



MACAULAY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Report reviewed:	Next review:	Cycle:
September 2025	September 2026	Annual

I Know Who I Am

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full

well. – Psalms 139:14 I

Our Vision:

At Macaulay we are an inspirational, nurturing and inclusive community, celebrating each child as uniquely created by God.

We foster independence, curiosity and creativity so that every child may flourish and fulfil their potential to live with purpose and confidently contribute to their communities.

Our Christian Values:

Resilience, Thankfulness, Compassion, Creativity, Responsibility and Friendship

School	Macaulay Church of England Primary School
Headteacher	Susan Eade
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Susan Eade, Headteacher
Deputy DSL(s)	Ciara Warde, Deputy Headteacher
Safeguarding Governor	Gill White
Policy approved	September 2026
Next review	September 2027, or sooner if guidance/procedures change

1. Policy status and statutory framework

This policy sets out how Macaulay CE Primary School safeguards and promotes the welfare of children and responds to concerns about abuse, neglect, exploitation or other harm. It applies to all pupils, staff, volunteers, governors, contractors, agency staff, visitors and anyone else working on or visiting the school site.

The policy has been prepared for the 2026/27 academic year. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (KCSIE 2026) comes into force on 1 September 2026 and applies to schools in England. The DfE states that schools must have regard to it when carrying out safeguarding duties.

Key statutory and local framework:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (DfE), including Part One and Annex C.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.
- Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004.
- Education Act 2002, including the school's safeguarding duties.
- Prevent duty and related statutory guidance.
- Equality Act 2010 and the public sector equality duty.
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR, including lawful information sharing for safeguarding.
- Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) arrangements and local safeguarding procedures.
- Relevant Pan-London Child Protection Procedures.
- Current Lambeth Council/Schools HR procedures for allegations, disciplinary action, safer recruitment and whistleblowing.
- Where applicable, EYFS statutory framework and SEND Code of Practice.

2. Our safeguarding commitment

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The school adopts the KCSIE principle that it could happen here. Our approach is child-centred, trauma-informed and focused on early identification, timely action and effective multi-agency working.

- The welfare and best interests of every child are central to decision-making.
- No concern is dismissed because it appears isolated, minor or uncertain.
- The school acts on concerns promptly and proportionately and does not wait for certainty before seeking advice.
- Children are listened to and their wishes and feelings are considered in decisions affecting them, while recognising that safeguarding decisions remain the responsibility of adults.
- The school works in partnership with parents/carers wherever this is safe and appropriate, but parental consent is not required before safeguarding information is shared where lawful and necessary.
- Children with additional vulnerabilities receive reasonable adjustments and appropriate communication support.
- Safeguarding arrangements are reviewed through audit, supervision, training, incident learning and governor oversight.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Governing Body

- Ensure the school has effective safeguarding arrangements and that this policy is implemented.
- Ensure a suitably trained DSL is appointed and that the DSL has sufficient authority, time, funding, resources and access to advice to fulfil the role.
- Ensure at least one governor has strategic responsibility for safeguarding and that the governing body receives appropriate assurance without compromising confidentiality.
- Ensure safer recruitment arrangements and the Single Central Record are maintained as required.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate safeguarding training and regular updates.
- Ensure the school follows statutory guidance and Lambeth/LSCP local procedures.
- Review safeguarding effectiveness and challenge leaders where practice, training, recording or referral arrangements are not effective.

3.2 Headteacher

- Ensure the school's safeguarding culture is strong, visible and child-centred.
- Ensure the DSL and deputies can carry out their responsibilities effectively.
- Ensure safeguarding concerns are acted on immediately and referrals are made to Lambeth Children's Services/police when required.
- Ensure allegations or concerns about adults are managed through the appropriate LADO and employer procedures.
- Ensure staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and that induction and training are completed.
- Ensure the school maintains accurate safeguarding records and that information is shared lawfully and securely.
- Ensure the school responds to safeguarding themes arising from attendance, behaviour, exclusions, SEND, online safety, peer-on-peer abuse, exploitation and other indicators of vulnerability.
- Ensure the governing body is appropriately informed of safeguarding risks, trends and actions.

3.3 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Act as the operational lead for safeguarding and child protection.
- Manage referrals to children's social care, police, Channel/Prevent or other agencies as appropriate.
- Provide advice and support to staff on safeguarding matters.
- Maintain oversight of child protection files and safeguarding records.
- Support staff to identify children who may benefit from Early Help and coordinate appropriate action.
- Maintain appropriate links with Lambeth Children's Services, LSCP and other safeguarding partners.

