

# Victoria School of English Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Statement

## What's this Policy about?

While a majority of students who attend Victoria School of English (VSE) are over 18, we do welcome students who are 16 and 17. We believe that the safety of children and young people who attend our school is paramount. Therefore, we ensure that all adults working with children, each member of staff and the host families that the children and young people stay with are appropriately informed and committed to ensuring their safety and wellbeing.

## Our commitment

We are committed to safeguarding all children and young people that come to the school. We believe that all children and young people have an equal right to protection from abuse, regardless of their age, race, religion, ability, gender, language, background or sexual identity. Child abuse is defined as neglect, physical injury, sexual abuse or emotional abuse inflicted or knowingly not prevented, which causes significant harm or death (NSPCC 1999). This commitment applies to young people when on the school premises, when residing with a host family or when engaged in social activities organised by the school that take place off the school premises. We are committed to building and not compromising relationships between young people and adults, ensuring safe systems are in place and having clear procedures if things go wrong. Should any Child Protection issues arise, we have clear policy on how to respond.

## Definitions

This policy defines a child or young person as anyone under the age of 18 as per The Children Act 1989 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. VSE accepts that the term 'young person' has no legal status and that all people under the age of 18 are legally defined as 'children'. However, we recognise that those who are 16 and 17 may prefer not to be referred to as 'children', so have adopted the commonly used term 'young person/people' or U 18's.

## Responsibilities

VSE enables all our staff to make informed decisions regarding safeguarding issues and take all suspicions and allegations of abuse seriously. We expect members of staff and host families to have read, understood and adhere to this policy and related procedures. VSE will take all reasonable steps to ensure that children and young people are protected when they are on the school premises.

## Designated Safeguarding Lead

The "Designated Safeguarding Lead" is the person who has ultimate responsibility for child protection and safeguarding for an organisation. **Jill Hooton** is the **Senior Designated Safeguard lead** for VSE. In her absence, the **Director of Studies, Lisa Barry** will perform this role as Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead. Any safeguarding and child protection issues must be reported to the Designated Person, no matter how seemingly trivial the issue. In the scenario that both Jill Hooton and the DoS are both unavailable, VSE's **Principal** will adopt the role of Designated Person.

### Relationship to safeguarding

We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to them and respecting them
- adopting this policy and adhering to our associated procedures and code of conduct for staff
- recruiting staff ensuring all necessary legal checks are made
- vetting and carrying out the necessary legal checks on host families
- acting appropriately to any allegations, disclosure or suspicions of abuse or bullying
- providing effective management of staff and host families through supervision, support and training

### Procedures and practices

VSE will promote good practice around safeguarding and child protection through our policies and procedures. These include:

- Victoria School of English Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures
- Anti-bullying policy
- Prevent Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Photography Policy
- “Your Time In London” welcome pack
- Recruitment processes
- Training provision for staff
- Risk assessment of social activities that take place off site
- General U18 risk assessment.
- Data Protection Policy
- Host family processes
- Keeping up-to-date with national developments on child protection

### Prevent duty responsibilities

**All** staff including management and hosts within our organisation, including hosts families are given training to understand their Prevent related responsibilities, especially in the context of Safeguarding. This ensures the welfare of students and staff.

**All** staff, management and hosts:

- undertake appropriate Prevent duty training.
- understand the risk of radicalisation
- implement the Duty effectively
- know how to refer an individual who is vulnerable within our organisation

VSE is committed to reviewing this policy and these procedures annually.