



# Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Approval Level:	Governing Body
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At REAch2, our actions and our intentions as school leaders are guided by our Touchstones:

- Integrity** We recognise that we lead by example and if we want children to grow up to behave appropriately and with integrity then we must model this behaviour.
- Responsibility** We act judiciously with sensitivity and care. We don't make excuses, but mindfully answer for actions and continually seek to make improvements.
- Inclusion** We acknowledge and celebrate that all people are different and can play a role in the REAch2 family whatever their background or learning style.
- Enjoyment** Providing learning that is relevant, motivating and engaging releases a child's curiosity and fun, so that a task can be tackled and their goals achieved.
- Inspiration** Inspiration breathes life into our schools. Introducing children to influential experiences of people and place, motivates them to live their lives to the full.
- Learning** Children and adults will flourish in their learning and through learning discover a future that is worth pursuing.
- Leadership** REAch2 aspires for high quality leadership by seeking out talent, developing potential and spotting the possible in people as well as the actual.

## **1. Overarching Principles**

We recognise that academies and academy personnel are in a unique position in their care of children. The responsibility for all staff to safeguard pupils and promote their welfare, as stated in Section 175 of the Education Act (2002) is one that is central to our ethos, our policies and our actions. All children are deserving of the highest levels of care and safeguarding, regardless of their individual characteristics or circumstances, and we are committed to applying this policy to ensure effective levels of safeguarding and care are afforded to all of our pupils. This policy sets out guidance and procedures that our academy will take to ensure appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils. Its contents are intended to be in accordance with all relevant Government guidelines and legislation, as well as the inter-agency procedures provided by Suffolk Local Safeguarding Children's Board or Safeguarding Partners.

## **2. Intended Impact**

To enable all pupils to feel safe and cared for whilst at our academy, and to ensure that they have a safe place and safe people to whom they can turn.

To enable all adults involved with our academy to be fully equipped to fulfil their responsibilities in effectively promoting the safeguarding and welfare of all of our pupils.

## **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

- Pupils will: adhere to academy rules regarding conduct and safe behaviour; report anything that worries them to a trusted adult.
- Parents/carers will: work collaboratively with academy staff to promote the safety of their children and of other pupils; support our academy to teach pupils about keeping safe by reinforcing key safety messages; report any safeguarding concerns regarding their own children or another pupil to the academy.
- The academy will: ensure that all pupils have a safe learning environment and are taught about how to keep safe; train and support all adults involved with our academy to appropriately identify and respond to any pupil at risk of harm; work collaboratively with parents and professional agencies to safeguard our pupils.
- Governors will: ensure this policy is applied robustly throughout the academy; review it regularly (annually at a minimum) to ensure the effectiveness and rigor of safeguarding practice at our academy.

- REAch2 central staff will: know, understand and follow the safeguarding procedures for each academy within which they work; undertake relevant regular training and updates to ensure their skills and knowledge support them to meet their safeguarding responsibility.
- REAch2 safeguarding team members will: advise and challenge academies and their staff to support them in deploying best practice to meet their statutory safeguarding responsibilities.

#### **4. National Guidance and Requirements**

Statutory safeguarding and child protection practice for schools and academies is outlined in the following legislation and documents, with which this policy intends to be in accordance:

- Legal: Section 175, Education Act (2002); Section 26, Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- Government: Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018); What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (2015); Keeping children safe in education (2019); Children missing education (2016); Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools (2018); The designated teacher for looked after and previously looked after children (2018); Information Sharing, Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services (2018); Teaching online safety in schools (2019)
- Ofsted: Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings (2019)

#### **5. Key Definition**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) as: *'protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children's health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.'*

#### **6. Designated Safeguarding Lead Role and Responsibilities**

We will appoint a senior member of staff from our academy's leadership team to act as our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). This person will co-ordinate all safeguarding and child protection procedures at our academy, and will take lead responsibility for this area, which will be specified in their job description.

We will also appoint one or more Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, who will be trained to the same level as the Lead, will have their Deputy DSL role included in their job description, and to whom activities may be delegated.

During school hours, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their Deputy will be available to discuss any safeguarding concerns, either in person or, in exceptional circumstances, via phone or other modes of communication.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and their Deputy will undergo suitable training, including Prevent training, to equip them with the skills and knowledge required to undertake their role, which will be updated at a minimum every two years. In addition, their skills and knowledge will be refreshed at regular intervals, annually at a minimum.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and their Deputy will ensure that all staff know and understand the safeguarding and child protection procedures at our academy, as well as knowing, and working effectively with, the local inter-agency procedures for assessment of early help needs and for referrals of suspected cases of abuse.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and their Deputy are expected to oversee and manage all referrals of suspected abuse that are made to Social Care, Police, Channel, and other agencies, and will also support and liaise with any academy staff who have either been involved in making such referrals or who have concerns about a pupil which may subsequently require a referral.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and their Deputy will maintain detailed and secure written or electronic records of any concerns and referrals, and all subsequent follow up actions and communications. Records should be actioned and updated within 24 hours of the event taking place.

## **7. Induction and Training**

We will train all academy staff and volunteers in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership) procedures to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to support them to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. This will take place upon induction, no later than one month after employment commences, and will be refreshed regularly, no less than annually, throughout the course of their work with our academy.

Training and refresher sessions will reinforce understanding of the types of abuse, including specific safeguarding issues; the adult's role in recognising and responding to abuse; and the academy's processes for recording and following up on any concerns.