- Ensure safeguarding information is available to staff and that updates are communicated.

Ensure safeguarding themes and lessons are monitored and fed into school improvement.

- Ensure the DSL role is covered by appropriately trained deputies when absent.

3.4 All staff

All staff must:

- Read and understand Part One of KCSIE 2026 and this policy.
- Know who the DSL/deputy DSLs are and how to contact them.
- Know how to make an immediate referral if the DSL is unavailable.
- Recognise signs of abuse, neglect, exploitation and other safeguarding concerns, including online harms.
- Act immediately on concerns and record them accurately.
- Never promise a child confidentiality.
- Share information on a need-to-know basis where necessary to protect a child.
- Maintain professional boundaries and report concerns about adult behaviour.
- Follow the school's safeguarding, online safety, behaviour, attendance, whistleblowing and staff code of conduct procedures.

4. Recognising abuse, neglect and exploitation

Staff must be alert to physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect, as well as exploitation and contextual safeguarding risks. Concerns may arise from a single incident or from a pattern of indicators.

- Physical abuse: injuries, unexplained marks, repeated injuries, explanations that do not fit, or concerning behaviour.
- Emotional abuse: persistent humiliation, threats, controlling behaviour, rejection, intimidation or exposure to serious domestic abuse.
- Sexual abuse: sexualised behaviour inappropriate to age/development, disclosures, injuries, coercion, grooming or exploitation.
- Neglect: persistent failure to meet basic physical or emotional needs, including inadequate supervision, food, clothing, hygiene, medical care or educational provision.
- Child criminal exploitation: grooming, coercion, trafficking, violence, county-lines activity, debt bondage or involvement in criminal activity.
- Child sexual exploitation: grooming, coercion, exchange of sexual activity for perceived benefit, online exploitation or trafficking.
- Domestic abuse: including where a child sees, hears or experiences the effects of domestic abuse.
- Online harm: abuse, grooming, sexual exploitation, cyberbullying, harmful content, coercive control, image-based abuse or contact with dangerous individuals.
- Serious violence and contextual risks: weapons, gangs, exploitation, unsafe locations, peer networks and community-based risks.
- Mental health concerns: where a mental health issue appears to present a safeguarding risk, staff must follow the safeguarding response as well as the school's wellbeing/mental health arrangements.
- Female genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour-based abuse, modern slavery, trafficking and radicalisation/extremism.

5. Responding to a child disclosure or concern

If a child is in immediate danger: Call 999. Do not wait for the DSL or for a referral to be completed.

1. Listen calmly and allow the child to speak. Do not investigate.
2. Take what the child says seriously and reassure them that they have done the right thing by telling you.
3. Do not promise secrecy. Explain that you will need to share the information with people who can help keep them safe.
4. Use open prompts only where necessary. Do not ask leading or investigative questions.
5. Record the child's words as accurately as possible, including date, time, location and any visible injuries or relevant observations.
6. Report the concern to the DSL/deputy immediately.
7. If the DSL/deputy cannot be reached and the concern requires urgent action, staff must contact Lambeth Children's Services/police directly and then inform the DSL/headteacher.
8. The DSL will decide whether to seek advice, initiate Early Help, make a referral to Children's Social Care, contact police or take another safeguarding action.
9. The DSL records the decision, rationale, action and outcome.

6. Lambeth referral and escalation arrangements

For Lambeth, the Council currently publishes the following professional safeguarding contact arrangements. These must be checked against the live LSCP/local authority procedure before publication because local arrangements and contact details can change.

Situation	Current published Lambeth route	School action
Concern about a child / professional referral	Lambeth Integrated Referral Hub: 020 7926 3100, Monday–Friday 9am–5pm; 020 7926 5555 outside these hours.	DSL/Deputy makes referral or staff act directly where immediate action is required.
Immediate danger / serious harm	Police: 999	Call immediately; inform DSL/headteacher as soon as practicable.
Lambeth professional safeguarding advice	Use current Lambeth/LSCP professional route and local procedures.	Record advice received and agreed next steps.
Allegation/concern about an adult working with children	Lambeth LADO: 020 7926 4679 or 07720 828 700; lado@lambeth.gov.uk (published Lambeth contact).	Headteacher/appropriate senior leader contacts LADO promptly and follows local allegations procedure.

