

PAS 5222:2024

Child safeguarding – Provisions for out-of-school settings – Specification



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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2024

ISBN 978 0 539 23849 5

ICS 03.200.01, 03.100.01

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Publication history

First published March 2024

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Foreword

This PAS was sponsored by Mark Bramah MSc, BramahHR Limited, with funding from Lady Edwina Grosvenor. Its development was facilitated by BSI Standards Limited and it was published under licence from The British Standards Institution. It came into effect on 05 March 2024.

Acknowledgement is given to Dr Simon I. Fox, as the technical author, and the following organizations that were involved in the development of this PAS as members of the Steering Group:

- AFP & JP Associates Ltd
- British Psychological Society
- BSA Group
- Council of Reserved Forces' and Cadets' Associations
- Consumer Protection Interests Network (CPIN)
- Department for Education
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Hexagon Housing Association
- Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Information
- NHS England
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
- Strengthening Faith Institutions

Acknowledgement is also given to the members of a wider review panel who were consulted in the development of this PAS.

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¹⁾ The PAS development process provides a robust level of consensus and application of standards development principles such that a PAS can become, and often is, the leading standard within its field.

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The provisions of this document are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "shall".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* is used (e.g. "organization" rather than "organisation").

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0 Introduction

0.1 General

Children are vulnerable to harm, abuse, exploitation and neglect. Those who operate activities in out-of-school settings (see 3.6) have a duty of care to the children who attend and take part in the activities they provide.

Competent risk identification and risk mitigations to minimize issues are key to safeguarding children. All providers of activities in out-of-school settings for children, whether the activities are provided free of charge or at cost, and whether provided by paid staff or volunteers, are responsible for embedding safeguarding into their governance, policies and procedural operations.

0.2 Background

The 2022 Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse [1] identified shortcomings in child protection in England and Wales. The report recommended that those who come into contact with children should follow child protection standards and have suitable policies and procedures in place, and that safeguarding and child protection policies should be clear and easy to follow and implement. The Department for Education Oversight of out-of-school settings [2] report also found that there were no consistent standards with set requirements, only guidance. PAS 5222 answers this need.

0.3 Aims of the PAS

The PAS fits into the wider child safeguarding landscape, including guidance and codes of practice, such as the Department for Education's, non-statutory, After-school clubs, community activities, tuition: safeguarding guidance for providers [3]. However, it goes beyond such guidance and provides a safeguarding process for persons and organizations that provide activities in out-of-school settings for children.

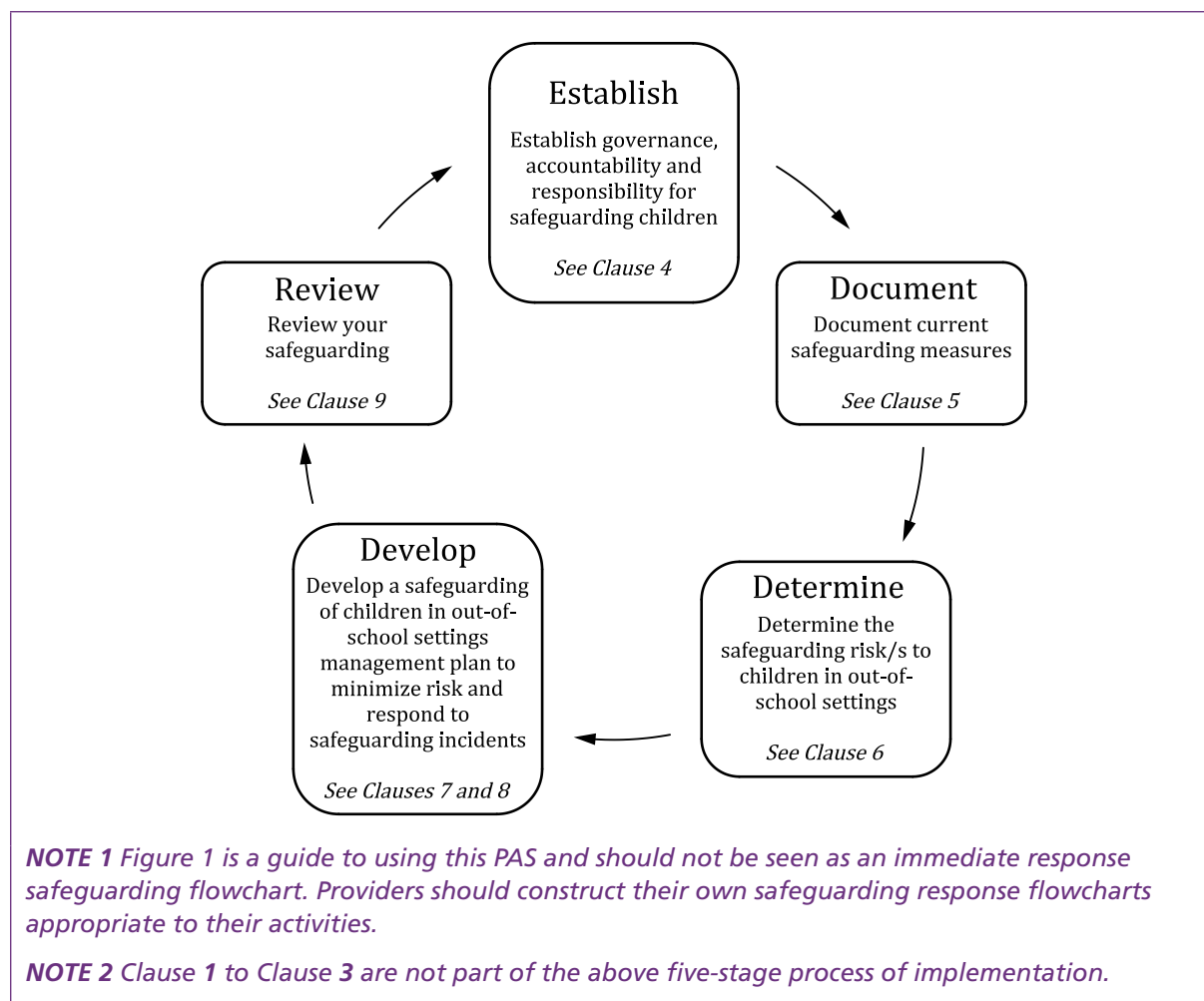
It is intended to:

