



# Overarching Safeguarding Policy

**Date of Review:** September 2026

**Date of Next Review:** September 2027

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# Purpose and Principles

**Laurus Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people across its educational settings. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is at the heart of the Trust's vision, values and strategic priorities.**

The Trust believes that every child and young person has the right to feel safe, be heard, achieve positive outcomes and receive support at the earliest possible opportunity. Our safeguarding arrangements seek to create inclusive, respectful and protective environments in which children can thrive academically, socially and personally.

This overarching policy sets out the Trust's safeguarding expectations, principles and governance arrangements and applies to all Trust schools.

The Trust is committed to:

- Providing help and support as soon as concerns emerge.
- Protecting children and young people from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Promoting physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.
- Creating safe, inclusive and supportive learning environments.
- Ensuring all safeguarding practice is child-centred and informed by the views, wishes and experiences of children.
- Working effectively with parents, carers, safeguarding partners and other agencies.
- Maintaining high standards of safeguarding practice across all Trust settings.
- Ensuring all children and young people receive equitable safeguarding support regardless of age, phase of education, background, need or circumstance.

Safeguarding encompasses child protection and includes protecting children and young people from abuse, neglect, exploitation, radicalisation, serious violence, online harms, child-on-child abuse and other risks that may impact upon their welfare, safety or development.

# Trust Safeguarding Principles

Across all Trust settings, safeguarding practice will be underpinned by four core principles:

## Prevention

Creating environments where children are safe, respected and supported through strong relationships, effective curriculum provision, positive attendance culture and robust recruitment procedures.

## Protection

Ensuring concerns are identified, reported, assessed and responded to promptly through clear safeguarding procedures and effective professional practice.

## Partnership

Working collaboratively with children, families, safeguarding partners and other agencies to achieve positive outcomes and reduce risk.

## Support

Providing timely and appropriate support to children, young people, families and staff to promote wellbeing and reduce vulnerability.

# Trust Governance and Accountability

The Board of Trustees retains overall accountability for safeguarding across the Trust.

The Board will ensure:

- Effective safeguarding governance arrangements are in place.
- Safeguarding remains a strategic priority across all Trust settings.
- Appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented.
- Safeguarding compliance is monitored through regular reporting and quality assurance activities.
- Sufficient resources, training and leadership capacity are allocated to safeguarding.
- Safeguarding practice is reviewed regularly and continuous improvement is promoted.

The Trust Executive Team will work alongside school leaders to ensure consistent implementation of safeguarding expectations and to support effective safeguarding practice throughout the Trust.

# Trust Expectations of Individual Settings

Each Trust setting will:

- Maintain a compliant local safeguarding and child protection policy.
- Appoint a suitably trained Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy DSLs.
- Implement effective safeguarding recording and information-sharing systems.
- Deliver safeguarding training in line with statutory guidance.
- Maintain effective relationships with local safeguarding partners and agencies.
- Promote safeguarding through curriculum, pastoral and enrichment opportunities.
- Monitor attendance, wellbeing and vulnerability indicators.
- Complete safeguarding quality assurance activities as directed by the Trust.
- Escalate significant safeguarding concerns, themes and risks through Trust reporting structures.

This policy should be read alongside the safeguarding policy of each individual Trust setting. Individual settings will maintain their own local safeguarding and child protection policies which reflect their specific context, local safeguarding partnership arrangements, referral pathways and operational procedures. The latest version of each local safeguarding policy is available on the relevant school's website and should be consulted where local safeguarding procedures or contacts are required.

This policy is underpinned by the Laurus Trust Safeguarding Strategy, which establishes the Trust's commitment to delivering consistent, high-quality safeguarding practice across all educational phases and provisions. Through the implementation of this policy, the Trust seeks to ensure that every child and young person benefits from the same high standards of safeguarding, pastoral care, attendance support, inclusion and wellbeing regardless of the setting they attend. The Trust recognises that safeguarding is fundamental to improving outcomes, promoting social mobility, supporting mental wellbeing and enabling all children and young people to thrive.

Our approach is rooted in a proactive safeguarding culture, strong governance, early intervention, effective partnership working, robust information sharing, continuous professional development and a commitment to learning from best practice across the Trust and beyond.

# Equality Impact Statement

|                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Names and title of people involved with this assessment                 | Rachel Robinson<br>Trust Director of Inclusion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Impact assessment carried out with regard to identified characteristics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious belief<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Reassignment |
| Summary of any issue/proposed changes                                   | n/a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Date                                                                    | 23.09.26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Date of next review                                                     | September 2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



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