



Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Statement

Introduction

Abbey Multi Academy Trust take as our first priority the responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of our students, to minimise risk and to work together with other agencies to ensure rigorous arrangements are in place within our academies/schools to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm and to keep them safe and secure whilst in our care. The Trust is deeply committed to the physical and emotional safety and wellbeing of our students.

In September 2020, DfE published the updated guidance, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education – statutory guidance for schools and colleges'. This guidance contains information on what schools, including academies, should do and sets out the legal duties contained in the Children Act which they must comply with. These legal requirements, and the values and principles that underpin Abbey Multi Academy Trust (Abbey MAT), mean that it is essential that the Trust ensures not only compliance at the local level in individual academies/schools, but also takes the strategic responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice is of high quality.

All academies within Abbey MAT will have a range of policies to ensure the effective safeguarding of students that will be published on their individual website. Some of these policies are determined by the Trust and others are written by the academy in light of their particular context and will be determined and agreed by the Local Governing Body.

The responsibilities set out in this statement apply (as appropriate) to all members of the Abbey Multi Academy Trust community including the Board of Directors and Central Staff, students, staff, governors, visitors/contractors, volunteers and trainees, sessional staff and agency staff or anyone working for and on behalf of the Abbey Multi Academy Trust. It is fully incorporated into the ethos of the Trust and is underpinned throughout the teaching of the curriculum, within PHSCE and within the safety of the physical environment provided for the students.

“Schools and colleges and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility.

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.”

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) DfE September 2020

This policy statement has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children's Act 1989, the Education Act 2002, the Children's Act 2004, Keeping Children Safe In Education 2020 and in line with locally agreed guidance and procedures. Abbey Multi Academy Trust and the Local Governing Bodies of all academies take seriously their responsibilities under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and to

work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our academies to identify, assess and support those children and young people who are suffering harm.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive Abbey MAT services;
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection;
- To ensure commitment to practice which protects all children and young people so that they do not experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe.

Values and Principles

Improving outcomes for all children and young people underpins all of the development and work within the Trust.

Safeguarding is considered everyone's responsibility and as such our academies aim to create the safest environment within which every student has the opportunity to achieve. The academies recognise the contribution they can make in ensuring that all students registered, or who use our facilities, feel that they will be listened to and appropriate action taken.

We will do this by working in partnership with other agencies and seeking to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and other colleagues to develop and provide activities and opportunities throughout our curricula that will help equip our students with the skills they need. This will include materials and learning experiences that will encourage our students to develop essential life skills and protective behaviours.

Safeguarding of children in academies/schools includes ensuring staff, governors, volunteers, students and parents fully understand their duties, rights and responsibilities in the following policy areas:-

- Child Protection: prevention of and protection against physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and support for victims and the staff working with them, including Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage;
- Protection from radicalisation and extremism within the remit of the national 'Prevent' strategy;
- Behaviour, including, where appropriate, Positive Handling (restraint);
- Anti-bullying, including hate-based bullying such as racist, sexist or homophobic in nature;
- Attendance and Children Missing Education;
- Health and Safety on the academy/school site, as well as during trips, visits and local off-site learning opportunities;
- E-safety, ensuring students are discerning users of technology, recognising the opportunities and risks of using social media, email, chat rooms, instant messaging and gaming, and understanding how to stay safe;

- Inclusion of vulnerable students, effectively supporting social, emotional, physical and learning needs;
- Recruitment and Induction of staff, governors and volunteers;
- Staff, governor and volunteer training and development;
- The effective management of visitors to the academy/school;
- Protection of personal data

Director Responsibilities/Governor Responsibilities

The Trust Board has a legal responsibility to make sure that academies have an effective safeguarding policy and procedures in place and monitor that academies comply with them.

The Officers and Directors of Abbey MAT will:

- Appoint a Safeguarding Champion.
- Ensure that the Governing Body of each academy/school has appointed Named Persons who have lead responsibility for dealing with all safeguarding issues in our academies.
- The Governing Bodies will ensure that Named Persons for Safeguarding & Child Protection attend the required training and that they refresh their training every two years.
- Ensure, through Local Governing Bodies, that staff have an understanding of what safeguarding is, know how to access safeguarding information, know of any possible contribution that they may be required to make to safeguard our students and how to access further advice, support or services.
- Ensure that each academy will annually review and update agreed Trust-wide Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures which have been developed by the Central Safeguarding Team and is specific to each academy setting. The academy specific policy and procedures will be published on an annual basis by each academy.
- Monitor the quality of safeguarding practices and their impact on outcomes for children across Abbey MAT and provide regular reports to the Chief Executive and Trust Board.
- Work with Head Teachers/Principals 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.
- Produce an Annual Safeguarding Review and Action Plan as part of The Trust's business planning arrangements.
- Commission external challenge and support where appropriate to ensure academies meet their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- All staff must ensure that the CEOs of Abbey Multi Academy Trust are informed of serious issues/ concerns/ incidents.