Lambeth states that professional referrals to Children's Services should use the local Multi Agency Referral route; telephone referrals should be followed by the completed form within 24 hours. The school will follow the current Lambeth/LSCP procedure in force at the time of referral.

7. Early Help and escalation

The school will identify children who may benefit from Early Help and will not wait until concerns meet a child protection threshold before seeking support. Where a child or family is already receiving services, the school will contribute actively to assessments, plans, reviews and information sharing.

- Consider the child's needs in the round, including attendance, education, health, SEND, family circumstances and contextual risks.
- Use Lambeth's current Early Help pathway and referral arrangements.
- Escalate promptly if the child's circumstances worsen or the response is insufficient.
- Use professional challenge where there is disagreement about risk or thresholds, following LSCP procedures.

8. Child-on-child abuse and harmful sexual behaviour

The school recognises that children can harm other children. Abuse between children is never dismissed as 'banter', 'just bullying', normal behaviour or an issue to be dealt with solely through discipline.

- Sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Upskirting and other image-based abuse.
- Bullying, cyberbullying and discriminatory abuse.
- Harmful sexual behaviour.
- Physical violence and threats.
- Coercion, intimidation and exploitation.
- Hazing, initiation and abuse within peer groups.
- Online grooming or sharing of abusive material.
- Serious violence, weapons or exploitation connected to peer networks.

Each case will be assessed individually, considering the ages and developmental stages of the children, the nature and seriousness of the behaviour, power imbalance, vulnerability, repetition, context and risk of escalation. The school will protect and support both victims and children who have caused harm while maintaining clear boundaries and accountability.

9. Attendance and children missing education

- Attendance is a safeguarding issue. Unexplained, repeated or prolonged absence will be followed up promptly.
- Patterns of absence, lateness, missing lessons or disengagement will be considered alongside other safeguarding information.
- The school will follow current statutory attendance guidance and Lambeth procedures for children absent from education.
- Where a child is missing from education or there are concerns about removal from roll, the school will follow the relevant statutory and local procedures.
- Attendance concerns will be escalated to the DSL where they indicate possible neglect, exploitation, family crisis or other vulnerability.

10. Online safety

Online safety is part of safeguarding and will be addressed through filtering and monitoring, curriculum, staff training, acceptable-use arrangements and individual safeguarding responses.

- The school will maintain appropriate filtering and monitoring and review its effectiveness.
- Staff will report concerns generated by filtering/monitoring systems to the DSL or designated responsible person.
- Online incidents will be assessed as safeguarding concerns where appropriate, not solely as IT or behaviour matters.
- Children will receive age-appropriate education about online relationships, exploitation, privacy, harmful content and reporting concerns.
- Staff will use school systems appropriately and comply with the staff code of conduct and data protection requirements.
- Images, recordings and personal information will only be handled in accordance with school policy, lawful permissions and safeguarding requirements.

11. Prevent, radicalisation and extremism

The school will fulfil its Prevent duty and will protect children from the risk of radicalisation and extremism. Staff will report concerns to the DSL and follow the school's Prevent risk assessment and local referral pathway.

- Build resilience through a broad, balanced curriculum and safe discussion.
- Recognise vulnerability to extremist narratives, grooming and exploitation.
- Maintain appropriate staff Prevent training and updates.
- Use Lambeth Prevent arrangements and Channel procedures where appropriate.
- Where there is immediate danger or a crime, contact the police.

12. Safeguarding allegations and concerns about adults

The school will act immediately where an allegation or concern is made about a member of staff, volunteer, governor, contractor, agency worker or other adult who works with children.

- The concern will be taken seriously and recorded factually.
- The headteacher or appropriate senior leader will follow the Lambeth allegations management procedure and contact the LADO where the threshold is met or advice is required.
- Where the concern is about the headteacher, the chair of governors (or appropriate alternative under local procedure) will take the lead.
- The school will not conduct its own investigation where doing so could prejudice a statutory investigation.
- Confidentiality will be maintained and information shared only on a need-to-know basis.
- Suspension will not be automatic; risk will be assessed in accordance with employment and safeguarding procedures.
- The school will support all parties fairly while prioritising children's safety.

13. Low-level concerns and staff code of conduct

The school will maintain a culture in which staff can raise concerns about adult behaviour early. A low-level concern may relate to behaviour that is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, even where it does not meet the threshold for an allegation of harm.

- All staff must report low-level concerns in accordance with the school's reporting route.
- The headteacher/DSL will ensure concerns are recorded and reviewed for patterns.
- A pattern of low-level concerns about the same adult will be considered collectively.
- Where a concern may meet the allegations threshold, it will be escalated immediately through the appropriate procedure.

