

Safeguarding at UTC Oxfordshire

At UTC Oxfordshire safeguarding and student welfare have the highest priority; we put the physical safety and mental wellbeing of students first. This sometimes requires us to share information with other agencies such as police or medical professionals. Where possible, we will consult and work with parents or carers to achieve the best outcome for the student. Sometimes there may be circumstances which do not allow for that consultation and the school has to take independent action in order to ensure a young person is kept safe.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is protecting students from maltreatment, preventing impairment of their health or development, ensuring that they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

How are students safeguarded at UTC Oxfordshire?

Some of the ways we safeguard students are as follows:

- The school works with the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board to ensure its practices and processes are in line with new legislation and initiatives around the safeguarding of young people.
- All staff are trained to recognise the signs of a child whose wellbeing is being compromised by physical or emotional abuse and/or neglect. They are also trained in how to manage disclosures from young people, and they also receive regular updates on safeguarding issues.
- Sue Lea, Vice Principal, has specific responsibility for safeguarding and have been trained to become the Designated Lead for Safeguarding.
- All adults who work in school have been subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS), which means the school has checked to ensure that any adult working at the school in any capacity is an appropriate person to work with children and young people. This will include a criminal records check.
- The school ensures all its IT systems are secure.
- A school safeguarding policy is reviewed and updated annually with the support of Zoe Pooley, the Governor with special responsibility for safeguarding, who also monitors the school's safeguarding actions.
- Whole school meetings are used to make students aware of the risks associated with being on line and using social media.
- The UTC has a school nurse, Janette Dixon, who will lead sessions on staying healthy.
- All staff at the school have been trained in how to report safeguarding concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and to record these concerns appropriately.
- Further details can be found in our safeguarding and child protection policy.

If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of any young person, you can contact the school and ask to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

Alternatively you can contact the Schools Safeguarding Team at:

LADO.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk or telephone on 01865 810603