Policies, policy updates, and statutory information will also be shared during induction and refresher sessions (see Item 14 Implementation, for further information).

## **8. Types of Abuse and Specific Safeguarding Issues**

We recognise that adults working in our academy are in a unique position to recognise and respond to signs of abuse, and that these can take place and manifest in a variety of ways, including peer on peer.

Induction training and regular refresher sessions will equip staff and volunteers to understand the different types of abuse, including specific safeguarding issues such as Female Genital Mutilation and radicalisation, and support them to know how to respond to any concerns.

Appendix 1 details our approach to dealing with the risks posed by abuse, and how we identify and respond to any signs of abuse.

## **9. Contextual Safeguarding**

Children are subject to possible risk at home, school and in their local community and environment, and we recognise that in order to effectively safeguard our pupils and promote their welfare that we need to understand any specific issues arising in the local area that can affect the risk posed to them.

Significant risks known to be prevalent in the area and community local to our academy are county lines, gangs and drugs.

We will work with local partners, including Social Care and Police, to ensure that we stay alert to any emerging contextual risks, and to ensure that assessment of risk for any of our pupils includes appropriate reference to their local community and environment.

Further information to support staff in understanding contextual safeguarding can be found via the Contextual Safeguarding Network:  
<https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>

## **10. Processes, Procedures, and Inter-Agency Liaison**

Our academy has a clear procedure for responding to any possible signs of abuse, using a standardised safeguarding concerns form/procedure (see Appendix 3). This will be explained to all staff and volunteers at induction, and copies of forms are available in the academy.

Training and refresher sessions will reinforce effective techniques for recording concerns, and will highlight the importance of accurate written records.

All safeguarding concerns records, and any other documentation of a safeguarding nature, are held in a safeguarding file separately from any other pupil information, and are stored securely with access limited only to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, their Deputies, and the Head Teacher, who have received the appropriate DSL training.

Pupil safeguarding files/systems will contain any relevant information and documentation related to the pupil's safety and welfare. Their contents will be logically organised, and will be prefaced by a chronology detailing the key events and information related to the case. Should the pupil leave the academy, a copy of their safeguarding file, separate to their main pupil file, will be transferred to the new school within 10 working days of the academy receiving confirmation of new school, from whom confirmation of receipt will be required.

Upon receiving a concern which indicates a suspicion of abuse, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their Deputy will follow local inter-agency procedures, local information sharing protocols and statutory/legal expectations in deciding if a referral to an external agency is warranted. It is important to note that whilst a referral would typically be made by the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their Deputy, any member of staff can make a referral, and appropriate information will be signposted to all staff to support them to do so.

In the case of a referral being made due to risk of significant harm, the referrer will make a detailed written record of their actions, including: dates and times of any conversations; the name and role of any professionals that were spoken to; the outcome of the referral; any actions that the referrer and the agency receiving the referral have agreed to.

Any disagreements between the referrer and a professional or agency will be appropriately voiced and discussed, with the referrer following appropriate escalation procedures if they remain dissatisfied and if the circumstances warrant. Any disagreements or escalation will be recorded in writing by the referrer.



The Designated Safeguarding Lead or their Deputy will be a proactive contributor to any strategy meeting, Child Protection conference/review, and core group, and will attend professionals' meetings where requested, providing appropriate written and/or verbal education and welfare reports related to the child and their family as requested by agencies and in line with statutory information sharing guidance.

Records of all safeguarding work from early help to child protection will be made on the child's safeguarding record. Any actions arising from a concern will be followed up and documented, and records of any communication with school staff, external agencies and parents related to safeguarding will be documented on the child's record within 24 hours.

Minutes and action plans of meetings will be retained on a child's safeguarding record, with relevant actions being fed back to the appropriate members of the team, and any progress towards meeting required actions and outcomes also recorded.

## **11. Early Help**

We recognise that early intervention when a child or family is starting to show signs of concern can be critical to ensure that the right help and support is sourced, preventing any further escalation of issues or a decline in the child's safety and wellbeing.

We recognise that partnerships with parents and carers is crucial in identifying the need for early help and for effective collaboration to improve the life chances for pupils. We work proactively with parents and carers to develop effective relationships between home and school, and to promote the benefits of early help and intervention to support their child.

Any child can benefit from early help, but we are particularly alert to the needs of: SEND pupils; young carers; pupils vulnerable to anti-social behaviour, gangs, exploitation and radicalisation; pupils currently in or recently returned from care or those being privately fostered; pupils misusing drugs or alcohol or living in households where drugs or alcohol are being misused; pupils living in households with domestic violence or parental mental health concerns.

In a case where a concern about a pupil does not suggest a risk of significant harm but they remain in need of additional support, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their Deputy will liaise with parents and, with their permission, follow local Early Help Assessment guidelines in order to source the most appropriate support.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead or their Deputy will be a proactive instigator and/or contributor to any Early Help Assessment and subsequent Team Around the Family meeting and, as above, will lead or attend professionals' meetings where requested, providing appropriate written and/or verbal education and welfare reports related to the child and their family as requested by agencies.

## **12. Safer Recruitment and the Single Central Record**

We recognise that it is critical to ensure that our pupils are taught and supported by adults who are safe to do so, and that we are responsible for promoting a culture of safety within our academy environment by preventing unsafe adults from having access to it.

In line with expected practice for safer recruitment, a minimum of one member of academy staff will undertake training in 'Safer Recruitment', and will be present on any interview panel.

Our School Business Manager will maintain a Single Central Record, detailing the required and relevant recruitment and vetting checks undertaken on all school employees, volunteers, Governors, agency workers and third party staff.

The Head Teacher will oversee the Single Central Record and be accountable for its accuracy, checking it regularly and termly as a minimum, making a record of the check and any subsequent actions that arise. The designated governor will check the SCR prior to every full Governing Body meeting, also making a record of the check and any subsequent actions that arise.

The Single Central Record will be supported by files containing appropriate supporting evidence for recruitment and vetting checks, held in line with Data Protection legislation.

Please see our Recruitment policy for further detail regarding our adherence to safer recruitment principles for staff and volunteers.

## **13. Teaching Pupils to Stay Safe**

We recognise the importance of teaching our pupils how to stay safe, and that opportunities to do so form an integral part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

Learning opportunities will take the form of: PSHE lessons, computing lessons, relationships and health education, sex education, assemblies, circle time, class/form time, and visiting speakers, as well as smaller group and focussed intervention for particular vulnerable pupils as needed.

The ethos of our school and its curriculum will support the promotion of British Values, which is known to build resilience to exploitation and radicalisation.

We will model and teach safe behaviour and appropriate language (including how to stay safe online), and will promote a culture of safety within our academy where everyone's opinion is valued and everyone has someone safe to whom they can turn.

We will actively collect feedback from our pupils, and will regularly engage with Pupil Voice to seek the views of pupils on their experiences of feeling safe at our academy and within their communities.

#### **14. Implementation**

This policy applies to all adults involved with our academy, including paid staff, volunteers, visitors, and Governors. It will be publically available on our academy website, and will be available in paper form upon request from the office. We will also make available and/or signpost all relevant statutory and legislation safeguarding and child protection documentation to staff and volunteers for their reference.

At the beginning of the academic year all academy staff and volunteers, including Governors, will be issued with a copy of this policy, along with a copy of the academy's Code of Conduct, Whistleblowing policy, Behaviour policy, E-Safety, Acceptable Use and Social Media policy/ies, Attendance policy and any additional information about responding to Children Missing in Education (CME), together with Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). They will be required to sign a confirmation that they have received, read and understood these documents, and that they agree to abide by their contents.

Any new staff who join our academy subsequent to the annual policy issue will receive a specific safeguarding induction, where this policy, plus our academy's Code of Conduct, Whistleblowing policy, Behaviour policy, E-Safety, Acceptable Use and Social Media policy/ies, Attendance policy and any additional information about responding to Children Missing in Education (CME), together with Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) will be shared and discussed. These staff will also be required to sign a confirmation that they have received, read and understood these documents, and that they agree to abide by their contents.

This policy will be reviewed annually by REAch2 Academy Trust in line with updates of statutory guidance.

The implementation of this policy will be reviewed on a regular basis by the academy Senior Leadership Team and also by Governors, led by the named academy Safeguarding Governor, to assess the effectiveness and impact of the academy's processes and procedures in safeguarding pupils and promoting their welfare.

Additionally, the REAch2 safeguarding team will support REAch2 academies in their implementation of this policy through the REAch2 safeguarding strategy. This will include, amongst other areas, scrutiny of safeguarding pupil files, of actions taken by the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their Deputy in response to safeguarding concerns, and of the quality and impact of staff safeguarding training. Please see the REAch2 Safeguarding Strategy for further details. All members of the REAch2 safeguarding team have received Designated Safeguarding Lead training, and have been assessed to have the knowledge, skills and experience required to undertake this role.

### Types of Abuse

We are aware that all children are potentially vulnerable to abuse. It can take place at home, in the academy environment, and in the wider community; be committed by adults and by other children; be inflicted by people known to the child and by strangers; be a consequence of an act of deliberate harm and from failing to take necessary steps to prevent the child from coming to harm.

The four main types of abuse referred to in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019), and a summary of their definitions, are:

- **Physical:** may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child; physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
- **Emotional:** the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development; may involve conveying that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person, not giving them opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate, age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed, interactions that are beyond their developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing them from participating in normal social interaction, seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another, serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing them frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or exploitation or corruption.
- **Sexual:** forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening; may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts, non-physical contact, grooming a child in preparation for abuse, and online sexual abuse.
- **Neglect:** the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development; may involve failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, failure to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision, failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, and failure to meet a child's basic emotional needs.

High quality training, which is regularly updated, ensures all adults involved with our academy are familiar with the definitions of abuse, actions that constitute each of the four categories, and the signs of each type of abuse, so that pupils who may be in need of help or protection are appropriately identified.

In addition to the above, we recognise that there are a number of specific safeguarding issues that require special consideration due to their complex nature. All staff and volunteers will be issued with a copy of Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019), containing the full list of specific safeguarding issues and the accompanying guidance documents, with which they are expected to be familiar.

### Peer on Peer Abuse

Some children may abuse their peers, which can manifest in many ways, including bullying, physical abuse, online abuse, sexual harassment and sexual violence, 'sexting' and initiation/hazing.

Harmful or abusive behaviour between pupils in our academy is not tolerated: we do not believe that it is to be expected, or to be accepted. We recognise that peer on peer abuse is more likely to see boys as perpetrators and girls as victims; staff will be alert to this, but will ensure that all incidents of peer on peer abuse are taken equally seriously regardless of the identity or gender of the perpetrator and victim/s.

