

Animating Education: Children's Safeguarding Policy

Our Commitment

Animating Education is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We operate in line with statutory responsibilities, government guidance, and best practice standards to ensure a safe, creative environment for every child we work with.

We believe:

- The **welfare of children is paramount** in all we do.
 - All children, regardless of age, disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, have an **equal right to protection** from harm.
 - Some children may be **more vulnerable** due to prior experiences, communication needs, or other circumstances.
 - Effective safeguarding relies on **partnerships** with children, parents/carers, and other agencies.
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Purpose of This Policy

This policy aims to:

- **Protect children and young people** who access Animating Education's services from harm or abuse.
- Guide all staff, volunteers, and families on the **principles and responsibilities** underpinning our safeguarding approach.

This policy applies to:

- All staff (paid and unpaid), freelancers, trustees, volunteers, students, and anyone working on behalf of Animating Education.

Failure to adhere to this policy and its procedures will be treated seriously and may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal or exclusion from the organisation.

Key Definitions

- **Child:** Anyone under the age of 18 (Children Act 1989).
 - **Adult at Risk:** An adult who:
 - Has care and support needs,
 - Is experiencing or at risk of abuse/neglect,
 - And is unable to protect themselves due to those needs.
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Forms of Abuse

Children and adults may face abuse from family members or others in their lives. Abuse can be:

- **Physical**
- **Sexual**
- **Emotional**
- **Neglect**

Additional forms include:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
 - Child sexual or criminal exploitation
 - Domestic abuse
 - Female genital mutilation (FGM)
 - Grooming
 - Child trafficking
 - Historical abuse
 - Online abuse
 - Radicalisation and extremism
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Prevent Duty

Under the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**, certain organisations must take steps to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism. While Animating Education is not a specified authority, we remain alert to the risks of radicalisation and extremism and support children's resilience to harmful narratives.

Training and Awareness

Animating Education ensures all staff, trustees, volunteers, and relevant contractors receive appropriate safeguarding training.

At minimum, all involved personnel must:

- Understand safeguarding and their role in it.
- Recognise when a child may need protection.
- Know how to raise a safeguarding concern.
- Uphold dignity and respect in all interactions with children.
- Be familiar with this Safeguarding Policy.

For more about supporting vulnerable adults, refer to our **Adult Safeguarding Policy**.

DBS Checks for All Staff and Volunteers

As part of our commitment to safeguarding children and young people, **Animating Education** requires that all staff, volunteers, and anyone working directly with children undergo a **DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check** before starting their roles. This check ensures that individuals do not have any convictions or other information that would make them unsuitable to work with vulnerable groups.

We recognize the importance of creating a safe environment for children, and as such, a DBS check is a mandatory part of the recruitment process for anyone in a role where they may have direct contact with children or young people.

Key Points:

- All employees, volunteers, and freelancers who work with children must have an enhanced DBS check.
- The DBS check must be renewed periodically as part of ongoing safeguarding practices.
- Any concerns or issues arising from a DBS check will be reviewed by the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and action will be taken in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- We are committed to GDPR and data protection principles.
- Safeguarding concerns will only be shared with relevant professionals on a **need-to-know** basis.
- If a child is at **immediate risk of harm**, we will contact **social services or the police** without delay.

Record Keeping


We keep written records of all safeguarding concerns, including:

- Names of those involved
- Nature of the concern
- Actions taken
- Decisions made and rationale

Reporting a Concern


Our **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)** is:

Sophie Burrows

 sophie@animatingeducation.co.uk

If your concern **involves Sophie**, or you feel unable to speak with her, please contact:

Lucy Whitehead

 lucy@animatingeducation.co.uk