

Safeguarding Policy		
<b>Lead:</b> Group Safeguarding Lead		<b>Status:</b> Approved
<b>Version:</b> 1		<b>Date of Version:</b> September 2025
<b>Approving Body:</b> Governors		<b>Supersedes:</b> 2024
<b>Approved on:</b> 9 October 2025		<b>Next Review date:</b> December 2026
Equality analysis tool <sup>1</sup>		
1.	Is the policy relevant to the public sector equality duty?	No
2.	Have any concerns previously been raised about this policy or practice?	No
3.	Is likely to result in discrimination against a protected group?	No
4.	Does this policy positively contribute to the participation of under-represented groups in the College's activities?	No
Version Control		
Version	Date	Change(s)
Access		
Location	Address/Link	
Sharepoint	Safeguarding	
Service Centre	Safeguarding Service Centre	
Document Centre	A-Z	
Communication		
Medium	Audience	
Safeguarding Development Group	Staff	
Safeguarding Network Forum		
Corporate News		
Virtual College		

<sup>1</sup> If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please complete the Screening Template provided and include as an Appendix to your policy.

Website	Parents
Moodle	Students

## Heart of Yorkshire Education Group

### **Safeguarding Policy (to be read alongside Heart of Yorkshire Safeguarding Procedures)**

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**Next Review Date:** **December 2026**

**Person Responsible:** **Group Safeguarding Lead**

**Approving Body:** **Board of Governors**

#### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To demonstrate the Group's commitment with regard to safeguarding and child protection.
- 1.2 To state the responsibilities of the Group in relation to safeguarding children, and adults with care and support needs, in response to current legislation and guidance.
- 1.3 To fulfil requirements of Section 175(4) of the Education Act 2002 which states that governing bodies of maintained schools (including maintained nursery schools), further education institutions and management committees of pupil referral units must have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State.

#### **2 Scope**

- 2.1 The Children Act 1989 and 2004, defines a **child** as "a person under the age of 18". This could therefore include:
  - Any student up to the age of 18;
  - Siblings or other family members of any student;
  - Any other persons under the age of 18 participating in Group activities on the Group's premises.
- 2.2 Under the Care Act 2014 safeguarding duties apply to adults (over the age of 18) who:
  - have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
  - is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and

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- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

2.3 This Policy applies to all members of the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group community, including:

- Employees, workers, volunteers, and apprentices;
- Agency staff, contractors, and consultants;
- Governors and members of the Corporation;
- Students of all ages enrolled on any Group programme of study;
- Visitors and guests to any Group site; and
- External organisations and partners delivering services, placements, or activities on behalf of, or in partnership with, the Group.

2.4 The Policy covers:

- Recruitment to any role which involves working directly with children, young people, or adults at risk;
- The planning, approval, and delivery of new or existing activities, placements, or events that involve or may involve children, young people, or adults at risk;
- Engagement with employers, community partners, and external providers where safeguarding responsibilities apply; and
- The conduct and behaviour of all individuals representing or associated with the Group, both on and off its premises.

2.5 External bodies hiring or using the Group's premises or facilities are expected to have their own safeguarding policies and procedures in place and to take full responsibility for safeguarding the individuals involved in their activities. In the event that an allegation or safeguarding concern arises relating to a Group employee, student, or volunteer, the Group's Designated Safeguarding Lead must be informed immediately so that appropriate action can be taken in line with this Policy.

### **3 Context**

The Heart of Yorkshire Education Group is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children, young people, and adults at risk who engage with the College. This includes students, apprentices, visitors, and individuals participating in college-led activities both on and off campus. The Group recognises its responsibility to create and maintain a safe learning

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and working environment where everyone can thrive and reach their full potential.

Safeguarding is the term used to describe the actions taken to promote the welfare of children and adults at risk and to protect them from harm, abuse, and neglect. This harm may be caused by adults or by other children and young people. Safeguarding is therefore the responsibility of every member of the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group community, including staff, governors, contractors, and volunteers.

This Policy is supported by a range of legislation and statutory guidance which underpin the Group's safeguarding and child protection arrangements as referenced in 9.2.

This overarching Safeguarding Policy should be read in conjunction with the Group's more detailed safeguarding procedures, which together outline the practical steps taken to prevent and respond to safeguarding concerns. These documents provide specific guidance on areas such as safer recruitment, managing allegations, online safety, radicalisation, peer-on-peer abuse, and the reporting and escalation of concerns.

