

The Musical Root Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose

To safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in our care by providing a safe environment and ensuring prompt action when a child may be at risk of harm.

This policy reflects our responsibilities under UK law and statutory guidance.

2. Legal and Statutory Framework

Our policy is based on the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- **Education Act 2002**, Section 175 – duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. ([Legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk))
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)** – statutory guidance for education providers in England. ([GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))

3. Safeguarding Principles

We will:

- **Protect children from harm and abuse** in all Forest School activities.
- **Promote welfare and wellbeing**, recognising that safe practice enables learning.
- **Act in partnership** with parents, carers, local authorities and statutory agencies.
- **Respect children's rights, wishes, views and voices.**

4. Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

A DSL will be appointed with responsibility for managing safeguarding concerns, record-keeping, and referrals.

All staff, parents, and students must know how to contact the DSL.

All Staff and Volunteers

All staff and volunteers must:

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- Undertake **appropriate safeguarding training** and refresher training.
- Report concerns immediately to the DSL.
- Take action when a child may be at risk, following procedures.
- Follow relevant risk assessments and Forest School procedures.

5. Safe Recruitment and Checks

We will ensure all staff and volunteers who work with children are appropriately vetted, including:

- **Enhanced DBS checks** where required.
 - Identity and qualification checks.
 - References and ongoing monitoring.
- This is aligned with safer recruitment duties in KCSIE. ([GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))

6. Managing Concerns and Reporting

If it is suspected that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, harm:

- Follow internal reporting procedures.
- Make referrals to the local authority children's services and/or police where necessary.

7. Record Keeping

Accurate, secure records of all safeguarding concerns will be maintained. These will:

- Include dates, times, observation details and actions taken.
- Be shared with statutory agencies as required.

8. Training

Staff will receive:

- **Induction training** in safeguarding and child protection.
- Regular **refresher training** appropriate to role and responsibility.

9. Safe Environment

We will ensure our Forest School sites are safe by:

- Conducting **risk assessments** before sessions.

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- Conducting dynamic **risk assessment** during sessions, taking into account weather conditions, topography, and terrain.
- Managing **health and safety** in line with Forest School best practice and statutory requirements.
- Ensuring all activities are appropriate for children's age, ability and wellbeing.

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed **annually** or sooner when changes are made to legislation or guidance.
