



Schools for Every Child

Trust Safeguarding Statement

We are an education Trust that is committed to running dynamic, ever-improving schools. We work to make sure that every child feels they belong in their school where they feel safe and inspired by learning. For us, learning is an adventure. It is a privilege and a responsibility for all who work with us to ensure that the journey through school is exciting, challenging, caring and enriching, and that every child experiences joy, wonder, calm and success.

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| Approval Level | Board |
| Author | Lee Faris |
| Approval Date | September 2023 |
| Trust/Template/School level | Trust |
| Review cycle | Annual |

"The purpose of governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance". (DfE)

Approval History

| Committee Approval | Status | Next Review Date |
|------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Meeting Name Meeting Date | Review in progress Submitted for Ratification Live Policy | September 2024 |

- Trust Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr L. Faris
- Trust Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs K. Sansom
- Designated Trustee for Safeguarding: Francine Bissenden
- School safeguarding governors: Hina Robinson (Wyburns), Michael Aydeniz (North Crescent), Gary Rogers (Rayleigh)

Key contact details:

Children and Families Hub - 0345 603 7627; out of hours - 0345 606

1212. NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Schools for Every Child fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children and support pupils in school. The aim of the guidance is to safeguard and promote our pupils' welfare, safety and health by fostering an honest, open, caring and supportive climate. The pupils' welfare is of paramount importance.

It is the requirement of Schools for Every Child that each individual school within the Trust adopts, and meets the statutory compliance, of the safeguarding requirements of the Local Authority. Refer to the safeguarding policy for each individual school for further details – available via the school website or contacting the school office.

Local authorities have overarching statutory responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area. Whilst local authorities play a lead role, safeguarding children and protecting them from harm is everyone's responsibility and we are all responsible for contributing to maintaining a culture of safeguarding.

In September 2023, the DfE published the latest version of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education – statutory guidance for schools and colleges'. This guidance contains information on what schools should do and sets out the legal duties which they must comply with.

In law individual academies are deemed to be 'relevant partners' of their local authority and as such are under a duty to co-operate in that local authority's Local Safeguarding Children's Board arrangements. The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 apply a duty on proprietors of independent schools (which includes academies) to make arrangements for ensuring that their functions are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This legal requirement and the values and principles that underpin Schools for Every Child mean that it is essential that the Trust ensures not only compliance at the local level but also assumes a strategic responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice is of high quality, is dynamic and part of its on-going school improvement processes.

The Trust:

- has a designated safeguarding lead trained to Level 3, and a named Trustee for safeguarding

- has safeguarding arrangements which are designed to take account of all possible safeguarding issues including Child Sexual Exploitation, Radicalisation, Prevent, Early Help, LGBTQIA+, EAL and Honor and Cultural Abuse.
- adheres to safe recruitment practices with a trained person on every interview panel
- has arrangements for working together with other agencies and for sharing information with other professionals
- takes into account their local authority's procedures and practices established by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and complies with any requests from that Board
- has up-to-date child protection and staff policies that safeguard children
- is committed to developing a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings
- is committed to a culture of *constructive dissent* whereby it is always safe to speak up
- provides appropriate supervision and support for staff including undertaking safeguarding induction and training
- follows clear policies for dealing with allegations against people who work with children
- has clear procedures in place to handle allegations of abuse against children
- has a clear whistleblowing procedure
- considers how children may be taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum
- has a designated teacher in each school to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after and ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keeping looked after children safe
- ensures appropriate safeguarding procedures are followed with regards to children who go missing from education
- fulfils all of their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

The Trust will:

- monitor the quality of safeguarding practices and their impact on outcomes for children across the trust and provide regular reports to the Board of Trustees
- ensure all schools complete an annual safeguarding audit to identify areas for development and best practice to share across the trust, and to ensure its schools are not just compliant but aspiring to develop leading practice in this area
- monitor the attainment of children who are at risk of achieving poor outcomes because they are the subject of a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) or Children's Social Care intervention
- report on the outcomes of vulnerable children who are in need, subject to Child Protection plans or who are Looked After
- liaise with local authority lead professionals for safeguarding, LSCBs, Ofsted, ESFA and other agencies as required
- incorporate safeguarding into its strategic improvement plans
- commission additional scrutiny (e.g. internal audit) to ensure schools meet their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

Policy in respect of safeguarding is mainly determined at national and local authority level and it is the responsibility of each school to implement such policy. Schools for Every Child's safeguarding support ensures adherence to national and local policy in the interests of vulnerable children and young people.