



Appendix (9)

Our Safeguarding Team at Ninestiles, an Academy

Updated January 2026

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Janaki Shah

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Alex Hughes, Jessica Hazlewood, Amy Banga

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

Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Prevent (in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism): **Alex Hughes**

Operation Encompass Key Adult (in relation to protecting and supporting individuals from domestic abuse): **Janaki Shah**

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children: Nicola Wright

Senior Mental Health First Aid Lead: Sarah Beswick

Rights Respecting Link: Sarah Beswick

Safeguarding Governor: Aaron Batt

Local Authority Safeguarding Context

Ninestiles, an Academy is located in Acocks Green, Birmingham and educates children, young people and their families from both the Birmingham and Solihull areas.

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 Ninestiles, an Academy is taking
Working together more effectively	At Ninestiles, an Academy we strive to work collaboratively with our families and professionals. We do this by using the Early Help approach where the voice of the family is

	<p>captured to ensure the best outcome is achieved. We also hold Parent Workshop days where families are able to share their lived experience and concerns, allowing Ninestiles, an Academy to offer support through our Base Camp offer. In addition to this, parents are signposted to our Academy website and National College for advice, guidance, free seminars, fact sheets and tutorials, for further support.</p> <p>We also work closely and collaboratively with professionals with families who may already be known to Children’s Services and require an extra level of support.</p>
<p>Voice of the child and family</p>	<p>At Ninestiles, an Academy we take the voice of the child and their lived experiences very seriously. We do this by using the 3 houses method of capturing their voice, where children are actively listened to and influence decision-making of the next steps. This is central to our practice in order to safeguard the child effectively. Colleagues are given training on how to do this effectively and escalate to the right channels, ensuring the right support is given in a timely fashion. The support provided is done in collaboration with the child and their families, and any external professionals involved.</p> <p>We have an experienced pastoral team, as well as a school counsellor and learning mentors to offer children further emotional and pastoral support.</p>
<p>Children out of sight</p>	<p>At Ninestiles, an Academy we have a robust and effective attendance system to oversee and safeguard learners who are out of sight, or risk of being out of sight. 1st day absence calls are made, as well as home visits, which will also escalate to Police visits if the child is not seen. Processes for Elective Home Education are robustly followed, and are always challenged.</p> <p>If there are concerns for a child missing, we will complete a Child Missing in Education referral to ensure the child(ren) are accounted for, and safe and well. We will also escalate our concerns to Birmingham Children’s Services, if necessary.</p> <p>We follow the local authority referral system and liaise closely with all stakeholders to ensure attending school is a priority. Any known</p>

	safeguarding information is flagged with the LA before a child becomes out of sight.
Harm outside the home	At Ninestiles, an Academy we don't only focus on safeguarding concerns within our building, but we are passionate about ensuring children and families are safe outside of their home and take contextual safeguarding seriously. This includes children at risk of youth violence, gangs, sexual and criminal exploitation, as well as online safety and misinformation. We work collaboratively with the local police ensuring local intelligence is shared and a pro-active, preventative approach is used by educating our learners and families of risks. Where risks are identified, these are acted on quickly and necessary steps taken.

Ninestiles, an Academy Safeguarding Context

At Ninestiles, an Academy 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 Ninestiles, an Academy 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.

Academy Community Factors	The actions that Ninestiles, an Academy are taking
Mental health of learners	Ninestiles, an Academy takes the emotional wellbeing of its learners seriously by supporting the on-going welfare of learners, drawing on multiple resources that prioritise mental health, and by providing in-academy mentoring/ counselling to address underlying mental health needs. Colleagues and learners are trained in mental health first aid, and our personal development programme features age-appropriate advice and guidance. We also hold external KOOH workshops and signpost learners to relevant services, completing external referrals as necessary.
Tackling disadvantage and removing barriers to learning	Summit Learning Trust is very proud of its Base Camp offer which Ninestiles, an Academy utilises heavily to remove barriers to learning and support families. This involves providing uniform, food parcels, sanitary and hygiene products, warm

	hubs, transport, bed poverty referrals, free resources and support for digital poverty. Ninestiles, an Academy works tirelessly to chase funding streams and tap into new initiatives that would benefit our families, providing a comprehensive early help package.
Domestic Abuse	Ninestiles, an Academy are part of the Operation Encompass scheme where they are notified of a domestic abuse incident if Police have been informed, within 24 hours, The DSL receives these alerts and support is provided for the families and children, including signposting and mental health support. We also find out about Domestic Abuse incidents through learners disclosing to colleagues, but also colleagues being alert to the signs of Domestic Abuse and remaining vigilant at all times. Learners and families are supported accordingly at school, and necessary referrals will be completed by the safeguarding team for further support.

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/>