



Co-op Academy  
Rathbone

# Safeguarding and Child Protection: A Partnership with Parents

## Co-op Academy Rathbone Policy Summary

Issue 1 | September 2025

Co-op Academy Rathbone is deeply committed to ensuring every child feels safe, happy, and ready to learn. This document provides a clear summary of our formal Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and outlines our joint responsibilities in protecting your child.

### 1. Defining Safeguarding: What Does It Mean?

For parents, 'Safeguarding' is our overarching commitment to your child's total wellbeing. It means providing the support your child needs and protecting them from harm.

Focus Area	Our Commitment to Your Child
Protection	Protecting them from maltreatment, harm, or abuse (in person and online).
Early Help	Providing help and support as soon as problems or concerns about their welfare emerge.
Development	Ensuring they grow up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care.

Safety in School	Maintaining a secure learning environment, using safe recruitment practices for staff, and robust IT monitoring.
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Child Protection is a specific part of safeguarding, referring to the actions taken when a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.

## 2. Key Personnel: Your Contacts for Concerns

If you have a concern about your own child, or any child in the academy, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). They are specially trained and manage all child protection concerns.

Role	Name	Contact Information
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Hayley Gorman	hayley.gorman@coopacademies.co.uk
Deputy DSLs	Katie Quinn & Hayley Davison	Available to assist the DSL and cover in their absence.

Remember: During term time, the DSL or a trained Deputy is always available during school hours.

## 3. Our Joint Responsibilities: Working Together

### The Academy's Role (What We Do)

- **Vigilance and Training:** All staff receive mandatory, regular training to identify the signs of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and mental health issues.
- **Referral Procedures:** If we believe a child is at risk of significant harm, we will take immediate action and contact the appropriate external agencies (e.g., Children's Social Care). We must follow the procedures set by the Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP).
- **Operation Encompass:** We partner with Merseyside Police. If a domestic abuse incident is reported at your home, the police will notify our DSL so we can offer support to your child the next day in school.
- **Secure Environment:** We ensure a secure site, monitor visitors, and teach children how to stay safe (including online).

## Your Role as Parents/Carers (What You Can Do)

- **Communicate Concerns:** If you are worried about your child's safety or welfare, or the safety of another child, please immediately report this to the DSL.
- **Keep Information Updated:** Please ensure the school has at least two up-to-date emergency contact numbers at all times.
- **Support Our Policies:** We ask that you understand and adhere to related school policies (e.g., Online Safety, Attendance, and Behaviour).
- **Online Safety at Home:** Support the academy's curriculum by monitoring your child's online activity.

## 4. Information Sharing and Confidentiality

The welfare of the child is our paramount concern.

- We will only share information with external agencies (like Social Services or Health) when it is necessary to safeguard and promote your child's welfare.
- Unless doing so would put the child at greater risk, we will generally speak to you and seek your consent before making a referral or sharing information.
- All information sharing complies with statutory guidance (DfE Guidance on Information Sharing, July 2024).

## 5. Specific Areas We Focus On

We are alert to a wide range of issues that affect young people, and our policy covers:

- **Child-on-Child Abuse:** Addressing harmful sexual behaviour, sexual violence, and sexual harassment between students.
- **Extra-familial Harm:** Protecting children from risks outside the family (e.g., Child Criminal Exploitation, County Lines, and Gangs).
- **Online Safety:** Protecting students from harmful content, cyberbullying, and inappropriate communication.
- **Vulnerability:** Providing targeted support for children with a social worker, children with Special Educational Needs (SEND), and young carers.
- **Preventing Radicalisation:** Protecting students from being drawn into terrorism (the 'Prevent' duty).

## 6. Where to Go for Help

Urgent Concerns (Outside School Hours)

Service	Contact Details	When to Call

Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS)	0151 459 2606	If you have a welfare concern and the school is closed.
Emergency Services	999	If a child is in immediate danger or a crime is being committed.

### Local Support

Service	Contact Details	Focus
School Family Support	Anna Van Campen	General family support and advice.
Local Authority Prevent Lead	Joanna Fitzsimmons	Concerns related to radicalisation.

To view the full, formal policy and related documents (e.g., Online Safety Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy), please visit the academy website: <http://rathbone.coopacademies.co.uk/> or request a hard copy from the academy office.