telling a safe adult if something worries them online

Bullying and child-on-child abuse

We have zero tolerance for bullying or abuse between children. This includes:

- Physical bullying
- Name-calling or threats
- Sexual harassment
- Online bullying



**All concerns are taken seriously.
It is never “just banter”.**



Domestic abuse and **family safety**

Children can be affected by abuse at home, even if it is not aimed at them.

Domestic abuse can include

- Physical violence
- Threats or controlling behaviour
- Emotional or financial abuse



How we support

If the police attend a domestic incident, the academy will be told so we can support the child. Support is available for families, and you can speak to the academy in confidence.

Extremism and **radicalisation**

We help protect children from being influenced by:

- Violent or extremist ideas
- Online grooming into harmful beliefs

Staff are trained to notice changes in behaviour, such as

- Extreme views
- Hatred towards others
- Secretive online behaviour

If we are worried, we act early to keep children safe.





Attendance and **missing school**

Children can be affected by abuse at home, even if it is not aimed at them.

We will

- Monitor attendance closely
- Contact parents if a child is absent
- Follow up quickly if we cannot reach you



Please

- Let the academy know if your child is ill or absent
- Keep contact details up to date



Children who need **extra support**

Some children may need more help, including:

- Children with special educational needs
- Children with a social worker
- Looked-after children
- Children experiencing family difficulties



The academy works with families and professionals to give the right support at the right time.



Who keeps children **safe in school**

Every school has trained safeguarding leaders.

At Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy:

- A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is responsible for child safety
- Deputy safeguarding staff support this role
- Governors oversee safeguarding

If you are worried about a child

- Speak to a member of staff
- Ask to speak to a DSL

Working with **parents and carers**

We believe working together supports child safety.

Early support

- Share information when it is needed to protect a child
- Treat families with respect
- Listen to concerns
- Offer help and support

Parents and carers can

- Contact the school with concerns
- Ask for advice or support
- Access the full policy on the school website, or request a paper copy





Family Help

We believe that identifying concerns early and providing support at the right time can prevent difficulties from becoming more serious.

If we have concerns about a child's wellbeing, attendance, behaviour, emotional health, development, or family circumstances, we will usually speak with parents or carers first to discuss how we can work together.

With your agreement, we may suggest Family Help support. This brings together the right people to help your family at an early stage.



Team around the family (TAF)

A Team Around the Family meeting may be arranged, where you, school staff and other professionals work together to create a simple plan to support your child or children and family. The aim is to identify strengths, address concerns early, and prevent problems from escalating.



Safeguarding **flowchart**

What happens when someone is worried about a child.

1

A concern is noticed or shared

Staff are trained to notice warning signs and act accordingly. If you are worried about a child, speak to a member of staff or ask to speak to a DSL.

2

The concern goes to a Designated Safeguarding Lead

A Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for child safety, supported by deputy safeguarding staff. Governors oversee safeguarding.

3

We usually speak with parents and carers first

Where we have concerns about a child's wellbeing, attendance, behaviour, emotional health, development or family circumstances, we will usually speak with you first to discuss how we can work together

4

The right support is put in place

Early support

With your agreement, we may suggest Family Help support, and a Team Around the Family meeting may be arranged to create a simple plan.

Risk of significant harm

We have a duty to refer to Children's Social Care without delay, and may do this without parental consent if necessary to keep a child safe.





Key messages for **parents**

Four things we would like every family to know.

01 Your child's safety comes first

02 No concern is too small to share

03 We will always act in the best interests of the child

04 Talking early helps prevent bigger problems later

If you are worried about a child

- Speak to any member of staff
- Ask to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Call or email the academy directly

01636 680040

safeguarding@bishopalexanderacademy.co.uk



Reading the full policy

The full Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available on our website. You can also request a paper copy from the academy office.



If you are worried about a child, please talk to a member of the **Safeguarding Team**.



Mel Burgess
Safeguarding team



Emma Walker
Safeguarding team



Andy Adlington
Safeguarding team



Sophie Matheson
Safeguarding team

If you would prefer to read the full Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy for Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy, this is available on our website.

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