



Northern College

1. Overview

Policy Title	Safeguarding Children and Young People 2025-2026
Who does the policy apply to?	This policy will outline the guidance and implementation of Children's Safeguarding of children who are attending Northern College as part of adult and families study programmes. Children of parents who may be studying at Northern College. This policy and its underpinning guidance should be read by all students, staff and governors.
Aims	To create and maintain a safe and positive environment and accept responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people whilst at Northern College, in accordance with current legislation and guidance.
To be read in conjunction with	Northern College Safeguarding Procedures Equality and Diversity and Health & Safety Policy Whistleblowing Policy Inclusive Risk Assessment Procedure Admissions Policy Staff Code of Conduct Staff Disciplinary Policy Complaint's Policy and Procedures
Further advice may be sought from	Assistant Principal Student Experience, - Designated Safeguarding Lead Head of Student Support Services - Designated Safeguarding Officer
Review arrangements	This policy will be reviewed annually in line with Northern College annual review cycle. This policy may be reviewed outside of this cycle should operation and/or legislative guidance dictate it. The policy, guidance and review arrangements can be viewed on the Northern College website, staff and student inductions and within the student handbook. The review date is set out in section 5.

2. Purpose

Northern College fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people. The welfare and safety of all its occupants are at the heart of the College ethos and this policy is specifically aligned to children and young people who attend College as part of an adult study programme or families' provision. The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the implementation of safeguarding practice for all students, staff and visitors in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

In this policy, a 'child' means all children and young people up to but not including their 18th birthday. In accordance with relevant law and guidance, this policy will detail procedures for safeguarding and child protection. It is applicable to the whole College community. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and therefore everyone who meets children, and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all staff should make sure their approach is child-centred, this means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

3. Aim

3.1. Northern College recognises its responsibilities and duties under the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 requirements, which defines safeguarding as:

- "providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes."

3.2 Northern College believes that safeguarding children is a paramount concern and therefore safeguarding issues take priority in relation to any other policies and/or procedures. The Governing body is committed to ensuring that the College's duty of care is the College's paramount concern.

3.3 This policy is intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and who are part of adult and families study programmes. The College aim is to provide an environment in which all children, families and staff feel secure and supported.

3.4 Members of staff have a legal and moral responsibility to ensure that all children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from harm. All complaints, allegations or suspicions must be taken seriously. There is also a responsibility for the welfare of children and young people where to ignore such issues may result in harm.

3.5 Northern College aims to ensure all staff have a through awareness of safeguarding and child protection through effective communication and training.

Northern College will operate within the following Underpinning Legislative and Statutory Duties:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children: 2023a, Department for Education (DfE)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE): 2025 Department for Education (DfE)
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Guidance incorporated into KCSiE Part Five 2024(DfE)
- Filtering and Monitoring Standards for schools and colleges 2025 Department for Education (DfE)
- Generative AI: product safety expectations 2025
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act: 2015
- HM Government; Prevent Duty Guidance: guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales 2023;

- The Department for Education; the Prevent Duty – Safeguarding Learners Vulnerable to Radicalisation
- Education Act: 2002 and 2011
- The Children Act: 1989 and 2004
- Human Rights Act (HRA): 1998
- Childcare Act: 2006
- Equality Act: 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty 2011
- Sexual Offences Act: 2003
- The Protection of Children Act: 1979
- The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022
- UK GDPR (UK General Data Protection Regulation) and Data Protection Act: 2018
- Barnsley Safeguarding Childrens Board (BSCB) Policies and Procedures
- What to do if you suspect a child is being abused: 2015 (DfE)
- Childcare Regulations 2018
- Statutory Guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care: 2014 (DfE)

