

Safeguarding Summary

How we keep children safe: for schools, settings, commissioners and families

The welfare of the child is our paramount consideration. MDBuddy works with children through supervised toothbrushing programmes, in schools and early years settings, and through digital products. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and we operate on the principle that 'it could happen here'. This summary sets out our approach. Our full Safeguarding Children Policy (SG-01) is available to partners on request.

Our Commitment

- **We place** the welfare of every child treated as paramount, in line with the Children Act 1989.
- **We apply safer recruitment**, including DBS checks and reference checks for everyone who works with children.
- **We provide mandatory safeguarding training** for all staff, contractors and field workers, refreshed regularly.
- **We maintain a safe culture** in which concerns can be raised without fear and are always acted on.
- **We listen to children**, respect their voice, and share information appropriately to keep them safe.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

MDBuddy has a named Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) with operational responsibility for safeguarding decisions, supported by a Deputy DSL who provides cover and continuity. Both hold current Level 3 safeguarding training, refreshed every two years, and training currency is checked through our annual audit.

**Designated
Safeguarding Lead**

Lauren Barrett

**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead**

Dr Ramzan Mohammed, CEO

How We Respond to a Concern: the 4Rs

Every concern is handled using the 4Rs framework:

Recognise

We notice the concern, take it seriously, and never dismiss it as out of character or a one-off.

Respond

We listen calmly without leading questions, do not investigate, do not promise confidentiality, and reassure the child that we will help.

Record

We make a factual, contemporaneous note in the child's own words where possible, signed, dated and held securely.

Report

We report to the DSL without delay, and contact the local authority safeguarding hub (MASH) or emergency services in urgent cases.

Working Alongside Schools and Settings

Most of our child-facing work takes place in host settings that have their own safeguarding policies and DSLs. We work in support of and alongside those arrangements. The host setting's DSL is the first point of contact for any concern arising at the setting, with our DSL informed in parallel. Our staff do not take on roles that belong to the host, such as one-to-one care of an unwell child.

MDBuddy staff are never alone with a child during MDBuddy activity, in line with our Chaperone Policy.

Information Sharing

We apply the Government's Seven Golden Rules of information sharing. We share information with consent where appropriate, and without

consent where a child's safety requires it, always limited to the minimum necessary and shared only with the right people. Data protection law is never a barrier to sharing information to safeguard a child, and we identify the correct lawful basis under UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 in every case.

Online Safety and Wider Risks

Our app and any digital product directed at children operate to a children's online safety standard: content is age-appropriate, advertising and external links are restricted, and support routes are signposted within the product. We are alert to wider safeguarding risks, including contextual safeguarding and the Prevent duty, and refer concerns through the appropriate local routes. Allegations against any member of our staff are managed through our Allegations Against Staff procedure and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) process.

Raising a Safeguarding Concern

If you have a concern about a child's safety or welfare arising through our programmes, contact us without delay:

Safeguarding contact	school@mydentalbuddy.com
Urgent / out of hours	+44 7827 254687
In an emergency	Always call 999 if a child is in immediate danger

This is a public-facing summary of our Safeguarding Children Policy (SG-01). It is provided for information. The full policy governs in the event of any difference, and is available to partners and commissioners on request.