

Supervision Policy 2025 - 2026

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1) Scope

This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, visitors, and external providers on REACH Learning Provision premises. It also covers anyone assigned a supervisory role.

2) Publication

This policy is issued to all staff and made available to volunteers and visitors. It is also published on our website.

- Requests for a hard copy: admin@reachlearningprovision.org | (0115) 64162127.
- External visitors receive the policy in advance and must sign the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) acknowledgement to confirm they have read and understood it.

3) Aim

To safeguard students and staff by ensuring:

- Proper and effective supervision of students while they are under the care of the Provision.
- Supervision that meets the standard of a reasonably prudent parent.
- Robust measures to prevent unauthorised access to students.

4) Definitions

- Employee: Anyone working under a contract of employment with REACH.
- Volunteer: Anyone giving their time without a contract; must follow all REACH policies.
- Visitor: Anyone on site who is not staff, a volunteer, or an external provider (e.g., parents, commissioning schools, contractors).
- External Provider: An individual/organisation delivering a session/service under contract but not employed by REACH.
- Supervisor: Any person designated by REACH to supervise students (e.g., senior staff, teachers, approved volunteers).
- Supervision: Effective arrangements for the care and management of students while in REACH's charge.
- Teacher: An employee whose principal function is teaching (includes supply teachers).

5) Responsibilities

REACH Management

- Implement and communicate this policy and related procedures.
- Ensure suitable supervision arrangements at all times students are in our care.
- Ensure supervision is risk assessed in line with the Health & Safety Policy.
- Ensure everyone understands who is supervising and how to escalate concerns.

Supervisors

- Know and follow this policy, the Staff Code of Conduct, the Safeguarding Policy, and visitor/contractor procedures.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries at all times.
- Take prompt action on any safeguarding or safety concern.

Students

- Follow staff instructions, site rules, and behaviour expectations.
- Know who is supervising them, who to contact in an emergency, and what to do in an emergency (covered in induction).

6) Site Security

- Access to the building is controlled via intercom; entry is granted by authorised staff only.
- This helps prevent unauthorised access and unsupervised contact with students.
- All visitors must sign in, display a REACH visitor badge, comply with staff instructions, and be supervised at all times.

7) Supervision of Students

- On-site only: Students do not leave the premises during the day. In exceptional cases, a written request from a parent/carer may be considered by management.
- Timetables: Teaching timetables are issued each term.
- Lessons: Every lesson is supervised by the allocated teacher and, where applicable, a designated supervisor.
- Transitions, breaks, and lunch: Students are supervised by designated supervisors. Students must not leave site during breaks/lunch.
- Ratios: Supervision levels are set through risk assessment, considering activity, location, needs, and cohort dynamics.

8) Volunteers (Safer Practice)

- Volunteers require:
 - o Enhanced DBS (barred list where engaging in regulated activity).
 - At least two references.
 - o Completion of induction and safeguarding training proportionate to role.
- Regulated activity (KCSIE 2025): includes regularly teaching/training/instructing/supervising children, working regularly in a specified establishment with opportunity for contact, or providing intimate/personal care or healthcare (even once, if overnight).
- Induction: Minimum 2 weeks, up to 6 months; performance and suitability reviewed before confirmation/extension.
- Volunteers must sign the SOP acknowledgement and follow all REACH policies.
- Volunteers must not be left unsupervised with students unless all safer-recruitment checks are complete and the role explicitly requires it.

9) Visitors

- Sign in/out via GDPR-compliant system; wear a visible visitor badge.
- Are supervised at all times and must never be left alone with students.
- Follow staff instructions, site rules, and safeguarding guidance.

10) External Providers

- Treated as visitors for sign-in and supervision.
- Must provide, in advance, a brief written outline of session content/activities, staffing, and any risks/controls.
- Are not left alone with students; a REACH supervisor remains present throughout.
- Where external providers' staff will have unsupervised contact (rare), full safer-recruitment checks are required before attendance.

11) Risk Assessment

- Supervision arrangements (including group size, staff deployment, transitions, specialist activities, and emergency cover) are set and reviewed through ongoing risk assessment.
- Adjustments are made for SEND, medical needs, behaviour plans, and safeguarding considerations.

12) Escalation & Emergencies

- Students and staff know who the lead supervisor is at any time.
- In emergencies, follow the Emergency Procedures (fire, lockdown, medical) and notify senior staff immediately.
- Safeguarding concerns are reported to the DSL/Deputy DSL without delay, in line with the Safeguarding Policy.

13) Monitoring & Review

- Management reviews supervision arrangements at least annually, and after any incident/near miss.
- Feedback from staff, students, parents/carers, and commissioning schools informs continuous improvement.
- This policy is updated to reflect changes in KCSIE (2025), local guidance, and REACH procedures.

Linked Policies & Documents

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy (incl. low-level concerns & LADO)
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Health & Safety Policy
- Visitor & Contractor Procedures
- Lockdown, Fire/Evacuation, First Aid & Medical Needs Policies
- Induction Policy (Staff, Volunteers, Students)