4. Policy

- 4.1 Northern College is committed to complying with the procedures of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board. It recognises that it has a responsibility towards young people or vulnerable adults and people attending or visiting Northern College to safeguard and promote their welfare and to take appropriate decisions about how this can be achieved. It is not the College's responsibility to investigate child abuse.
- 4.2 The College will in line with its safeguarding duties to act if there is a cause for concern and to notify the appropriate agencies so that they can investigate and take any necessary action.
- 4.3 Northern College will act, in line with legislative requirements and local guidance, if there is a cause for concern in relation to a potential threat or risk posed by any potential or existing members of staff or students to children or young people whilst at Northern College.
- 4.4 The College will ensure it has robust monitoring and filtering systems to support students and staff to understand the dangers and responsibilities.
- 4.5 Northern College will ensure all its staff are appropriately trained and understand their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and the referral process
- 4.6 The College will provide support and guidance to ensure that staff understand and are aware of the definitions of abuse, neglect, and safeguarding concerns. This will include incidents/and or behaviours which are associated with factors outside of the College and or within the context of extra-familial harms such as sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence (KCSIE 25).
- 4.7 Where appropriate Northern College will ensure it will embed preventative education within curriculum and support behaviours in line with:
 - Healthy and respectful behaviours
 - Boundaries and consent
 - Stereotyping, prejudice, and equality
 - Body confidence and self esteem
 - Recognition of abuse relationships
 - Concepts of and laws relating to consent, exploitation, abuse, grooming, harassment, rape, domestic abuse and Female Genital Mutilation FGM. (KSCIE 2025)
- 4.8 Northern College although not facilitator of children's education as a core responsibility within the auspices of the Education Act 2004 will where appropriate refer to the statutory guidance relating to Children Missing in Education and the Missing Children and Adults Strategy (2011).
- 4.9 Safeguarding issues will be seen within its broadest context and will be crossed referenced into Northern College Adult Safeguarding policy to ensure support for both children and families.
- 4.10 In the context of a Multi-Agency Strategy Meetings, Northern College will share information and will be bound by the agreed actions from those meeting. The Designated Safeguarding Officer in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024) has the status and authority to

action child protection and safeguarding matters relating to children and young people within the College and where appropriate external individuals.

- 4.11 The College will have appropriate whistleblowing processes for any concerns relating to safeguarding practice. Alternative routes can be found at help@nspcc.org.uk should staff feel unable to raise concerns or these concerns are not being addressed by the College.
- 4.13 All children and young people who attend Northern College have a right to be protected, respected, valued and to be heard by ensuring:
- the identification of children and young people at risk of suffering significant harm, exploitation, or extremism
 - reducing the potential risks children and young people face of being exposed to violence, extremism, exploitation, or victimisation
 - Children who are gender questioning are provided a safe environment, including facilities where they are safe and feel safe
 - The safety, effective protection and prevention of maltreatment or impairment of health and development of children and young people, in line with College policy, local policies and procedures and Government Legislation
 - Northern College will respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and extremism and the risk of radicalisation
 - Northern College will ensure good practice and responsibility for admission, within the context of inclusion, for individuals who present with a criminal conviction
 - Northern College referring disclosures to the appropriate agencies, addressing concerns at the earliest possible stage using Early Help procedures, working in partnership with the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)
 - Where there is a risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or FGM has occurred, the College will report this immediately to the Police
 - Any mental health concerns are supported, and appropriate action taken to mitigate risks
 - That children and young people will be supported, where appropriate, to tell when they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or where they may not understand their experiences are harmful

Within this context safeguarding can also include a range of potential issues such as;

- Zero tolerance to bullying, including cyber bullying (by text, on social media etc.) and prejudice-based bullying
- sexual violence and/or harassment
- child on child abuse
- online safety including misinformation, disinformation (including fake news)
- Up skirting
- Domestic abuse - including those whose parents who may be studying at the College
- Domestic abuse, including where children "see, hear or experience its effects" (KCSiE 2025)
- mental health and well-being of a child
- contextual safeguarding in relation to parents who may be studying whilst at Northern College
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the legal duty to refer
- Breast flattening (or ironing)
- zero tolerance to sexism, racism, disability and homophobic, biphobic or transphobic abuse including risks for gender reassignment, sexual orientation (LGBT+; lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans +)
- radicalisation and extremist behaviour
- child sexual exploitation
- youth produced sexual imagery (sexting)

- Religion or belief and Anti-Semitism
- alcohol/substance misuse
- risk management and safety of others in relation to admissions and on-course students
- issues that may be specific within Barnsley or areas from which children live
- issues in relation to domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and forced marriage
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment, within the context of child-on-child abuse
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) within the context of County Lines
- children and young people who are missing from home and/or education

4.13.1 Online safety

It is essential that children are safeguarded from potential harmful and inappropriate online material. Within this context the College in line with KCSIE 2025 has categorised four areas of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content.
- **Contact:** being subject to harmful interaction from other users.
- **Conduct:** online behavior that increases the likelihood of harm
- **Commerce:** risks such as gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing or financial scams. (p.38, KCSiE,2025)

14.13.2 The College will ensure that in order to protect the safety and welfare of children in the context of online safety, it will do all it reasonably can to limit children's exposure to online harms by means of an appropriate filtering and monitoring system. It will work in line with the Department for Education's 'Filter and Monitoring standards' 2025.

[DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards](#)

14.13.3 The College will ensure it raises awareness of risks through supporting students to understand the risks around harmful online content through curriculum delivery and awareness events.

14.13.4 In line with good practice Filtering and Monitoring will feature within annual Continuing Professional Development for staff.

14.13.5 The College will complete reviews and checks of the online monitoring system every term, to support resilience and security.

14.13.6 The College will maintain its Cyber Essentials certification in line with DfE funding requirements and IT security standards.

4.12 Responsibilities

4.12.1 The overall responsibility for Safeguarding Children is vested in the Governing body and Executive Leadership Team who have overall responsibility for ensuring:

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead has appropriate status and authority to carry out the duties of the post
- Policies and structures are in place to safeguard children and young people through safer recruitment, acceptable use of technology, online safety, designated staff, training and development, whistleblowing, managing allegations against staff and health and safety management and framework
- Policies are aligned to Barnsley Local Authority Guidance and agreed inter-agency procedures
- Policies are effective, reviewed annually and updated accordingly
- Maintaining up to date knowledge and understanding of the Governing role in safeguarding
- Appropriate resources to enable statutory compliance
- Staff are appropriately trained and supported when dealing with safeguarding matters
- Safer recruitment processes are robust and followed

- 4.12.2 The governing body will nominate a Designated Lead Governor (DLG) for Safeguarding who will liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead for reporting of safeguarding compliance in line with legislation and local safeguarding duties. The DLG will ensure standards are met in relation to filtering and monitoring.
- 4.12.3 The Designated Safeguarding Officer with responsibility for children's safeguarding is the Head of Student Support Services.
- 4.12.4 The Head of Student Support Services will act as Deputy Safeguarding Lead in the absence of the Assistant Principal Student Experience.
- 4.12.5 The overall responsibility of safeguarding lies with the governing body who will ensure that the College is compliant with safeguarding and Prevent duties within current legislation ensuring policy, procedure and training is effective, alongside support and challenge to the Executive Leadership Team.
- 4.12.6 The Assistant Principal Student Experience is responsible for ensuring that students/staff are appropriately supported and guided and for liaising with the Barnsley (or local) Safeguarding Children Boards to ensure compliance with policies and procedures.
- 4.12.7 The Assistant Principal Student Experience is responsible for ensuring that Northern College is effectively represented at appropriate Strategic Boards and works in partnership in the context of safeguarding.
- 4.12.8 The Head of Human Resources is responsible for ensuring that staff have the appropriate knowledge and expertise via an appropriate staff development programme, including 2 years' mandatory essential skills training, and to ensure staff are vetted with the Disclosure and Barring Service, prior to appointment and every 3 years thereafter as appropriate to the role.
- 4.12.9 The Assistant Principal Student Experience and an independent representative member of College Leadership Team are responsible for ensuring the Risk Assessment Process for students is adhered to in line with the law and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.
- 4.12.9 The responsibility of Safeguarding Lead at weekends will be delivered on a rotational basis between the Assistant Principal Student Experience and the Head of Student Support Services.
- 4.12.10 The Head of Student Support Services is responsible for ensuring that all incidents are appropriately recorded and reported.
- 4.12.11 In the event of allegations being made against the College Principal, the Designated Governor (Safeguarding) is responsible for consulting with the Chair of Governors.
- 4.12.12 Where a safeguarding concern has been raised in relation to a member of staff, the College is responsible for ensuring that information relating to concerns are shared and escalated where appropriate to the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer). Any upheld concerns will be referred to the DBS and Teacher Regulator Agency (TRA) as appropriate.

4.13 The Prevent Duty

- 4.13.1 The College is subject to duties within section 26 of Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) in exercising the function of 'having due regard' to the need to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism. The Government's counter terrorism strategy is known as CONTEST and Prevent is part of the strategy. CONTEST has four key principles:
- Pursue to stop terrorist attacks;
 - Prevent to stop individuals from becoming radicalised into terrorism or supporting terrorism;
 - Protect to strengthen protection against a terrorist attack;
 - Prepare to mitigate the impact of terrorism
- 4.13.2 Prevent is the pre-criminal space by which individuals are identified and supported to avoid entering the criminal space. Northern College will focus on the Prevent element and support students to understand the risks of exploitation. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism (the vocal or active opposition to fundamental values of rule of law, democracy, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs).

