Bourne Alliance
Multi Academy Trust

Policy document for: **Homelessness**

Updated: Autumn 2026

This policy forms part of the Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and reflects the latest KCSIE guidance. Keeping children safe in education 2026 (comes into force from 1 September 2026)
All staff must read Part 1 as a minimum.

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 to have access to meaningful help. There are a number of factsheets which offer support Homelessness Reduction Act: policy factsheets - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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.

From 1 September 2026, local authorities must notify schools when a child is placed in temporary accommodation. On receiving a notification, the DSL will assess any safeguarding or welfare impact, consider Early Help / Family Help, and coordinate multi-agency support in line with KCSIE 2026. This notification is added to CPOMS by the DSL team.

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