

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY (Exams)

2025/26

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved/reviewed by	
Cathy Robbins	
Date of next review	04/12/2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name(s)
Head of centre	Helen Cairns
Designated safeguarding lead	Adrian Carr
Designated safeguarding lead (deputy)	Andy Owen, Liz Evans, Jo Evans
Exams officer	Heather Renton

Purpose of the policy

This policy details how Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School ensures that the moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is met in relation to the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments.

The policy also details how staff are trained and supported to be alert to, and report, the signs of abuse and neglect and how they will follow centre procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection, and justice.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff associated with the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments at Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School.

Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School ensures compliance with the statutory guidance for schools and colleges as set out in the Department for Education's [Keeping children safe in education 2025](#) publication.

Policy aims

- To provide all exams-related staff at Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School with the necessary information to enable them to meet their safeguarding and child protection responsibilities
- To ensure consistent good practice
- To demonstrate the commitment with regard to safeguarding and child protection to pupils/students, parents/carers and other partners when taking examinations and assessments at Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School
- To contribute to the wider centre Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

All staff involved in the management, administration and conducting of examinations at Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School are made aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. This includes raising awareness and understanding of the role played by these staff members in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children whilst they are undertaking their examinations/assessments.

As part of the training given to staff involved in the management, administration and conducting of examinations/assessments, the following are highlighted as part of an induction/training programme:

- child protection policy (which should amongst other things also include the policy and procedures to deal with child-on-child abuse)
- behaviour policy (which should include measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- staff behaviour policy (sometimes called a code of conduct) should amongst other things, include low-level concerns, allegations against staff and whistleblowing
- safeguarding response to children who are absent from examinations, particularly on repeat occasions and/or prolonged periods
- the role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies)

Section 1 – Roles and Responsibilities

Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

The DSL (and any deputies) will take lead responsibility for child protection and safeguarding in relation to examinations and assessments. The DSL will offer advice, support and expertise in all matters relating to child protection and safeguarding in relation to examinations and assessments, etc.

Exams officer

The Exams Officer will support the DSL as directed, and undertake all relevant training etc.

Other exams staff

Invigilators will undertake training as directed by the DSL, report child protection and safeguarding issues/concerns in line with centre processes/policy, etc.

Teaching staff

Teaching staff will ensure that where candidates are taking non-examination assessments, they will check that the tasks and approach being taken are appropriate and in line with ethical standards and the centre's safeguarding responsibilities, etc.

Section 2 – Staff

Recruitment

Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School ensures that only 'suitably qualified and experienced adults' are employed in the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments. This is supported by the safer recruitment process which includes:

- completing an application form which includes their employment history and explains any gaps in that history
- providing two referees, including at least one who can comment on the applicant's suitability to work with children
- providing evidence of identity and qualifications
- verifying their mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities
- verifying their professional qualifications, as appropriate
- carrying out further additional checks, as appropriate, on candidates who have lived or worked outside of the UK, including (where relevant) any teacher sanctions or restrictions imposed by a European Economic Area professional regulating authority, and criminal records checks or their equivalent
- asking for written information about previous employment history and check that information is not contradictory or incomplete. We will seek references on all short-listed candidates, including internal candidates, before interview. We will scrutinise these and resolve any concerns before confirming appointments.
- if offered employment, be checked in accordance with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) regulations as appropriate to their role. This will include:
 - an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check for those including unsupervised volunteers engaged in Regulated Activity
 - an enhanced DBS check without a barred list check for all volunteers not involved in Regulated Activity but who have the opportunity of regular contact with children
 - ensuring that this member of staff has a subscription to the DBS Update Service (where relevant)
- if offered employment, provide evidence of their right to work in the UK
- be interviewed by a panel of which includes at least one school leaders

DBS check information

All information on the checks carried out on those who are employed solely for the purpose of periodic exams-related activity, such as external invigilators/facilitators, will be recorded in the centre's single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals' personnel files.

Existing staff

If there are concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with children, all relevant checks will be carried out as if the individual was a new member of staff. This action will also be taken if an individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is.

Anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult will be referred to the DBS:

- Where the 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e., that no action or inaction occurred but the present risk that it could was significant)

- Where the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence
- If there is reason to believe that the individual has committed a listed relevant offence, under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009
- If the individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left

'Break in service'

The *break in service* provisions do not apply to external invigilators or facilitators at Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School. This is because all external invigilators and facilitators are required to complete online safeguarding and exam-related refresher training prior to each mock examination or external examination period. This ensures ongoing engagement with the centre and maintains continuity of service for safeguarding purposes.

Agency staff

Written notification will be obtained from any agency or third-party organisation that it has carried out the necessary safer recruitment checks that we would otherwise perform. A check will also be performed to confirm that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

Section 3 – Supporting staff

All exams staff at Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School:

- are made aware of the good practice guidelines and staff code of conduct in relation to child protection and safeguarding
- receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training at induction/the centre's annual exam update training session. This training is regularly updated to include the most up-to-date guidance from the relevant authorities
- receive safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) updates as required, and at least annually, to continue to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. This includes updates on the centre's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy by training sessions and hard copy information.

Section 4 – Areas covered

All exams staff will be trained/updated to ensure that they are complying with the centre policy on child protection and safeguarding.

Section 5 – Reporting

The process for staff to report issues/concerns relating to child protection and safeguarding is detailed in the school Safeguarding Policy.

If a member of staff needs to make a complaint/report a colleague or other adult who works with children (whistleblowing), they should follow the procedures in the school Safeguarding Policy and Whistleblowing (Exams) Policy.

Section 6 - Protocols for one-to-one support/supervision

Where staff are engaged in invigilation/facilitation and/or centre supervision on a one-to-one basis with a candidate the following protocols should be followed:

Summoning immediate assistance in case of any concern

The invigilator will have access to their mobile phone to seek assistance.

Leaving the examination room temporarily

Where a member of staff may accompany a candidate requiring a toilet break the member of staff is required to first check that the facilities are unoccupied and leave the candidate at the entrance to the facilities.

Where a member of staff may accompany a candidate who is feeling unwell, they will use their mobile phone to seek assistance.

References

Keeping children safe in education www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2

Check someone's criminal record as an employer www.gov.uk/dbs-check-applicant-criminal-record

DBS Update Service www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service

DBS Checks for Schools www.onlinedbschecks.co.uk/job-sectors/dbs-checks-for-schools/