- 4.13.3 The College will ensure that staff are trained to identify behaviours which may indicate that a child (via contextual safeguarding) or family member/carer who may be at risk or may need protection.
- 4.13.4 Northern College understands its duties and obligations within the auspices of The Counter Terrorism & Security Act (2015). The College will ensure that staff, children and young people are aware of the risks and will monitor them effectively by:
- Understanding the threat from violent extremism and potential risks from external influences
 - Ensuring plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident
 - Having effective ICT security, forensic monitoring of IT traffic and IT Use and Misuse Policies
 - Respond appropriately to a locally derived threats or incidents alongside national or international concerns
 - Reducing permissive environments
 - Use College Risk Assessment Procedure and monitor visiting speakers
- 4.13.5 Northern College response to its role in the context of preventing radicalisation and extremism is to:
- tackle the ideology of terrorism by limiting exposure to narratives which may incite behaviours that allow terrorism to flourish both online and offline.
 - embed British values within all its shared practice both within curriculum and student experience
 - work in partnership with organisations involved in Prevent Strategies
 - ensure staff and students understand their responsibility in preventing violent extremism
 - provide support and make appropriate referrals for students or their family members at risk of radicalisation
 - have cross College themed months which support tolerance and respectful behaviour
 - support interfaith and intercultural engagement through external partnership working
 - ensure that the Northern College has a zero tolerance to bullying, harassment and antisemitism
 - listen and respond effectively to issues within local community and wider communities where students may be based (local risks)
 - ensure that the responsibility within the Filtering and Monitoring Standards 2023 are met;
 - deliver effective and local risk based training to governors, staff and students;
 - forensically monitoring all IT traffic;
 - have effective IT user policies;
 - engage with Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) to ensure specialist advice is implemented into online and IT safer working practice;
 - implement a robust risk-based approach to visiting speakers;
 - ensure staff and students can respond to threats or incidents which will impact on the College community;
 - ensure staff and students understand their responsibilities in the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism;
 - ask all students, staff, governors and visitors to wear College lanyards and ID whilst on campus

4.14 Allegations against staff

- 4.14.1 Any suspicion, allegation or actual abuse of a child or young person by a Northern College member of staff or contractor must be reported to the Assistant Principal Student Experience and the Head of Human Resources (HR) and a fact-finding investigation under the Disciplinary Policy will be conducted as appropriate.

- 4.14.2 Northern College will comply with guidance contained in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025) and the Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) procedures.
- 4.14.3 Where appropriate and in line with local referral procedures the College will report the matter to the Barnsley LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer). All matters whether substantiate or not, will be reviewed within a 'lesson learned' format to improve practice if required.
- 4.14.4 Where the allegation or complaint refers to the Designated Safeguarding Officer the matter must be reported to the Assistant Principal Student Experience and the Head of HR.
- 4.14.5 In the event of a complaint being made against the Principal and CEO, the Designated Safeguarding Officer would notify the Chair of Governors.
- 4.14.6 Where allegations have been made against staff Northern College acknowledges its duty of care towards employees and will ensure that effective support is provided for anyone facing an allegation.
- 4.14.7 In cases of employee suspension allegations will be dealt with quickly and in a fair and consistent manner which provides effective protection for the child/young person and support to the individual subject to the allegation.
- 4.14.8 If there is an event or report to the College where a suspicion or allegation relating to conduct of a Governor around a child or children, this will be dealt with in line with LADO procedures and Governance guidelines.

4.15 Training

- 4.15.1 Northern College will ensure that all staff receive basic safeguarding children and young people awareness training, and that training is effective. Training will be supported and monitored via HR.
- 4.15.2 Northern College safeguarding training compliance will be reviewed annually via the annual appraisal and Business Support Performance process.
- 4.15.3 Staff will be expected to take responsibility for their training and renewing when appropriate. This will be logged in staff personal training records in line with Continuing Professional Development expectations.
- 4.15.4 Designated Officers, according to responsibility, will receive training appropriate to the role, the expectation of Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board training strategy and national legislative requirements.
- 4.15.5 All Northern College staff will receive annualised Prevent training which will include information about why radicalisation, terrorism and extremism is relevant to the College alongside indicators of risk local risk.
- 4.15.6 Northern College will engage with and complete Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board training audits as appropriate to ensure compliance, assurance and good practice.
- 4.15.7 The Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with good practice will receive external support and supervision in line with personal development needs, accountability and assurance.
- 4.15.8 Northern College Designated Safeguarding Lead will deliver a safeguarding induction, annual training and termly briefings, to the Board of Governors to ensure compliance and understanding with relevant legislation.
- 4.15.9 Northern College will ensure staff are trained in Filtering and Monitoring to support best practice.

