CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY (Exams)

2024/25

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Approved/reviewed by | |
|  | |
| Date of next review |  |

Key staff involved in the policy

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Role | Name(s) |
| Head of centre |  |
| Designated safeguarding lead |  |
| Designated safeguarding lead (deputy) |  |
| Exams officer |  |

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY (Exams) TEMPLATE

**Delete this text box when the information contained below is understood**

**Changes made to the contents of this template since the previous (2023/24) version are highlighted for easy identification**.A change may not always signify a regulation change/update, but rather to provide clarity.

Users should however refer to the September 2024 version of DfE guidance [Keeping children safe in education](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2)which is now in force, replacing previous versions, and add any updates where these may impact on the content of this policy)

([GR](https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations/), section 5.3) It is the responsibility of the **head of centre** to ensure that their centre: ...has in place the following policies for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually... a written child protection/safeguarding policy, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements

This template has been provided as an example **only** and is intended to provide a starting point/framework on which to build a policy for exams-related activity.

A table to record key staff (job role and name) involved in the policy is included at the beginning of the template. You may choose to delete this or use it as good practice by inserting **all** relevant roles and staff names (some example roles have been provided).

Centres have a moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils/students, and endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. Staff must be trained to be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow centre procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection, and justice.

This template only provides a suggestion of how statutory requirements could be met in relation to child protection and safeguarding within the management, administration and conducting of examinations. You should liaise with the person in your centre assigned the role of designated lead to ensure compliance (in relation to exams-related activity) is achieved.

**Customise** the template to reflect practice in your centre in ensuring that children are protected and safeguarded in all aspects of examinations and assessments. This policy could be included as a sub-section within your centre-wide Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy to reflect compliance in relation to exams and assessments.

[**Insert**…] fields are in coloured font to highlight them – this is to ensure the need to insert relevant centre-specific details stands out and is not overlooked – change colour to ‘automatic’ when inserted.

Purpose of the policy

This policy details how [insert centre name], in relation to the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments, ensures that the moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is met.

The policy also details how staff are trained and supported to be alert to, and report, the signs of abuse and neglect and how they will follow centre procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection, and justice.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff associated with the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments at [insert centre name].

[Insert centre name] ensures compliance with the statutory guidance for schools and colleges as set out in the Department for Education’s [Keeping children safe in education 2024](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2#full-publication-update-history) publication.

Policy aims

* To provide all exams-related staff at [insert centre name] with the necessary information to enable them to meet their safeguarding and child protection responsibilities
* To ensure consistent good practice
* To demonstrate the commitment with regard to safeguarding and child protection to pupils/students, parents/carers and other partners when taking examinations and assessments at [insert centre name]
* To contribute to the wider centre Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

All staff involved in the management, administration and conducting of examinations at [insert centre name] are made aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. This includes raising awareness and understanding of the role played by these staff members in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children whilst they are undertaking their examinations/assessments.

As part of the training given to staff involved in the management, administration and conducting of examinations/assessments, the following are highlighted as part of an induction/training programme:

* child protection policy (which should amongst other things also include the policy and procedures to deal with child-on-child abuse)
* behaviour policy (which should include measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
* staff behaviour policy (sometimes called a code of conduct) should amongst other things, include low-level concerns, allegations against staff and whistleblowing
* safeguarding response to children who are absent from examinations, particularly on repeat occasions and/or prolonged periods
* the role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies)

Section 1 – Roles and Responsibilities

[Provide details of roles and responsibilities for the following staff members]

**Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)**

[Insert as example: (and any deputies) will take lead responsibility for child protection and safeguarding in relation to examinations and assessments. The DSL will offer advice, support and expertise in all matters relating to child protection and safeguarding in relation to examinations and assessments, etc.]

**Exams officer**

[Insert as example: will support the DSL as directed, and undertake all relevant training etc.]

**Other exams staff** [insert names and/or roles e.g. exams assistants, invigilators, facilitators of access arrangements, etc.]

[Insert as example: will undertake training as directed by the DSL, report child protection and safeguarding issues/concerns in line with centre processes/policy, etc.]

**Teaching staff**

[Insert as example: willensure that where candidates are taking non-examination assessments, they will check that the tasks and approach being taken are appropriate and in line with ethical standards and the centre’s safeguarding responsibilities, etc.]

