

Beacon Alternative School CIC (and Alternative Provision)

Safeguarding and Child protection Policy



Date: October 2025

Written by: O'Connell/Field

Review Due by: October 2026

Note: Beacon Alternative Provision (Beacon AP) operates as an alternative provision trading under **Beacon Alternative School CIC**, which is not currently a registered school but is working toward future registration.

1. Introduction

Beacon AP is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in its care. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This policy provides a framework for staff, volunteers, and governors to identify, respond to, and report concerns about a child's welfare.

This policy is in line with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Statutory guidance for alternative provision

2. Scope

This policy applies to all learners, staff, volunteers, contractors, and visitors associated with Beacon AP. It covers all settings where Beacon AP operates.

3. Core Principles

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or background, have the right to protection from harm.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Children who are abused or neglected must be supported promptly and effectively.

4. Key Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Fiona Field: 079999 28576

- Lead responsibility for child protection concerns.
- Liaises with local authority, MASH, police, and other agencies.
- Maintains accurate safeguarding records.

Deputy DSL(s): Steven O'Connell: 075655 77041

Supports the DSL and acts in their absence.

All Staff and Volunteers:

- Must read this policy and KCSIE Part One.
- Must report any concerns immediately to the DSL.
- Must participate in mandatory safeguarding training.

5. Types of Abuse and Indicators

- **Physical Abuse** – injuries, unexplained bruises or burns.
- **Emotional Abuse** – low self-esteem, withdrawal, extreme behaviour.
- **Sexual Abuse** – inappropriate sexual behaviour, knowledge, or contact.
- **Neglect** – poor hygiene, hunger, inadequate supervision.
- **Peer-on-Peer Abuse** – bullying, sexual harassment, violence.
- **Online Abuse** – cyberbullying, grooming, exposure to harmful content.

Staff should remain vigilant to signs of abuse and consider contextual safeguarding factors.

6. Procedures for Reporting Concerns

- **Immediate Danger:** Call 999 if a child is at risk.
- **Non-Emergency Concern:** Report to the DSL immediately.
- **Recording:** Document observations and actions in the safeguarding log.
- **External Referral:** DSL contacts **DCC MASH** or the **LADO** if necessary.

7. Devon Children's Services Contacts

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – Devon

- Phone: 0345 155 1071
- Email: mashsecure@devon.gov.uk
- Website: devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/child-protection/

Children's Social Care – Ongoing Enquiries

- Phone: 0345 155 1078
- Hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Website: devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/childrens-social-care/

Emergency Duty Service (Out of Hours)

- Phone: 0345 6000 388
- Hours: Monday to Thursday: 5:00 PM – 9:00 AM; Friday to Monday: 4:00 PM – 9:00 AM; Bank Holidays: 24 hours
- Website: devonscp.org.uk/make-a-request-for-support/

LADO Contact:

- Phone: (01392) 384964 or
- Email: ladosecure-mailbox@devon.gcsx.gov.uk.

Safer Recruitment

Beacon AP ensures:

- All staff and volunteers undergo **DBS checks**.
- Pre-employment checks comply with KCSIE.
- Recruitment procedures include safeguarding and child protection vetting.

8. Training

- DSL: Full safeguarding training every 2 years.
- All staff: Annual safeguarding awareness training.
- Updates on online safety, peer-on-peer abuse, and other emerging risks are provided regularly.

9. Online Safety

- Children are protected from harmful online content.
- Staff receive guidance on monitoring and reporting online risks.
- Procedures exist to respond to cyberbullying, grooming, and online exploitation.

10. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- Information is shared only on a need-to-know basis.
- DSL ensures compliance with Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR.
- Safeguarding concerns take precedence over confidentiality.

11. Managing Allegations Against Staff

- Allegations are reported immediately to the **LADO**.
- Staff suspected of abuse may be suspended pending investigation.
- Procedures follow statutory guidance in KCSIE Part Four.

12. Multi-Agency Working

Beacon AP collaborates with:

- Local authority children's services (MASH)
- Police and health services
- Other educational providers when necessary

13. Record Keeping

- All safeguarding records are kept securely and confidentially.
- Records are maintained separately from other pupil information.
- Records include actions taken, outcomes, and dates.

14. Policy Review

- Reviewed **annually** or after significant safeguarding incidents.
- Consultation includes staff, governors, and local safeguarding partners.

15. Related Policies

- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct