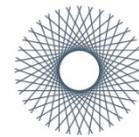


Safeguarding - Statement of Intent



AGORA
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP

DATE FIRST ISSUED:	September 2017
DATE LAST REVIEWED:	November 2020 (amended September 2021)
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:	November 2021
APPROVED BY:	Board of Trustees
APPROVAL DATE:	December 2020

The Agora Learning Partnership is wholly committed to ensuring that all children and adults at risk who engage with our Trust are cared for in a safe and secure environment.

1. PRINCIPLES

The Trust will:

- establish and maintain an environment and culture where:
 - children are kept safe, feel safe, are able to talk about and are listened to when they have a worry or concern
 - parents are confident that their child is kept safe and feels safe
 - staff and volunteers feel safe, are encouraged and able to talk and are listened to when they have concerns about the safety and wellbeing of a child
- ensure children know that there are adults in any school within the Trust whom they can approach if they are worried
- ensure that children who have additional/unmet needs are supported appropriately. This could include referral to early help services or specialist services if they are a child in need or have been/are at risk of being abused and neglected
- consider how children may be taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum
- consider how schools can promote strategies and provide support that help children to develop and maintain good health

All staff members within the Trust working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the interests of the child.

2. PROCEDURES

The Trust and every academy in the Trust follow the procedures established by the [Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#); a guide to procedure and practice for all agencies in Hertfordshire working with children and their families.

The safeguarding policy of each academy in the Trust is the same and is based on the model [Child Protection Policy](#) recommended by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), as all our academies are based in Hertfordshire. Each academy in the Trust updates its policy annually or whenever national or local guidelines result in a change to the HCC model policy.

All policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding children throughout the Trust are kept up to date and in line with the DfE's [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

Please visit each academy's policy page to read their full Child Protection Policy, which will include named individuals and their specific role in that school.

3. TRUST ARRANGEMENTS

The Agora Learning Partnership ensures that all their academies:

- have a designated senior person (DSP) and a designated governor for safeguarding (N.B. Keeping Children Safe in Education, DfE September 2021 refers to this role as Designated Safeguarding Lead – DSL)
- have in place safeguarding arrangements which adhere to the statutory guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE September 2020 and which are designed to take account of all possible safeguarding issues including child sexual exploitation (CSE), female genital mutilation (FGM) and preventing radicalisation
- adhere to safe recruitment practices (all staff and volunteers who work within the Trust's central team and academies, who meet the 'regulated activity test' (Freedoms Act 2012) are required to undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check prior to employment)

- maintain a Single Central Record (SCR)
- have arrangements for working together with other agencies and for sharing information with other professionals
- take account of Hertfordshire County Council's procedures and practices established by the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) and comply with any requests from that Board
- have in place effective child protection and staff behaviour policies
- provide appropriate supervision and support for staff including undertaking safeguarding induction and training
- follow clear policies for dealing with allegations against people who work with children
- have clear procedures in place to handle allegations of abuse against children
- have clear whistleblowing procedures following the Trust's [Whistleblowing Policy](#)
- appoint a designated teacher 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
- put in place appropriate safeguarding responses to children who go missing from education
- fulfil all of their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

4. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Agora Learning Partnership will:

- Monitor the quality of safeguarding practices and their impact on outcomes for children across the Trust and provide regular reports to the Trust Board. An annual report to the Board of Trustees will address key safeguarding concerns that have arisen, issues flagged following post incident reviews and audits, emerging safeguarding issues and training needs.
- Monitor academy compliance at each academy within the Trust, through an annual safeguarding audit, a report to Trustees by each Academy Governing Body and through staff performance measures.
- Work with the headteachers of the academies to ensure that the performance of vulnerable children is effectively monitored and that appropriate support is made available to those children who are at risk of achieving poor outcomes
- Liaise with local authority lead professionals for safeguarding, the HSCB, Ofsted, ESFA and other agencies as required
- Commission external challenge and support where appropriate to ensure academies meet their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

- Provide opportunities to DSPs from each academy across the Trust to meet to discuss practice, to share learning and to train together. This will include sharing post incident reviews and action points to improve practice.

5. REVIEW

This statement will be reviewed annually or whenever statutory safeguarding requirements or guidance changes, whichever is the sooner, by the Board of Trustees and the academies within the Trust.

6. TRAINING

All Trust staff will receive appropriate safeguarding children training from an accredited body. Formal update and/or re-training will take place at least every three years, as advised by the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP), to ensure staff remain sufficiently knowledgeable and aware of their role in the early recognition of the indicators of abuse or neglect and of the appropriate procedures to follow. In addition all schools will ensure all staff receive update training annually and will provide staff members with additional safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required, but at least termly, to provide them with relevant skills and up-to-date knowledge to safeguard children effectively. Training will ensure that staff understand the requirements and duties as specified in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', September 2020.

The Trust will also provide safeguarding training for Trust Board members and members of the Academy Governing Boards.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 Trust central team and Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Agora learning Partnership has ultimate responsibility for safeguarding issues.

Operationally, this responsibility is currently delegated to the CEO.

At central Trust level, the designated senior person, or a deputy safeguarding lead, will be available at all times for headteachers, school DSLs and/ or local governors to discuss any safeguarding concerns. The CEO must be made aware of all serious safeguarding issues as they arise.

The Trust designated senior person (DSP):

NAME: Rebecca Daulman, CEO/Academy Improvement Lead

EMAIL: Rebecca.Daulman@agoralearning.co.uk

TELEPHONE: 01923 589418

In the event of the DSP being absent, one of our trained DSP headteachers will cover this role.

There is also a nominated Trustees on the Board of Trustees for child protection. This is:

Bonnie O'Dell, Trustee, Bonnie.O'Dell@agoralearning.co.uk, 01923 589418

7.2 Academy Governing Boards (AGBs)

AGBs must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must also have regard to this guidance to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in their schools, including those that apply to remote and/or online teaching and learning methods, are effective and comply with the law at all times. Each Academy Governing Board will appoint a designated governor for safeguarding. AGBs should also follow the advice in *Keeping Children Safe in Education* regarding IT use in school.

7.3 Designated Senior Persons (DSP)

N.B. Keeping Children Safe in Education, DfE 2021 refers to this role as Designated Safeguarding Lead - DSL

All governing boards should ensure that the school designates an appropriate senior member of staff to take the lead responsibility for child protection. This person should have a job description outlining the status (member of the senior team) and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post including committing resources and, where appropriate, supporting and directing other staff. The DSP's training will be updated every two years with an update at least annually. DSPs will also liaise with representatives at the local authority/Virtual School regarding children looked after by the local authority in their school.

At individual school level, a Designated Senior Person and/or a deputy will always be available during term time for school staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. This responsibility cannot be delegated to others.

8. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

In order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, the Trust and each individual school will act in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Education Act 2002 (Section 175/157)
Outlines that Local Authorities and School Governing Bodies have a responsibility to: "ensure that their functions relating to the conduct of school are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are its pupils".
- Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership multi-agency child protection and safeguarding children procedures ([link](#))
- Keeping Children Safe in Education for schools and colleges (DfE, September 2021)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Part One- information for all school and college staff (DfE, September 2021) – part 1
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2018)
- The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005
- Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- Section 26, The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (PREVENT duty)
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (Section 74, Serious Crime Act 2015)