



SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING WELFARE STATEMENT

The Headmaster and governors of Reading School are aware of their responsibility for appointing appropriate teaching and associate staff, ensuring that all staff have commitment, capability and qualifications for the post and are proper and fit persons to be in charge of children and young people.

Reading School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. To assist in this, the school follows a formal recruitment procedure for the employment of all staff and adheres to the guidelines outlined in the school's Child Protection Policy, the recommendations of the Working Together to Safeguard Children, Keeping Children Safe in Education (latest published update) and Ofsted documentation.

We believe that all pupils, regardless of age, special needs or disability, racial/cultural heritage, religious belief and sexual orientation have the right to protection from all types of harm and abuse. This policy will operate in conjunction with other related policies and procedures, such as whole school policies on Anti-Bullying and Equal Opportunities.

Our approach to child protection is based on, and reflects the current principles recognised in UK legislation, including those around maintaining confidentiality and reporting concerns about pupils likely to suffer significant harm to the child protection agencies.

We encourage the students in our care, both day and boarding, to raise any concerns that they might have and ensure that these are taken seriously so there is a confidence amongst the school community to report all level of concerns. We are committed to working in partnership with parents; child protection agencies and diverse communities, to continuously develop and improve the safeguarding culture within our school.

Our robust approach to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils aims to help keep students safe and importantly equip them to tackle the challenges and opportunities of daily life with renewed confidence and vigour. Central to this is the personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) curriculum, tutor time curriculum and chapel services.

All staff are committed to a culture of safeguarding that seeks to protect pupils, staff and volunteers so that they feel a sense of belonging and wellbeing. A key aspect is that all staff understand what sexual violence and sexual harassment might look like so they know how to respond to all levels of incidents so there is clarity of what is acceptable in particular with child-on-child abuse. This also includes ensuring that safeguarding is considered a key element in all our practices and protocols for online safety, including in a remote learning/continuous learning environment and working from home. It is our shared responsibility and our shared commitment to promote the safety and welfare of all who study in and work with and for Reading School.

The Designated Child Protection Officer/Safeguarding Lead for Reading School is: **Ms Lizzie Ayres, Deputy Headteacher**

The Deputy Designated Officer/Deputy Safeguarding Leads for Reading School are:

Mr D McGall, Assistant Head (Pastoral) & Teacher of PE

Mr C Betteridge, Boarding Housemaster (South House) & Teacher of Maths

Mr A Lloyd, Assistant Head (Head of Sixth Form) & Teacher of English

Mr D Singh, Community Relations Manager

The Deputy Designated Officer/Deputy Safeguarding Lead for Reading School (Boarding) is: **Mr C Betteridge, South House Boarding Housemaster**

The Designated Looked After Children Officer for Reading School is: **Mr T P Evans, Assistant Headmaster**

The Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Preventing Extremism is: **Ms Lizzie Ayres, Deputy Headteacher**