Overarching Safeguarding Statement

Policy Family	Safeguarding/Child Protection
Policy Name	Overarching Safeguarding Statement
Version	4.0
Date	September 2026
Approved By	Trust Board
Review Date	September 2027

Version	Date	Author	Revision
1.0	September 2023	C.Steele	Original
2.0	September 2024	C.Steele	Updates for Sept'24 and following Internal Audit
3.0	September 2025	C.Steele	Annual updates
4.0	September 2026	C.Steele	Annual updates

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Introduction

This Safeguarding Statement has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and related guidance. This includes the DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'; the DfE revised Statutory 'Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage', 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and 'Working together to improve school attendance'.

The Trust will also refer to and follow the guidance and procedures developed by the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP). Because of our close day-to-day contact with children, education staff have a crucial role to play in helping to promote safety, reduce risks and to identify welfare concerns and indicators of possible abuse and neglect at an early stage.

The Trust and all staff take seriously our responsibility under Section 175 Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils, to minimise risk and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements are in place within our academies to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm and to keep them safe and secure whilst in our care.

Our statement and supporting policies and procedures relate to all members of the Trust community including pupils, staff, trustees, governors, visitors/contractors, volunteers and trainees working within the Trust.

It is fully incorporated into the Trust's ethos and is underpinned throughout the teaching of the curriculum, within PSHE and within the safety of the physical environment provided for the pupils. This statement should be read alongside our Safeguarding Strategy.

Definition of Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children means providing help and support to meet children's needs as soon as problems emerge; protecting children from maltreatment, whether within or outside the home, including online; preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; promoting their upbringing with their birth parents or wider family network, including through kinship care where this is possible and in their best interests; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It relates to aspects of school life including pupils' health, safety and wellbeing including their mental health; managing behaviour and the use of reasonable force; meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions; meeting the needs of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities; providing first aid; educational visits; intimate care and emotional wellbeing; online safety (both in and out of school) and associated issues; and appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the local context.

It includes issues for academies such as neglect; physical abuse; sexual and emotional abuse; face to face and prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying; abuse in relation to protected characteristics; risks linked to using technology and social media, including cyber/online bullying, the risks of being groomed online for exploitation or radicalisation, and risks of accessing and generating inappropriate content e.g. sharing nudes and semi-nudes; child on child abuse (such as sexual violence and sexual harassment between children); gender-based violence/violence against women and girls; radicalisation and/or extremist behaviour; children missing education; private fostering; child sexual exploitation and trafficking; child criminal exploitation including county lines; child financial exploitation; teenage relationship abuse; substance misuse; issues that may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity and youth violence; and particular issues affecting children including domestic abuse, homelessness, so-called honour-based abuse (female genital mutilation, forced marriage, breast ironing etc.); fabricated or induced illness and poor parenting, particularly in relation to young children.

This Safeguarding Statement should therefore be read and understood alongside other Trust and Academy Policies and procedures which fall under the safeguarding 'umbrella' as listed at the end of this document. Related policies and procedures can be found via the relevant academy's website or on request.

The Trust Board and each Local Governing Board will have a member specifically assigned as Designated Safeguarding link. All relevant policies will be reviewed in accordance with the latest DfE Guidance and monitored by the Trust Executive Team and Link Trustee.

The Designated Safeguarding Trustee will ensure regular reporting on safeguarding activity and systems in Trust academies to the Trust Board, in line with our safeguarding strategy. The Trust will not receive details of individual pupil/student situations or identifying features of families as part of their oversight responsibility.

The Trust is a community and all those directly connected (staff, governors/trustees, parents, families and pupils/students) have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure. We welcome suggestions and comments from all these stakeholders contributing to this process.

Ethos

The Trust recognises the importance of providing and promoting an ethos and environment within the academies that will help children to feel safe, secure and respected; encourage them to talk openly; and enable them to feel confident that they will be listened to.

The Trust is committed to creating inclusive, anti-discriminatory safeguarding cultures in which racism, prejudice and discrimination are recognised and challenged. Staff will consider how children's experiences, identity, ethnicity, disability, communication needs, family circumstances and previous experiences of services may affect their ability to seek or receive help.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence are likely to have low self-esteem and may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The academy, which they attend, may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in their lives.

The Trust and its academies will endeavour to support the welfare and safety of all students through our comprehensive suite of safeguarding related policies and procedures.

Partnerships

Our academies do not operate in isolation. The welfare of children is the corporate responsibility of the entire Local Authority, working in partnership with other public agencies, the voluntary sector and service users and carers.

All Local Authority services have an impact on the lives of children and families, and Local Authorities have a particular responsibility for children and families most at risk of social exclusion.

The Trust recognises that it is essential to establish positive and effective working relationships with other agencies. Professionals can only work together to safeguard children if there is an exchange of relevant information between them.

The Trust follows LA inter-agency safeguarding procedures (as endorsed by the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership), will work within the Cumberland SCP Multi Agency Thresholds Guidance and has links with the Local Authority, the Integrated Care Board for the area, the local Police, Children's Centres and the Education Social Care Service.

