

UTC Oxfordshire Safeguarding Procedures

If you have a safeguarding concern at UTC Oxfordshire, please call: 01235 391587 and ask to speak to the DSL or a member of the safeguarding team.

Our UTC Safeguarding team are:

- Zoe Barnes – Assistant Principal and Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL)
- Emma Reynolds – Head of School and Deputy DSL
- Sam Knowlton – Executive Principal and Deputy DSL
- Fiona Stokes – Deputy DSL
- Kieran Hughes – Assistant Principal and Head of Sixth Form
- Gerrie Fourie – Head of Year 10 and Careers Lead
- Wendi Ponge – Head of Year 11
- Sarah Donovan – iHUB Co-ordinator and Assistant Head of Year
- Emma Reynolds – SENDCo

Is the child in immediate danger? If yes, contact the Police on 999. The Police can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

We work with local authorities. If you wish to discuss a safeguarding concern about a member of staff or volunteer, please contact the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer). The LADO's in our local teams are:

- Oxfordshire LADO - 01865 810603
- West Berkshire LADO – 01635 503090

For out of hours support in Oxfordshire contact: Oxfordshire Children's Social Care Emergency Duty Team. EDT service is provided from 5pm-8.30am, Mondays to Thursdays, and 4pm on Fridays until 8.30am on Mondays plus bank holidays. Access is via freephone 0800 833408.

Other support Available

NSPCC - 0808 800 5000 ChildLine - 0800 1111

You can access our safeguarding and child protection policy by clicking here:

https://www.alet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/GOV007_V8_Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-2023.pdf

You can access our whistleblowing policy by clicking here:

https://www.alet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GOV012_V4_Whistle-blowing-Policy.pdf

If you need to contact the safeguarding team out of hours, please email:
zbarnes@utcoxfordshire.org.uk

UTC Oxfordshire – Safeguarding Procedures – 2023/24

Local Police Context

Criminal Exploitation is a key priority for Thames Valley Police. Any child can become a victim of exploitation, it can be difficult to spot.

What is child criminal exploitation?

“Child criminal exploitation is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.”

Common signs of exploitation include:

- New possessions with an unknown origin (mobile phones, shoes, clothes)
- The use of alcohol
- The use of drugs
- Secrecy around social media
- The possession of two mobile phones
- A change in behaviour or mood
- Physical harm such as bruises, cuts or burns
- Health problems resulting from sexual activity
- Being absent from school
- Being disruptive in school
- Disappearing from the home and their location being unknown
- Not returning to the home at the expected time

If you are observing changes or signs like the above in your child and you are concerned, you should speak to your child regarding your concerns. No one knows your child better than you, follow your instincts. If you identify potential exploitation or have concerns you can seek help from the police, your GP or your child's school. It does not matter if you ask for help and it transpires that your child was not being exploited, you will not have wasted peoples time. If you feel your child is in immediate risk of harm contact the police straight away.