

Commitment to Safeguarding

Lancaster University is seeking to transform lives, communities, practices and thinking. Through our teaching, research and engagement, we aim to take a leading role on social and economic improvement regionally, nationally and internationally.

Central to this mission is respect for the safety, wellbeing and human rights of those with whom we interact. Respect means that we will not tolerate actions or omissions that expose these people – especially children, young people and vulnerable adults – to abuse, harm or neglect.

Lancaster University has and continues to ensure that robust safeguarding measures are in place, understood and enacted. Following the lead set by Office for Students and UKRI, we also commit to:

- ensure we have agreed standards of practice met by both ourselves and our partners;
- provide support to survivors, victims and whistle-blowers and accountability for perpetrators;
- strengthen organisational capacity and capability.

We seek to create cultural change. With strong leadership, we aim to reduce tolerance of wrongdoing, tackle impunity and improve lives.

Stemming from this commitment Lancaster University operates from the following principles in relation to safeguarding.

1. Lancaster confirms both corporate and individual responsibility to act to prevent abuse, harm and neglect, including its specific legal requirements under UK safeguarding legislation.
2. Lancaster encourages the reporting of concerns and underpins this with enhanced institutional understanding of both actual and potential risks and responsive systems to address these.
3. Lancaster identifies barriers to reporting and proactively acts to remove them.
4. Lancaster prioritises prevention and removal of harm and is committed to hold those responsible to account, including using internal disciplinary action where it is justified and reporting suspected criminal activity/notifying relevant professional bodies where it is warranted.
5. Lancaster seeks constructive engagement with others in a spirit of openness and mutual learning.

In addition to ensuring that Lancaster University is compliant with relevant UK legislation and regulation, we also endorse and support the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (UN, 1948); the UN Convention on the Rights of The Child, (UNICEF, 1989); the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, (UN, 1993) and the UN Global Compact, (UN, 1997).

Lancaster University operates and regularly reviews specific policies and procedures to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults, as well as a suite of related regulations, policies, procedures and guidelines for safeguarding in its broader sense (see annex).

Statement agreed by Council on 10 July 2020.

Annex: Documents relating to this statement

1. Anti-bribery and Corruption
2. Bullying and harassment for staff
3. Code of conduct for members of the governing body
4. Code of Conduct on Protests
5. Data protection
6. Disciplinary Procedures (staff)
7. Employment of children and young people
8. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
9. Framework for Staff Working Overseas
10. Fieldwork and travel guidance
11. Freedom of Speech
12. Grievance procedure (staff)
13. Health and Safety Arrangements
14. Information for visitors
15. Information security
16. Manual of Academic Regulations and Procedures
17. Raising Serious Concerns and Disclosing Public Interest
18. Staff recruitment guidelines
19. Reporting accidents and near misses
20. Research Integrity, Ethics and Governance
21. Risk assessment
22. Safeguarding Policy
23. Safeguarding procedures
24. Student Complaints Procedure
25. Student dignity
26. Student Discipline Regulations
27. Student placements
28. Workplace welfare