Lime Trust

Putting Learners First

Lime Trust Safeguarding Statement

Lime Trust 2026

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Date of Policy: September 2026

Date of Renewal: September 2027

LIME Trust Vision & Values

Putting Learners First is our Trust vision.

We aim to create a nurturing and supportive learning environment for all, encouraging our learners to achieve academic excellence and reach their full potential. We set high expectations and build capacity-rich schools through facilitating school-to-school collaboration. The high challenge we put forward is met with equally high support from our team of education experts, so we continue to improve our children's lives and futures – especially for disadvantaged pupils.

Our values are based on R.E.S.P.E.C.T. which means we believe that:

Respect is built on unconditional positive regard for all learners, all employees, and our wider communities.
Equity enables everyone to be treated as individuals. It removes barriers, provides opportunity and celebrates difference.
Self-worth creates a culture where all learners, all employees and our wider community have pride in their contributions and feel confident and valued.
Partnership is working together for the common good, ensuring that our learners are at the heart of all that we do.
Enjoyment is feeling happy, safe and motivated to make a positive contribution.
Communication provides a voice for all, creating a shared understanding through dialogue.
Trust is a partnership which requires us to act with integrity. Be brave, honest and kind.

Governance

Where a policy refers to the responsibility of the Trust Board for monitoring, scrutiny or quality assurance, these may be delegated to one of the teams below through their governance processes.

- School Improvement Team Governance, which reports directly to the Education, Curriculum and Standards Committee.
- Operations Team Governance, who directly report to the Finance Risk and Audit Committee
- External and internal audits reported to the Trust Board

Trust Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy statement is to ensure that all employees of Lime Trust understand their responsibility to safeguard and minimise the risk of harm to children and young adults.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 and is reflected in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 as follows:

"Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance 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 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

• promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the children

• taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework

- *o Outcome 1: Children, young people and families stay together and get the help they need*
- *o Outcome 2: Children and young people are safe in and outside their homes*
- *o Outcome 3: Children and young people are supported by their family network*
- *o Outcome 4: Children in care and care leavers have stable, loving homes*

Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and is defined for the purpose of this guidance as activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suspected to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. This includes harm that occurs inside or outside the home, including in foster care and residential care, as well as online. Effective safeguarding is anti-discriminatory and anti racist. Practitioners should understand and be sensitive to factors, including economic and social circumstances, ethnicity and disability, which can impact children and families' lives."

Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, immediate action should be taken to safeguard and protect that child. Such action may include enquiries by the local authority under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and, where necessary, emergency protection action under section 44 of the Children Act 1989.

Action should also be taken to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child in need, including through Family Help where appropriate, even where the child is not suffering significant harm or at immediate risk of harm. Support may be provided under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, which places a duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need within their area.

Principles

- Lime Trust believes that safeguarding is its primary responsibility and that everyone who works in the Trust with our children and young people must share this view and demonstrate the values and vision of the Trust
- Each of our schools must follow the agreed Local Authority model safeguarding policy for the area in which they operate
- Each academy must pay due regard to the priorities, advice and guidance of its Local Safeguarding Children

Partnership and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

- Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. Failure to ensure that all policies related to the protection of children are followed could result in dismissal

Roles and Responsibilities

The Teachers' Standards state that teachers, including headteachers, must safeguard children's wellbeing in accordance with statutory provisions and uphold public trust in the teaching profession by maintaining high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school:

- Learners will: adhere to academy rules regarding conduct and safe behaviour; report anything that worries them to a trusted adult.
- Parents/carers will: work collaboratively with school staff to promote the safety of their children and of other pupils; support their academy to teach pupils about keeping safe by reinforcing key safety messages; report any safeguarding concerns regarding their own children or another pupil to the academy.
- Schools will: ensure that all pupils have a safe and stimulating learning environment and are taught about how to keep safe; train and support all adults involved with their school to appropriately identify and respond to any pupil at risk of harm; work collaboratively with parents and professional agencies to safeguard pupils. In addition to working with their Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and/or their Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL), staff members should be aware that they may be asked to support social workers to take decisions about individual children
- Trustees will: ensure their school's safeguarding policy is applied robustly throughout; review it regularly (at least annually) to ensure the effectiveness and rigour of safeguarding practice at their academy.
- Lime Trust shared service staff will: know, understand and follow the safeguarding procedures for each school within which they work; undertake relevant regular training and updates to ensure their skills and knowledge support them to meet their safeguarding responsibility.
- The Trust Safeguarding Lead will: advise and challenge schools and their staff to support them in deploying best practice to meet their statutory safeguarding responsibilities.

Intended Outcomes

• To enable all learners to feel safe and cared for whilst at schools in our Trust and to ensure that they have a safe place and safe people to whom they can turn.
• To enable all adults involved with our trust to be fully equipped to fulfil their responsibilities in effectively promoting the safeguarding and welfare of all our learners.

What school staff and trustees/governors across Lime Trust need to know?

All staff must read Part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 and the safeguarding and child protection policy for the school in which they work, at least annually. New staff must complete this reading as part of induction. Staff should also receive the Trust or school safeguarding response and understand the systems that support safeguarding, including reporting arrangements and the role of the DSL and any deputy DSLs.

All staff members should be aware of systems within their school to support safeguarding, including reporting systems (CPOMS) and these should be explained to them as part of staff induction. This includes: the school's Child Protection Policy; the school's Staff Code of Conduct; and the role of the DSL/DDSL.

All staff members should also receive appropriate child protection training, which is regularly updated.

What school and Lime Trust staff should look out for

All school and Lime Trust staff should be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect, so that they are able to identify cases of children who may need help or protection.

All staff members are advised to maintain an attitude of *"it could happen here"* where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the interests of the child.

There are various expert sources of advice on the signs of abuse and neglect. Each area's Local Safeguarding Children Partnership and Lime Trust Safeguarding Lead should be able to advise on useful material, including training options.

Knowing what to look for is vital to the early identification of abuse and neglect. If staff members are unsure, they should always speak to the relevant DSL/DDSL. In exceptional circumstances, such as in emergency or a genuine concern that appropriate action has not been taken, staff members can speak directly to children's social care.

Children who are absent from education, particularly where absence is repeated or prolonged, may be at increased risk of harm. Staff must follow the school's attendance and safeguarding procedures, make appropriate enquiries and share concerns promptly with the DSL or a deputy DSL. Where a child may meet the statutory definition of a child missing education, the school must also follow the Children missing education: statutory guidance for local authorities and schools and work with the relevant local authority. Schools should also have regard to Working together to improve school attendance.

Lime Trust staff within the national context

Statutory safeguarding and child protection practice for schools is outlined in the following legislation and documents, with which this statement intends to be in accordance:

• Legal: Section 175, Education Act (2002); Section 26, Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015); Human Rights Act (1998); Equality Act (2010)

• Government: Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026); What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (2015); Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026); Prevent duty guidance (2024); Children missing education (2025); The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children (2018); Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services (2024); Teaching online safety in schools (2023); Relationships education, relationships and sex education, and health education (2019); Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework for group and school-based providers (2026); Use of reasonable force in schools (2013).

• Ofsted: Education inspection framework and current school inspection toolkit and operating guides.

The purpose of this policy statement is to link the safeguarding requirements of the specific local authorities in which our schools are based with national guidance and legislation.

What Lime Trust staff should do if they have concerns about a child?

When staff members have concerns about a child, they should raise these with the school's DSL/DDSL. The DSL/DDSL will usually decide whether to make a referral to children's social care, but it is important to note that any staff member can refer their concerns to children's social care directly.

Lime Trust Schools

Lime Trust schools will adopt their Local Authority's Safeguarding Policy. This will accompany the Lime Trust Safeguarding Policy Statement on their website.

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