Any report of peer on peer abuse will be swiftly investigated, recorded and responded to in line with the school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies. Where appropriate, this may include school sanctions, exclusion, referral to Social Care and/or Police. Victim/s will be reassured, and both victim/s and perpetrator will receive appropriate support and guidance to safeguard and protect them and to ensure that their wellbeing is being promoted.

We will use lessons and assemblies to help pupils understand, age-appropriately, what abuse is and what the academy's policy and expectations are of their behaviour and conduct to each other, encouraging them to tell a trusted adult if someone is behaving in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019), Child On Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment, will be made available for all staff.

### Gangs, Youth Violence, and Serious Violent Crime

We recognise that children are vulnerable, at any age, to being drawn into a gang environment and/or being targeted as perpetrators, or victims, of violence to others.

We understand the positive impact that education, and spotting and responding to early warning signs of gang behaviour and violence, can have on affecting a positive outcome for a child and for building resilience to gang culture.

We will be vigilant to any signs of our pupils being drawn into, or affected by, gangs, youth violence, and serious violent crime, and will work with local agencies to safeguard any perpetrators and/or victims.

### Child Exploitation, including Child Sexual Exploitation

It is understood that any child of any age is vulnerable to the risks of exploitation, including child sexual exploitation, and that this is not limited to older children or adolescents. Children can also be used to exploit other children.

We are alert to the signs and indicators of a pupil becoming at risk of, or subject to, all forms of exploitation, including but not limited to: gang and violence-related activity; criminal and anti-social behaviour; going missing from education; underage and illegal sexual activity; risky behaviour, including behaviour online; awareness, knowledge and use of alcohol and illegal substances.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the academy's named professional for issues related to exploitation, and will work with local agencies as required to safeguard pupils at risk of, or subject to, exploitation.

### Children with family members in prison, and children in the court system

We recognise the significant impact that a parent being in prison can have on a child's outcomes, academically, emotionally and financially.

We also recognise that children can be required to give evidence in court, either as victims or as witnesses, and that this is an experience likely to have a significant impact on them.

Both of the above issues require bespoke support to ensure that the impact on the child's wellbeing is minimised. We will seek appropriate professional support for children in these circumstances, and ensure that pastoral provision actively supports and monitors their progress.

## Domestic Abuse

Witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse, defined as controlling, coercive, threatening, violent and abusive behaviour between partners and/or family members, poses a serious risk to children, and we recognise the serious and long lasting impact it can have on their wellbeing.

We will train our staff to know and understand the risks posed by domestic violence, regardless of whether the child has been physically injured or not, and to recognise any incident of domestic violence witnessed or experienced by a child as a potential safeguarding issue. Where necessary, we will work with local agency professionals to respond to any reported incidents of domestic violence.

## Homelessness

We recognise that homelessness, and the risk of homelessness, places a child's welfare at significant risk, being at risk of poverty, exploitation, and becoming missing from education, amongst others.

Timely intervention when a risk of homelessness is first identified is critical in preventing a situation from escalating and homelessness becoming a reality. We will work closely with families identified to be at risk, and with professional from relevant local agencies, to put appropriate measures into place to minimise the risk of homelessness.

## 'Honour based' violence, including Female Genital Mutilation, Breast Ironing and Forced Marriage

'Honour based' violence refers to actions committed under a belief of protecting or defending the honour of a family or community. Regardless of the motivation or circumstances, we recognise that these acts are illegal and abusive, and should be responded to as such.

We are aware of, and will adhere to, the legal duty placed on teachers to notify the Police of any confirmed cases of Female Genital Mutilation carried out on a girl under the age of 18.

We are alert to the signs and indicators of a child being at risk of 'honour based' violence, and will work with local agencies as required to safeguard these pupils.

## Radicalisation

Under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) academies are required to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism', otherwise known as the 'Prevent Duty'.



We are alert to the signs and indicators of a child showing signs of radicalisation and of being at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and will work with local agencies and the Channel programme as required to safeguard these pupils.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the academy's named professional for radicalisation, who has an appropriate knowledge of the risks associated with the local area.

We recognise that a broad and balanced curriculum will support pupils in developing resilience to extremist ideology; therefore, learning opportunities should promote pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life, promote community cohesion and British values, and provide a safe space in which they can understand, discuss and learn to challenge sensitive topics.

### Children Missing Education

We recognise that a child missing from education can be an indicator of abuse or neglect, including a risk of exploitation, 'honour based' violence and radicalisation, as outlined above.

Robust procedures are in place for monitoring and responding to pupil attendance, as outlined in our academy's Attendance policy, including, where possible, recording more than one emergency contact for each pupil.

In line with Children Missing Education (2016) and Suffolk County Council procedures, we will work with local agencies and make timely referrals as required to ensure that circumstances where children are missing from education are swiftly and appropriately responded to.

### Online Safety

Technology has become a significant risk factor in safeguarding children, and we recognise our responsibility to protect our pupils from the risks of inappropriate content and contact from inappropriate people, as well as educating them about how to conduct themselves safely online.

Staff are alert to the risks posed to pupils via their use of technology, and receive appropriate training to support them in ensuring that risks are swiftly identified and responded to.

Our Computing curriculum, together with assemblies and other learning opportunities, will equip our pupils with the necessary knowledge and skills to take best advantage of the many opportunities that technology brings whilst acting safely and responsibly whilst using technology. It will take into account all of the guidance contained within Annex C of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) to ensure that pupils are sufficiently protected and educated with regards to online safety.

Please see the Academy's E-Safety, Acceptable Use and Social Media policy/ies for further information, including Acceptable Use Agreements for pupils and adults.

