



## Appendix (9)

### Our Safeguarding Team at The Oaklands Primary School

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Miss Josie O’Gorman

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:** Mr David Barker, Miss Katy Carpenter, Mr Talha Afzal, Mrs Bethany Hargreaves, Mr Jordan Rose, Mr Adam Reed, Ms Annette Pereira

Contact details for our Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies can be found on our academy website and via the following link: <https://oaklandsprimary.org.uk/safeguarding/>

**Single Point of Contact (SPOC)** for Prevent (in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism): Miss Josie O’Gorman

**Operation Encompass Key Adult** (in relation to protecting and supporting individuals from domestic abuse): Miss Josie O’Gorman

**Designated Teacher for Looked After Children:** Miss Josie O’Gorman

**Senior Mental Health First Aid Lead:** Miss Josie O’Gorman

**Rights Respecting Link:** Miss Katy Carpenter

**Safeguarding Governor:** Mr Jim Stevens

#### **Local Authority Safeguarding Context**

The Oaklands Primary School is located in Acocks Green, Birmingham and educates children, young people and their families from predominantly the Birmingham Solihull area.

#### **Birmingham**

Birmingham Council had their Children’s Social Care Services Ofsted undertaken in March 2023 and were graded as good. <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80429>

Birmingham is the largest Local Authority in the UK which means there are a large number of children (over 250,000) to support and safeguard. Birmingham has a younger than average population with over a quarter of its residents aged under 18 according to 2011 census data. There are significantly more children living in poverty in Birmingham than the national average. Figures published in 2021 show that 3 of the 5 areas with the highest child poverty rates in the UK are in Birmingham. (Hodge Hill with 53% of children living in households below the poverty

line, Ladywood with 50% and Hall Green with 46%). Hodge Hill also has the highest rates of unemployment in the UK.

Health outcomes in Birmingham are also poor in comparison to national averages. The West Midlands has consistently had the highest rates of infant mortality in England and Wales (according to ONS data). NHS data shows that Birmingham has one of the highest childhood obesity rates in England with over a quarter of children classed as obese at age 11.

Birmingham is a diverse city with a higher number of residents than average from minority ethnic backgrounds (including 58% of children according to 2011 census figures). There are also far more residents in the city than the national average born outside of the UK and more than twice as many people than average for whom English is not their first language. Children in these communities may be more vulnerable to neglect than those of White British heritage as their families are more likely to be living in poverty, more likely to experience isolation and may face barriers in terms of access to services.

**Birmingham Neglect Strategy 2022-2026**

<https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Tackling-Neglect-in-Birmingham-A-Strategy-for-Children-and-Young-People-2022-2026-11.pdf>

Neglect is the most common form of child abuse in the UK and, while we don't yet have detailed data, the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have increased the risk of children being neglected. Neglect can have a devastating effect on children's lives. Whatever organisation we come from, and whatever role we do, we all have a responsibility to look for signs of neglect in our work with children and families and to take action when we identify them. The most likely reason for a child in Birmingham to need support and/or protection is neglect.

Birmingham's Safeguarding Children's Partnership have four priorities for the next two years as outlined in their Business Improvement Plan.

<https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk/documents/business-improvement-plan-2025-27>

**Priority 1: Working together more effectively** – Implementing national reforms to strengthen multi-agency practice to support families and safeguard children.

**Priority 2: Voice of the child and family** – Ensuring children and parents/carers views are central to our multi-agency practice and engaging children and families with lived experience to improve our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

**Priority 3: Children out of sight** – Developing multi-agency pathways to better support and safeguard children who are at risk of, or who have become, out of sight to services.

**Priority 4: Harm outside the home** – Improving earlier identification and responses to children at risk of, or who are engaged in, serious youth violence or who are being criminally and/or sexually exploited.

