

Job description: Designated Safeguarding and Attendance Lead (DSL)



Main purpose

The DSL will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection across the school (including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems in place).

They will oversee the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, ensuring they are up-to-date and effective in keeping all children safe.

They will take part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings, and contribute to the assessment of children.

They will advise and support other members of staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, and liaise with relevant agencies such as the local authority and police.

There are 7 trained DSLs in school in total.

Some safeguarding activities may be delegated to deputies, but the DSL will retain ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.

Duties and responsibilities

Managing referrals

- Refer cases of suspected abuse and neglect to the local authority children's social care
- Support staff who make referrals to the local authority children's social care
- Refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern
- Support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme
- Refer cases to the Disclosure and Barring Service where a person is dismissed or leaves due to risk or harm to a child
- Refer cases to the police where a crime may have been committed

Working with staff and other agencies

- Monitor and regularly review the Single Central Record alongside colleagues
- Support the Safer Recruitment process and ensure that the relevant members of staff are kept up to date with training
- Be the point of contact for Operation Encompass notifications.
- Work closely with the Family, Community Support Assistant to provide support for vulnerable families, this includes work with our Young Carers.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff with regards to Safeguarding
- Act as a point of contact with the safeguarding partners

- Inform the headteacher of safeguarding issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations, and the requirement for pupils to have an appropriate adult
- Liaise with staff on matters of safety, safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety), and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies so that children's needs are considered holistically
- Liaise with the mental health support team, where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health
- Liaise with the School Nurse
- Promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances
- Work with the Deputy Head and any other relevant strategic leads to ensure safeguarding is promoted through the curriculum
- To work alongside the School Governing Body to make sure they are up to date with current policies and procedures and practice is reviewed regularly

• Managing the child protection file

- Ensure child protection files are kept up to date
- Keep information confidential and store it securely
- Monitor CPOMs, ensuring records are comprehensive, detailed and actions followed up
- Ensure files are only accessed by those who need to see them, and that where a file or content within it is shared, this happens in line with information sharing advice as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- Where children leave the school (including in-year transfers):
 - Ensure their child protection file is securely transferred to the new school as soon as possible, separately from the main pupil file, with a receipt of confirmation, and within the specified time set out in KCSIE
 - Consider whether it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new school before the child leaves, to help it put appropriate support in place

Raising awareness

- Ensure each member of staff has access to, and understands, the school's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part-time staff
- Ensure each member of staff knows which pupils are, or have previously been, known to Social Care.
- Work with the governing board to ensure the child protection policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly
- Ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents and carers are aware that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school in this
- Link with the safeguarding partner arrangements to make sure staff are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies on local safeguarding arrangements
- Help promote educational outcomes by sharing information with teachers and school leadership staff about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children who have or have had a social worker are experiencing
- Write a monthly newsletter for all staff and governors, raising awareness of current Safeguarding issues

Training

- Undergo training (at least every 2 years) to gain the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role and meet the expectations set out in KCSIE, including those outlined in the 'Training, knowledge and skills' section of annex C
- Undertake Prevent awareness training
- Refresh knowledge and skills at regular intervals and at least annually and attend DSL networks to support professional development.

Providing support to staff

- Support and advise staff and help them feel confident on welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters
- Deliver appropriate safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, and staff responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring for all staff, in particular paying attention to any new staff
- Support staff during the referrals process
- Support staff to consider how safeguarding, welfare and educational outcomes are linked, including to inform the provision of academic and pastoral support

Understanding the views of children

- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, and in any measures the school may put in place to protect them

Holding and sharing information

- Understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school, with other schools and colleges on transfer, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners
- Understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

Filtering and monitoring

- Understand the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place in the school, including how to manage them effectively and escalate concerns when identified
- Make sure that the filtering and monitoring systems and processes block harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning
- Review filtering and monitoring provision at least annually

Attendance

- Ensure daily attendance registers are accurate and complete, and follow up with staff members about any incomplete data
- Follow up on any unexplained absences with parents/carers, escalating issues as appropriate in line with school procedures. Initiate and oversee the administration of absence procedures, for example letters home, attendance clinics and engagement with local authorities/other external agencies and partners
- Maintain accurate records of communications with parents/carers and relevant interventions
- Initiate and oversee the administration of absence procedures, for example letters home, attendance meetings and engagement with local authorities/other external agencies and partners.
- Interpret attendance data identifying key statistics, reasons for absence and any patterns of concern
- Track attendance of vulnerable groups of pupils and share information with school leaders and outside agencies
- Identify pupils that need additional support to improve their attendance
- Coordinate meetings with pupils and parents/carers to implement interventions and track progress
- Review progress and the impact of support/interventions.
- Work with the Deputy Head to develop and revise the school's attendance policy.
- Liaise with the School Administrator regarding children missing education (CME)
- Carry out home visits, where necessary, to address attendance concerns for individual pupils

The DSL will be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and follow school policies and the staff code of conduct.

During term time, the DSL should always be available during school hours for staff in the school to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Ideally this will be in person, but can also be via phone or video call in exceptional circumstances.

Please note that this list of duties is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the role. It is not a comprehensive list of all tasks that the DSL will carry out. The postholder may be required to do other duties appropriate to the level of the role.

Notes:

This job description may be amended at any time in consultation with the postholder.

Headteacher/line manager's signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Lonne'.

Date: 16.12.25

Postholder's signature: _____

Date: _____