### Children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We recognise that pupils with SEND face additional challenges in keeping safe, and that they may be subject to increased risk by virtue of their special need or disability. Their physical and emotional needs, behaviour, mood, difficulties with communication, proneness to isolation and to bullying all make them more vulnerable to abuse and more vulnerable to abuse being overlooked or ascribed to a different cause.

Staff working with pupils with SEND who are non-verbal or have limited communication will be particularly vigilant of potential signs of abuse, such as changes in mood and behaviour, suspicious marks, etc., and will promptly respond to these signs by following the safeguarding procedures detailed above.

We ensure that pupils with SEND receive appropriate pastoral provision, which, if necessary, may be additional to that provided to non-SEND pupils, and that they are taught in a way that is appropriate to their developmental stage about keeping safe and about sharing any worries or concerns with a trusted adult.

Use of 'reasonable force', referring to use of physical contact to control or restrain a pupil, is sanctioned in schools when it is being used to safeguard. The additional vulnerabilities of pupils with SEND in the use of reasonable force is known and understood, and we are committed to reducing the risk posed to these pupils and limiting the need for use of reasonable force through our pastoral support and behaviour management systems.

From time to time, pupils with SEND may need to receive additional support, or part-time/full-time education, from an Alternative Provision so that their needs can best be met.

We will take responsibility for assuring ourselves that the policies and procedures for keeping children safe at the Alternative Provision, including those relating to safeguarding and to safer recruitment, are sufficiently robust and are in line with statutory expectations.

Please see the Academy's SEN/Inclusion and behaviour policies for further information.

### Looked After Children, and Previously Looked After Children

Children are most commonly taken into care following abuse or neglect; consequently, pupils who are Looked After or Previously Looked After, including those who have been adopted from care or are subject to care orders, can be vulnerable as a result of their historical experiences, as well as with their current care arrangements.

We will appoint a Designated Teacher, who is responsible for monitoring the progress and wellbeing of all Looked After Children, and for liaising with both academy staff and professionals from external agencies to ensure appropriate provision to meet their academic, developmental and welfare needs. The Designated Teacher will also be responsible for monitoring the progress and wellbeing of all previously Looked After Children, ensuring that they have appropriate provision to meet their needs.

The Designated Teacher will be responsible for ensuring that a Looked After Child's PEP is available, up to date and regularly reviewed to ensure it is having an impact on the pupil's attainment and wellbeing.

The Designated Teacher will also be responsible for establishing effective partnerships with the child's carers.

## Appendix 2

### Contact Information

Name of Designated Safeguarding Lead	Emma Churchman
Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead	Head Teacher
Contact details for Designated Safeguarding Lead	01473 624409

Name of Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Lily Hudson
Role of Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Senior Teacher / SENDCO
Contact details for Deputy Safeguarding Lead	01473624409


Name of Chair of Governors	Rosie Carter
Contact details for Chair of Governors	Rosie.carter@martleshamacademy.org

Name of Safeguarding Governor	Rosie Carter
Contact details for Safeguarding Governor	Rosie.carter@martleshamacademy.org

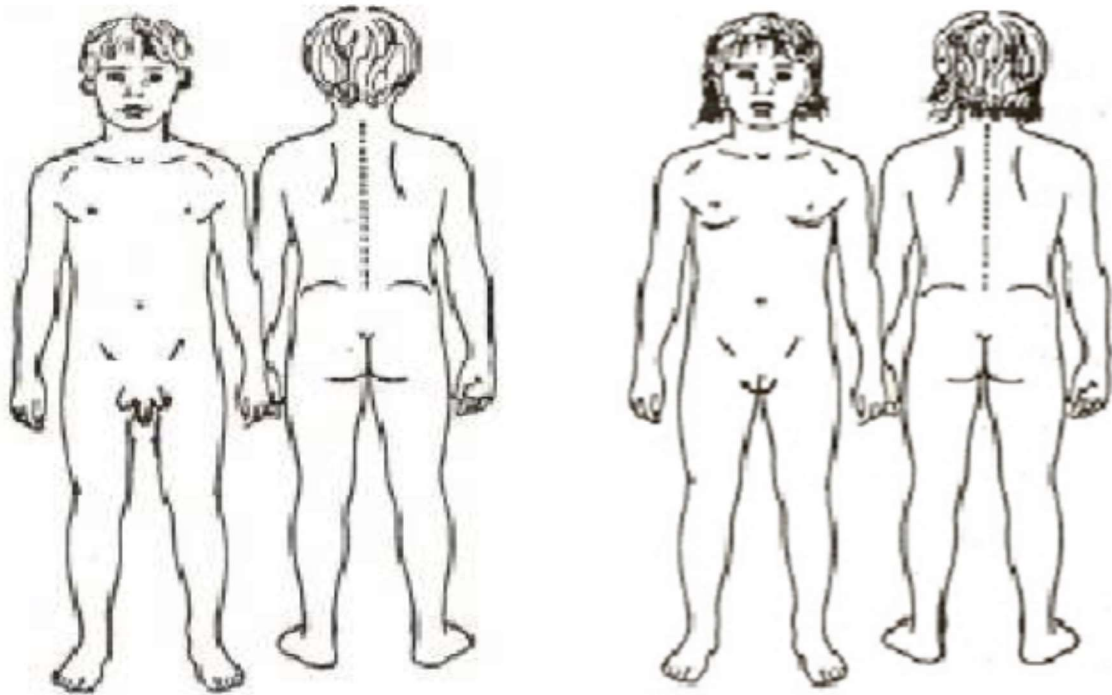
Customer First Social Care contact details	0808 800 4005
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Suffolk County Council LADO	Dian Campbell
Suffolk County Council LADO contact details	0300 123 2044

