



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, openness, and professional curiosity. Safeguarding and child protection are at the heart of all that we do.

Pinnacle-AP recognises that children attending alternative provision may be at increased risk of harm due to factors such as exclusion, adverse childhood experiences, trauma, or disengagement from education. Safeguarding practice at Pinnacle-AP is therefore proactive, vigilant, and trauma-informed.

Pinnacle-AP works with children and young people commissioned by multiple Local Authorities, including Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, and Portsmouth City Council. Safeguarding arrangements are implemented in line with the procedures, thresholds, and referral pathways of the commissioning Local Authority, while remaining fully compliant with national statutory guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025).



2. Principles

The welfare of the child is our paramount concern.

All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, race, religion, or sexual orientation, have the right to be protected from harm.

All staff and volunteers have a responsibility to identify concerns, act promptly, and follow safeguarding procedures.

Safeguarding practice is child-centred and takes account of pupils' views and lived experiences.

We work in partnership with parents/carers, commissioning schools, and external agencies.

We operate within relevant legislation, including the Children Act 1989 and 2004, and statutory guidance including Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025).

3. Definitions

Safeguarding: Protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of health or development; ensuring children grow up with safe and effective care; taking action to enable the best outcomes.

Child Protection: Part of safeguarding focusing on children at risk of significant harm.

Abuse: Physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect.

Child: Anyone under 18 years of age.



Staff: All adults working at or for Pinnacle-AP, including employees, volunteers, and coaches.

Parent/Carer: Those with parental responsibility or who care for a child.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Person with lead responsibility for safeguarding.

Deputy DSL (DDSL): Person who deputises for the DSL.

4. Leadership and Management

Pinnacle-AP will appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL (DDSL).

DSL: Rhonda Thomas

DDSL: [Insert Name and Contact Details]

The Proprietor holds overall responsibility for ensuring safeguarding arrangements at Pinnacle-AP are effective and compliant with statutory and Local Authority requirements. If a concern involves the DSL, it must be reported directly to the Proprietor and managed in line with LADO procedures.

5. Training

All staff receive safeguarding and child protection training on induction and at least annually.



The DSL and DDSL undertake advanced safeguarding training at least every two years, with regular updates.

6. Identifying and Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

All staff must remain vigilant to indicators of abuse, neglect, exploitation, radicalisation, or harm.

Concerns must be reported immediately to the DSL or DDSL.

If a child is in immediate danger, emergency services must be contacted.

Patterns of non-attendance, unexplained absence, or concerns relating to children missing education are treated as safeguarding concerns.

7. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Safeguarding information is shared on a need-to-know basis.

Safeguarding concerns override confidentiality where there is risk of harm.

Records are stored securely and separately from academic files.

8. Online Safety

Clear expectations exist for technology use.

Online safety concerns are reported to the DSL.



9. Safer Recruitment

Pinnacle-AP follows safer recruitment practices including DBS checks and references.

A Single Central Record (SCR) is maintained.

10. Allegations Against Staff and Low-Level Concerns

All allegations are referred to the LADO where appropriate.

Low-level concerns are recorded and reviewed by the DSL.

11. Whistleblowing

Staff may raise safeguarding concerns internally or directly with the relevant Local Authority without fear of reprisal.

12. Child-on-Child Abuse

All concerns are taken seriously and managed in line with statutory guidance.

13. Partnership Working

Pinnacle-AP works in partnership with parents, schools, Local Authorities, and Sholing FC.



14. Supporting Students at Risk

Support includes safe spaces, referrals, and joint planning.

15. Physical Intervention

Physical intervention is a last resort and incidents are recorded.

16. Looked After Children

Pinnacle-AP works closely with Local Authorities to safeguard Looked After Children.

17. Children with SEND

Safeguarding practice is adapted to meet individual needs.

18. Reporting to MASH

Referrals are made to the appropriate MASH for the commissioning authority.

Hampshire:

0300 555 1384 (office hours)

0300 555 1373 (out of hours)



Portsmouth:

MASH@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

02392 688793

19. Record Keeping and Follow-Up

All referrals and outcomes are recorded securely and monitored.

20. Review of Policy

Date of Policy: 05/05/2025

Date of review 5/5/2026

Date of Next Review: 05/05/2027

Signed:

Rhonda Thomas

Pinnacle-AP



Safeguarding Concern Reporting Flowchart – MASH

■ Concern Identified Staff member notices a safeguarding concern or receives a disclosure.
■ Immediate Response If child is in immediate danger → Call 999. If not immediate → listen, reassure, avoid leading questions.
■ Record the Concern Complete Safeguarding Concern Form. Record facts only, use child's words where possible.
■ Report to DSL/DDSL Pass the concern to DSL/DDSL immediately. If unavailable → contact MASH directly.
■ DSL/DDSL Review DSL/DDSL considers next steps: • No further action • Early help • Referral to MASH
■ Referral to MASH DSL/DDSL makes referral with detailed information. Record date, decision, and outcome.
■ Follow-Up & Monitoring DSL/DDSL monitors child's welfare. Escalate concerns if situation does not improve.