



VALLEY VIEW RANCH

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

POLICY DATED 1/2/2026

REVIEW DATE 1/2/2027

Valley View Ranch – Alternative Provision

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Tina Lawrence

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): Bruce Lawrence

1. Policy Statement

Valley View Ranch is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people attending its Alternative Provision. The safety, wellbeing and dignity of children is paramount and underpins all aspects of practice. Safeguarding is recognised as the responsibility of all staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all Alternative Provision activity delivered by Valley View Ranch, including equine-assisted activity, western riding (no jumping), animal care, outdoor learning and pastoral support. It applies to all adults working with or coming into contact with children during provision hours.

3. Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy is informed by and complies with relevant legislation and statutory guidance including: Keeping Children Safe in Education (latest edition); Working Together to Safeguard Children; the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004; the Education Act 2002; Prevent Duty Guidance; the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.

4. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Valley View Ranch Alternative Provision is Tina Lawrence. The DSL has overall responsibility for safeguarding arrangements, receiving and responding to concerns, liaising with external agencies, ensuring staff receive appropriate training, and maintaining accurate, secure safeguarding records. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Bruce Lawrence. The Deputy DSL supports the DSL and undertakes safeguarding responsibilities in their absence.

5. Recognising Abuse and Harm

Staff are trained to recognise indicators of abuse, neglect and harm, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, child-on-child abuse, exploitation (including criminal and sexual exploitation), domestic abuse, mental health concerns and radicalisation.

6. Responding to Disclosures

If a child discloses safeguarding information, staff will listen calmly and attentively, take the disclosure seriously, avoid asking leading questions, reassure the child without promising confidentiality, and report the information immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

7. Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

All safeguarding concerns must be reported without delay to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Where a child is believed to be at immediate risk of harm, emergency services and children's social care will be contacted immediately. Concerns are recorded factually, stored securely and shared only on a need-to-know basis.

8. Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers

Any allegation made against a member of staff or volunteer will be managed in accordance with statutory guidance. The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be contacted where required. Staff subject to allegations will be supported appropriately while ensuring the safety of children.

9. Safer Recruitment and Staff Conduct

Valley View Ranch follows safer recruitment practices including enhanced DBS checks, appropriate references and induction. All staff and volunteers are expected to adhere to the Staff Code of Conduct and maintain professional boundaries at all times.

10. Record Keeping and Confidentiality

Safeguarding records are kept securely and separately from other records. Information is shared only where necessary to protect the child, in accordance with data protection legislation.

11. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or in response to changes in legislation, guidance or operational practice.