Safeguarding and Child Protection Statement

Safeguarding determines the actions we take to keep children safe and protect them from harm in all aspects of their school life. As a multi academy trust (MAT) we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our pupils. The actions that we take to prevent harm, to promote well-being, to create safe environments, to respond to specific issues and vulnerabilities all form part of the safeguarding responsibilities of the MAT.

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility and make every effort to provide a safe environment underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk, and believe that they are being listened to.

We maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'

The full school policies, available on individual school websites, have been developed to ensure compliance with Section 175 of The Education Act 2002, Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016. All schools follow the Local Safeguarding Children Board's interagency policies and procedures.

Each school's local governing body is responsible for the implementation of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for the school. This is on the agenda and monitored at every full local governing body meeting. Each local governing body has a designated Safeguarding governor who reports and provides feedback at every full board meeting. The designated Safeguarding governor meets regularly with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to ensure compliance. This involves completing an annual Safeguarding audit and the 360 degree 'e safety' self-review. The DSL for the school provides the local governing body with an annual written report. The DSL must complete the annual Safeguarding Training and Induction return for the Local Safeguarding Children Board. This ensures that all staff are fully trained and up to date with policies and procedures.

All schools must use the electronic reporting system 'My Concern' to document any safeguarding and child protection issues to build a chronology of events. This enables them to identify and address individual and whole school concerns and patterns. The use of 'My Concern' allows schools to share information and work more effectively with other agencies. Schools will robustly follow the policy if they have concerns about the management of a case by Children and Social Care.

This policy works in conjunction with other relevant policies all which safeguard the interests and welfare of children e.g. safer recruitment, anti-bullying, whistle blowing, health and safety, special education needs and disabilities and the single equality scheme. Policies are reviewed annually or updated if national guidance requires it during the year.

The Chief Executive Officer conducts a full review of Safeguarding annually in each school.

This statement was approved by the Board of Trustees on 14 March 2018 and, as such, it applies to all schools within the Trust.