

# 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):** Steven O'Connell: 075655 77041

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

**Deputy DSL(s):** Fiona Field: 079999 28576

- 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](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk)
- Website: [devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/child-protection/](http://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/](http://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/](http://devonscp.org.uk/make-a-request-for-support/)

### LADO Contact:

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