

# Meadow Pathways Wellbeing and Education Cornwall (MPWEC)



## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Education other than at School (EOTAS)

*Responsibility to update:* Zoe Waitz and Michelle Pascoe

*Applies to:* All staff, contractors, volunteers and visiting professionals working with children and young people (CYP) engaged in Meadow Pathways EOTAS packages (including tuition in homes, community venues and online).

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### Introduction

Meadow Pathways Wellbeing and Education Cornwall is an alternative EOTAS (Education Otherwise Than At School) provider committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in our care. This policy sets out our approach and responsibilities,

aligned with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, and Cornwall local safeguarding arrangements.

## **Legal Framework**

1. Children Act 1989 & 2004
2. Education Act 2002
3. Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)
4. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
5. Equality Act 2010
6. Human Rights Act 1998
7. Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR)

## **Definitions**

**Safeguarding:** Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health or development, ensuring safe and effective care.

**Child Protection:** Part of safeguarding focused on protecting children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

Head of Provision: Michelle Pascoe and Zoe Waitz.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Michelle Pascoe

Deputy DSL: Zoe Waitz

All team members must understand and fulfil their safeguarding duties.

## **Professional Responsibilities**

- Ensure children feel safe and listened to.
- Create an environment where children feel valued.
- Consider and act upon the best interests of the child.
- Follow safer recruitment rigorously.
- Maintain ongoing learning, development, and supervision.
- Recognise additional challenges for children with SEND or health conditions.
- Be vigilant to signs of abuse, including for those with complex needs.
- Understand child-on-child abuse.
- Maintain an 'it could happen here' attitude.
- Follow procedures for sharing concerns, including low-level concerns.
- Implement Cornwall local safeguarding procedures.
- Provide opportunities for children to learn about safe relationships.
- Adopt a zero-tolerance approach to harassment, violence, and bullying.

## **Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy**

**Appointment:** Directors Michelle Pascoe and Zoe Waitz are DSL and a Deputy DSL. Both receive training every two years.

**Availability:** DSL/Deputy available during operational hours.

### **DSL Responsibilities:**

- Support team members with concerns.
- Advise actions on safeguarding concerns.
- Ensure children are safeguarded immediately.
- Maintain cover arrangements.
- Liaise with local authorities (LADO, MARU, CIOS SCP).
- Adopt child-focused, holistic approach.
- Refer to Channel, police, DBS as required.
- Link with HR on staff allegations.
- Monitor and report on safeguarding.
- Promote LAC achievements and maintain social worker contacts.
- Oversee online filtering and monitoring safeguarding.

*Record Keeping:* Maintain detailed, secure records in child protection files.

*Information Sharing:* GDPR is not a barrier. Share as required for child welfare.

*File Transfer:* Transfer child protection files securely within required timescales.

### **Training and Updates**

- Regular updates via training, meetings, or written bulletins.
- Mandatory: Introduction to Safeguarding (week 1), Safeguarding Foundation (3 months), Annual KCSIE update.
- Annual line-manager competency check with refresher if needed.
- DSL/Deputy advanced training every two years.
- Leadership familiar with Working Together guidance.

### **Safer Recruitment**

Enhanced DBS checks, identity and reference verification, and pre-employment safeguarding training. Maintain Single Central Record.

### **Early Help**

Identify and refer children needing Early Help under Children Act 1989. Team members aware of local Early Help processes and vulnerabilities.

### **Reporting Concerns**

Immediate reporting to DSL/Deputy; in emergencies contact 999.  
Follow clear recording procedures.  
Escalate if concerns are not addressed.

### **DBS and Professional Referrals**

Head of Provision refers to DBS and relevant bodies when staff are dismissed or allegations upheld.

### **Partnership and Information Sharing**

1. **LADO: 01872 326536, [lado@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:lado@cornwall.gov.uk)**
2. **MARU: 0300 123 1116, [multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk)**
3. **CIOS SCP: 01872 324218, [ciosscp@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:ciosscp@cornwall.gov.uk)**

Share information in line with GDPR and local protocols.

#### **Child-on-Child Abuse**

- Zero tolerance; follow Cornwall procedures; support victims; implement contextual safeguarding; refer as required to police or social care.

#### **Bullying**

- Define and tackle bullying as a safeguarding matter; report to DSL immediately; support all pupils.

#### **Preventative Strategies**

- Embed PSHE/RSE; tailor for SEND; promote online safety; include LGBTQ+ inclusion.

#### **Online Safety**

- Whole-provider approach to filtering and monitoring; staff protocols; annual risk assessment; rapid incident response.

#### **Children Absent from Education**

- Monitor attendance; DSL follows up unauthorised absences; multi-agency referrals for missing pupils; record and escalate serious cases.