Section 2 – Staff

**Recruitment**

[Insert centre name] ensures that only ‘suitably qualified and experienced adults’ are employed in the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments. This is supported by the safer recruitment process which includes:

[Include recruitment process, as example:

* completing an application form which includes their employment history and explains any gaps in that history
* providing two referees, including at least one who can comment on the applicant’s suitability to work with children
* providing evidence of identity and qualifications
* verifying their mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities
* verifying their professional qualifications, as appropriate
* carrying out further additional checks, as appropriate, on candidates who have lived or worked outside of the UK, including (where relevant) any teacher sanctions or restrictions imposed by a European Economic Area professional regulating authority, and criminal records checks or their equivalent
* asking for written information about previous employment history and check that information is not contradictory or incomplete. We will seek references on all short-listed candidates, including internal candidates, before interview. We will scrutinise these and resolve any concerns before confirming appointments.
* if offered employment, be checked in accordance with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) regulations as appropriate to their role. This will include:
  + an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check for those including unsupervised volunteers engaged in Regulated Activity
  + an enhanced DBS check without a barred list check for all volunteers not involved in Regulated Activity but who have the opportunity of regular contact with children
  + ensuring that this member of staff has a subscription to the DBS Update Service (where relevant)
* if offered employment, provide evidence of their right to work in the UK
* be interviewed by a panel of at least two school leaders/governors, if shortlisted]

**DBS check information**

All information on the checks carried out on those who are employed solely for the purpose of periodic exams-related activity, such as external invigilators/facilitators, will be recorded in the centre’s single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals’ personnel files.

**Existing staff**

Although there is no statutory requirement to update DBS checks for existing staff, external invigilators/facilitators will undertake a ‘rolling DBS check’ every [insert number of years].

If there are concerns about an existing member of staff’s suitability to work with children, all relevant checks will be carried out as if the individual was a new member of staff. This action will also be taken if an individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is.

Anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult will be referred to the DBS:

* Where the ‘harm test’ is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e., that no action or inaction occurred but the present risk that it could was significant)
* Where the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence
* If there is reason to believe that the individual has committed a listed relevant offence, under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009
* If the individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left

**‘Break in service’**

To comply with ‘break in service’ regulations, all external invigilators/facilitators will be required to register with the DBS Update Service on an annual basis and provide consent for the designated senior member of staff in charge of safeguarding arrangements to carry out an online check to view the status of their existing enhanced DBS certificate. This will not apply to any invigilators who meet the ‘frequency test’ at [insert centre name] – e.g. working 3 or more times in a 30-day period, or attending the centre at least every 3 months for training, updates, etc.

By registering with the Update Service, these staff will be permitted to attend on any day during an exam series (providing they can supply an updated Disclosure Certificate and ID) without the need for additional checks or any additional attendance at [insert centre name].

**Agency staff**

Written notification will be obtained from any agency or third-party organisation that it has carried out the necessary safer recruitment checks that we would otherwise perform. A check will also be performed to confirm that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

Section 3 – Supporting staff

All exams staff at [insert centre name]:

* are made aware of the good practice guidelines and staff code of conduct in relation to child protection and safeguarding
* receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training at induction/the centre’s annual exam update training session. This training is regularly updated to include the most up-to-date guidance from the relevant authorities
* receive safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) updates as required, and at least annually, to continue to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. This includes updates on the centre’s Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy by [include methods of disseminating information, for example, training sessions, online information, hard copy information].

~~They are informed and updated on the contents of the centre Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy by [include methods of disseminating information, for example, training sessions, online information, hard copy information].~~

[Detail when training sessions/information dissemination will take place/has taken place during an academic year in the table below]

**Training/information delivered**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date delivered | Details of training/information delivered | Audience (e.g. invigilators, access arrangements facilitators etc.) |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Section 4 – Areas covered

All exams staff will be trained/updated on the following areas to ensure that they are complying with the centre policy on child protection and safeguarding:

[Insert the areas to be covered with exams staff/content of the training offered as advised by the centre’s DSL]

Section 5 – Reporting

The process for staff to report issues/concerns relating to child protection and safeguarding is:

[Detail the process/steps which staff must take to report issues/concerns]

If a member of staff needs to make a complaint/report a colleague or other adult who works with children (whistleblowing), they should [detail the complaint/reporting/whistleblowing process/procedure]

Section 6 - Protocols for one-to one support/supervision

Where staff are engaged in invigilation/facilitation and/or centre supervision on a one-to one basis with a candidate the following protocols should be followed.

**Summoning immediate assistance in case of any concern**

[Insert all relevant protocols to be followed, including for example, the means of summoning assistance, who to summon, etc...]

**Leaving the examination room temporarily**

Where a member of staff may accompany a candidate requiring a toilet break [insert all relevant protocols to be followed, including for example, and dependent on the nature of the facilities in the centre, the member of staff is required to first check that the facilities are unoccupied, at what point the candidate is left unaccompanied (at the entrance to the facility/the entrance to the cubicle), etc...]

Where a member of staff may accompany a candidate who is feeling unwell [insert all relevant protocols to be followed, including for example, where to take the candidate or who to contact, etc...]

**References**

**Keeping children safe in education** [www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2)

# Check someone's criminal record as an employer [www.gov.uk/dbs-check-applicant-criminal-record](https://www.gov.uk/dbs-check-applicant-criminal-record)

**DBS Update Service** [www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service](https://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service)

**DBS Checks for Schools** [www.onlinedbschecks.co.uk/job-sectors/dbs-checks-for-schools/](http://www.onlinedbschecks.co.uk/job-sectors/dbs-checks-for-schools/)