



## Schoolz at Home

### Safeguarding Policy Statement

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Schoolz at Home is an organisation who delivers online classes and workshops to Children & Young People in the home schooling community. We work with young people of all ages and in online settings and alternative educational venues.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive Schoolz at Home services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Schoolz at Home including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

#### **Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from [nspcc.org.uk/learning](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/learning).

#### **Supporting documents**

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents.

- Role description for the designated safeguarding officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Recording concerns and information sharing
- Child protection records retention and storage
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Behaviour codes for children and young people
- Photography and sharing images guidance
- Safer recruitment
- Online safety
- Anti-bullying
- Managing complaints
- Whistleblowing



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- Health and safety
- Induction, training, supervision and support
- Adult to child supervision ratios

#### **We believe that:**

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them.

#### **We recognise that:**

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

#### **We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:**

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [*more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: [ico.org.uk/for-organisations](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations)*]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern



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- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

## **Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from [nspcc.org.uk/learning](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/learning).

### **Schoolz at Home Definitions:**

**Young people/person:** All safeguarding and child protection legislation and guidance recognises a child or young person as anyone up to the age of 18, this policy is in place to safeguard all the young people that Schoolz at Home works with, which in some cases will be up to the age of 25 years i.e. Vulnerable adult. Some aspects of this policy, such as, code of conduct and good practice will be in place to protect all young people, regardless of age.

**Vulnerable adult:** Someone over the age of 18, who is considered 'vulnerable' for one reason or another. There is no simple definition based on age or disability; not all those with a physical or other disability should be classed as 'vulnerable', some young people may experience periods of vulnerability.

**Schoolz at Home Staff:** This policy applies to all full and part-time paid staff as well as volunteers at Schoolz at Home, any contract or sessional paid staff or volunteers, all committee members and young people. For the purpose of this document any reference to Schoolz at Home will include all those mentioned above.



## **Schoolz at Home**

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#### **Nominated child protection lead**

Name: Kate Frazer: Tel 07724 204303 /email: kate@schoolzathome.co.uk

#### **Deputy child protection lead(s)**

Name: Kate Frazer: Tel 07724 204303 / email: kate@schoolzathome.co.uk

#### **Trustee/Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection**

Name: Kate Frazer: Tel 07724 204303 / email: kate@schoolzathome.co.uk

#### **NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: 19.3.21

Signed: ~~Kate Frazer~~

*[this should be signed by the most senior person with responsibility for safeguarding in your organisation, for example the safeguarding lead on your board of trustees].*

Date: 19.3.21



## **Child Protection Procedures**

These procedures seek to ensure that all employees and volunteers have a clear understanding of their responsibilities when working with children and young people.

The aim of these procedures is to ensure that employees:

- Recognise the signs of child abuse and what appropriate course of action should be taken in such circumstances.
- Understand the potential risks to themselves and ensure that good practice is adhered to at all times.
- Recognise signs of improper behaviour from other employees, adults and young people and take appropriate action should this occur.

## **What is Child Abuse?**

There are four main forms of child abuse:

### **1. Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse may involve actions such as hitting, shaking and burning as well as giving children alcohol, inappropriate drugs or poison. Physical abuse as well as being a deliberate act can be caused by an omission or failure to act to protect.

### **2. Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is a persistent lack of love and affection. A child may be constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted. This can make the child nervous and withdrawn. Other forms of emotional abuse include excessive overprotection and unrealistic pressure to succeed. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of children although it may occur alone.

### **3. Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing the child or young person to take part in sexual activities whether or not the child is aware of, or consents to, what is happening. Sexual abuse can involve penetrative acts such as rape, buggery or oral sex or non-penetrative acts such as fondling. It may also involve non-contact activities such as showing pornographic material or involvement of producing such material or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.



#### **4. Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and or psychological needs. These needs include, for example, adequate food and warm clothing and also medical care. Children may be left alone unsupervised. Emotional neglect is when children are deprived of love and affection.

