



Parent and Carer Summary LGS Child Protection Policy



Welcome to Our Parent Summary on Child Protection

Hello, and welcome. This summary helps explain our school's approach to the Laleham Gap School 'Child Protection Policy'.

Please note that this is an easy-to-read summary and not the full, official policy document. It is intended to give parents and carers a quick overview of how we support you and your children. The full policy is published on the school website. We urge you to read the relevant sections of the full policy if you have a concern.

A UNICEF Rights Respecting School

Laleham Gap is a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. We learn, teach and live the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The full version of this policy contains the UNCRC articles which underpin our child protection approach.

Contents

What This Means For You and Your Child	2
Key Terms Explained	2
Quick Reference: Our Safety Net.....	3
Policy Summary by Section	3
Our Child-Focused Approach and Key Responsibilities	3
Specific Risks and Extra Support	4

What This Means For You and Your Child

- **Your child's safety comes first:** We believe that the best interests of children always come first. All children have equal rights to protection, and our school provides an environment that helps them feel safe and respected.
- **We listen to your child:** Every child has the right to express their views and have their feelings taken into account. We focus on understanding the root causes of behaviour and adopt a trauma-informed approach to our care.
- **Working in partnership:** We collaborate with parents and our partner agencies to ensure timely communication and appropriate support, intervention or action when any worries arise.

We will always safeguard the children in our setting. We advocate for child voice and wellbeing and are morally and legally bound to protect all children. Sometimes, hearing from us our partner agencies may be upsetting or uncomfortable, but we act to keep children safe.

Key Terms Explained

- **Safeguarding:** Providing help and support to protect children from harm, promoting their welfare, and ensuring they grow up in safe circumstances.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** A senior member of staff who has overall, day-to-day responsibility for keeping children safe at school.

- **Deputy DSL:** Other leaders and senior members of staff, trained to the same standard of child protection as the Lead DSL.
- **Early Help:** Providing support as soon as a problem emerges to improve a family's resilience and stop things from getting worse.
- **Child-on-Child Abuse:** When children are harmed by other children, which can include bullying, physical harm, or online issues such as sharing inappropriate images.
- **CPOMS:** The highly secure and confidential computer system our staff use to record any worries about a child's welfare.

Quick Reference: Our Safety Net

Stage	What We Do to Protect Your Child
1. Spotting a Concern	Staff are trained to be alert to changes in a child's behaviour, mood, or appearance that might indicate they need help or protection.
2. Reviewing Applications	Staff will listen carefully to disclosures, use the child's own words, reassure them, and record the facts immediately on our secure system.
3. Taking Action	A Designated Safeguarding Lead reviews the concern swiftly to coordinate the right support and make decisions in the child's best interests.
4. Working with Families	We will inform parents or carers at an early stage, unless doing so would put the child in further danger or compromise an investigation.

Policy Summary by Section

Our Child-Focused Approach and Key Responsibilities

- **A commitment to safety:** Keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility. From the governors to the teachers, to parents and the children themselves, everyone plays a role in creating a secure community.
- The governing body and leadership team ensure our safety rules are effective, whilst the DSL and Deputy DSLs manage daily support for children, staff and families.

Child Protection Procedures

- Staff are trained to recognise signs of harm and must act immediately if they have a concern.

- We work closely with local experts, like Kent Integrated Children's Services and the Child Centred Policing Team, to safely share information and get families the right help.
- We respect your child's privacy; information is only shared with the specific professionals who absolutely need to know in order to help.

Specific Risks and Extra Support

- While we remain aware of the needs of the children in our school, we also adopt a zero-tolerance approach to child-on-child abuse; harmful behaviour is never dismissed as "just banter" or "part of growing up".
- We recognise that some children, including those with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND), may face extra barriers in communicating worries. Because of this, we provide highly targeted well-being support, therapies, and care plans tailored to their specific needs.

• Keeping Safe Online

- We educate children on how to navigate the internet safely.
- We use effective internet filtering and monitoring systems on all school devices to block harmful websites and protect children from inappropriate content.
- The DSL and School Network Manager are alerted to unsafe internet searches on school Wi-Fi and use special technology to track users screens.
- We have strict guidelines on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom to ensure your child's private data is never put at risk.
- Staff have their own acceptable use policy which expects that they help to monitor and model safe use to children.

Safe Staff, Teaching Safety and a Secure Environment

- We follow strict hiring rules and require all staff to undergo comprehensive background and police checks before they can work with our pupils.
- All new staff receive immediate training on our child safety rules so they are ready to protect our pupils from day one.

- All staff receive regular, up-to-date training, including annual child protection updates, so they are fully equipped to protect our children from day one.
- We teach children how to keep themselves safe through age-appropriate health and relationship lessons, helping them build confidence and understand personal boundaries.
- We have regular visits from professionals such as the 'Child Centred Policing Team' who support us in helping children to feel safe.
- The physical safety of our school site is tightly maintained through secure visitor checks, locked areas, and clear site rules.

Please contact the school office if you need further information or support understanding our policies or guides. Our office staff will be happy to connect you with a member of staff who can help.