

Outside the Box Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of all children and young people involved with Outside the Box. This policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding and protecting children from harm, and it provides guidance on the procedures and responsibilities for all staff, volunteers, and stakeholders.

2. Scope This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, contractors, and partners associated with Outside the Box. It covers all activities and interactions with children and young people in educational settings and during any Outside the Box-related activities.

3. Policy Statement Outside the Box is committed to creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all children and young people. We believe that every child has the right to be protected from harm, abuse, and neglect. We will take all necessary steps to safeguard the children in our care and ensure their well-being.

4. Legal Framework This policy is based on the following legislation and guidance:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022
- The Education Act 2002
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

5. Definitions

- **Safeguarding:** Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health or development, ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- **Child Protection:** Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to activities undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

6. Responsibilities Management:

- Ensure all staff, volunteers, and contractors understand and comply with this policy.
- Provide regular training on safeguarding and child protection.
- Designate a Safeguarding Lead to oversee all safeguarding matters.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

- Act as the main point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding legislation and best practices.
- Coordinate with local safeguarding partners and other relevant agencies.
- Keep detailed records of any safeguarding concerns and actions taken.

Staff and Volunteers:

- Attend safeguarding training and understand their responsibilities.
- Report any concerns about a child's safety or well-being to the DSL immediately.
- Maintain professional boundaries and build trusting relationships with children and young people.

7. Procedures Recognizing Signs of Abuse:

- Physical abuse: Unexplained injuries, bruises, burns, or fractures.
- Emotional abuse: Excessive withdrawal, fearfulness, or behavioural changes.
- Sexual abuse: Inappropriate sexual behaviour or knowledge, disclosures.
- Neglect: Poor hygiene, malnutrition, unattended medical needs.

Reporting Concerns:

- If a child is in immediate danger, contact emergency services (999).
- Report concerns to the DSL as soon as possible.
- Document any disclosures or concerns accurately and confidentially.

Responding to Disclosures:

- Listen carefully and reassure the child.
- Do not promise confidentiality; explain that you need to report the information.
- Record the disclosure in the child's own words and report to the DSL immediately.

8. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- All safeguarding concerns and records will be handled with confidentiality.
- Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis, respecting the child's privacy.
- Outside the Box will cooperate with relevant agencies and share information to protect the child.

9. Safe Recruitment

- Implement robust recruitment procedures, including background checks and references, to ensure all staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children.
- Include safeguarding responsibilities in job descriptions and contracts.

10. Training and Development

- Provide mandatory safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers.
- Ensure ongoing professional development to keep up with best practices and legal requirements.

11. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually or following any significant incidents or changes in legislation.
- Regularly evaluate safeguarding practices and make necessary improvements.

12. Contact Information

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** L BOLSIN
- **Contact Number:** 07766168788
- **Email Address:** getusoutthebox@gmail.com

Conclusion Outside the Box is dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children and young people in our care. By adhering to this safeguarding policy, we commit to protecting children from harm and providing a secure and nurturing environment for their development.

This policy serves as a foundation for safeguarding practices at Outside the Box, ensuring the protection and well-being of children in our educational programs.