#### **Recognising Child Abuse**

Recognising child abuse is not easy and it is not the responsibility of employees or volunteers to decide whether or not abuse has taken place or if a child is at significant risk. Employees and volunteers however do have a responsibility to act if they have any concerns.

#### **Indications that a child is being abused:**

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruises, cuts and burns particularly if situated on parts of the body not normally prone to such injuries.
- Injuries for which an explanation seems inconsistent.
- Fear of parents being approached about such injuries.
- Reluctance to get changed e.g. wearing long sleeves in hot weather.
- Flinching when touched or approached.
- A failure to thrive or grow.
- Sudden speech disorders.
- Difficulties in making friends.
- The child is prevented from socialising.
- Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour.
- Fear of being left with a specific person.
- Sexually explicit behaviour.
- Sexual knowledge beyond their age and developmental level.
- A distrust of adults particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected.
- Constant hunger, sometimes stealing food.
- The child being dirty/smelly and unkempt
- Loss of weight.
- Inappropriate dress for the conditions.

This list is by no means definitive and it is important to remember that many children will exhibit some of these indicators at some time and the presence of one or more should **not** be taken as proof that abuse is occurring. There may be other reasons for changes in behaviour such as a death in the family or the birth of a new baby.



It is crucial that this is only a process of observation and that at no point in time should a member of Schoolz at Home feel that they should be actively seeking out abuse or an abuser.

The responsibility of staff is to ensure that if they have concerns about the welfare of a child, they must report it and must never assume that others will do it.

## **Responding to allegations and suspicions of abuse**

### **1. Responding to a child making an allegation of abuse**

- Stay calm.
- Listen carefully.
- Find an appropriate, early opportunity to explain that it is likely that the information will need to be shared. Do not promise to keep secrets.
- Allow the child to continue at their own pace.
- Ask questions for clarification only and at all times avoid asking questions that suggest a particular answer.
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing in telling you.  
Tell them what you will do next and with whom the information will be shared.
- Record in writing what was said using the child's own words as soon as possible. Note the date and time, any names mentioned and to whom the information was given. Ensure that this record is signed and dated.
- Relay this information as soon as possible to the Monitoring Officer (who is the designated Child Protection officer).
- Remember that it is important that everyone at The Music Box is aware that the person who first encounters a case of alleged or suspected abuse is not responsible for deciding whether or not abuse has occurred. This is the task of the professional child protection agencies following a referral to them of concern about a child.



## **2. Responding to signs of suspicions of abuse.**

Employees and volunteers who are concerned about an individual child should record these concerns and raise them at the earliest opportunity with the designated child protection officer.

To ensure we safeguard the child/young person in the most effective way there are two forms to complete depending on the severity of the circumstance:

**\* Please note it may be appropriate to complete a CAF (Common Assessment Framework process) on your client, this is also seen as an effective method of prevention. This does not in any way replace the following methods:**

a. Safeguarding C&YP Concern form

b. Making a referral to Social Care

If you are unsure which form to complete please speak to your line manager/ Child Protection officer.

## **3. Responding to suspicions that a colleague may be abusing a young person or not following the code of good practice.**

- Any employee or volunteer who suspects that a colleague may be abusing children should act on their suspicions. Action should also be taken if it is felt that colleagues are not following the codes of conduct set out in this document. This action will serve not only to protect children but also colleagues from false accusations.
- Write down the details of the incident using the Safeguarding CYP Concern Form available on our website.
- Pass this report to your line manager or child protection officer at the earliest opportunity. If the suspect is your most senior manager you must contact the LADO with your concern.
- The manager (OR LADO) should then take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the child and of any other children who may be at risk. **(Leeds City Council Local Authority Designated officer (LADO) This duty is shared by Claire Ford and Carolyn Hargreaves who can be reached by calling- 01132478652)**
- The matter should then be discussed with the Child Protection officer, who will then consider whether the matter is an issue relating to poor practice or to child abuse.
- If the matter relates to poor practice, procedures relating to misconduct should be followed. If the matter relates to child abuse the matter should be referred to Social Services who may involve the Police, and the employee suspended pending the outcome of an internal investigation into the allegations.





