



Safeguarding Policy for Parents

Safeguarding is a top priority at Walton-le-Dale High School. This parent-friendly guide summarises our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy for 2025–26, outlining how we keep your child safe and how you can support this mission.

Our Commitment to Your Child

We believe that every child has the right to be safe and that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Our school follows a "whole-school preventative approach," meaning we put the well-being of our pupils at the heart of everything we do. We aim to provide a safe, welcoming environment where children are respected, valued, and -most importantly - listened to.

Key Safeguarding Staff

If you have any concerns about a child's safety or well-being, please contact our dedicated safeguarding team:

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Mrs G Ashton (Deputy Headteacher)
- **Deputy DSL and Family Support:** Miss A Wilcock
- **Designated Teacher for Looked After Children:** Mrs G Ashton (Deputy Headteacher)
- **Safeguarding Governor:** Mr Shuttleworth

How We Keep Pupils Safe

- **Early Help:** We provide support as soon as a need emerges. Our pastoral team are trained as "Lead Professionals" to help families navigate challenges like mental health, young caring, or family difficulties.
- **Safe Staffing:** We follow strict "Safer Recruitment" processes, including background checks on all staff and volunteers, to ensure only suitable people work with our children.
- **Curriculum:** We teach pupils how to recognise unacceptable behaviour and stay safe, both in person and online.
- **Identifying Risks:** Staff are trained and receive regular updates about how to spot signs of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and mental health issues.



Specific Areas of Focus

- **Online Safety:** We use filtering and monitoring systems to keep children safe on school devices and teach them how to handle risks like cyberbullying and "sexting".
- **Child-on-Child Abuse:** We have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying, sexual harassment, and any form of abuse between peers. We never dismiss such behaviour as "just banter".
- **Domestic Abuse:** As part of **Operation Encompass**, we work with the police to support children who have experienced domestic abuse incidents at home.
- **Extra Vulnerability:** We recognize that some children—such as those with SEND or those who identify as LGBTQ+—may face additional barriers or risks, and we provide tailored support to ensure they are protected.

Reporting and Working with Others

- **If you are worried:** Any adult can make a referral if they believe a child is at risk. If there is a risk of immediate serious harm, we contact Children's Social Care or the Police immediately.
- **Sharing Information:** While we respect privacy, data protection laws do not stop us from sharing information if it is necessary to protect a child from harm.
- **Multi-Agency Support:** We work closely with Lancashire Children's Social Care, the health service, and the police to ensure families get the right help at the right time.

For more information: The full policy is available upon request and is reviewed annually to stay up-to-date with the latest safety laws. More information and support can be found here: <https://wldhigh.co.uk/safeguarding/>

More information about sharing concerns for the safety of a child within Lancashire can be found @ <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/keeping-children-safe/tell-us-if-you-are-worried-about-a-child/>

More information about requesting support for yourself and you family within Lancashire can be found @ <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/keeping-children-safe/social-care-support-for-children-and-families/>



Telephone helplines for children

Childline – 0800 1111, a free 24 hour helpline for children in the UK, www.childline.org.uk

To report to police

The Virtual Global Taskforce, www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com receives reports online just click the 'Report Abuse' option on the home page and follow the instructions.

In the UK, to report suspicious behaviour online towards a child, you can report directly to the police at www.ceop.gov.uk

Child Orientated Sites:

Childnet International www.childnet.com

Childline [08001111](tel:08001111)

NSPCC [here](#) text 88858 Tel 080880050000

Kidsmart <http://www.kidsmar.org.uk>

Digizen <http://www.digizen.org>

Internet Safety Sites

Thinkuknow <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

SafeKids <http://www.safekids.com>

Netsmartz <http://www.netsmartz.org>

Cybersmartkids <http://www.cybersmartkids.com.au>

WiseKids <http://www.wisekids.org.uk>

Wired Kids <http://www.wiredkids.org>

BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/help/safesurfing>

Sites on Bullying

Beatbullying <http://www.beatbullying.org>

Cybermentors <http://www.cybermentors.org>

HAVOCA - help for adult victims of child abuse email friend@havoca.org

Bullying.org <http://www.bullying.org>

Kidscape <http://www.kidscape.org.uk>

Bullying Online <http://www.bullying.co.uk>

On bullying via mobile phone <http://www.stoptextbully.com>

Sites on Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse (incest) - support for women [CIS'ters](#) tel [02380338080](tel:02380338080) admin@cisters.org.uk

RAPE CRISIS tel [08088029999](tel:08088029999) info@rapecrisis.org.uk rapecrisis.org.uk

One in four - oneinfour.org.uk advocacy service, counselling service and information for people who have experienced sexual abuse

THE SURVIVORS TRUST thesurvivorstrust.org uk network of support organisations

TASC - trauma and abuse support centre - tasc@tasc-online.org.uk tasc-online.org.uk - uk web-based resource for survivors of child sexual abuse and for anyone involved in supporting them

[The International Centre: Researching child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking](#)

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www.wldhigh.co.uk



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

Survivors UK webchat can be accessed at www.survivorsuk.org help@survivorsuk.org

Sexual abuse - support for men. Mankind

<http://www.mankindcounselling.org.uk/> tel [01273911680](tel:01273911680)