



GORDONSTOUN SCHOOL, SCOTLAND

**STRENGTHENING
SAFEGUARDING IN
A FULL BOARDING
SCHOOL SETTING**

ABOUT GORDONSTOUN SCHOOL

Gordonstoun is a co-educational boarding and day school of approximately 500 students, spanning Reception to Year 13, and set across a 200-acre woodland campus in the north of Scotland. As a full-boarding school, with over 300 students living on site and around one third from international backgrounds, safeguarding is a continuous, 24/7 responsibility.

Safeguarding and child protection are central to the school's ethos. All staff, regardless of role, receive annual training in wellbeing, safeguarding, and child protection, reinforcing a culture where safeguarding is seen as everyone's responsibility.

This approach aligns with Scottish expectations, where safeguarding is proactive, child-centred, and embedded across the whole school community, rather than owned by a single role or department.

Prior to CPOMS, Gordonstoun used a bespoke Wellbeing Information System (WiS) to record wellbeing and safeguarding concerns. While this supported a strong reporting culture, the school identified a need for improved visibility, consistency, and oversight, particularly within the complexity of a busy boarding environment.

Since implementing CPOMS, the school has strengthened its safeguarding approach by improving accessibility, visibility, and consistency. The system supports responsibilities under GIRFEC, enabling staff to assess, record, and review concerns through the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators, while maintaining a clear and auditable safeguarding chronology.

THE CHALLENGE

While the previous system supported reporting, Gordonstoun experienced several challenges in relation to oversight and follow-up:

- Updates to incidents were not displayed chronologically beneath the original concern. This made it difficult to identify whether actions had been taken or outcomes achieved. Follow-up information often required the creation of new incidents, reducing continuity and making it harder to evidence decision-making clearly.
- Although multiple categories existed, there were no visual indicators to distinguish child protection concerns at a glance. This made rapid triage and prioritisation more difficult, particularly during periods of high activity.
- These limitations increased administrative burden and made it harder to maintain a clear safeguarding narrative over time.



HOW CPOMS HELPED

Access and whole-school responsibility: CPOMS has enabled all staff, regardless of role, to log concerns. The system is accessible across school devices and remotely, allowing concerns to be recorded promptly as they arise.

Previously, access had been limited to pastoral staff and specific devices. By widening access, CPOMS has reinforced the school's safeguarding message that any adult may be the first to notice a concern, supporting earlier reporting and faster safeguarding responses.

SMOOTHER FOLLOW-UP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The action log within StudentSafe's pupil chronologies has significantly improved follow-up and accountability. Staff and safeguarding leads can now clearly see actions, outcomes, and next steps in one place, supporting continuity of care that stays with the pupil.

This supports key expectations within Scottish child protection guidance, enabling the school to evidence professional judgement, decision-making, and outcomes over time.

DOCUMENT VAULT

The document vault allows all relevant documents to be stored and accessed in one secure place. This reduces time spent locating information and supports more effective preparation for meetings and reviews.

CATEGORIES AND VISIBILITY

Clearer and more specific categories, alongside visual identifiers, allow safeguarding and child protection concerns to be quickly recognised. This improves prioritisation and overall safeguarding oversight.

MAPS AND CAMPUS CONTEXT

Given the size of the 200-acre campus, the maps function within the incident form allows staff to accurately record locations where a concern took place without lengthy descriptions, ensuring records remain clear and focused.

CASES AND SAFEGUARDING OVERSIGHT

Cases and forms have strengthened the school's management of ongoing concerns and behavioural patterns. Incidents can be grouped, monitored, and reviewed over time, supporting earlier intervention and more informed decision-making.

All safeguarding and student support plans are stored within CPOMS cases, alongside reviews and updates. This provides a clear chronology from initial concern through to outcome.

This has been particularly effective in supporting Child Protection investigations, enabling accurate information-sharing and clearer communication with both internal teams and external agencies.

THE RESULTS

Staff have responded positively to CPOMS. While transitioning from a bespoke system required some adjustment, adoption has been strong and staff report confidence in using the system.



The ease of logging concerns, alongside role-based alerts, ensures that the right information is shared with the right people while maintaining confidentiality.



There is now greater clarity and consistency in how safeguarding concerns are followed up and managed. This has reduced uncertainty and strengthened overall safeguarding oversight across the school.



Administrative pressures linked to tracking and reviewing concerns have also been reduced, allowing staff to focus more on outcomes for students.



CPOMS supports Gordonstoun in meeting its safeguarding responsibilities under Scottish legislation, Education Scotland expectations, and the Care Inspectorate Quality Framework, while reinforcing a strong, child-centred safeguarding culture.

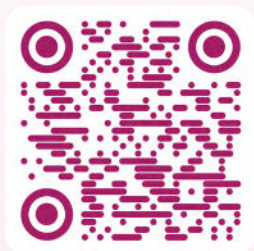


As reflected by the school, CPOMS has not replaced their safeguarding culture, it has strengthened it, enabling staff to act more quickly, collaboratively, and confidently, leading to safer outcomes for students.



“CPOMS has not replaced our safeguarding culture, it has strengthened it. Staff are able to act quickly, collaboratively, and confidently, leading to safer outcomes for our students. ”

Charlotte Marsh, Deputy Head: Wellbeing & Safeguarding



For more information on how CPOMS software can help your setting enhance safeguarding processes and information sharing capabilities, request a personalised demonstration.

01756 797766 | cpoms.co.uk | sales@cpoms.co.uk



@CPOMSUK



@CPOMSSAFEGUARDING



@CPOMSUK