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Schoolz at Home acknowledges that this is an extremely sensitive issue for employees and assures all employees and persons working on its behalf that it will fully support and protect anyone, who in good faith, reports a concern that a colleague is, or may be, abusing a child or behaving inappropriately.

#### **Confidentiality**

The legal principle that “the welfare of the child is paramount” means that the considerations of confidentiality that might apply to other situations within the organisation should not be allowed to override the right of the child to be protected from harm. Whilst Schoolz at Home staff will ensure that young people’s rights to privacy and confidence is respected, there may be times when this confidence is breached. If a young person discloses information about him/herself or another young person, which raises child protection concerns, then these concerns will be reported in line with Schoolz at Home reporting concerns procedure. Schoolz at Home will ensure that the young person is involved, consulted and kept informed about what action, if any, is to be taken, and during each step of the reporting procedure.

Any personal information gathered about a young person will be stored in a safe and confidential place. In Schoolz at Home registered office, there is a locked Safeguarding Children cabinet for all concerns/referrals to be stored centrally.

Only those who need to know will have access to this information e.g. (designated safeguarding officer and line manager/Director). It may be necessary to pass this information on to the relevant authorities, such as, social services, police, NSPCC, and either parents/guardians or carers (if appropriate). When doing so, Schoolz at Home will ensure that the young person is involved and gives consent in making that decision. The only situation when a referral can and will be made without the consent of the young person will be if that young person is at serious risk of harm (e.g. life threatening, abuse).

#### **Recording Procedure**

In all situations, including those in which the cause for concern arises from a disclosure made in confidence, it is vitally important to record the details of an allegation or reported incident, regardless of **whether** or **not** the concerns are shared with a statutory agency.



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An accurate note should be made of:

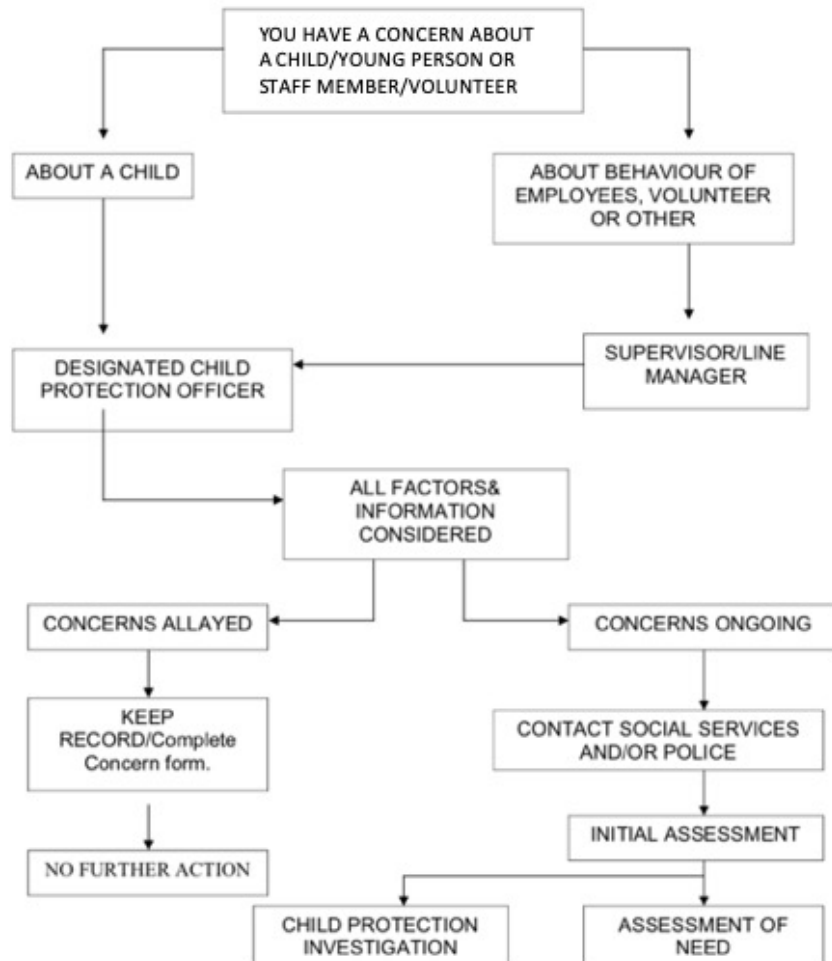
- The date and time of the incident and disclosure.
- The parties who were involved.
- What was said and done by whom.
- Any further action taken by Schoolz at Home to investigate the matter.  
Any further action e.g. the suspension of a worker.  
Where relevant, reasons why there was no referral to a statutory agency
- The full name of the person/s reporting and to who reported.

