YSGOL SADWRN

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Created by: Sioned Rees-Jones

Date: July 2025

Next review due by: July 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

Ysgol Sadwrn is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. This policy outlines the school's approach to child protection, ensuring all staff understand their responsibilities to keep children safe during online learning.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidance on identifying, responding to, and reporting safeguarding concerns. It aims to create a safe learning environment and ensure early intervention where needed.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Ysgol Sadwrn staff, teachers, and guest visitors involved in online education, regardless of where the child is located. It covers all forms of abuse and safeguarding risks.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):** Leads safeguarding efforts, manages referrals, and supports staff.
- **Teachers and Staff:** Responsible for reporting concerns promptly to the DSO and maintaining a safe environment.
- **Headteacher:** Oversees policy implementation and liaises with external agencies.
- **Parents/Carers:** Expected to support safeguarding measures and cooperate with the school.

5. CODE OF PRACTICE

All Ysgol Sadwrn staff follow the school's internal code of practice as documented in the home - school contract. Prompt information sharing with safeguarding partners is essential to protect children.

Data protection laws (DPA 2018, UK GDPR, and, where applicable, EU GDPR) do not prevent sharing information when it's necessary to safeguard a child. Special category data may be shared without consent if seeking consent is not possible, places the child at risk, or is unreasonable in the circumstances.

Mental health issues are recognised as possible indicators of abuse or neglect. Teachers are alert to safeguarding risks arising both within the home and the child's broader environment.

6. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy is based on key UK laws and guidance, including:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Children Act 1989 and 2004 amendments
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

- Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty)
- Education Act 2002
- Teaching Online Safety in Schools (DfE 2019)

It recognises that many pupils may live outside the UK, so overseas safeguarding laws and contacts are also considered.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

Ysgol Sadwrn maintains high safeguarding standards through:

- Requiring all staff to confirm understanding of this policy before teaching
- Creating a secure, supportive online environment
- Ensuring staff understand online safeguarding responsibilities
- Keeping secure records of concerns
- Safe recruitment practices with a Single Central Register (SCR)
- Clear communication with parents/carers
- Clear procedures for reporting concerns or allegations

8. PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS

a. Response to Incident
If a child is at immediate risk, staff should contact social care or the police immediately and notify the DSO. Teachers must not promise confidentiality to a child disclosing abuse.

b. Confidentiality and Record Keeping
Safeguarding concerns are shared with the DSO and, where appropriate, external agencies. Records are accurate, dated, signed, and stored securely. Information is shared on a need-to-know basis.

c. Online Safety
Ysgol Sadwrn enforces its Home/School Contract with clear online safety protocols. Parents are asked to supervise lessons, and teachers must pre-screen teaching materials.

d. Guest Visitors
Guests must promote the values of tolerance, respect, and democracy. They will be asked to show valid ID before the session, and the session will be recorded with the recording retained for 3 months. The school keeps a register of all visitors.

e. Child-on-Child Abuse
This includes bullying, cyberbullying, and sexual harassment. Staff must not view or share inappropriate imagery and must report any incidents to the DSO without discussing with other pupils or parents.

f. Domestic Abuse
Teachers are alert to signs of domestic abuse and its impact. The school supports affected children and may refer to local or international services.

g. Looked After Children and Children with Social Workers
Staff are informed where children are in care or supported by a social worker and adapt teaching accordingly.

h. Prevent Duty
The school promotes inclusion, respect, and tolerance to prevent radicalisation. Early intervention is key.

i. Whistleblowing
Staff can report concerns via internal channels or external options such as the NSPCC helpline or government guidance.

9. STAFF SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS

All staff at Ysgol Sadwrn work part-time and are typically employed elsewhere in the education sector. While the school does not provide formal safeguarding training, all staff are required to read and confirm their understanding of the code of practice before teaching.

The school highlights key safeguarding responsibilities relevant to online teaching and provides updates if policies change. Staff are expected to be familiar with procedures for reporting concerns.

10. POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Designated Safeguarding Officer monitors the effectiveness of this policy and reviews it annually.