Through the implementation of this policy and its supporting procedures, the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group aims to ensure that all members of its community can learn, work, and develop in a safe and supportive environment.

#### **4 Key Principles**

- 4.1 All children, and adults with care and support needs, have a fundamental right to be protected from harm.
- 4.2 All young people regardless of sex, race, religion/belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity have equal rights to protection.
- 4.3 The abuse of children, and adults with care and support needs, is a clear infringement of human rights and in many cases may be a criminal offence.
- 4.4 Everyone has a responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that indicates a child, or adult with care and support needs, is at risk of harm or at risk of being drawn into extremism.

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4.5 We operate within a culture of vigilance, transparency, openness and, if needed, challenge with regards to maintaining high standards in safeguarding.

## **5 Statement of Policy**

5.1 The group recognises its moral and statutory responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults. We endeavour to provide a safe, welcoming environment, where students are respected and valued. We will maintain a culture of vigilance and act quickly, following our safeguarding procedures to ensure our students receive help, support, protection and justice.

5.2 The Group recognises the need to cooperate with other local agencies in performing the duties required by the guidance in "Keeping Children Safe in Education" DfE 2025, "Working Together to Safeguard Children" DfE 2023 and the updated Prevent Duty Guidance in England and Wales 2023.

5.3 The Group recognises that preventing radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding duty and will work with local authorities, Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) Officers and Channel Panels, to support students who may be vulnerable to being drawn into extremism.

5.4 The Group will establish and maintain policies and procedures to ensure appropriate action and cooperation takes place. In relation to safeguarding children the Group will operate according to the local Safeguarding Children Partnerships, the relevant local procedures and in relation to safeguarding adults with care and support needs according to the Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures for West and North Yorkshire.

5.5 The Group Safeguarding Lead is nominated by the Principal, to coordinate and manage the procedures related to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults across Colleges within the Group. The Executive Director Student Experience and Support is the Senior Lead with overall responsibility for Safeguarding Students. The Executive Director of People is the Senior Lead for staff related safeguarding issues.

5.5 The Group will ensure that its employees are fit to work with children and adults at risk and will have recruitment policies and procedures in place which follow best practice and have regard for legislation and guidance.

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- 5.6 The Group will ensure that all staff understand their role in relation to the protection of children, and adults with care and support needs, and will include an appropriate statement in job descriptions.
- 5.7 The Group will provide induction and ongoing training to make managers, teaching staff and appropriate support staff aware of the signs of abuse and the Group procedures for recording and reporting suspected abuse or concerns about other members of staff.
- 5.8 The Group will deal with allegations made against staff or students according to the relevant group procedure in conjunction with the West Yorkshire Consortium Procedures Manual, Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures for West and North Yorkshire. Allegations against staff will be reported as required in "Keeping Children Safe in Education" and to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Colleges Act. Allegations against the Principal will be dealt with by the chair of the Governing Body.
- 5.9 The Group Counselling Service will operate according to the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy guidelines on confidentiality in relation to disclosures of abuse.
- 5.10 The Group will reserve the right to refuse admission to any person who may pose a risk to children or adults at risk.
- 5.11 The Group will include safeguarding in the curriculum of appropriate programmes which lead to employment with relevant colleges, including sharing information about Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006.
- 5.12 The Group will ensure that entry to programmes which include placements with relevant organisations, and lead to employment within relevant industries, is subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks.
- 5.13 The Group will ensure that appropriate risk assessments are undertaken before students go on placement, both within and outside the Group, in relation to safeguarding children, and adults with care and support needs. The placement pre-assessment questionnaire will refer to child and adult protection issues, including prevent and the students and employers will be briefed. Safeguarding information and Group contacts will be provided to all employers.

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## **6 Monitoring**

- 6.1 Implementation of the policy will be reviewed through regular updates and an annual report to the Board of Governors.
- 6.2 Any intermediate updates and actions will be shared via termly meetings of the Safeguarding Development Group.
- 6.3 Ofsted will report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in all inspections under Inspecting Safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings.

## **7 Review**

The Group will review this policy annually as required by the DfE guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education”.

The Group will continue to develop and improve processes in line with local safeguarding guidelines where these are appropriate to the FE setting.

