



Growth Opportunity Achievement Together

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

GOAT Learning

Policy owner	Abbie Wyatt, Owner and Lead Tutor
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Abbie Wyatt
Contact	goatlearning@outlook.com
Review cycle	Annually, or sooner if guidance, legislation or practice changes

1. Policy statement

GOAT Learning is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child who accesses its provision. The welfare of the child is paramount and safeguarding is embedded within the way the provision is organised, delivered and reviewed. Every child has the right to learn in an environment in which they feel safe, are treated with respect and are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of harm.

GOAT Learning will take all safeguarding concerns seriously. Concerns will be responded to promptly, recorded accurately and shared with the appropriate safeguarding professionals where necessary. GOAT Learning does not require proof that abuse has occurred before seeking advice or making a referral; the purpose of safeguarding action is to protect the child and ensure that concerns are considered by the agencies with the statutory responsibility to assess them.

2. Purpose and scope

The purpose of this policy is to set out the safeguarding arrangements that apply across GOAT Learning and to provide a clear framework for recognising, responding to and reporting concerns about a child. It applies to one to one tuition, small group tuition, SEND focused and alternative learning sessions, clubs, outdoor learning, animal assisted activities and any online learning or communication provided through GOAT Learning.

The policy applies to the Owner and Lead Tutor and will also apply to any future employee, volunteer, contractor or other adult working on behalf of GOAT Learning. Where GOAT Learning works alongside a school, local authority or other referring organisation, relevant safeguarding information will be shared and the referring organisation's procedures will be followed where appropriate. This will never delay a direct referral to statutory services where one is required.

3. Safeguarding responsibility

GOAT Learning is currently operated by Abbie Wyatt, who is the Owner, Lead Tutor and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). As a sole provider, Abbie is the lead person responsible for safeguarding children within GOAT Learning. The term Designated Safeguarding Lead is used in line with Department for Education safeguarding guidance for out-of-school settings, which recognises that a lone provider will hold this responsibility. This role includes maintaining appropriate safeguarding knowledge and training, responding to concerns, keeping secure records, seeking professional advice, making referrals and liaising with schools, local authorities, children's social care, the police and other agencies where required.

As GOAT Learning is currently operated by a sole trader, there is no internal deputy or alternative DSL. If a safeguarding allegation or concern relates to Abbie Wyatt, the matter should not be referred back to her for

investigation. Parents, carers, children, professionals or any other person raising such a concern should contact the relevant Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), children's social care or the police, depending on the nature and urgency of the concern. Where a child or any other person is in immediate danger, 999 must be called.

GOAT Learning has regard to relevant safeguarding legislation and guidance in England, including the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children, Department for Education safeguarding guidance for out of school settings and, where relevant to partnership working with schools, Keeping Children Safe in Education. Safeguarding practice will be reviewed when relevant guidance or legislation changes.

4. Recognising abuse and safeguarding concerns

Safeguarding is broader than responding to a disclosure of abuse. A concern may arise from something a child says, an injury, a change in behaviour or presentation, information provided by another person, an online incident, a pattern of absences, or a combination of apparently minor indicators. GOAT Learning will remain alert to the possibility of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect, together with wider safeguarding risks such as domestic abuse, child-on-child abuse, online abuse, grooming, criminal or sexual exploitation, county lines, trafficking, radicalisation, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Particular care will be taken where a child has SEND, communication differences, school attendance difficulties or other additional vulnerabilities. Children with additional needs can face greater barriers to recognising, resisting or reporting abuse, and signs of harm can sometimes be incorrectly attributed to a diagnosis or behaviour profile. GOAT Learning will not assume that distress, changes in behaviour or communication are simply part of a child's SEND. Reasonable adjustments, including visual support, additional processing time and alternative communication methods, will be used where necessary so that the child's voice can be heard.

5. Responding to a disclosure or concern

If a child makes a disclosure, the tutor will listen carefully, remain calm and take what the child says seriously. The child will be given time to speak and will not be pressed for unnecessary detail. The tutor will not promise secrecy, ask leading questions or attempt to investigate the allegation. Where clarification is essential, only minimal and open prompts will be used. The child will be reassured that they were right to speak and that the information will be shared only with people who need to know in order to help keep them safe.

A factual record will be made as soon as possible after the disclosure or concern arises. Wherever possible, the child's own words will be recorded. The record will distinguish clearly between what was seen or heard, information provided by another person and any professional judgement made by the tutor.

Where there is an immediate risk of serious harm, GOAT Learning will contact the emergency services without delay and take reasonable steps to secure the child's immediate safety. Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, or where a child may otherwise require statutory safeguarding support, the DSL will contact the relevant local authority children's social care service and follow its referral procedures. If the appropriate threshold or next action is unclear, safeguarding advice will be sought promptly rather than delaying action.

Where a child attends GOAT Learning through a school or another professional referral, the relevant DSL or safeguarding professional will normally be informed of the concern where this is appropriate. A school or referring organisation will not be used as a substitute for a statutory referral where one is required. GOAT Learning will record the action taken, advice received and outcome of any referral and will follow up or escalate concerns where the response received does not appear to address the identified risk.

GOAT Learning will not investigate suspected abuse. Its role is to recognise concerns, respond appropriately, record information, refer where necessary and cooperate with statutory safeguarding processes.

6. Parents, carers, confidentiality and information sharing

GOAT Learning aims to work openly and constructively with parents and carers and will normally discuss safeguarding concerns with them. There are circumstances, however, in which information should not be shared with a parent or carer before professional advice is obtained. This includes situations where doing so could place the child or another person at greater risk, compromise a police or social care investigation, or otherwise undermine the child's safety. In such circumstances, GOAT Learning will follow the advice of the relevant safeguarding agency.