- Staff will not be victimised for raising genuine safeguarding concerns.

14. Safer recruitment and single central record

- The school will follow current KCSIE 2026 and Lambeth/appropriate employer safer recruitment procedures.
- Relevant pre-employment checks will be completed before appointment/starting work, subject to the applicable rules and permitted exceptions.
- At least one person on each recruitment panel will have completed appropriate safer recruitment training.
- References, identity, right to work, qualifications and other required checks will be completed and recorded.
- DBS and barred-list requirements will be applied according to the role and current legislation.
- The Single Central Record will be maintained and monitored.
- Agency and contractor arrangements will include appropriate safeguarding checks and assurances.

15. Volunteers, visitors, contractors and alternative provision

- Visitors will be appropriately signed in and supervised according to risk.
- Volunteers will be risk assessed and subject to the appropriate checks before unsupervised contact where required.
- Contractors and agency staff will be subject to appropriate safeguarding arrangements.
- Where pupils attend alternative provision, the school will undertake appropriate due diligence, safeguarding checks, information sharing and ongoing oversight.
- External providers working with children on school premises must comply with agreed safeguarding expectations.

16. Children who may require additional safeguarding support

The school will pay particular attention to children who may be at increased risk, including:

- Children with SEND or disabilities.
- Children with health needs or communication difficulties.
- Children in care and previously looked-after children.
- Children experiencing domestic abuse.
- Children affected by parental substance misuse, mental ill-health or other family stressors.
- Children affected by poverty, housing instability or food insecurity where these create safeguarding vulnerabilities.
- Children at risk of exploitation, trafficking, modern slavery or serious violence.
- Children missing education or with persistent absence.
- Children who are young carers.
- Children who have experienced trauma, abuse or bereavement.
- Children whose circumstances change suddenly or who present with significant changes in behaviour.

17. Confidentiality, information sharing and records

Safeguarding information is confidential but confidentiality is not a reason to withhold information that is necessary to protect a child. The school will comply with UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act 2018 and current safeguarding information-sharing guidance.

- Records will be factual, contemporaneous, clear and objective.
- Records will distinguish fact, observation, disclosure, professional opinion and action.

- The child's exact words should be recorded where relevant.
- Decisions, rationale, referrals, advice received and outcomes will be recorded.
- Child protection files will be stored securely and separately from the main educational record as appropriate.
- When a pupil moves school, safeguarding records will be transferred securely and promptly in accordance with KCSIE and data protection requirements.
- Records will be retained and disposed of in accordance with applicable retention schedules and local requirements.

18. Whistleblowing

The school supports staff to raise concerns about unsafe practice, including safeguarding failures. Staff should normally raise concerns through the school's safeguarding/whistleblowing route. If a concern cannot safely be raised internally, staff may use the appropriate external whistleblowing route, including the NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line where applicable.

Lambeth's published whistleblowing policy expressly covers safeguarding of children and young people and aims to protect staff from reprisals or victimisation when raising qualifying concerns in the public interest.

19. Training, induction and supervision

- All staff will receive safeguarding induction as soon as possible when they join the school and will be made aware of this policy, the DSL arrangements, reporting routes, staff code of conduct and relevant procedures.
- All staff will receive safeguarding training appropriate to their role and regular safeguarding updates.
- The DSL and deputies will undertake training at the required level and refresh it in accordance with KCSIE/local requirements.
- Staff involved in recruitment will receive appropriate safer recruitment training.
- Prevent awareness will be maintained.
- DSLs will have access to supervision, professional advice and multi-agency learning.
- Training records will be maintained and monitored by school leadership.

20. Curriculum, pupil voice and safeguarding culture

- Safeguarding will be embedded in the curriculum, including relationships, health education, online safety and age-appropriate personal safety.
- Children will know who they can talk to and how to seek help.
- The school will provide accessible routes for children with communication or additional needs to report concerns.
- Pupil voice will inform safeguarding practice and school improvement.
- Parents/carers will be given clear information about safeguarding arrangements and how to raise concerns.

21. Safer working practice and professional boundaries

- Staff must follow the school's Staff Code of Conduct and safeguarding procedures.
- Staff must maintain appropriate professional boundaries with pupils, including online communication and social media.
- One-to-one work with pupils must be conducted in a safe, transparent and professionally appropriate manner.
- Physical contact must be appropriate, necessary and proportionate.
- Staff must never use humiliating, degrading or abusive treatment.
- Any concern that an adult's behaviour may place a child at risk must be reported.