Suffolk Prevent Agency Name	Multi Agency Safeguarding Team Hub (MASH)
Suffolk Prevent Agency Details	MASH@suffolk.pnn.police.uk/101

 <b>Martlesham Primary Academy Recording Form for Safeguarding Concerns</b> <small>(Must be hand-written &amp; handed directly to the DSL / ADSL)</small>					
<b>Name of person making the disclosure or that you are concerned about</b>		<b>Class</b>	<b>Your name</b> (and position in school)		
Nature of Concern/Disclosure					<small>Remember to only record fact DO NOT add your own opinion</small>
<b>Date of incident:</b>		<b>Time of incident:</b>			
Was there an injury?	Yes / No	Did you see it?	Yes / No		
Describe the injury. (Facts only):					
Have you filled in a body plan (overleaf) to show where the injury is and its approximate size?					Yes / No
Was anyone else with you?	Yes / No	Who?			
Where were you?					
Has this happened before?	Yes / No	IF NOT KNOWN LEAVE BLANK			
Did you report the previous incident?	Yes / No	To Whom?		Date:	
Is the safeguarding concern enabled by or dependant on the internet or does it involve a technological device? <small>If yes, discuss with the DSL.</small>					Yes / No
Is the safeguarding concern Prevent related? <small>If yes, discuss with the Prevent Lead &amp; ensure it is recorded on the Prevent Lead's log.</small>					Yes / No
Who are you passing this information on to?	DSL	ADSL	LADO	Police	Customer First
Name of who you are passing this on to:			Time:	Date:	
Your Signature:			Print Name:		

**Body map:** (Please mark on the picture any physical marks relating to the concern raised)



**Summary of action taken: DSL or ADSL to complete**

Summary of action taken: DSL or ADSL to complete

<b>Referred to: (Circle all that apply)</b>				<b>Recorded on log: YES / NO</b>		
Parents	FSW (School)	MARF	Attached FSP	Attached Social Worker	LADO	Police
EWO	School Nurse	VTR form	Online Safety Lead	Other:		
<b>Signature:</b>				<b>Date &amp; Time completed :</b>		

### Managing Allegations

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) defines an allegation of abuse against a member of staff as any case in which it is alleged that an adult (including volunteers) at the school or academy has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child.
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to children.

This policy is designed to work in full accordance with the statutory guidelines set out within Part Four of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019), as well as with local guidelines issued by Suffolk County Council, both of which describe the expected process for managing allegations in detail. Head Teachers, members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Chair of Governors will familiarise themselves with both of these documents; however, key principles are summarised below.

#### Staff Awareness

All staff and volunteers will be issued with our academy's Code of Conduct and with this policy, which are intended not only to support them in adopting safe practice in their work with children but also to advise on how to report any concerns about the conduct of a colleague. Staff will also be issued with a copy of our Whistleblowing policy; this refers to concerns of a non-safeguarding nature, but its principles support those of this policy.

Additionally, all staff and volunteers are signposted to the Ofsted Whistleblower Helpline, 0300 123 3155, and to the NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Helpline, 0800 028 0285.

#### Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and Governor Awareness

The Head Teacher, members of SLT (in case of the Head Teacher's absence) and the Chair of Governors (in case of the allegation being against the Head Teacher) will know the name and contact details for the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), with whom contact will be made as soon as possible upon receipt of an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer at our academy, and always within one working day.

If further investigation or action is required, the person referring the concern to the LADO will then be nominated as the 'case manager'.

If the specific circumstances warrant, or if the case is unusually complex, the case manager role may be taken on by a professional independent to our academy, i.e. a colleague from within REAch2 Academy Trust.

### Information Sharing

When directed to by the LADO, the case manager will inform the accused person of the allegation and will give as much information as possible about its nature. We have a duty of care to our employee/volunteer, and will provide effective support to anyone in this situation, as well as ensuring that the matter is dealt with quickly, fairly and consistently.

As directed by the LADO, the case manager will also tell the parents of the child or children involved of the allegation (if they are not already aware) and will keep them informed as to the progress and outcome of the process.

### Managing the Situation

As directed by the LADO, and in consultation with the REAch2 HR and/or safeguarding teams, we will assess the possible risk posed by the accused individual if they are to continue in their role. This assessment may result in suspension if the risk is considered sufficient and if all suitable alternative options have been considered.

If a member of staff or volunteer who is judged to be unsuitable to work with children resigns or their services cease to be used, we will assess the situation against the published DBS criteria and will follow up with a referral where necessary. A compromise or settlement agreement will not be used in cases where this would prevent a referral to DBS being made, as to do so could result in a criminal offence and is non-compliant with our legal duty.

One-off and/or repeated allegations of malicious, false or unsubstantiated conduct will not be referred to in employer references.

Where an allegation has been found to be malicious, we will consider whether to take further action, either via the Behaviour policy (in the case of a pupil) or via discussion with the Police (in the case of a parent or other adult).

### Record Keeping

Full details of each stage of the allegations process will be recorded in writing by the case manager.

Where an allegation has been found to be malicious, i.e. the allegation is disproved and there has been a deliberate attempt to deceive, all details and records will be removed from the person's personnel file.



