



## Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy - Executive Summary of Key Principles

Date of publication: September 2020

Review date: September 2021

### Key Principles

1. The policy is consistent with statutory guidance **Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2018)** and **Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2020)**; and local inter-agency safeguarding procedures issued by the local multi agency safeguarding partnerships.
2. All staff and volunteers must read Part One of **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020**. All SLT members and staff who work directly with children (e.g. teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime supervisors, pastoral support staff) must also read Annex A.
3. All staff and volunteers must read the full Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, the Staff Code of Conduct and the school's Behaviour Policy before starting work with children. This document serves only as a brief reference point for staff, parents, governors and other stake holders.
4. Every school in Community Academies Trust (CAT) has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is a member of that school's Strategic Leadership Team and at least one Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, who is trained to the same level as the DSL. The Strategic Leader of Education with responsibility for safeguarding at CAT is Jo Howell.
5. The DSL will ensure that all staff and volunteers receive a robust induction into the school's safeguarding arrangements, which will include a requirement that they read the key statutory guidance and safeguarding policies including the Behaviour Policy and that they know the responses to children who go missing from education before starting work with children.
6. All governors, school leaders, staff and volunteers have a responsibility to establish and maintain a culture of safeguarding vigilance in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children effectively.
7. All staff and volunteers must have a full and active understanding of safeguarding and child protection procedures and the definitions, impact, and indicators of abuse, as detailed in the full Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, in order to safeguard children at school effectively. They will also have a clear understanding of the referral process.
8. This school is committed to offering early help to those children who need it. Staff are trained to be vigilant and to record and report all concerns and issues that indicate a child may require early help, or that there may be a safeguarding issue, to the DSL without delay.
9. The DSL will consider all such concerns and issues and will make a judgement about whether to monitor the child's progress, discuss with parents/carers, provide pastoral care and support, offer early help or make appropriate referrals. The DSL will record actions and decisions taken and referrals that are made. If early help is appropriate, the DSL will keep the case under constant review.
10. Staff recognise that some children are particularly vulnerable and therefore more likely to require early help or safeguarding. Those children include children with special educational needs and disabilities; those who are looked after by a Local Authority or who were previously looked after; those living in families experiencing adult substance abuse, adult mental ill health and/or domestic abuse; children showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour and children exposed to serious violence.

11. This school recognises that children who run away, go missing and/or are absent from school are potentially vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, offending and placing themselves in situations where they may suffer physical harm.
12. This school will therefore work actively in partnership with parents/carers and other agencies to understand and improve poor school attendance and address issues of children running away and going missing from home.
13. The school has a duty to teach children about safeguarding and how to keep themselves safe, both online and offline, as part of providing a 'broad and balanced curriculum.'
14. The CAT Whistleblowing Policy enables staff to raise concerns or allegations, initially in confidence, and for a sensitive enquiry to take place.
15. Staff are expected to report all concerns about poor practice or possible child abuse by colleagues to the headteacher. Concerns or complaints about the headteacher should be reported to the Chair of the Local Governing Body/Education Advisory Body. Staff can also contact the Designated Officer in the Local Authority (LADO), who is responsible for the co-ordination of responses to allegations against people who work with children. For staff who do not feel able to raise concerns internally, relevant contact details for the LADO are available in the appendices of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline can also be contacted on 0808 0280285 or by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).
16. All staff, including the headteacher, volunteers and governors will receive appropriate and regularly updated safeguarding and child protection training and at least annual updates to provide them with the requisite skills and knowledge to safeguard children.
17. All DSL/Deputy DSLs will attend bespoke training for newly appointed DSLs and refresher training every two years, delivered by the appropriate Local Authority. The DSL team will also update their knowledge and skills at least annually to keep up with any developments relevant to their role.
18. This school seeks to ensure that only 'safe' staff and 'safe' volunteers are recruited to work with children in our school by following the statutory guidance and the school's Safer Recruitment procedures and by embedding safeguarding in recruitment and induction processes and the ongoing management of staff and volunteers.
19. Child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality. Staff will ensure confidentiality protocols are adhered to and information is shared appropriately. Although school staff will discuss day-to-day concerns about pupils with colleagues, they should report all child protection and safeguarding concerns to the DSL or headteacher or - in the case of concerns about the headteacher - to the Chair of Governors. However, any member of staff can contact and/or make a referral to Children's Social Care if they believe that is the only effective way to safeguard a child.
20. All staff and volunteers must be mindful of specific requirements in relation to the use of technology, including online behaviour and the taking and storing of images of children.
21. The DSL is responsible for ensuring that all staff and volunteers have a meaningful awareness of a range of specific safeguarding issues as defined in paragraphs 27-33 and Annex A of *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020*. The DSL will make a judgement about which staff are required to read and understand Annex A. In particular, staff need to understand issues and risks in relation to radicalisation, extremism and the promotion of fundamental British values; child sexual and criminal exploitation; peer on peer (child on child) abuse and children who display sexually harmful or inappropriate behaviour including sexting; and so-called 'honour based- violence, including female genital mutilation and forced marriage.
22. Additional emergency support and advice is also available from Jo Howell at [j.howell@communityacademiustrust.org](mailto:j.howell@communityacademiustrust.org) or on 07484 515841.