



DOWNSIDE SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

At Downside School, we are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in our care. We expect every member of our school community—including staff, governors, visitors, and volunteers—to share this commitment and uphold the highest standards of vigilance and responsibility.

We recognise our moral and statutory duties to protect pupils from all forms of harm, including abuse, neglect, exploitation, and radicalisation. Our aim is to create a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where children feel secure, valued, respected, and confident to speak openly about any concerns.

Anyone who has concerns about a child’s welfare—including concerns that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm—should contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) without delay. If the concern involves the DSL or another member of staff, the Head must be informed.

To achieve our safeguarding aims, we:

- **Maintain robust safeguarding and child protection procedures**, in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)* and the *Independent School Standards*.
- **Apply rigorous safer recruitment practices** for all staff and volunteers.
- **Provide regular safeguarding training** so staff can identify, report, and respond to concerns effectively.

- **Promote pupils' wellbeing** through strong pastoral care and a culture that prioritises emotional and physical safety.
- **Act swiftly and proportionately** on all safeguarding concerns, working with external agencies where appropriate to ensure the best outcomes for every child.
- **Educate pupils on how to stay safe**, including online safety, healthy relationships, and personal wellbeing.

Our safeguarding approach is supported by a comprehensive suite of policies, including Child Protection, Staff Code of Conduct, Online Safety, Anti-Bullying, and Safer Recruitment. These policies are reviewed regularly and are available on the school website .

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. By working together, we ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive in a safe and supportive environment.

<https://www.downside.co.uk/parent-zone/policies/>

February 2026