4.16 Safer Recruitment

- 4.16.1 Human Resources will lead on all safer recruitment and determine level of DBS checks required for a role as appropriate (including volunteers).
- 4.16.2 Curriculum vitae (CV) will only be accepted alongside a full application form in all instances. Online searches will also be considered, where relevant as part of safer recruitment due diligence (for shortlisted candidates).
- 4.16.3 Any convictions or cautions for 'relevant offences' or 'relevant conduct' either whilst on College premises or off duty will be referred to the DBS and the Teacher Regulatory Agency (TRA).
- 4.16.4 The College will make further checks where appropriate to include relevant events that may have occurred outside the UK and where these can be considered. These checks could include, where available:

- criminal records check for overseas applicants
- for teaching positions obtaining a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority in the country in which the applicant has worked

4.17 Monitoring, Review and Dissemination

4.17.1 The policy and administration procedures will be reviewed annually in line with:

- The Board of Governors and annual policy cycles
- Statutory guidance and good practice guidelines and audit requirements (BSCB)
- College strategic priorities and curriculum plan
- Student/child feedback
- Curriculum, Quality and Student Experience Committee approval

4.17.2 The Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Governors to ensure compliance with safeguarding and Prevent duties.

4.17.3 Information on safeguarding and Prevent will be disseminated via the following:

- Student enrolment and induction sessions
- Staff induction and training events
- Open days
- The College website/social media
- Safeguarding Committee weekly updates

4.17.4 This policy and its underpinning procedures will be located on Staff Teams and College website.

4.18 Complaints

4.18.1 All complaints will follow the College complaints procedure.

4.18.2 Complaints will be dealt with in the context of this policy and Barnsley Safeguarding Children's procedures.

4.19.3 Complaints in the first instance should be made in writing to the Quality Manager at Northern College. All complaints will be treated sensitively and seriously with support where appropriate.

4.20 Data Protection Act 2018 and UKGDPR (UK General Data Protection Rules)

4.20.1 Northern College is a data controller in terms of the Data Protection Act and UK GDPR.

4.20.2 Confidentiality and appropriate information sharing is key to safeguarding and Northern College expects all staff to always maintain confidentiality. The College will reserve the right to contact next of kin, the Police or Children's Social Care where there is an individual presents in immediate danger or risk to self.

4.20.3 The College will only share information by consent, however, information will be shared with external agencies where it is believed that the safety of a child is compromised or in the interest of public safety or where the College believes the individual is in immediate danger.

4.20.4 In line with Data Protection law, Northern College will only share information which is proportionate and relevant for the protection and prevention of abuse.

4.20.5 All information held in relation to safeguarding concerns will be held securely and in line with the Data Protection Act and UKGDPR for a period of seven years.

4.20.6 Personal information and any supporting evidence will be held by the College for audit and referral purposes where appropriate.

4.21 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

4.21.1 Northern College work is aligned to the Equality Act 2010 which prohibits unfair treatment, eliminating discrimination and advances opportunity of all its students and the children and young people either visiting or within its care.

- 4.21.2 The identification of need, risk and assessment aligned to all children and young people's work will be delivered in line with the Equality Act 2010 and no child or young person will be treated less favourably because of any protected characteristics.
- 4.21.3 Within the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the College will ensure all rights of the child and the procedures to protect children and young people are child centred.

5 Policy sign off and ownership details

Document Name:	Safeguarding Children and Young People
Version Number:	6.0
Effective from:	September 2025
Next scheduled review date:	July 2026
Policy owner:	AP – Student Experience
Approved by:	Board of Governors

6 Revision history

Version No	Effective date	Revision description/summary of changes	Author
1.0	17.12. 2020	Full rewrite in accordance with current legislation	Assistant Principal Student Experience
2.0	11.03. 2021	Minor updates to key documents in line with legislation	Assistant Principal Student Experience
3.0	14.10.2021	Minor updates to key documents in line with legislation	Assistant Principal Student Experience
4.0	16.06.2022	Minor updates to key documents in line with legislation	Assistant Principal Student Experience
5.0	August 2023	Review - with changes in line with legislation (Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023/Working Together 2023) particularly Filtering and Monitoring Standards 2023	Assistant Principal Student Experience
6.0	August 2024	Review - update in line with legislation (Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024) and changes aligned to Prevent Duty 2023	Assistant Principal Student Experience
7.0	September 2025	Review - updated in line with legislation Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025. This includes online safety and minor updates.	Assistant Principal Student Experience