

Safeguarding Policy

Exppanse Learning College

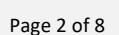
May 2025

Author:
Karl Wane

Version:
6

This Policy was approved by:
Board of Directors on 8th May 2025

Date for Review:
September 2025



1. General Information

Proprietor & CEO: Anthony Brown

Post 16 Director & Designated Safeguarding Lead: Karl Wane

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Julieanne Prescott

Designated Safeguarding Officers: Steph Howard; Hannah Mabbutt; Tracy Gill

Chair of Governors: Martin Budden

Designated Safeguarding Governor: Lorraine Woosey

2. What is Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their communities, colleges and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Therefore, social care practitioners, safeguarding systems and wider safeguarding partnerships need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of safeguarding systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse beyond their front doors.

The college will ensure that all staff and governors are aware of and understand their responsibilities in relation to contextual safeguarding.

3. Introduction

Background and legal Framework

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the college's Safeguarding Procedure and links to the following policies, guidance, and legislation:

- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Disciplinary Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Low Level Concerns Policy
- Guidance on Safer Working Practice
- Children Missing from Education Procedure
- Prevent Risk Assessment
- Safeguarding Children in education: handling allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff (2014)
- External Visitors and Visiting Speakers Policy

4. Purpose

This document sets out Expanse Learnings policy on responding to concerns regarding the safeguarding and protection of children and young people aged under 18 years, young people, or adults at risk of neglect or abuse. The policy and the associated procedures provide guidance to all staff who may have concerns of this nature within the context of their work.

This Policy fulfils the requirements of:

- Health and Social Care Act (2012)
- The Children Act 1989 and (2004)
- The Protection of Children Act (1999)
- The Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- The Human Rights Act (1998)
- Mental capacity Act (2005) & Mental Capacity (amendment) act 2019
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2020)
- Care Act (2014)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (2009)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)
- Children and Families Act (2014)

- Keeping learners safe (2015)
- Safeguarding Children in Education (2014)
- Expanse Prevent Strategy

5. Scope

This Policy applies to all staff, volunteers, and students at all Expanse Learning College sites (Hereafter referred to as the college). Staff from other organisations working with people on our premises or with college students, will also be expected to follow this policy.

6. Policy Statement

The college regards the protection of children and adults at risk as a priority and is committed to safeguarding these groups. The principles of this policy are as follows:

- The protection of children, young people and adults at risk is everyone's responsibility.
- Staff should not assume someone else will take action.
- The college will follow statutory and specialist guidelines in working with children, young people, and adults at risk.
- The college will seek to support all those affected by abuse.
- The college will seek to prevent vulnerable people from radicalisation or undue influence that may cause harm to themselves or others.
- The college will review its Safeguarding Policy annually
- The college will ensure all students know who they can approach in the organisation if they are worried or in difficulty.

The college recognises its duty to safeguard students encompasses specific safeguarding issues including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), radicalisation, peer on peer abuse, up skirting bullying including cyberbullying, domestic violence, drugs, fabricated or induced illness, faith abuse, gangs and youth violence, gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG), hate, mental health, prevent and radicalisation, relationship abuse, sharing nudes/semi nudes, trafficking and the importance of online safety.

Forced Marriage (NB*since February 2023 it has also been a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday, even if violence, threats, or another form of coercion are not used. As with the existing forced marriage law, this applies to non-binding, unofficial 'marriages' as well as legal marriages).

The Chair of the governing body will liaise with the local authority on safeguarding issues in the event of an allegation being made against the Chief Executive.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) also covers the duties of the Designated Senior Person (DSP). The DSLs have overall responsibility for safeguarding within the organisation. The Director of College acts as the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. The college also employ Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO) all of whom provide advice and support to other staff on welfare and safeguarding matters. During core working hours the DSLs and DSO will be available. Outside of these hours all safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Wigan Emergency Duty Team (EDT) – **0161 834 2436** or the police.

Staff members who have concerns about a student should raise these with the DSL(s) or DSO(s) who will decide whether to make an alert to the Wigan Local Authority Safeguarding Team. However, any staff member can refer their concerns about a child to children's social care directly. Where an allegation or suspicion of abuse has been reported to the relevant Local Authority Safeguarding Team, the college will work in partnership with them to determine the next steps

Early Help will be achieved through engaging with a range of agencies to coordinate Education Health Care plans or where a child may be at risk of modern slavery, being radicalised or exploited, is a young carer or showing signs of being drawn into anti-social behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups. The college will engage other services where necessary. The college adheres to Wigan Safeguarding Children's Board and (WSCB) and the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership Procedures. Wigan Council have established a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for Help and Protection of Children

The college can contact the MASH for help and protection of Children with any concerns about children and young people who may need help and protection. MASH will provide help and protection for Children who will receive a range of support, this will involve advice and guidance including signposting to services, early help enquiries, assessment, and support from Start Well or Children's Social Care; Contact can be made through the following ways:

Child Referral

Wigan Council

Telephone: 01942 828300

Adult Referral

Wigan Council

Wigan Safeguarding and Children Board on 01942 486025 or
wscb@wigan.gov.uk

Email: EarlyHelp.Logging@wigan.gov.uk

Professional referral:
<https://apps.wigan.gov.uk/ChildReferral/>

Wigan LADO - 01942 486042
Email: lado@wigan.gov.uk

In writing: WSCB, Wigan Life Centre, PO Box 100

Wigan Adult Safeguarding adults 01942 828777

Out of hours: 0161 834 2436

www.wigansafeguardingadults.org/

<https://apps.wigan.gov.uk/adultsafeguardingreferrals/>

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024), the college have a duty to protect students against Peer-on-Peer abuse. There are many forms of abuse that can occur between peers, such as physical abuse, sexually harmful behaviour/sexual abuse, sexual harassment and sexual violence, bullying (including banter), cyber bullying, sexting, up skirting initiation/hazing and prejudiced behaviour.

