

Independent Safeguarding Review at Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

In July 2026, our school commissioned an independent review by the LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (LESAS). The review looked closely at how we keep children safe, support families and create a culture where every child can flourish. The day-long review included discussions with children, staff, governors and safeguarding leaders, scrutiny of safeguarding records and online safety arrangements and a tour of the school. Prior to the review, the reviewer had conducted a full scrutiny of our website and safeguarding policies.

What the independent Safeguarding Review said we do well:

★ The Overall Verdict ★

"The school are meeting their safeguarding duties well."

"The team clearly work incredibly hard to meet the needs of their students."

"There were no obvious action points or points of concern."

♥ A Strong Safeguarding Team ♥

- ☒ Six trained Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs).
- ☒ Weekly safeguarding meetings to review children who may need support.
- ☒ Staff described the safeguarding team as approachable, responsive and supportive.
- ☒ Clear safeguarding leadership with strong oversight and accountability.

"It was clear that they have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities and know their children very well."

"I could see a clear line of accountability and management of safeguarding issues."

🌱 We Know Our Children and Families Well 🌱

- ☒ Strong relationships between staff, children and families.
- ☒ Dedicated Pastoral and Inclusion team consisting of 5 staff members.
- ☒ Effective support for children with SEND, mental health needs and vulnerable circumstances.
- ☒ Strong partnerships with external agencies when families need additional help.

"There is a distinct feel of the care school offer their students and families."

"The DSL team as a whole, know their students incredibly well."

"There is a real focus on each individual child and their presenting needs."

Children Feel Safe

Children told the reviewer they:

- ☒ Feel listened to.
- ☒ Know who to go to if they are worried.
- ☒ Believe adults take concerns seriously.
- ☒ Feel safe in school.

"They keep us safe when we need them to."

"They help make sure we're ok."

"The examples the students provided focused around feeling assured that their worries were taken seriously and the problem resolved."

"It was clear to see that children felt comfortable and safe with staff members and are happy to engage in the support offered."

A Positive School Culture

☒ Our Values in Action

-  Love
-  Fellowship
-  Forgiveness

☒ Supported by our school rules:

-  Ready
-  Respectful
-  Safe

The review recognised how these values are consistently lived throughout the school.

"The school offer a flexible, caring approach to look at the needs of each individual child."

"It was incredibly encouraging that staff understood their safeguarding responsibilities and knew exactly what action to take if concerns arose".

Keeping Children Safe Online

- ☒ Effective filtering and monitoring systems.
- ☒ Online safety taught regularly through the curriculum.
- ☒ Safeguarding and online safety information shared with families through a detailed website.

- ☒ Staff and leaders knowledgeable about online risks.

"Jo has a thorough awareness of online safety and understands her responsibilities as lead DSL."

"The school is confident in its filtering and monitoring systems which provide daily reports and real-time alerts."

Strong Safeguarding Procedures

- ☒ Effective use of safeguarding recording systems.
- ☒ Well-trained staff.
- ☒ Robust induction for new staff and volunteers.
- ☒ Strong cooperation with safeguarding partners.
- ☒ Up-to-date, detailed safeguarding policies available on the school website.

"All staff spoken to demonstrated a strong understanding of the school's child protection procedures."

"Staff appear to be confident in identifying children who have a level of additional need."

"All staff I spoke to were incredibly clear on the processes for school and what to do if they have a safeguarding concern."

What Makes Harrietsham Special?

The reviewer repeatedly highlighted the nurturing culture across the school:

"My observations throughout the school day allowed me to recognise how important the value of nurture is for students and staff within the school."

"The school clearly know their student base and individual circumstances well."

"The school promotes an open-door policy whereby staff feel at ease in talking about any concerns."

"I felt confident that there is an ethos that safeguarding is a shared responsibility of all within the staff team."

 **Harrietsham Church of England Primary School** 
Nurtured We Flourish

Every child deserves to feel safe, valued, listened to and supported. We are proud that our independent safeguarding review recognised the commitment of our staff, governors and wider school community to keeping children safe and helping them flourish.