



Aston Rowant C+E Primary School

Child Protection Policy

Vision: To be a community of courageous life-long learners, who are rooted in God, live out our Christian values and enjoy life in all its fullness. (Col 2:1-7)

Mission: Growing together, rooted in God and inspiring one another through our values and our broad enriched curriculum.

Strapline: Growing together, rooted in God, having fullness of life (Col 2:1-7)

Date of Policy: September 2025

Date of Policy review: September 2026

Headteacher: Mrs H France

Date: 20th September 2025

SENDCo: Miss A Bedwin

Date: 20th September 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

At Aston Rowant C+E Primary School, safeguarding is the golden thread that underpins everything we do. We are committed to providing a safe, caring and nurturing environment where children feel secure, confident and protected from harm.

Our duty to safeguard all pupils is guided by:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- The Education Act 2002 (Section 175)
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children Act 1989 and 2004

This policy works alongside our Christian values of **Gratitude, Resilience, Outreach, Wonder, Truth and Harmony**, promoting a culture where children flourish in safety, dignity and respect.

2. AIMS

This policy aims to ensure that:

- every pupil feels safe and protected
- staff understand their safeguarding duties
- concerns are identified early and acted upon swiftly
- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- families are supported with compassion and professionalism
- statutory guidance is followed and embedded in daily practice
- safeguarding culture is strong, transparent and continually improving

3. SAFEGUARDING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs H France (Headteacher)

Responsible for:

- receiving and acting on all safeguarding concerns
- deciding threshold levels for referral
- liaising with MASH/LADO
- maintaining accurate, secure safeguarding records
- ensuring staff training is up to date
- safeguarding oversight across curriculum, pastoral and attendance systems

Deputy DSL Mrs Alexi Olsen

Supports and deputises for the DSL.

All Staff

All staff must:

- read and understand the safeguarding policy
- complete annual safeguarding training
- follow safer working practices
- log concerns immediately on MyConcern
- never promise confidentiality
- listen carefully and act without delay

Governing Body

Governors ensure:

- compliance with statutory guidance
- DSL has adequate time, training and resources
- safeguarding procedures are monitored
- safer recruitment is consistently applied

4. RECOGNISING ABUSE

All staff are trained to recognise signs of:

- physical abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- neglect
- child-on-child abuse
- online abuse
- exploitation (CSE/CCE)
- FGM
- forced marriage
- domestic abuse
- radicalisation and extremism

All staff must take a “it could happen here” approach.

5. CHILD-ON-CHILD ABUSE

Child-on-child abuse is **safeguarding**, not “poor behaviour”.

Includes:

- bullying (including prejudice-based bullying)
- sexual harassment
- harmful sexual behaviour
- online abuse
- coercion or control
- upskirting
- physical aggression

Staff must:

- intervene immediately
- record on MyConcern
- escalate to the DSL
- support both victim and child who has harmed

6. Reporting & Recording Concerns

All concerns must be recorded on MyConcern and passed to the DSL the same day.

Staff must record:

- what was said (in child's words)
- time/date
- context
- body language/behaviour
- who was present
- factual information only

Never:

- investigate
- interview
- ask leading questions
- promise confidentiality

7. WORKING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

We value positive relationships with families.

However, safeguarding concerns **cannot** be discussed with parents if doing so places the child at greater risk.

Where appropriate, the DSL will:

- communicate concerns sensitively
- offer Early Help support
- signpost external agencies
- work collaboratively to improve outcomes

8. EARLY HELP

Early Help is offered when a child's needs do not meet statutory thresholds but require support.

We may provide or coordinate:

- pastoral support
- emotional literacy interventions
- Early Help Assessment
- Team Around the Family meetings

Early Help is recorded and monitored by the DSL.

9. REFERRALS TO MASH / LADO

The DSL will refer to:

- **MASH** if a child is at risk of significant harm
- **LADO** for allegations about staff conduct

Referrals may be made without parental consent if necessary for safety.

10. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF

Any allegation about staff behaviour is treated with the highest seriousness.

If an allegation concerns a member of staff:

- report immediately to the Headteacher (DSL)
- Headteacher contacts LADO
- staff member removed from duties if required
- confidentiality maintained

If the allegation concerns the Headteacher:

- report to the **Chair of Governors** immediately.

11. SAFER RECRUITMENT

We follow safer recruitment practices including:

- enhanced DBS checks
- identity verification
- reference checks
- safeguarding interview questions
- risk assessments for volunteers

12. SUPPORTING PUPILS

We support pupils through:

- trusted adults
- nurture groups
- pastoral support
- counselling referral (if appropriate)
- online safety curriculum
- RHE and Kapow lessons
- Christian ethos promoting safety and love

Children are taught:

- how to recognise unsafe situations
- how to seek help
- names of trusted adults
- online safety skills
- respectful relationships

13. SAFEGUARDING AND THE CURRICULUM

Safeguarding is embedded across:

- PSHE / RHE (Kapow)
- Computing (online safety)
- RSE
- assemblies
- Christian values education

Children learn:

- body autonomy
- being safe online
- appropriate boundaries
- consent (age-appropriate)
- respect and anti-bullying
- recognising unhealthy behaviours

14. CONFIDENTIALITY & INFORMATION SHARING

We follow statutory guidance on information sharing.

We share information:

- only with those who need it
- for safeguarding purposes
- securely and accurately

Parents cannot veto information sharing when safety is at risk.

15. ATTENDANCE AND SAFEGUARDING

Attendance is a safeguarding indicator.

DSL monitors:

- persistent absence
- patterns of lateness
- children missing education
- vulnerable groups

Absence without reason is followed up immediately.

16. ONLINE SAFETY

We ensure:

- filtered internet access
- taught curriculum
- staff vigilance
- safe use of technology
- monitoring systems
- parent information sessions

Children learn:

- how to stay safe online
- managing risks
- how to report concerns

17. Monitoring and Review

The DSL and safeguarding governor review:

- patterns of concern
- training records
- policy implementation
- safeguarding culture

Policy is reviewed annually.

18. Linked Policies

- Behaviour Policy
- RSE Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Equality Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct