

I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm that I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

Personal Reflection on Safeguarding

When reflecting on my understanding of safeguarding, I recognise that my knowledge and awareness have developed significantly through my experiences in school settings, and through completing my safeguarding training. Before developing my professional understanding, I viewed safeguarding mainly as protecting children from harm and responding when something was wrong. However, through my experiences and learning, I now understand that safeguarding is much broader than this. The Department for Education (2023) explains that safeguarding involves promoting children's welfare, preventing harm, and creating environments where children feel safe, valued, respected, and supported.

My experiences within school and outdoor settings have helped me understand the importance of being alert, observant, and proactive. Safeguarding is not always about recognising obvious signs of abuse or neglect; concerns may also be identified through changes in a child's behaviour, emotions, communication, or relationships. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (2024) explains that recognising possible indicators of abuse and neglect is an important part of safeguarding practice. This has helped me understand the importance of building positive relationships with children and creating environments where they feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and concerns.

Completing Group A, B, and C safeguarding training has further developed my understanding of professional responsibilities. The training reinforced that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that all professionals working with children have a duty to protect children and promote their welfare. I have developed a better understanding of the importance of identifying concerns, recording information accurately, maintaining confidentiality, and following the correct reporting procedures. The Department for Education (2023) highlights that safeguarding requires effective professional judgement, appropriate information sharing, and following established procedures to ensure children receive the support and protection they need.

One area that has particularly influenced my understanding is the importance of children's rights and ensuring children have a voice. Children should be recognised as individuals with their own views, feelings, and experiences. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have the right to express their views and have those views considered in decisions affecting them. Reflecting on this has helped me understand that safeguarding is not only about protecting children from harm but also about respecting their individuality, promoting their wellbeing, and ensuring they feel listened to.

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I have also developed a greater appreciation for the importance of partnership working. Safeguarding often requires different professionals and agencies to work together, including education, health services, social care, and other organisations. The Children Act (2004) established the importance of cooperation between agencies to improve the wellbeing and protection of children. Through learning about safeguarding, I have recognised that effective communication, collaboration, and appropriate information sharing are essential when supporting children and families.

Reflecting on my own development, I feel that I have become more confident in recognising the importance of safeguarding and understanding my role within it. I have learned that safeguarding is not simply a set of rules or procedures; it is an ongoing commitment to promoting children's safety, welfare, and rights. The Children Act (1989) states that the welfare of the child should be a key consideration when decisions are made about children's care and protection. This has strengthened my understanding that children's needs must always remain central to professional decision-making.

Moving forward, I will continue to apply my safeguarding knowledge within my future practice. I understand the importance of maintaining professional boundaries, continuing to develop my knowledge, and keeping up to date with safeguarding guidance. The Department for Education (2024) emphasises that professionals working in educational settings must maintain a safe environment for children and remain aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. My experiences have shown me that every interaction with a child can have an impact, and professionals have a responsibility to create safe and supportive environments where children can develop and thrive.

Overall, my understanding of safeguarding has developed from seeing it mainly as responding to concerns, to recognising it as a proactive approach that promotes children's safety, wellbeing, and rights. Through my experiences, safeguarding training, and academic learning, I now understand the importance of professional responsibility, listening to children, and working collaboratively with others. I will continue to use this knowledge to support children and contribute to creating environments where they feel protected, respected, and valued.

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