This record should be stored securely and shared only with those who need to know. In accordance with the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board policy all recorded concerns are required to be stored for 7 years. In addition, all referral details are required to be kept for 35 years. These procedures not only serve to protect children but also protect staff and the organisation itself.

**The importance of good record keeping in this area cannot be over stressed.**



**Reporting Child Protection Concerns – A Summary.**





## **Code of Conduct and Good Practice**

These guidelines are designed not only to protect children but also to protect staff from positions where false allegations may occur.

### **Good practice**

#### **1. Contact with children**

Do not spend excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.

Children should only be taken alone on a vehicle journey in an emergency or with parental consent.

Do not take children to your home.

Never meet up with children outside of your work with Schoolz at Home unless it is with the full consent and knowledge of the child's parents / carers and your manager.

Never enter a house when a child is on their own.

#### **2. Relationships**

All staff should be aware that they should never: Engage in rough physical games including horseplay. Engage in sexually provocative games.

Allow or engage in touching of any form unless in an emergency or to prevent one. Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.

Make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child, even in fun.

Let allegations a child makes be ignored or go unrecorded.

Do things of a personal nature for children that they can do themselves. Tolerate oppressive or bullying behaviour.

#### **3. Intimate Care**

It may sometimes be necessary for staff to do things of a personal nature for children, particularly if they are very young or disabled. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of the parents and when adequate training has taken place. If an emergency situation arises that requires this type of help then parents should be fully informed as soon as is reasonably possible.



#### **4. Restraint**

Restraint is where a child is being held, moved or prevented from moving, against their will because not to do so would result in injury to themselves, or to others or would cause significant damage to property. Restraint must always be used as a last resort, when all other methods of controlling a situation have been tried and failed. Restraint should never be used as a punishment or to bring about compliance (except where there is a risk of injury).

Only staff that are properly trained in restraint techniques should carry it out. A young person should be restrained for the shortest period necessary to bring the situation under control.

All such incidents will be recorded, detailing the facts of the behaviour, witnesses, who restrained the young person and how, what other methods had been tried and what other follow up action took place. This record should then be passed to the designated child protection officer. Parents/Carers should be informed fully if restraint measures were used.

#### **Code of Conduct**

Staff must:

- Treat all children and young people and their possessions with respect. Provide an example of good conduct you wish others to follow.
- Ensure that whenever possible there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people, or at least that you are within the sight or hearing of others.
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy and encourage young people to feel comfortable, being caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like.
- Remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.
- Be aware that physical contact with a child or young person may be misinterpreted and be mindful of how and where you touch young people.
- Recognise that special caution is required when discussing sensitive issues.
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspicions of abuse. (Please see Complaints, Behaviour and Disciplinary Policy)
- Be identifiable and wear a name badge at all times. Keep the child's needs first and performing outcomes second.



**Staff must not:**

- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people.
- Make sexually suggestive comments, even in fun.
- Make derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children and young people.
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking the facts.
- Exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.
- Show favouritism to individuals.
- Ask young people to do things that are potentially dangerous, illegal or otherwise unreasonable.
- Allow young people unsupervised access to the internet (unless they have their own device to do this or if it is part of the project or work they are taking in such as research.)
- Allow bullying.
- Believe that “it could never happen to me”.
- Take chances when common sense, policy or practice suggests a more prudent approach.