- raise the benchmark of safeguarding good practice in out-of-school settings and provide users with guidance on what they need to do to safeguard children in their care;
- help activity providers better manage risk and develop their safeguarding expertise;
- provide assurance to children, parents, carers, and increase trust;
- provide a common set of requirements, enabling organizations/activity providers to follow the same standard;
- support organizations and individuals to implement safeguarding measures in a cost-effective way; and
- facilitate ease of implementation across geographical regions.

NOTE The Department for Education After-school clubs, community activities, and tuition: safeguarding guidance for providers [3] states that it *"has been created with reference to policies and guidelines in England, but its principles may help providers elsewhere in the UK"*.

0.4 Implementation

The implementation of this PAS can be viewed as a five-stage process: establish, document, determine, develop and review (see Figure 1). Each stage relates to the clauses set out within this PAS. The approach described can be tailored to the provider to make certain that the safeguarding measures adopted are appropriate and proportionate to the safeguarding risks that may arise from the activities provided.

Figure 1 – Approach set out by PAS 5222

1 Scope

This PAS provides requirements for the safeguarding of children in activities that occur in out-of-school settings.

It covers the governance, policies, processes and procedures necessary for organizations to embed child safeguarding within their operations. This specification covers the competency of any persons assuming responsibility for children in out-of-school settings. This PAS is relevant to UK-based providers taking children abroad, and international providers taking children to the UK.

This PAS is of use to any persons assuming responsibility for children, or organizations accountable for the safety of children, in out-of-school settings. It is also of interest to any organizations responsible for auditing the services that are provided.

The PAS is intended for use in the UK but may be used in Europe.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this PAS, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 child/children

person under the age of 18

***NOTE** This is in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child [4] which defines a child as everyone under 18 unless, “under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1989). The UK has ratified this convention.*

3.2 competent individual/person

person who, in relation to the work undertaken, has the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to complete the work satisfactorily, minimizing the risk of danger or injury to any person(s)

[SOURCE: BS ISO 7240-1:2014 (en), 2.1.21]

3.3 concern

worry or anxiety about a situation, person or action

3.4 designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

person appointed to take responsibility for protection from harm

***NOTE** The term designated safeguarding lead is synonymous with other terms used by the lead safeguarding person within an organization.*

3.5 impact, likely

estimate of the harm that could be caused by an event

3.6 out-of-school settings

environments where tuition, training, instruction, employment or other actions involving children occur without their parents’ or carers’ supervision, but are not:

- schools;
- colleges;
- education settings providing alternative provision;
- 16–19 academies;
- registered with Ofsted (England), His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education (Scotland), Estyn (Wales) or Education and Training Inspectorate (Northern Ireland); or
- a childminder agency.

***NOTE 1** Out-of-school settings include environments where activities occur that are supervised by parents or carers, where one or more children is not their own child or under their guardianship.*

***NOTE 2** “School” means all schools whether maintained, non-maintained, or independent, including academies and free schools, alternative provision academies, and pupil referral units. It includes maintained nursery schools.*