

Policy document for: **Homelessness**

Updated: Autumn 2025

This policy forms part of the Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and gives specific school actions in relation to their context.

Linked guidance

- Keeping Children Safe in Education

Staff must remember contextual safeguarding

When considering safeguarding incident or behaviour concerns, all assessments must consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. This is an approach to understanding and responding to children's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. This includes online abuse.

At our schools, we recognise that homelessness presents a real risk to a child's welfare.

Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include:

- Household debt
- Rent arrears
- Domestic abuse
- Anti social behaviour

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a duty on English councils to everyone that is homeless or at risk of homelessness have access to meaningful help. There are a number of factsheets which offer support [Homelessness Reduction Act: policy factsheets - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-reduction-act-2017-policy-factsheets)

The DSL team are aware of using Porchlight <https://www.porchlight.org.uk/commissioners-and-professionals/our-services/housing-and-homelessness-services> and Kent guidance on <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support/housing-and-care-homes/homeless> to support homeless families and access Kent Homeless Connect to make a referral.

The DSL team are aware that even where a referral is proceeding, this does not replace a referral through the digital front door where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm. The FLO acts to support families struggling with risk of, or homelessness. Where possible, the Trust uses funding to support the family in matters such as travel so children can continue to attend school.

Links to provide support:

- https://england.shelter.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/269512/GP_Briefing_Supporting_homeless_children_Children_and_family_services.pdf
- <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-young-people/homelessness>
- <https://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/HomelessFamiliesLearningResource%20FINAL.pdf> support resource for staff