All **significant** concerns around peer-on-peer abuse must be reported to the relevant Safeguarding Team (DSO & DSL) immediately either in person or by phone. A written report must be uploaded to Databridge using (College) – **Pastoral & Safeguarding Event function(s)**.

The college will exercise care in the appointment of all those working with children, young people, and adults at risk, working to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and 'Keeping Learners Safe' by ensuring that everyone working with children, young people adults at risk:

- Has undergone pre-employment checks in line with current legislation including an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service check
- Is adequately trained and supervised.
- Understands and follows the college Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.
- Understands the Prevent Procedure.
- Is registered with their relevant professional body (if appropriate).
- All staff including volunteers will undertake safeguarding training on a regular basis and demonstrate their knowledge in their practice.
- All staff working within the college will attend Prevent Training and embed the strategy into their everyday work.

The college will promote safeguarding through improving the personal knowledge of Service Users of their own safety and by ensuring they are and feel safe.

7. Roles & Responsibilities

Implementation

- The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is responsible for the implementation and supervision of this policy.
- A nominated member of the governing body will lead on safeguarding and all governors will receive regular data on safeguarding within the college.
- Safeguarding procedures will be implemented by all college staff and volunteers.
- The Designated Safeguarding Leads will be responsible for investigating any safeguarding concerns reported.

Support, Advice and Communication

- Information and advice regarding this Policy can be obtained from the Designated Safeguarding Leads or SLT.
- Staff requiring personal support due to a disclosure or investigation will receive support from the designated safeguarding team members

8. Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually to respond to changes in legislation and current practice. This policy will be reviewed by DSL and governors.

Impact of non-compliance:

Staff:	Disciplinary action, prosecution
Student:	Not applicable
Legislation/organisational:	Reputational damage, litigation, statutory and non-regulated compliance. prosecution
Compliance lead:	Pastoral and Care
Policy Reference:	ELCO-SAFG-POL-0002
Version:	6
Agreed policy location:	DatabridgeMIS
Policy Schedule:	12 Months
Does the policy require Governor approval?	Yes

Version Control

Version	Date	Revision	Review Date
1	01/09/2020	Policy Review	31/08/2021
2	01/09/2021	Reviewed	31/08/2022
3	01/11/2022	Reviewed and updated	01/09/2023
4	29/09/2023	Reviewed and updated (Forced Marriage reference & staff)	01/09/2024
5	05/09/2024	Reviewed and updated (LW – SG Governor; Support guidance validated; Databridge) Reviewed 08/05/2025 KW	01/09/2025
6	08/05/2025	Reviewed and updated (TG / MB – DSO's added) KW	01/09/2025

Appendix 1: Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Procedure

Introduction

The college is committed to providing a secure environment for students where they feel safe and are kept safe. All staff at the college recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for students or not.

This Appendix draws upon the guidance contained in the DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, (2021)" and Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales and supports our whole organisation approach that includes specific Prevent risk assessment and contingency planning.

The college Ethos and Practice

When operating this procedure, the college uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which is:

'Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.'

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our organisation, whether from internal sources – service, staff, or external sources. Our students see our organisation as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our staff encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As an organisation we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for our students and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in the flow chart. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our students.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of our students.

Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way. Therefore, at the college we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students are enriched, understand, and become tolerant of difference and diversity and to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

Furthermore, we are aware that our students can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times service users may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any prejudice, discrimination, or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with the college Behaviour Policy for students and the college Code of Conduct Policy for staff.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities, the college staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views, or materials of others outside of the organisation, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where service users have not actively sought these out.
- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- Parental / care giver reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance.
- Partner organisations, local authority services, police reports of issues affecting students in other settings.
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives.
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with the college's equality policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others such as Anti- Western or Anti-British views.

Our organisation will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and Radicalisation.

Teaching Approaches

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some students becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches students may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences.

We will ensure that all our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give students a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, to address specific issues to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. In doing so we will apply the following methodologies:

- Making a connection with students through good teaching and a person-centred approach
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue, and
- Equipping our students with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

Therefore, this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our organisation so that students know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our organisation's approach to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of students.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this by using a curriculum that includes:

- British Values
- Personal Development
- Open discussion and debate

We work with local partners, families, and communities in our efforts to ensure our college understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our students' experiences and horizons. We will help support students who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences, we will ensure that that student is offered mentoring. Additionally in such instances our college will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation service users and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle-blow or raise any issue in confidence.

Safeguarding

Please refer to the (ELCO-ORG-003 – Safeguarding Procedure) for the full procedural framework on our Safeguarding and Child Protection duties.

Staff will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a students may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example, this could be due to a student displaying risky behaviour in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with, or staff may be aware of information about a student's family that may equally place a student at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive). Therefore, all adults working within the organisation (including visitors, agency staff and contractors) are required to report instances where they believe a student may be at risk of harm or neglect to the DSL or DSO ASAP in person.

Our Safeguarding reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Safeguarding Procedure

Role of the college Governing Body.

The Governing Body will:

- Will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities, including their statutory safeguarding duties.
- Support the ethos and values of our organisation and will give support in tackling extremism and radicalisation.
- Challenge the senior leadership team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness in line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, (2023)'