22. Safeguarding during trips, activities and off-site work

- Risk assessments will identify safeguarding as well as health and safety risks.
- Staffing ratios, supervision, medical needs, emergency contacts and communication arrangements will be appropriate.
- Additional vulnerabilities will be identified before trips.
- Residential visits and higher-risk activities will have enhanced safeguarding planning.
- The school will ensure appropriate safeguarding checks for external providers.

23. Monitoring, audit and governance

- The DSL will maintain a safeguarding action plan and review safeguarding performance throughout the year.
- The headteacher will provide the governing body with appropriate safeguarding assurance.
- The school will monitor referrals, attendance, exclusions, behaviour, bullying, child-on-child incidents, low-level concerns, allegations, online safety incidents and training compliance for themes and patterns.
- Safeguarding audits will identify gaps in practice and track actions to completion.
- The school will participate in local safeguarding audits, reviews and multi-agency learning where required.
- Serious incidents and safeguarding reviews will inform policy, training and practice.

25. Local contact sheet – complete before publication

Contact	Details
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Susan Eade, headteacher@macaulay.lambeth.sch.uk
Deputy DSL	Ciara Warde, cward@macaulay.lambeth.sch.uk
Headteacher	Susan Eade, headteacher@macaulay.lambeth.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Sarah Thomas, sthomas@macaulay.lambeth.sch.uk
Safeguarding Governor	Gill White, gwhite@macaulay.lambeth.sch.uk
Lambeth Children's Services / IRH	020 7926 3100 (9am–5pm); 020 7926 5555 out of hours – verify current local procedure
Lambeth LADO	020 7926 4679 / 07720 828 700; lado@lambeth.gov.uk
Police emergency	999
Police non-emergency	101
Lambeth LSCP website/portal	https://lambethsaferchildren.org.uk/
School safeguarding email/phone	020 7622 1355

26. Related policies and procedures

- Staff Code of Conduct.
- Whistleblowing Policy.
- Safer Recruitment Policy/Procedure.

- Behaviour Policy.
- Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Online Safety / Acceptable Use Policy.
- Attendance Policy.
- SEND Policy and Accessibility arrangements.
- Health and Safety Policy.
- First Aid / Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Educational Visits Policy.
- Complaints Policy.
- Data Protection / Information Security Policy.
- Prevent Risk Assessment and procedures.
- Allegations Against Adults / LADO Procedure.
- Managing allegations and low-level concerns procedure.
- Child-on-child abuse / harmful sexual behaviour procedure.
- Whistleblowing procedure.
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- Local Lambeth/LSCP child protection and safeguarding procedures.

27. Policy review and approval

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and sooner where there is a material change to legislation, KCSIE, Working Together, Lambeth/LSCP procedures, school structure or safeguarding risk. The governing body will approve the policy and monitor its implementation.

Approved by	Governing Body
Date approved	September 2026
Policy owner	Headteacher / DSL
Next review	September 2027 or earlier if required

Appendix A – Quick reference for all staff

Remember: If you are worried about a child, act. You do not need to be certain that abuse or neglect has occurred.

- 1. Listen and take the child seriously.
- 2. Do not investigate or ask leading questions.
- 3. Do not promise confidentiality.
- 4. Record what was said/observed, accurately and promptly.
- 5. Tell the DSL/deputy immediately.
- 6. If there is immediate danger, call 999.
- 7. If the DSL/deputy is unavailable and urgent action is needed, contact Lambeth Children's Services/police directly.
- 8. Keep information confidential and share it only when necessary to safeguard the child.

Appendix B – Sources and version control

- Department for Education, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (comes into force 1 September 2026).
- Department for Education, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.
- Lambeth Council, Safeguarding children – professionals and volunteers / Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership information.
- Lambeth Council, Safeguarding children and the Prevent duty – published Lambeth referral and LADO contact information.
- Lambeth Council, Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure.

External links to be maintained by the school in the live electronic version:

- KCSIE 2026 – GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- Lambeth safeguarding professionals: <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/childrens-social-care/safeguarding-children-professionals-and>
- Lambeth report a concern about a child: <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/community-safety-anti-social-behaviour/report-concern-about-child/report-concerns-about-child>
- Lambeth safeguarding and Prevent: <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/childminders/safeguarding-children-prevent-duty>