



Wessex Learning Trust – Safeguarding Statement

At Wessex Learning Trust we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all learners. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment in all our schools where children and young people are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure children and young people receive effective support, protection and justice.

The Board of Trustees and Partnership Boards at each of our academies are committed to the safeguarding of all learners, staff and visitors. Safeguarding is a high priority, with arrangements in place to ensure learners feel, and are safe, both on site and during off-site activities. The Trust and the academies follow the Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges 'Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2024' and 'Working together to safeguard children 2023'. The learner experience and individual achievement and development are paramount and safeguarding initiatives are developed to impact positively upon this. The Trust also ensures that safeguarding legislation and guidance is adhered to and taken into account when developing and revisiting policies, procedures and associated arrangements.

Our academies provide a safe physical environment for their learners, staff, and visitors, ensuring schools and premises are of a good standard. Health and Safety arrangements are in place to ensure adherence to current legislation and guidance and Safeguarding is included as a regular agenda item on all routine academy meetings.

Applicants applying for vacancies will be subject to recruitment and selection procedures designed to emphasise the Trust's commitment to the safeguarding of its learners and staff. The procedures include the use of application forms, pre-employment vetting, enhanced DBS checks, barred list checks, prohibition checks, online checks, references and interview questioning. Our academies have a robust induction plan for all new staff and volunteers which include Safeguarding, E-Safety, Prevent, Cyber and Health and Safety training.

All our academies have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team. They are supported by deputies. The DSL is responsible for Child Protection and Safeguarding. The academies have policies and procedures in place to deal effectively with child protection and safeguarding issues together with recording and monitoring processes.

All staff are trained to an appropriate level to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. Training is updated annually, together with ongoing safeguarding briefings, training sessions, staff meetings, and awareness sessions throughout the academic year.

The Trust's commitment to safeguarding is paramount to the success of all our learners. The Trust Board, academy Partnership Boards and Trust and academy Leadership continue to keep abreast of developments and implement arrangements to improve ongoing safety and awareness of its learners, staff, volunteers and visitors.

The Trust and the academies follow guidance from the following documents and agency:

Keeping children Safe in Education –

[Keeping children safe in education 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124111/keeping-children-safe-in-education-2024.pdf)

Working together to safeguard children –

[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124111/working-together-to-secure-childrens-future-2023.pdf)

North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership

<https://www.nsscp.co.uk/>

Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership

[Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/childrens-services/childrens-safeguarding-partnership/)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gavin Ball". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'G'.

Gavin Ball

Chief Executive

1st September 2024