

Trust Policy Statement for Safeguarding, incorporating Child Protection



Approved by: Board of Directors

Reviewed: September 2021

Next review: September 2022

Overview

Each school within Synergy Multi Academy Trust maintains a local policy regarding safeguarding. This outlines how each school delivers safeguarding at a local level and is reviewed on an annual basis by the Local Governing Body.

This document provides the safeguarding policy statement for the whole Trust, under which each local school is delivering their safeguarding policy and practice. This policy statement is also reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Directors and disseminated to local schools. All schools within the Trust adopt the model safeguarding policy provided by the Norfolk County Council Safeguarding Team.

Policy Consultation and Review

All local policies are made available on each school's website. This policy statement is made available on the Synergy Multi Academy Trust website. Hard copies of policies are also made available on request from each school office. Parents and carers are also informed about safeguarding policy when their children join one of our schools and through school websites.

We recognise the expertise that our staff build by undertaking safeguarding training and managing safeguarding concerns on a daily basis, and we therefore invite staff to contribute to and shape this policy and associated safeguarding arrangements.

The policy is provided to all staff alongside our Staff Code of Conduct, behaviour policy and the safeguarding response to those pupils who are missing from education. In addition, all staff are provided with Part One of the statutory guidance ['Keeping Children Safe in Education'](#), DfE (2021).

Local policies for safeguarding will be reviewed on an annual basis by each school's Local Governing Body.

1. PURPOSE and AIMS

1.1 The purpose of Synergy Multi Academy Trust's safeguarding policy is to ensure every child who is a registered pupil at one of our schools is safe and protected from harm.

This means we will always work to:

- Protect children and young people at our schools from maltreatment
- Prevent impairment of our children's and young people's mental and physical health or development
- Ensure that children and young people at our schools grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Undertake that role so as to enable children and young people at our schools to have the best outcomes.

1.2 This policy will give clear direction to all staff including supply staff, volunteers, visitors and parents about expected behaviour and our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children at our schools.

1.3 Our Trust fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children from harm and supporting and promoting the welfare of all children who are registered pupils at our schools. The elements of our policy are prevention, protection and support.

1.4 We recognise that our safeguarding responsibilities are clearly linked to our responsibilities for ensuring that appropriate safeguarding responses are in place for children who are absent from our schools or who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. The Attendance Lead will regularly liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead to discuss all persistently absent pupils and those who go missing to identify the risk of abuse and neglect including sexual abuse or exploitation and to ensure that appropriate safeguarding responses have been put in place to reduce the risk of future harm.

1.5 This policy statement applies to all pupils, staff, parents, governors, volunteers and visitors across our Trust. All pupils, staff, parents, governors, volunteers and visitors in individual schools should refer to the local policy on safeguarding held at those schools.

2. OUR ETHOS

2.1 The child's welfare is of paramount importance. Our Trust will establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children at our schools will be able to talk freely to any member of staff in their school if they are worried or concerned about something. All staff will reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. Victims will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment.

2.2 Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. We recognise that staff at our schools play a particularly important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from escalating. **All staff 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 must always act in the **best interests** of the child.

2.3 At our schools, we ensure that safeguarding and child protection is at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. We operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

2.4 Where there is a safeguarding concern, the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. The systems we have in place are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously, and knowing they can safely express their views and give feedback.

2.5 All staff and regular visitors will, through training and induction, know how to recognise indicators of concern, how to respond to a disclosure from a child and how to record and report this information. We will not make promises to any child and we will not keep secrets. Every child will know what the adult will have to do with any information they have chosen to disclose.

2.6 Throughout the broad and balanced curriculum in each school, we will provide activities and opportunities for children to develop the knowledge, values and skills they need to identify risks, including knowing when and how to ask for help for themselves and others to stay safe (this includes online). The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education will cover relevant, topics in an age and stage appropriate way, through a planned, developmental curriculum enabling pupils to learn about their rights and responsibilities to behave and stay safe in a variety of contexts on and offline. This will provide further reinforcement to help children identify risks, know when to seek support and develop the skills to ask for help from trustworthy, reliable sources. Further information can be found in the DfE guidance ['Teaching online safety in school.'](#) and ['Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education.'](#)

Each school will include a section in their policy that explicitly identifies how the curriculum, and other provision, is used to achieve this as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

2.7 At all times we will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies in line with [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) (2018) and the [Norfolk Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership arrangements](#).

2.8 As part of our responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, we will provide a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified. These may include if a child:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan)
- Has a mental health need
- Is a young carer
- Is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
- Has returned home to their family from care
- Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Is at risk of 'honour'-based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage
- Is a privately fostered child
- Has a family member in prison, or is affected by parental offending
- Is persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day.

For further details, please see the Safeguarding Policy documents held by each school in our Trust. This includes:

- Roles & Responsibilities
- Training & Induction
- Procedures for Managing Concerns
- Specific Safeguarding Issues
- Recording & Information Sharing
- Working with Parents & Carers
- Child Protection Conferences
- Safer Recruitment

- Safer Working Practice
- Managing Allegations
- Use of premises for non-school/college activities
- Other relevant policies
- Statutory Framework
- Appendices:
 1. Recording form for reporting concerns
 2. Induction checklist for staff & volunteers
 3. Local Safeguarding Procedures
 4. Advice for schools, colleges and alternative education providers where there are concerns about an adult who works within the setting
 5. Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection during COVID-19

3. MONITORING

Local Governing Boards will monitor compliance with this policy through Safeguarding reports to governors and the Safeguarding compliance checklist for governors.

The Trust Board will monitor compliance with this policy through:

- Appointing a Director to act as the Safeguarding Lead. This is Gill Pegg.
- Monitoring Safeguarding reports to Local Governing Boards on GovernorHub
- Compliance checklists
- SCR Monitoring
- External Safeguarding Audits.