



# Pinnacle-AP Safeguarding Policy

## 1. Policy Statement

Pinnacle-AP recognises its paramount duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people who attend our provision. We are committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where every student feels secure, respected, and valued. We uphold the principle that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and maintain a culture of vigilance and openness. This policy outlines the framework for our safeguarding practices and procedures, ensuring the well-being of our students is at the heart of all we do.

## 2. Principles

- The welfare of the child is our paramount concern.
- All children, regardless of their age, gender, ability, race, religion, or sexual orientation, have the right to be protected from harm.
- All staff and volunteers at Pinnacle-AP have a responsibility to be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect and to follow procedures to ensure the safety of our students.
- We will work in partnership with parents/carers, mainstream schools, and relevant external agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of our students.
- We will ensure that our safeguarding practices are child-centered and take into account the views and wishes of our students.
- We will operate within the framework of relevant legislation, including the Children Act 1989 and 2004, and guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE).

## 3. Definitions

- **Safeguarding:** Protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
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- **Child Protection:** A part of safeguarding that focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.
- **Abuse:** Includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.
- **Staff:** All individuals working at or for Pinnacle-AP, including paid employees, volunteers, and coaches.
- **Child:** Anyone under the age of 18 years.
- **Parent/Carer:** Includes those with parental responsibility and any other adult who has care of a child.



- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** The named person responsible for leading safeguarding within Pinnacle-AP.
- **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL):** The named person who deputises for the DSL in their absence.

#### 4. Leadership and Management

- Pinnacle-AP will appoint a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** and a **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)** who will have overall responsibility for safeguarding within the provision. Their names and contact details will be clearly displayed.
  - **DSL:** Rhonda Thomas
  - **DDSL:** [Insert Name and Contact Details]
- The DSL will:
  - Be the main point of contact for all safeguarding concerns.
  - Provide advice and support to other staff on safeguarding matters.
  - Liaise with Children's Social Care, the police, and other relevant agencies.
  - Maintain accurate and confidential records of safeguarding concerns.
  - Ensure that all staff receive appropriate safeguarding training.
  - Oversee the implementation of this policy and related procedures.
- All staff will be made aware of the DSL and DDSL and understand how to contact them.
- The leadership of Pinnacle-AP will ensure that sufficient time and resources are allocated to safeguarding matters.
- This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

#### 5. Training

- All staff at Pinnacle-AP will receive safeguarding and child protection training appropriate to their role upon induction and regularly thereafter (at least annually).
- Training will cover:
  - The signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect.
  - Procedures for reporting safeguarding concerns.
  - Pinnacle-AP's Safeguarding Policy and related procedures.
  - Understanding the role of the DSL.
  - Online safety.
  - Relevant legislation and guidance (including KCSiE).
- The DSL and DDSL will undertake more advanced safeguarding training at least every three years.
- Records of staff safeguarding training will be maintained.

#### 6. Identifying and Responding to Safeguarding Concerns



- All staff have a responsibility to be vigilant and to recognise potential indicators of abuse or neglect. These indicators may include changes in a child's behaviour, appearance, or what they say.
- If a member of staff has a concern about a child's welfare, they must immediately report this concern to the DSL or DDSL.
- The DSL (or DDSL in their absence) will:
  - Listen carefully to the information provided.
  - Ask clarifying questions to gather further details.
  - Record the concern accurately and factually, including the date, time, and nature of the concern, and the names of those involved.
  - Assess the information and determine the appropriate course of action, which may include:
    - Seeking further information.
    - Consulting with Children's Social Care.
    - Contacting the police.
    - Discussing the concern with the child's mainstream school and/or parents/carers (unless doing so would place the child at further risk).
- In situations where there is an immediate risk of significant harm, staff should contact Children's Social Care or the police directly and then inform the DSL as soon as possible.
- Pinnacle-AP will follow local safeguarding partnership procedures for referrals to external agencies.

## **7. Confidentiality and Information Sharing**

- All information relating to safeguarding concerns will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and shared only on a 'need to know' basis, in line with Information Sharing Guidance.
- We recognise that sharing information appropriately is crucial for safeguarding children.
- Information will be shared with relevant agencies when there is a concern about a child's safety or welfare.
- We will generally seek to inform parents/carers before sharing information with external agencies, unless doing so would place the child at further risk or prejudice an investigation.
- Records of safeguarding concerns will be stored securely and in accordance with data protection legislation.

## **8. Online Safety**

- Pinnacle-AP recognizes the importance of keeping students safe online.
- We will have clear rules and expectations for the use of technology and the internet by students and staff.



- Students will be educated about online safety, including the risks of cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and online grooming.
- Staff will be aware of their responsibilities regarding online safety and will monitor students' online activity appropriately.
- Any concerns about online safety will be reported to the DSL.

## **9. Safer Recruitment**

- Pinnacle-AP is committed to safer recruitment practices to prevent unsuitable people from working with children.
- All staff and volunteers will undergo appropriate background checks, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, at the appropriate level.
- References will be sought and verified.
- Induction procedures will include providing staff with information about safeguarding policies and procedures.

## **10. Allegations Against Staff**

- Any allegations of abuse or misconduct against a member of staff will be taken seriously and dealt with promptly and appropriately.
- The DSL will be informed immediately of any such allegations.
- Pinnacle-AP will follow the procedures outlined by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for managing allegations against staff.

## **11. Child on Child Abuse**

- Pinnacle-AP recognises that children can abuse other children.
- Any concerns about child-on-child abuse will be taken seriously and addressed in accordance with relevant guidance and our Behaviour Management Policy, with a focus on support for both the child harmed and the child causing harm.
- The DSL will be informed of any such concerns and will liaise with relevant agencies as appropriate.

## **12. Partnership Working**

- Pinnacle-AP is committed to working in partnership with parents/carers, mainstream schools, Sholing FC (our collaborative partner), and other relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of our students.
- We will share relevant information and contribute to multi-agency working as appropriate.

## **13. Supporting Students at Risk of Harm**



- Pinnacle-AP will provide support to students who have experienced or are at risk of harm.
- This may include providing a safe space to talk, signposting to external support services, and working with mainstream schools to implement appropriate support plans.

#### **14. Physical Intervention**

- Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort to prevent a student from causing harm to themselves or others.
- Any physical intervention used will be reasonable and proportionate to the situation and will be recorded and reported in accordance with our Behaviour Management Policy. Staff will be trained in safe and appropriate physical intervention techniques.

#### **15. Looked After Children (LAC)**

- Pinnacle-AP recognises its responsibilities towards Looked After Children and will work closely with the Local Authority and foster carers to ensure their needs are met and their welfare is safeguarded.

#### **16. Children with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs (SEND)**

- Pinnacle-AP is committed to safeguarding children with disabilities and SEND. We will ensure that our safeguarding practices are accessible and take into account the individual needs of these students.

#### **17. Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the DSL and the leadership of Pinnacle-AP, and updated as required in response to changes in legislation, guidance, or local needs.

**Date of Policy:** 5/5/2025

**Date of Next Review:** 5/5/25

**Signed:**

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Rhonda Thomas

Pinnacle-AP