For allegations found to be substantiated, false or unsubstantiated, details of the allegation and the investigation process, including the outcome, will be kept as per the Disciplinary policy, but usually separately and confidentially to the person's personnel file, with a copy also provided to the person concerned.

Records will be retained for a period of 10 years from the date of the allegation, or until the accused has reached pension age (if this is sooner).

### Learning Lessons

As soon as is practicable, the Governing Body will convene to review the facts of the case, reflect on any lessons to be learned, and implement any needed changes to policy and/or procedure. Where applicable, this will include reference to any feedback given by the LADO.

## COVID 19 School Closure Arrangements for Safeguarding

### 1. Key contacts

Role	Name	Email Address	Telephone number
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Emma Churchman	safeguarding@martleshamacademy.org	07841 633842
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Lily Hudson	safeguarding@martleshamacademy.org	07841 633842
Deputy Director of Education	Sinead Harper	sinead@reach2.org	
Chair of Governors	Rosie Carter	Rosie.carter@martleshamacademy.org	01449 780164

### 2. Introduction

From 20 March 2020, parents were asked to keep their children at home, and schools were requested to offer childcare only for those children who are vulnerable, and for those who are offspring of critical workers who cannot otherwise be safely cared for at home. For the purposes of this policy, 'vulnerable' was defined by DfE as:

- those children who have a social worker, including children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority; it can also include those who have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989;
- those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.
- Those children who have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who are therefore in need of continued education provision – this might including children on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, or those who are young carers, and others at the provider and local authority discretion.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at increased risk.

In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and the Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID-19, these will be discussed with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Pupils with an EHC plan will be risk assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

It is recognised that many children are considered to be vulnerable for reasons that are not included in the criteria above, for whom we will also put in place additional support, as detailed below. The DfE has given schools the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support, which will be discussed and agreed with parents as required.

### **3. Designated Safeguarding Lead arrangements**

Throughout the period of partial school closure, a minimum of one person from the school staff listed above will be designated to be responsible for safeguarding of pupils from our school. They will be available and on call either face to face or remotely as per the rota put in place by the school's leaders. Staff working in the childcare provision will be informed at the start of each day of the named designated safeguarding person responsible for that day, and their contact details (phone and email) will be shared, as required.

In the event that DSL training expires for any of the above named staff members, the Trust safeguarding team will signpost an online DSL training course that can be used in lieu of face to face training during this period. The Deputy Director of Education (DDoE) and Trust safeguarding team will arrange for additional DSL capacity in the event that the DSL and Deputies named above are unable to provide adequate DSL cover.

The DSL and Deputy DSLs will continue to liaise closely with the Local Authority, Social Work teams and the Virtual School, as applicable, to support vulnerable pupils. Any professionals' meetings, i.e. core groups, child protection conferences, will be attended remotely where the facility from the Local Authority and school allows; in the event that this is not possible, a written report will be submitted. Where a vulnerable child who has a Social Worker does not attend childcare provision, the child's Social Worker will be informed.

#### **4. Supporting pupils in school**

We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all of our pupils. We will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. Senior Leaders will ensure that appropriate staff are on site throughout the operation of childcare provision, and that staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate to the number, age and understanding of the pupils who are attending, in order to maximise safety.

This includes staff designated to undertake First Aid, and those supporting pupils with EHC plans.

To promote good physical health, we will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19. We also recognise that the current circumstances may affect a child's mental health. We will be alert to any changes in a pupil's behaviour, presentation and mood, and will support them, in collaboration with their parents, to manage any worries or anxieties that they may have.

Where a pupil is expected to attend childcare provision and does not do so, the usual absence procedures will be followed by school to ascertain their whereabouts, in line with the Attendance policy. Parents are requested to inform the school as soon as possible if their child is not attending childcare provision on a day that had been previously agreed.

#### **5. Safeguarding pupils who are not in school**

To support and safeguard pupils known to be vulnerable whilst they are not attending school or childcare provision, the following procedures have been put in place, as a minimum:

- Review all pupils on vulnerable pupil list and identify those for whom school closure and a lack of contact with school staff would pose most risk, allocating each child to a member of the DSL team;
- Ensure pupil contact details are up to date and are remotely accessible by all DSLs;
- Ensure all DSLs have remote access to email and CPOMS / My Concern;
- Issue letter/communication to parent and any allocated workers of each pupil at risk to explain DSL contact taking place during school closure;
- Make phone contact with each pupil at risk regularly (no less than weekly) to check safety and wellbeing; where possible, speaking to the child not just the parent. N.B. the number of weekly contacts will be determined by the DSL based on a risk assessment of the pupil's current circumstances.

- Record a summary of conversation CPOMS / My Concern or on electronic version of school concern form which is then circulated to DSL team via email;
- Monitor CPOMS / My Concern and emails daily, and respond as required in line with main safeguarding policy and Local Authority thresholds.

These procedures will continue throughout the period of childcare provision, including times designated as school holidays. During school holidays, communication to parents and pupils and record keeping will be undertaken by the DSL who is 'on call' for the school on the given day as detailed above, to allow adequate opportunity for other members of the DSL team to have time off of work.

Where contact with vulnerable pupils not attending childcare provision has been difficult to achieve or maintain, every effort will be made to safely contact parents through all available means of school communication, i.e. phone, text, email. Staff are requested to not make home visits due to the risk of infection. If there are concerns about the welfare of a pupil where contact has not been established, we will follow our Local Authority Social Care referral processes.

