



# storyybrook

## Governance and Safeguarding Oversight Framework





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## **1. Purpose**

This document sets out the governance and oversight arrangements for safeguarding at Storybrook School. It clarifies roles, responsibilities, lines of accountability and systems of scrutiny to ensure that safeguarding is effective, robust and continuously improving.

Safeguarding is the golden thread running through all aspects of the school's work. Effective governance ensures that safeguarding is not only compliant, but embedded, monitored and challenged at all levels.

## **2. Legal accountability**

The Proprietor holds ultimate legal responsibility for safeguarding at Storybrook in line with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations

The Proprietor is accountable for ensuring that:

- safeguarding policies and procedures are compliant and effective
- leadership is held to account for safeguarding practice
- appropriate systems, resources and training are in place
- the welfare of pupils is prioritised at all times

## **3. Governance structure and roles**

### **Proprietor**

The Proprietor provides strategic oversight and accountability for safeguarding and will:

- hold the Headteacher (DSL) to account for safeguarding effectiveness
- review safeguarding reports and challenge practice where necessary
- ensure safeguarding systems are robust, compliant and effective
- commission external review where appropriate
- ensure that safeguarding remains a standing priority

### **Governing Body**

The Governing Body provides strategic monitoring and challenge and will:

- ensure statutory safeguarding duties are met
- review and approve safeguarding policies annually
- receive regular safeguarding reports from the DSL
- monitor safeguarding trends, risks and actions





- ensure staff training and safer recruitment compliance
- provide appropriate challenge and support to leaders

### **Safeguarding Governor**

The nominated Safeguarding Governor, Mrs Debbie Smith, takes a lead role in oversight and will:

- meet termly with the DSL
- review safeguarding records, systems and processes (appropriately anonymised)
- monitor training, single central record (SCR) and safeguarding compliance
- undertake safeguarding visits and speak with staff and pupils
- report findings to the Governing Body

The Safeguarding Governor will provide written reports following visits.

### **Headteacher/ Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

The DSL has operational responsibility for safeguarding and will:

- lead safeguarding practice across the school
- ensure timely and appropriate responses to concerns
- maintain accurate safeguarding records
- provide regular safeguarding reports to governors and proprietor
- identify trends and areas for development
- ensure staff training and awareness

## **4. Safeguarding review and monitoring cycle**

Safeguarding oversight is continuous and systematic.

### **Ongoing Monitoring**

- Daily safeguarding oversight by DSL/DDSL
- Weekly review of safeguarding and behaviour data
- Immediate review of serious incidents

### **Termly Review**

- Safeguarding Governor meeting with DSL
- Review of:
  - safeguarding concerns and trends
  - behaviour incidents (safeguarding-linked)
  - attendance and vulnerability indicators
  - use of restrictive interventions
  - staff training compliance
- Safeguarding report presented to Governing Body





The Proprietor will receive termly safeguarding reports and an annual safeguarding review.

### **Annual Review**

- Full safeguarding audit and self-assessment
- Review of all safeguarding-related policies
- Evaluation of safeguarding effectiveness
- Identification of priorities for development
- Submission of safeguarding report to Proprietor

### **5. Evidence scrutiny**

Governors and the Proprietor will scrutinise a range of evidence to ensure safeguarding effectiveness, including:

- safeguarding records and case files (anonymised where appropriate)
- CPOMS (or equivalent) data and trends
- behaviour and incident logs
- attendance and persistent absence data
- use of restrictive interventions and risk assessments
- staff training records and compliance
- Single Central Record (SCR)
- safer recruitment processes
- external agency involvement and outcomes

### **6. Challenge and accountability**

Governance at Storybrook is based on constructive challenge and professional curiosity.

#### **Challenge will include:**

- questioning patterns and trends in safeguarding data
- seeking assurance that concerns are acted upon promptly
- evaluating the impact of safeguarding actions and interventions
- ensuring consistency of practice across the school
- testing staff understanding through monitoring and visits

#### **All challenge and responses will be:**

- recorded in governing body minutes and reviewed as part of the school's safeguarding audit process
- reflected in safeguarding reports
- used to inform ongoing development

### **7. External assurance**

Where appropriate, the Proprietor may commission:





- external safeguarding audits
- independent reviews of safeguarding practice
- professional consultation with safeguarding specialists

This ensures that safeguarding practice is not only internally monitored but externally validated.

## **8. Safeguarding culture**

Governance ensures that safeguarding is:

- a visible priority at all levels
- embedded in all policies and practice
- understood as everyone's responsibility
- regularly reviewed and improved

Leaders and governors promote a culture of:

- professional curiosity
- vigilance
- openness and transparency
- continuous improvement

## **9. Review of this framework**

This document will be reviewed:

- annually as a minimum
- following any significant safeguarding incident
- in line with updates to statutory guidance

This framework should be read alongside the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

## **10. Summary statement**

At Storyybrook, safeguarding is subject to rigorous and transparent governance. Clear lines of accountability, systematic monitoring and effective challenge ensure that safeguarding is not only compliant, but embedded, responsive and continuously improving.

The welfare of the child remains paramount in all governance decisions.