We recognise the importance of information sharing between professionals and local agencies and take account of guidance issued in Working Together to Safeguard Children and Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers and the CSCP Information Sharing Protocol.

Where it is believed that a child is suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm, we will follow the referral procedures as outlined on the CSCP website and within the Trust and Academy's Child Protection Policy and Procedures. In other cases where a child or family would benefit from additional support, the Trust and its academies will contribute to appropriate early or family help arrangements, including assessments, multi-disciplinary planning and family help plans, in accordance with local thresholds and procedures. Support will be reviewed and escalated promptly where needs increase or the child's circumstances do not improve.

Training and Support

The Trust will ensure that appropriate training is in place throughout the organisation, including ensuring that all staff, including those who do not work directly with children, read and understand at least Part One

of the current Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance. It will ensure that the respective Designated Safeguarding Leads (and Deputy DSLs) attend all relevant, statutory and suitable child protection training which is updated every 2 years; all staff including the Head teacher, the designated teacher (cared for and previously cared for children), the designated link of the LGB/Trust Board and the local governors receive safeguarding and child protection training at induction (relevant to their roles) which is updated regularly.

In addition, all staff members will receive regular safeguarding and child protection training and updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings) as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. All other adults who work in the school and/or with children will undertake appropriate child protection awareness training to equip them to meet their responsibilities for child protection effectively.

Designated Health and Safety Co-ordinators in schools will receive training in relation to their role in accordance with good practice guidelines, academies will ensure that designated Educational Visits Co-ordinator(s) receive training in planning and managing off-site visits.

There is a designated Mental Health Lead in all academies who is either the DSL or who will work with the DSL when children are identified with mental health concerns. Academies will have a staff training plan in place to ensure all relevant staff receive appropriate training as per legislative requirements and good practice to protect both themselves and children.

Designated staff will receive training relevant to their roles and responsibilities linked to Health and Safety. Examples of these packages are: First aid, supporting pupils with medical needs including general awareness training, asbestos management, fire safety, positive handling, moving and handling, working at height and other training commensurate with the roles and responsibilities of staff.

Professional Confidentiality

The Trust's confidentiality requirements are in in line with the DfE 'Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers, May 2024', or any subsequent revision.

Staff must not assume that another practitioner or agency will share information or take action. Data protection legislation does not prevent the proportionate sharing of information where this is necessary to safeguard a child. Decisions to share or withhold information, and the reasons for those decisions, will be clearly recorded.

Safe Recruitment and Selection

The Trust will maintain a culture of safe recruitment and ongoing vigilance. It will undertake all required identity, qualification, prohibition, barred-list, Disclosure and Barring Service and other pre-employment checks appropriate to each role, including checks relating to volunteers, contractors, agency staff and adults

working in regulated activity. Decisions concerning supervision and any additional checks will be risk assessed, recorded and made in accordance with the current KCSIE guidance.

The Trust Board has a written Recruitment and Selection Policy in place. In line with the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009, the Governing Board ensures that at least one person on any appointment panel has attended safer recruitment training. Online safety checks take place for shortlisted candidates. Further details can be found in the Trust/Academy's Child Protection Policy and procedures and the Trust Recruitment and Selection Policy.

Where Trust premises are used by another organisation to provide services or activities for children, the academy will seek assurance that the provider has appropriate safeguarding and child protection arrangements. Safeguarding requirements will be included in lettings or hire agreements, and concerns or allegations arising from such activities will be managed under the academy's safeguarding procedures.

Related Policies

- Trust Safeguarding Strategy (Trust)
- Whistleblowing Policy (Trust)
- Overarching Safeguarding Statement (Academy)
- Child Protection Policy and procedures (Academy)
- Child on Child Abuse Policy and procedures (Academy)
- Health and Safety Policy and procedures (Trust & Academy)
- Online Safety Policy and procedures (Academy)
- Behaviour Policy (Academy)
- Attendance Policy and procedures (Academy)
- Suspension and Permanent Exclusions Policy and procedures (Academy)
- Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education Policy and procedures (Academy)
- Recruitment, Selection and Pre-Employment Vetting Policy and procedures and Recruitment of ex-offenders (Trust)
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and procedures (Academy)
- Code of Conduct for staff and others who work with children (Trust)
- Single Equality Scheme/Equality Objectives (Academy)
- Data Protection Policy and related Privacy notices (Academy)
- Accessibility Plan (Academy)
- SEND Policy/Information report (Academy)
- Safeguarding, Health and Safety Induction procedures (Academy)
- Positive Handling procedures (Academy)
- First Day Calling and Missing Child procedures (Academy)
- Intimate Care procedures (Academy)

- Educational Visits procedures (Academy)
- First Aid and Accident Recording and Reporting procedures (Academy)
- Emergency procedures (including Lockdown procedures and cyber response plan) (Academy)
- Risk Assessments (incl. Fire Safety) (Academy)
- Lettings Arrangements (Academy)
- Safeguarding Children – Contractors/Visitors Code of Conduct leaflet (Academy)
- Prevent Risk Assessment (Academy)
- Allergy Policy (Academy)
- Artificial Intelligence Policy (Academy)