



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This Policy relates directly to:

- All trainees of PLS
- All staff of PLS

Staff and trainees employed by partnership institutions will refer to the Child Protection or Safeguarding Policy and procedures and the ICT Acceptable User Policy of their respective employing institution.

Any new staff appointed directly to PLS will follow the safeguarding processes and procedures of The Sydney Russell School.

Trainees within PLS are subject to any relevant Child Protection or Safeguarding Policy & ICT Acceptable User Policy of their placement school or academy. They must also accept and follow the PLS trainee partnership agreement before admission to the course. It is the explicit expectation of PLS that schools and academies will have their own child protection or safeguarding policies and procedures in keeping with relevant national and regional procedures and guidance.

PLS shares the common principles of its partnership institutions, namely:

The welfare of children and young people is paramount

- Children and young people should be provided with a safe environment in which to learn
- All children and young people have a right to freedom from abuse
- Children and young people have a right to be treated with respect and dignity, as do the adults who work with them;
- It is the responsibility of all adults to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people
- All adults working on a paid or voluntary basis within PLS have a responsibility to protect children and young people from harm wherever they are in a position to do so
- All children and young people must have the opportunity to express their views about decisions taken about their lives
- All work with children and young people will be informed by equal opportunities and anti-oppressive practice and will reflect diversity of need and the communities being served; and
- Adults about whom there are concerns should be treated fairly and honestly and should be provided with support.

Accordingly, we will:

- Ensure as much as possible that within PLS there are no unsuitable people working with children and young people
- Promote safe practice and challenge poor and unsafe practice;
- Contribute to effective partnership working between all those involved in providing services to children and young people in support of these aims.

Safeguarding is paramount in all aspects of teaching and teacher training is no exception.

Issues around safeguarding will, in addition to being included in formal policies such as this, feature strongly in:

- 1) Partnership Agreements
- 2) PLS and partners' documentation
- 3) During Induction week
- 4) During Education and Professional Studies sessions
- 5) School-based professional studies induction programme
- 6) Subject specific health & safety training as appropriate

PLS will undertake Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearances for trainees to ensure compliance with DfE procedures. (Excluding trainees on the School Direct salaried route where the responsibility is with the employing school)

All potential trainees will be asked to declare any prior convictions in their application process.

Where there are any the application will be referred to the Management Board and appropriate legal advice will be sought if appropriate.

Enhanced DBS Disclosures may contain 'approved' non-conviction information provided by the police from their local records. In the majority of cases, this will be printed on the Disclosure which the applicant receives. Occasionally, the Chief Police Officer may, if thought necessary in the interests of the prevention or detection of crime, withhold this information from the applicant's Disclosure (known also as "soft" information).

In exceptional cases, the information on the DBS certificate will be discussed by the SCITT directors and the accounting officer following a 'consent to share letter' signed by the trainee concerned.

No trainee may commence training without a valid DBS certificate and the PLS administration team must have been shown a copy of the original certificate.

Trainees are expected to produce their DBS certificates at all school placements.

The PLS administration team will inform all partnership schools of the certificate numbers for the trainees in their school.