We recognise that school is a protective factor for our pupils, and that the current circumstances surrounding restriction of movement may affect the mental health of all of our pupils and their parents/carers. All staff will be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work to be completed at home, and in any other communications with parents and pupils. Any concerns for either parents or pupils related to mental health will be recorded as per the guidance above and below.

These procedures will be reviewed by the DSL and Deputy DSLs regularly, and no less than fortnightly. Any substantial changes to processes will be updated in the monthly policy review (see below)

## **6. Reporting a concern**

If staff have a safeguarding concern about a child, they should follow the usual process as per the main Safeguarding and Child Protection policy. Staff must complete a cause for concern form and give this to the DSL on duty. In the event that staff do not have access to the necessary device or systems for recording their concern, they must contact the named person responsible for safeguarding on the day in question via phone in order to make a verbal report.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay; where a concern is urgent and high risk, a verbal report must be made first, either in person or via phone, and followed up in writing as soon as possible thereafter.

CPOMS / My Concern or emails will be monitored by the DSL team regularly, no less than daily, and actions will be completed and recorded in line with the main safeguarding policy and Local Authority thresholds.

We recognise that incidents of peer on peer abuse may still occur whilst childcare provision is in operation. In such an event, guidance contained within Part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and from the main safeguarding and child protection policy will be followed, and staff will report this in line with the school's reporting procedures, as outlined above.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, the guidance contained within Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and Annex 5 of our main safeguarding and child protection policy still applies.

Any concern of this nature must be reported directly to the Head Teacher; if they are away from school, this should be done verbally via phone and followed up in writing as per the Head Teacher's direction. If the concern relates to the Head Teacher, this should be reported to the school's Deputy Director of Education and to the Chair of Governors.

## **7. Online safety**

We will continue to provide a safe environment for pupils, which includes any activities undertaken online. Our online filtering system restricts access to unsuitable material. When electronic devices are in use by pupils in the school building, this will take place under appropriate supervision from adults, in line with our Acceptable Use Agreements.

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns will be dealt with as per the main safeguarding and child protection policy, and where appropriate referrals will be made in line with Local Authority thresholds. Staff must only use approved methods or platforms to communicate with parents and pupils, and a record of all interactions must be kept, with a record of the date, time, length and purpose/nature of the interaction. Where this communication was on the phone, the record is expected to be created in line with the school's processes for recording parental phone calls; in the event of an email communication, a retained copy of the email within the sender's email account is sufficient. If any communication with parents or pupils relates to or indicates a safeguarding concern, the usual safeguarding reporting procedures, as outlined above, must be followed.

Advice for parents regarding keeping their child safe online while at home has been shared via our website which will be regularly updated to ensure it remains high profile for our parents.

## **8. Staff and volunteer recruitment**

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable to work with children are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. Recruitment of staff and volunteers in our school is expected to remain at a minimum during this period; however, where recruitment is required and necessary, we will continue to follow the requirements set out within Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and our Recruitment policy.

Under no circumstances will a member of staff or volunteer upon whom the appropriate checks have not been completed be left to work unsupervised with a child or children.

## **9. Safeguarding induction and training**

All current staff have received safeguarding induction and safeguarding training in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and our main safeguarding policy. Where new staff start work with us during the period of partial school closure, they will be provided with, as a minimum, the main safeguarding and child protection policy, a copy of this annex, and Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) In addition, they will be provided with an induction session arranged by the DSL. The induction takes place with the DSL and clearly outlines the safeguarding protocol at Martlesham Primary Academy.

## **10. Hub arrangements**

As per previous REAch2 guidance, the principle of a 'school hub' would see a group of schools who are geographically close with a named school being allocated to house the provision of childcare for 'local children'. This would involve two or more schools working together to provide one childcare facility on one school site, thus reducing the immense demand on individual schools but still enabling the provision of a childcare facility within the local community. This may take place between schools from within REAch2, or it may involve joining with schools from outside of the Trust. In either case, the following principles, in addition to those already outlined in this annex, apply:

- each school within the hub will name a DSL or Deputy DSL to be responsible for safeguarding of their pupils on each day, which will be communicated with all staff at the beginning of each day;
- staff working at the hub will be given sufficient access to each school's system for reporting safeguarding concerns, using an electronic cause for concern form;
- the responsible DSL from each school will monitor their safeguarding system CPOMS / My Concern or email regularly, no less than daily;

- Head Teachers of staff attending the hub will confirm in writing that their staff have full safer recruitment checks completed; this may be achieved by sharing safer recruitment policies and receiving written confirmation that staff have had all required checks (non-REAch2 schools) or by sharing relevant information from the school's SCR (REAch2 schools);
- staff attending at the hub will show school-based photo ID on arrival, which will be cross referenced with the staff rota;
- a daily register will be completed and the home school will be informed of their children's attendance;
- social workers will be informed of children attending the hub by their own school.

### **11. Safeguarding support**

The REAch2 safeguarding team will provide remote support to schools, DSLs and other school leaders to enable safeguarding to operate effectively. This may involve secure remote access to files and record keeping for the purposes of quality assurance, guidance and direction. Regular DSL forums will also take place with a member of the Trust safeguarding team to offer guidance and support, to which all DSLs and Deputy DSLs will be invited.

### **12. Review**

This annex will be reviewed by REAch2's Head of Safeguarding, and then by the Head Teacher and the Designated Safeguarding Lead, on the first of each month throughout the period of partial school closure, or more frequently if updates from the DfE require. This will include any information received from Suffolk County Council Local Authority Safeguarding Children Partnership, Social Care, Virtual School, and the Designated Officer.