Safeguarding information is confidential but is not secret. Information will be shared on a need to know basis where there is a lawful, necessary and proportionate safeguarding reason to do so. The protection of a child will take precedence over a desire to keep information confidential where the two are in conflict.

Safeguarding records will be kept securely and separately from routine tuition records, with access restricted to those who require the information for safeguarding purposes. Records will be retained and disposed of securely in accordance with applicable data protection requirements.

7. Safer working practice and professional boundaries

GOAT Learning recognises that clear professional boundaries protect both children and the adults who work with them. All interactions with children will remain appropriate to the educational nature of the provision and will be conducted in a way that promotes openness, accountability and respect. Children will never be subjected to humiliating, threatening, discriminatory, sexualised or otherwise inappropriate language or behaviour.

Communication with children and families will take place through appropriate professional channels. Children will not be added to, followed or contacted through the tutor's personal social media accounts, and private or informal communication outside the legitimate purpose of the service will not take place. Gifts, favouritism and private arrangements that could blur professional boundaries will be avoided.

Particular consideration will be given to safeguarding during one to one sessions. Tuition will take place within the designated learning environment with the knowledge and consent of the child's parent or carer. Arrangements will promote appropriate visibility, openness and accountability while respecting the child's dignity and individual needs. Any other adults present at the property will not have unsupervised contact with children attending GOAT Learning unless they have a legitimate role within the provision and the appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place.

Parents and carers are responsible for agreed arrival and collection arrangements unless an alternative arrangement has been formally agreed. A child will only be released in accordance with the collection arrangements held by GOAT Learning. Where a child is not collected as expected, they will remain supervised while reasonable attempts are made to contact the parent, carer or emergency contacts. Where no safe arrangement can be secured and a safeguarding concern arises, advice will be sought from children's social care or the police.

8. Online safety, photographs and recordings

The same safeguarding standards apply to online and face to face provision. Any online tuition or communication will be limited to the legitimate educational purpose of the service and professional accounts or agreed platforms will be used where practicable. Any concern involving grooming, harmful content, sexualised communication, exploitation or other online harm will be managed under the safeguarding procedures set out in this policy.

Photographs, video or audio recordings of children will only be created where there is a clear and legitimate purpose and the required parent or carer consent has been obtained. Consent for promotional use will be distinct from any

educational or administrative purpose. Images and recordings will be stored securely, used only for the purpose agreed and deleted when they are no longer required.

9. Outdoor and animal-assisted learning

Outdoor learning and supervised interaction with goats form part of the distinctive learning opportunities that may be offered by GOAT Learning. These activities will be planned with safeguarding, health and safety and the individual needs of the child in mind. Suitable risk assessments, supervision arrangements and hygiene controls will be maintained, and children will receive clear instructions about safe behaviour around animals and outdoor areas.

Children will not be left unsupervised with animals. Parents and carers must provide relevant information about allergies, medical conditions, disabilities, SEND needs, anxieties or other factors that may affect safe participation. Where an activity cannot be made sufficiently safe for an individual child, an appropriate alternative will be provided.

10. Allegations concerning the owner or another adult

Any allegation or concern that an adult working on behalf of GOAT Learning has harmed a child, may have harmed a child, may pose a risk of harm to children, or may have committed a relevant criminal offence will be treated as a safeguarding matter and will not be dealt with solely as a complaint about service quality or conduct.

Where the allegation concerns Abbie Wyatt as the Owner and DSL, the person raising the concern should contact the relevant LADO, children's social care or the police as appropriate rather than asking GOAT Learning to investigate the matter internally. GOAT Learning will preserve relevant records, cooperate fully with any statutory process and will not undertake an internal investigation that could compromise enquiries by the local authority or police. Immediate risk to a child must be reported to 999.

If GOAT Learning employs staff, engages contractors or uses volunteers in the future, clear arrangements will be established for reporting allegations and low-level concerns, together with appropriate safer recruitment, induction, supervision and safeguarding training. Identity, suitability, reference and DBS or barred-list checks will be undertaken where legally required and where GOAT Learning is eligible to obtain them.

11. First aid, medical needs and emergencies

Parents and carers must provide accurate emergency contact information and disclose relevant medical needs before a child attends. GOAT Learning will maintain first aid arrangements appropriate to the activities being provided. Where urgent medical assistance is required, the priority will be to obtain appropriate treatment and protect the child. Emergency services will be contacted where necessary and the parent or carer will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable.

Any arrangements for medication or additional medical support must be agreed in advance and recorded clearly. Medical information will be handled confidentially but may be shared where this is necessary to protect the child.

12. Training, monitoring and review

The Owner and DSL will keep safeguarding knowledge and training up to date and will review practice regularly to ensure that the arrangements described in this policy remain effective. Safeguarding training appropriate to the DSL role will be refreshed at appropriate intervals and whenever changes to the provision or guidance make further training necessary. The policy will be reviewed at least annually and sooner following a safeguarding incident, a significant change to the provision, learning arising from a concern or allegation, or a change in relevant legislation or guidance.



This policy will be made available to parents, carers, schools and referring professionals. Safeguarding concerns will always take priority over the ordinary complaints process.

Safeguarding contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Abbie Wyatt, Owner and Lead Tutor

Email: goatlearning@outlook.com

Emergency: 999

Child protection referrals should be made to the children's social care service for the relevant local authority.

Concerns or allegations about an adult working with children should be directed to the relevant Local Authority

Designated Officer (LADO), children's social care or the police according to the nature and urgency of the concern.

Approved by: Abbie Wyatt, Owner and Lead Tutor

Effective: September 2026 | Next formal review: September 2027