



Empowering Learning



# Student-Friendly Safeguarding Policy

Date Policy Adopted: Sep-25

Date for review: Sep-26

## Feeling safe and happy at Brook Academy

At **Brook Academy**, we want to make sure that you feel looked after, safe and happy when you are in and out of school. Sometimes we don't know if **something bad** is happening, so **you need to tell us**.

**Remember- you do NOT have to keep your worries or concerns a secret!**

### 1 What is this policy?

Our school has a Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy for staff, families and Trustees.

This student-friendly policy is written for you, our students, and this should be read as a guide to the main policy. We have tried to write this in a way that makes sense to you as the Safeguarding Policy is very, very long...

### 2 What is it for?

To help you decide what could be a problem, and where to get help and support. It is important that you know who you can talk to and also to understand why you might need to talk to someone.

### 3 What is a DSL?

You might have seen or heard the phrase DSL, but what does it mean? DSL stands for Designated Safeguarding Lead. In every school there is always somebody who has the responsibility to keep you safe – the DSL and all staff have to tell them if they are worried about you. Staff have training and are taught how to keep children & young people safe, as it is the most important part of their job. The DSL works in a safeguarding team and you can talk to the safeguarding team about anything that you are worried about.

The Safeguarding team at **The Brook Academy** are;

## Safeguarding Team



**Emily Allan**

Pastoral Lead - Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Gus Grimshaw**

Safeguarding Academy  
Councillor and Chair



**Tobi Marks**

SENCo - Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

# Wider Safeguarding Team



**Kay Sarpong**

Principal - Assistant  
Safeguarding Lead



**Sara Yuen**

Deputy Principal - Assistant  
Safeguarding Lead

There is a DSL and members of the safeguarding team on site every day the school is open. It is the job of everyone that works at your school to keep you safe so remember, you can talk to any grown up that you trust.

## 4

The four main areas of Child Protection:

1. **Physical Abuse** – things like **hitting**, smacking, **shaking**, **kicking**, pushing, biting...
2. **Sexual Abuse** – this doesn't always mean actually **touching** someone. It could be someone making you watch things **to do with sex**, take or share nude photos, or encouraging you to do something sexual – something you are uncomfortable doing.

3. **Neglect** – this means things like not providing **proper food**, a warm and **safe place** to live, or clothing. Or perhaps not taking you to the Doctors or Dentist when you need to go. There may be lots of different reasons why someone is neglected and it is really important that we know so we can help.
4. **Emotional Abuse** – this means when someone upsets you or makes you feel bad. It might be someone being unkind about the person you are, or saying horrible things to you, making you feel sad and worthless.



### **Is someone bullying or trying to hurt you?**

Has someone said something or done something to you, or have you seen or heard something you do not like or upsets you? **You must tell someone at school** so we can help you.

Has someone touched you on a part of your body, like your bottom, your private parts, your chest, or anywhere else you do not like?

It is not OK for someone to touch you and make you feel uncomfortable. People who do things like this often lie and tell you things to frighten you and try to make sure you don't tell anyone. **You must tell someone at school so we can help you.**

It is not your fault and you will be taken care of and supported.

Has someone asked you if you want a tablet or to smoke something, or have a drink or eat something and you don't know what it is? Do not eat, drink or smoke what they are trying to give you. **You must tell someone at school** so we can help you.

Has someone **hit, kicked** or pushed you or **hurt** you in any way?

It is not OK for ANYONE to hurt you or cause you harm. No-one should frighten or threaten you either. You must **tell someone at school** so we can help you.

These are some of people that you can tell:

- Emily Allan
- Tobi Marks
- Any adult in the building
- An adult that you trust



### **How does Brook Academy work hard to keep you safe?**

There are lots of different ways, but one of the main ways is making sure all the staff here at our academy know how to keep you safe, and also making sure you have someone to talk to if you need to. Your Principal is here to support all our young people and their families if there is a concern. We promise to look after all our students and do everything we can to keep them safe.

# 7

## **What happens if you tell someone about your worries?**

If you speak to an adult, sometimes they will need to check things with your DSL and then, if they can, deal with the issue themselves. Please try and understand that staff and the DSL will only want to help you and make you feel supported and better about the situation. Only people who need to know will be told about what you've said so that you can be supported and kept safe.

There are times though when the academy may need to contact some other agencies for support. These may be Children's Social Care (Social Workers) or Police. This is because schools can't do everything on their own and need to work with other professionals who are the best people to help.

It might sound a little bit scary, but the Social Workers and Police will be specially trained professionals who are great at helping children and young people.

There are lots of other agencies who support children and their families as well, and it isn't always that people need to have a Social Worker involved with their family. Sometimes these people are Youth Workers or Mentors or Family Support Workers. Don't worry, your DSL will talk to you and explain all of this, and you can always go and ask them questions if you are unsure about anything.

**We want you to be happy and safe in school and at home, so that you can achieve your Potential and have healthy lives. If you are worried or have something you want to talk about**

**ALL the staff are ready to listen to you.**



# Useful Links for Support

## Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership

The link below will take you to the website for the safeguarding team for all of Somerset, you can report concerns here.

<https://someterssafeguardingchildren.org.uk/>



## Childline

This is a website where you can call or access support through the website for any concerns you have or anything safeguarding related.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>



## NSPCC

This website will provide advice and support around anything safeguarding related.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