Local Authority Factors	The actions The Oaklands Primary School are taking:
Working together more effectively	At The Oaklands Primary School we: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remain up to date with all national reforms and policies and use this to inform our practice.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that colleagues are provided with thorough, ongoing training.</li> <li>• Instil a culture of vigilance for all of our colleagues and pupils.</li> <li>• Encourage a strong culture of collaboration with external services and agencies.</li> <li>• Ensure representation and attendance at all multi-agency meetings.</li> <li>• Facilitate and lead on actions with and alongside external agencies e.g. Child Protection, Child in Need and Early Help Assessments.</li> <li>• Engage in a culture of professional challenge and reflection.</li> </ul>
<p>Voice of the child and family</p>	<p>At The Oaklands Primary School we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower pupils to proactively discuss their thoughts, feelings and ideas.</li> <li>• Encourage the holistic development of our pupils through our RHE and values curriculum.</li> <li>• Provide regular opportunities for pupil discussion and contribution to our school life.</li> <li>• Actively listen and ensure that all pupil voices are heard and valued; utilising an experience Pastoral and Inclusion team.</li> </ul>
<p>Children out of sight</p>	<p>At The Oaklands Primary School we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a strong culture of school attendance with clear policies which are adhered to by all.</li> <li>• Monitor pupil attendance, working proactively to overcome barriers for pupils.</li> <li>• Follow the Birmingham ‘Support First’ guidance where appropriate.</li> <li>• Work alongside our Educational, Welfare Officer (EWO) to support families in attending school regularly.</li> <li>• Work alongside the Children Missing Education Service (CME) and complete referrals where needed.</li> <li>• Share information promptly with external agencies around a child.</li> <li>• Engage in a culture of professional challenge and reflection.</li> </ul>
<p>Harm outside the home</p>	<p>At The Oaklands Primary School we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that colleagues are provided with thorough, ongoing training.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instil a culture of vigilance for all of colleagues and pupils.</li> <li>• Provide effective channels for reporting, triaging and investigating concerns.</li> <li>• Utilise an experience Pastoral and Inclusion team; screening, signposting and supporting families on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>• Use screening tools to better understand risks to pupils, taking appropriate next steps.</li> <li>• Share information, including with external agencies and through referrals, to provide prompt support for our pupils, school and community.</li> </ul>
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### **The Oaklands Primary School Safeguarding Context**

At The Oaklands Primary School we regularly seek the views of our local stakeholders in addition to the safeguarding procedures we robustly have in place to identify emerging and escalating safeguarding issues. We do this to ensure that we have a historic and current understanding of the contextual matters affecting our community, particularly our learners and their families. At The Oaklands Primary School we are here to notice, listen, respect, help, and support. This support may be from a key member of staff in our academy or from a local service or organisation.

<b>The Oaklands Primary School Community Factors</b>	<b>The actions that The Oaklands Primary are taking:</b>
Family and community relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visible, approach and accessible pastoral and inclusion support team</li> <li>• Parental workshops delivered by in school colleagues and external agencies</li> <li>• Information and literature shared through school communication channels</li> <li>• Close collaboration with local services including Women’s Aid</li> <li>• Signposting to school and local services</li> </ul>
Existence and accessibility of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A universal Summit Learning Trust ‘Base Camp’ offer</li> <li>• Signposting to school and local services including food banks</li> <li>• Support with applications e.g. bus passes, school admissions.</li> <li>• Utilising staff and school community links.</li> <li>• Providing a range of parenting support services including in-school and external providers e.g. Beacon School Support.</li> </ul>

<p>Crime within the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively working alongside Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) and other external providers.</li> <li>• Collaborating with local services to raise awareness of concerns outside of school e.g. police and fire services</li> <li>• Ensuring a thorough RHE curriculum which discusses risks and topical issues.</li> </ul>
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### **Birmingham Children's Trust**

The Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) provides a single point of contact for professionals and members of the public who want to access support or raise concerns about a child.

<https://www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/contact>

Telephone: **0121 303 1888** Emergency out-of-hours Telephone: **0121 675 4806**

### **Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership**

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

If you have significant worries about the safeguarding of a child, please call the MASH Team to speak to the Duty Social Worker for advice before submitting this form:

<https://digital.solihull.gov.uk/ChildrensSocialWorkServiceReferral/>

Telephone: **0121 788 4300 option 2** (Monday to Thursday 8:45am - 5:20pm, Friday 8:45am - 4.30pm), or **0121 605 6060** (Evenings, weekends, or bank holidays)

<https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/>