**Planned activities**

When you organise journeys or visits:

- You should undertake all relevant pre-site visits and complete appropriate risk assessments and trip forms.
- You should plan and prepare a detailed programme of activities for the children who are involved.
- You are responsible for the children’s welfare and safety for the whole time they are away from home.
- You should not leave young people to their own devices; for example, in a town for the evening or on shopping expeditions, unless clear approval has been sought from parents/carers and a full risk assessment has been undertaken relating to age and behaviour of group.
- You should ensure that all children are adequately supervised and engaged in suitable activities at all times unless the conditions above are fulfilled.
- When your planned activities are disrupted, e.g. because of weather conditions, you should have alternative activities planned.
- You should get written parental consent for any children to join an organised trip.
- You should give parents full information about the trip, including details of the programme of events, the planned activities and the supervision ratios (i.e. how many children to each supervising adult).



## **Supervising children**

- If you are a leader in charge, you must be satisfied that the workers and adults who accompany group parties are fully competent to do so.
- Children must be supervised at all times.
- Children must not be left unsupervised at any venue, whether it is indoors or outdoors.
- You and the other workers should know at all times where children are, and what they are doing.
- Any activity using potentially dangerous equipment should have constant adult supervision.
- Children will be safer if supervised by two or more adults.
- Dangerous behaviour by children should not be allowed. Adult/child ratios

Supervision must be adequate, whether at the organisation's venue or on a journey or visit. As a leader, when you decide how many adults you will need for supervision, you must consider a range of practical matters:

- The number of participants in the group.
- The nature of the site or venue.
- The activities to be undertaken - if an activity is hazardous, e.g. mountain climbing, there are specific ratios of adults to children that you must follow. You can check these ratios by contacting the relevant sporting bodies or the Handbook for educational visits or Ofsted.
- It is important that each individual supervisor knows his or her responsibilities.
- We recommend that you should not make a journey or visit without at least two adults in attendance, one of whom must be a worker. You should not count bus drivers as supervisors.
- It is up to the leader in charge to decide on the level of supervision, taking into account our guidance as stated above.
- If a party consists of both girls and boys, you should provide both male and female supervision, unless otherwise agreed.
- If an activity involves swimming and the children are under eight years of age, the ratio must be one adult to one child.
- There should always be at least two members of staff supervising any group of children.
- For specialist sports or activities (e.g., canoeing), ratios recommended by the appropriate governing body should be followed.



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Our standard recommended ratios for activities are: (A rule of Good Practice there should be a minimum of two members of staff on duty at all times)

### **On site**

0-2 years of age - One staff member to three children

2-3 years of age - One staff member to four children

3-7 years of age - One staff member to eight children

8 years and over - Two staff members (preferably one male, one female) for up to 30 children.

There should be one additional staff member for every 15 extra children or young people.

### **Off site**

0-3 years of age - One staff member to two children.

3-7 years of age - One staff member to five children.

8 years and over - One staff member to 10 children.

The ratio of staff and volunteers to children with disabilities depends on the needs of the individual child.

Any care provided for children aged 8-14 is not allowed to adversely affect the care provided for children under 8 years old.

### **Administration of Medicine ([www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)) THE VOLUNTARY ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES**

Any staff who agree to administer medicines to children & young people do so on an entirely voluntary basis. There is no obligation on staff to volunteer to administer medicines.

Schoolz at Home acknowledges that staff who do agree to administer medicines are acting within the scope of their employment and should seek to undertake appropriate training where necessary.

**No medicine should be administered by staff unless clear written instructions to do so have been obtained from the parents or legal guardians and that Schoolz at Home has indicated that it's staff are able to do so.**





## **Complaints procedure**

It is important to maintain an open culture where all staff, children or parents feel able to express concerns both about child protection issues and issues of poor practice when dealing with children and vulnerable young people.

