



**Mission Statement**  
 "A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together"

# CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY

**Effective Date:** 01/04/2017

**Review Date:** September 2025 Annual

Review Date	Signed Head Teacher	Signed Director RCSAT
16/11/2018	<i>J. Field</i>	<i>P. Burt</i>
20/09/2019	<i>J. Field</i>	<i>P. Burt</i>
30/09/2020	<i>J. M. Badger</i>	<i>P. Burt</i>
14/10/2021	<i>J. M. Badger</i>	<i>P. Burt</i>
05/09/2022	<i>J. M. Badger</i>	<i>P. Burt</i>
05/09/23	<i>J. M. Badger</i>	<i>P. Burt</i>
02/09/2024	<i>J. M. Badger</i>	<i>P. Burt</i>

Persons Responsible for Policy:	Executive Headteacher RCSAT
Approval Date	01/04/2017
Signed:	Director RCSAT
Signed:	Executive Headteacher RCSAT



At Rural Church Schools Academy Trust (RCSAT), the named personnel with designated responsibility for Child Protection and Safeguarding are:

<b>Designated Safeguarding Lead</b>	<b>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead</b>	<b>Safeguarding Governor</b>
Mrs Nicola Badger (Principal Bunbury & EHT all schools) Ms Katherine Charlesworth (all schools) Mrs Louise McDonough (St Oswald's) Mrs Kate Appleby (Warmingham)	Miss Charlotte Hickson (Bunbury) Mrs Alison Tomlinson (St Oswald's) Mrs Sally Allen (Warmingham)	Mrs Suzie Waddington (Bunbury) Mr Malcom Gates (Warmingham) Brenda Brockbank (St Oswald's)

The named personnel with designated responsibility regarding allegations against staff/those working in the school are:

<b>Designated Senior Manager</b>	<b>Chair of Governors (in the event of an allegation against a Senior Manager)</b>
Mrs Nicola Badger (EHT) Mrs Nicola Badger (Bunbury) Mrs Louise McDonough (St Oswald's) Mrs Kate Appleby (Warmingham)	Mr Piers Bostock (across all schools)

Additional Responsibilities:

<b>Designated teacher for cared for children</b>
Katherine Charlesworth (RCSAT Pastoral Lead across all schools)

<b>Designated teacher for Mental Health</b>
Katherine Charlesworth (RCSAT Pastoral Lead across all schools)

<b>Single Point of Contact for PREVENT (SPOC)</b>
Nicola Badger RCSAT Executive Headteacher

## 1. Introduction

1.1 At the Rural Church Schools Academy Trust we recognise the responsibility we have under Section 175 of the Education and Inspections Act 2002, to have arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The Governing Board in our schools approves the S175/157 return to the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CESCP) on a yearly basis.

1.2 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

1.3 Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children.

1.4 In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners in this school make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that we consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child. The term child includes everyone under the age of 18.

1.5 No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

1.6 Through our day-to-day contact with pupils and direct work with families, staff take notice of indicators of possible abuse or neglect and consult with Children's Services in Cheshire East (or in neighbouring authorities dependent upon the child's area of residence), recognising that we form part of the wider safeguarding system for children.

1.2 This responsibility also means that RCSAT is aware of the behaviour of staff in the school, maintaining an attitude of **'it could happen here'** where safeguarding is concerned.

2. This policy demonstrates the school's commitment and compliance with safeguarding legislation and it should be read in conjunction with:

- [Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership \(CESCP\) procedures](#)
- [Working together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#)
- [What to do if you are worried a child is being abused. 2015](#)
- [Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage Sept 2023](#)
- [Prevent duty guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Behaviour in Schools: advice for Head teachers and Staff DFE 2022](#)
- [Safer Working Practice Guidance for those working with Children and young people in education settings](#)
- ["Preventing and Tackling Bullying" DfE July 2017](#)
- [School and Colleges: When to call the police](#)
- [Searching, Screening and Confiscation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\) – July 2022](#)
- [Working together to improve school attendance - August 2024](#)
- RCSAT Mental Health Policy
- RCSAT online safety policy
- RCSAT Relationships Education Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct (included in staff handbook)
- Staff use of mobile phones and Social Media Policy
- Substance Misuse Policy



### 3. In our Trust we ensure that

- 3.1 All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, are treated equally and have equal rights to protection;
- 3.2 All staff act on concerns or disclosures that may suggest a child is at risk of harm.
- 3.3 All staff are professionally curious and feel able to challenge decisions to ensure children receive the right support.
- 3.4 Pupils and staff involved in Safeguarding issues receive appropriate support.
- 3.5 Staff adhere to the RCSAT Staff Handbook and understand what to do in the event of any allegations against any adult working in the setting;
- 3.6 All staff are aware of Early Help and ensure that relevant assessments and referrals take place;
- 3.7 All staff are aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label; they recognise that, in most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.
- 3.8 Adults understand that children's poor behaviour may be a sign they are suffering harm or that they have been traumatised by abuse.
- 3.9 Staff have received advice, support and training in regard to adverse experiences and trauma informed practice.
- 3.10 This policy is available on our school website and printed copies of this document are available to parents upon request. It should be read in conjunction with Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedure, RCSAT-PR-011-01.
- 3.11 Parents and carers are informed about this policy when their children join an RCSAT school and through the school newsletter.
- 3.12 The policy is provided to all staff (including temporary staff and volunteers) at induction; alongside our Staff Code of Conduct.

### 4 Induction & support

- 4.1 The safeguarding induction will cover online safety, which details expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring, the role of DSL, keeping children safe in education Part 1 and Annexe B, pupil behaviour policy (including bullying), safeguarding response for those children who go missing from education, staff code of conduct (including whistleblowing and social media)
- 4.2 In addition, all staff are provided with Part One of the statutory guidance *'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 and Annexe B'* and are required annually to sign, recording that they have read and understood it.
- 4.3 The Designated Lead is able to support all staff in understanding their responsibilities and implementing it in their practice.

### 5 Annexe B Keeping Children Safe In Education

- 5.1 Annexe B contains important additional information about specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues.
- 5.2 School and college Leaders and those staff who work directly with Children should read Annexe B
- 5.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead is able to support all staff in understanding their responsibilities and implement it in their practice

6 This Policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if there are changes in legislation.