



THE CAMDEN  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

# Child Safeguarding & Protection Policy Addendum March 2026



## **Child Safeguarding & Protection Policy 2025 /26**

### **Addendum as of March 2026**

#### **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 – summary of changes**

The updated guidance clarifies the expectation that safeguarding applies to all children, including those in kinship care, foster care, residential settings and adopted children where there are concerns.

There is a stronger emphasis on anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice. Expectation to promote inclusive cultures and to challenge racism and discrimination in all forms.

The guidance also reinforces responses to hidden and complex harms, including child sexual abuse, coercive control, domestic abuse, teenage relationship abuse, online harms and group-based exploitation.

A key operational change is that Family Help now combines targeted early help and Section 17 support (i.e. LA financial support, accommodation etc), creating a more joined-up, multidisciplinary approach with one family help plan and more consistent practitioner relationships.

For multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, there is clearer accountability, stronger expectations around data sharing, disproportionality analysis and evidencing impact on children and families, including annual reporting requirements.

Child protection processes have also been strengthened for a more robust multi agency assessment, particularly around Section 47 enquiries (statutory investigation by local authority social services, often with police, when a child is suspected of suffering or risking significant harm including neglect), direct work with children, and multi-agency strategy discussions, especially where child sexual abuse is suspected.

The section on serious child safeguarding incidents has been updated with clearer understanding of the involvement of all agencies and the impact of their actions to improve timely and accurate notifications. Rapid reviews are now required within 15 working days of a serious incident notification.

#### **Appendix A: glossary**

New definitions added and policies for family group decision making (FGDM), group-based child sexual exploitation, honour-based abuse and kinship care arrangements.

#### **Appendix B**

Links to resources on the information sharing duty added as follows:

- Operation Encompass
- interim guidance for independent child trafficking guardians (ICTGs)
- child knife possession offences
- CSA centre guidance on communicating with children
- Prisoners' Families Helpline

Overall, the 2026 update places stronger focus on joined-up working, earlier support, robust child protection practice, and addressing inequality and hidden harm.

### **Camden Restrictive Interventions and Use of Reasonable Force Policy (April 2026) – summary of changes**

Restrictive interventions, restraint and reasonable force should only be used as a last resort to keep pupils and others safe. These measures must be necessary, proportionate and used only after de-escalation strategies have been tried where possible. They may be used to prevent injury, serious damage, serious disorder, or to remove a disruptive pupil from a situation.

Schools are expected to use behaviour management strategies, de-escalation techniques, risk assessments and individual behaviour support plans—especially for vulnerable pupils, including those with SEND, autism, mental health needs or trauma histories.

The policy clearly states that force must never be used as punishment and must never restrict a pupil's airway, breathing or circulation. Ground or prone restraint should be avoided and released immediately if it occurs unintentionally.

After any significant incident, schools must record it in writing the same day where possible and inform parents/carers as soon as practicable, ideally the same day. Records must include who was involved, what happened, why intervention was necessary, any injuries, and follow-up support.

In short: Camden's policy focuses on safety, minimal force, strong preventative planning, and clear reporting/accountability.