Schoolz at Home staff and Users of its services can make complaints by following the Complaints Procedure or the Confidential Reporting Code for Employees or any other appropriate procedure. An easy to follow complaints procedure for members of the public including partners, volunteers and young people is available from all Schoolz at Home offices on request, or as a download from our website. Those entitled to complain are the child, parents/carers, guardians, anyone else with parental responsibility and any other person that Schoolz at Home considers has sufficient interest in the child's welfare to warrant being heard. The process includes an independent element, i.e. someone who is not an employee or an officer of the organisation in question. Please see Complaints, Behaviour and Disciplinary procedure document available as a download from our website.

## **Designated Child Protection Officer**

The designated safeguarding officer has the following responsibilities:

- To ensure that this policy and procedures are disseminated, implemented and adhered to at all times.
- To be familiar with and have an understanding of all legislation and guidance relating to safeguarding and child protection.
- To receive all information from staff, young people, parents or carers about any child protection concern or issue, to assess this information promptly and take any appropriate actions and maintain records.
- To liaise with and be familiar with relevant staff in external child protection agencies, and to make referrals as and when necessary. When making a referral to do so having spoken to the relevant member of Schoolz at Home staff and the young person involved.
- To arrange appropriate training and support for all relevant staff.
- To provide support during and after incidents involving child protection.
- To monitor and maintain records to provide feedback to Schoolz at Home on the number of safeguarding concerns and incidents, and the outcomes of these.

**Schoolz at Home designated officer is Kate Frazer contact Number 07724 204303**



## **Whistle Blowing Policy & Procedures**

Sometimes, concerns arise at work, which are difficult to resolve. People may become aware that other colleagues or superiors are engaged in conduct, which is not acceptable, which may be unlawful or which is not in accord with Schoolz at Home principles. It may be difficult to raise these issues because the concern is only a suspicion or because it may be regarded as disloyal by other colleagues or managers.

Whilst staff should be encouraged to raise concern about malpractice with their immediate superior or manager, it may be that the employee feels unable to do this because the concern arises out of the manager's activities. Should this be the case, access should be provided to a designated officer with Schoolz at Home. Individual employees will be advised as to whom that designated officer is. If issues are considered sufficiently serious, the issue can be raised with another person known as "the most senior person". For the purposes of this policy and procedure, the most senior person will be:

**Schoolz at Home independent Whistle-blower is the Leeds City Council Local Authority Designated officer (LADO) This duty is shared by Claire Ford and Carolyn Hargreaves who can be reached by calling- 01132478652.**

### **Interpreting service providers Language Line**

Language Line should be used in the following circumstances:  
When contact is very short (e.g. to confirm details of an appointment) Speaking to a non-English speaking patient by telephone If a patient requests this service (i.e. this may be to ensure anonymity) Emergency situations.

Language Line  
Swallow House  
11-21 Northdown Street London  
N1 9BN  
Tel: 0845 3109900  
Tel: 0207520 1400 (office) Fax: 0207520 1450



## **Leeds Sign Language Interpreting Service**

Leeds Sign Language Interpreting Service officers a sign language interpreting service, deaf/blind communicators and lip speakers for the deaf/blind and hard of hearing community.

Leeds Sign Language Interpreting Service Centenary House  
North Street  
Leeds

LS2 8AY  
Tel: 0113 2469990

## **Staff Safeguarding Summary Information**

In order to ensure that the children and young people of Leeds are fully supported by Schoolz at Home this document is summarised here to clarify any issues around safeguarding and child protection issues.

If a child, young person or client you are working with raises an issue, you are concerned there may be an issue, or staff identify a concern, you **must** take action.

You must follow procedures as laid out on the child protection/safeguarding flow chart on page 20. You must record any concerns that are raised on the form on pages 10-12. You must communicate with your designated child protection officer.

All staff must have attended a minimum of child protection level 1 training and be seeking to attend level 2 as part of their development plans.

If out of hours and staff cannot contact the child protection officer it is their responsibility to act. If you believe there is any immediate danger you must contact social services or the police.

Adult social care: 0113 222 4401

Children and young people social care: 0113 2224403 Police: 999

**Designated Child protection Officer** : Kate Frazer

Signed : ~~Kate Frazer~~ Date 19/3/21