



Safeguarding Strategy

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SAFEGUARDING STRATEGY

This safeguarding strategy reflects One Academy Trust's commitment to the safety and well-being of every child within our multi-academy trust. It is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated to adapt to changes in legislation, emerging risks, and best practices. Through collaboration and a shared commitment, we will continue to create a secure environment where every child can thrive.

Mission Statement

One Academy Trust is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all pupils within our multi-academy trust. We prioritise the well-being of every child and strive to create an atmosphere that fosters their physical, emotional, and social development.

Legal Compliance

We acknowledge and adhere to the legal framework governing safeguarding in England, including the Children Act 1989 and 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children, and Keeping Children Safe in Education. Our policies and procedures are designed to comply with these guidelines, ensuring the highest standards of child protection.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs):

Each school within One Academy Trust has a designated and trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) responsible for overseeing safeguarding in line with statutory requirements. DSLs receive regular and updated training to stay informed about the latest developments in child protection and welfare. There is also a dedicated safeguarding officer on the trust's central team who provides DSLs with a monthly bulletin detailing the outcomes of research by a range of agencies. A termly DSL forum provides opportunities to come together to discuss a range of topics and share best practice.

Training and Development

All staff members, trustees and governors undergo comprehensive safeguarding training, covering topics such as; recognising signs/types of abuse, reporting procedures, and online safety. The trust provides a training schedule that runs throughout the academic year ensuring safeguarding remains a key focus. Training records are maintained, and refresher courses are provided to ensure ongoing awareness and compliance. Spotlight sessions take place throughout the year covering a range of safeguarding topics.

Governance and Oversight

A dedicated safeguarding committee at the MAT level is responsible for monitoring, reviewing, and updating safeguarding policies and procedures across all academies. There are two trustees dedicated to overseeing the quality assurance and ensuring information is disseminated to the board of trustees. Regular assessments are conducted to ensure alignment with current legislation and best practices. Safeguarding audits are conducted bi-annually. Partnership days conducted six times a year for most schools have safeguarding as an agenda item for each visit.

Communication and Awareness

One Academy Trust fosters a culture of open communication regarding safeguarding issues among staff, pupils, and parents. Regular communication channels, including newsletters and information sessions, keep stakeholders informed about safeguarding policies and procedures.

Safer Recruitment

Robust recruitment processes are in place, encompassing thorough background checks, references, and interviews that specifically address safeguarding responsibilities. Expectations related to safeguarding are explicitly outlined in job descriptions and contracts.

Risk Assessment and Management

Regular risk assessments are conducted in each school to identify and mitigate potential safeguarding risks. Strategies are developed and implemented to address emerging concerns promptly and effectively.

Online Safety

Online safety education is integrated into the curriculum, educating pupils and staff about responsible internet use. Clear guidelines and protocols for online safety are established, including measures to address cyberbullying.

Whistleblowing Procedures

Clear and confidential whistleblowing procedures are in place, ensuring that staff members feel supported and protected when reporting concerns. The MAT promotes a culture that encourages the reporting of safeguarding issues.

Collaboration with External Agencies

One Academy Trust actively collaborates with local authorities, police, health services, social services and other external agencies. Clear procedures for information sharing and collaboration are established to address safeguarding concerns promptly.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, including audits and surveys, assess the effectiveness of safeguarding policies and procedures. Feedback is actively sought from stakeholders to drive continuous improvement.

Parental Involvement

Parents are actively engaged in the safeguarding process through workshops, information sessions, and regular communication about One Academy Trust's safeguarding policies. Their input and cooperation are valued in creating a safe and supportive learning environment.

Emergency Response

One Academy Trust will maintain and regularly review emergency response plans to ensure a swift and coordinated response to safeguarding incidents. Clear procedures are communicated to staff, pupils, and parents to facilitate effective emergency management.

Reporting and Record-keeping

Clear reporting procedures are established, and accurate records of safeguarding concerns, actions taken, and outcomes are maintained. Information sharing is done on a need-to-know basis to ensure confidentiality.