## **8 Communication**

This policy will be available externally via the Group Website and will be referred to in all prospectuses. It will be promoted to staff through the Safeguarding Service Centre(s) for the Group, the essential safeguarding training package and in the inductions for new staff.

## **9 Supporting documentation**

- 9.1 The following Group documents give further guidance on the application of this policy:
  - Safeguarding Procedures
  - Bullying and Harassment Policy
  - Work Placement Health and Safety Procedures.
  - Recruitment and Selection Policy
  - Whistleblowing Policy
  - Guidance on Safe Working Practice for the Protection of Young People and Staff
  - IT acceptable use policy

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9.2 This Policy and the related procedures above are driven by the following legislation and guidance:

### **Child Protection**

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Education Act 2002 (updated 2011)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- Children's social care: national framework 2023 (last updated 2025)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (last updated 2012)
- West Yorkshire Consortium Inter Agency Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures (proceduresonline.com-updated 2025)
- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures (updated 2025)
- Guidance for safer working practice for professionals working in education settings 2022
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales 2023
- Teaching Standards last updated 2021
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Equality Act 2010

### **Adult Protection**

- Care and Support Statutory Guidance Issued under the Care Act 2014 Department of Health
- Joint multi-agency safeguarding adult's policy & procedures (updated 2025)
- Safer Practice, Safer Learning: A whole organisation approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults for the learning and skills sector. NIACE/DfES 2007
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Equality Act 2010

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## Appendix One: Screening Tool

### Public sector equality duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires College to have **due regard** for the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups; this involves considering the need to:
- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics;
- meet the needs of people with protected characteristics;
- encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in activities where their participation is low; and to
- foster good relations between people from different groups - this involves tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people from different groups.

Consequently, we need to assure ourselves that our policies will not have an adverse differential impact on any particular group. This pre-screening section will enable you to identify whether your policy is likely to have an adverse differential impact.

Please use the following template to help determine whether an equality analysis is required

Name of the policy	Safeguarding Policy
Author(s):	Carol Price

Author(s) of Equality Analysis:	
Name:	Carol Price
Job title:	Group Safeguarding Lead
Date:	21/10/2025
Signature:	C.Price

In order to decide whether the policy requires further action, please complete the following questions:

**1. What are the main aims, purpose and outcomes of the policy?**

- To demonstrate the Group's commitment with regard to safeguarding and child protection.
- To fulfil requirements of Section 175(4) of the Education Act 2002 which states that governing bodies of maintained schools (including maintained nursery schools), further education institutions and management committees of pupil referral units must have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State.

**2. Will these aims affect our duty to:**

	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>How?</b>
advance equality of opportunity?	No	
eliminate discrimination?	No	
eliminate harassment?	No	
foster good relations between people from different groups?	No	
tackle prejudice and promote understanding between people from different groups?	No	

**3. What aspects of the policy, including how it is delivered, or accessed, could contribute to inequality?**

- The policy is not standardly offered in other languages although could be made available on request.

**4. Will the policy have an impact (positive or negative) upon the experience of people, including those who share a protected characteristic?**

**4.1 Please complete the following table:**

Protected characteristic	Meet needs of people with this characteristic	Encourage participation (if under-represented)	Remove or minimise disadvantages	Possible negative impact
Race	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Gender	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Disability	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Religion / belief	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Sexual orientation	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Gender reassignment	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Pregnancy /maternity	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Age	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Marriage / civil partnership*	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

**4.2 In addition, please consider whether this policy may indirectly discriminate against young adult carers (16-24). Although not a legally protected group, this group often suffers disadvantage due to their caring responsibilities and we have a moral duty to protect them.**

Evidence: Changes in working practices including online may facilitate greater ability to participate while caring than previously

**4.3 What different needs, experiences or attitudes are particular communities or groups likely to have in relation to this policy?**

Some barriers may be experienced in cases of language and communication difficulties – ie for deaf students or students requiring translation services the counsellor client relationship may be inhibited by a third party presence.

## **Next steps**

If your answers to these questions have identified potential negative impacts, then you should consider further consultation or action to minimise the differential impact. Please contact the Executive Director Quality and Planning for support.

If no further action is required, please sign the declaration below and include with all published copies of the policy.

## **Declaration**

The policy does not have a significant impact upon equality issues and therefore does not require any further action.

<b>Author(s) of EA.</b>	
Name:	Carol Price
Job title:	Group Safeguarding Lead
Date:	21/10/2025
Signature:	C.Price