

Overarching Safeguarding Statement

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Please note that a record of the changes made to the original issue of this document can be found at Schedule 1 after any Appendices to the Policy/Procedure.

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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 2025](#),'; [EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers](#); and [Working together to Safeguard Children](#). The Trust will also refer to and follow the guidance and procedures developed by the [Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (SCP) and [Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (SCP).

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, 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 PHSE and within the safety of the physical environment provided for the pupils.

DEFINITION OF SAFEGUARDING

The statutory guidance '[Working together to Safeguard Children](#)' defines the term Safeguarding as:

- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge;
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is 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 the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interest of the children; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework.

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 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; racial, disability, and homophobic or

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transphobic abuse; 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. sexting; 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; child sexual exploitation and trafficking; child criminal exploitation including county lines; 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 violence, 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 will have a member specifically assigned as Designated Safeguarding Director and Designated Director for Child Protection. Each Local Advisory Board will have a member specifically assigned as Designated Safeguarding member and Designated member for Child Protection. All relevant policies will be reviewed in accordance with the latest DfE Guidance by the Trust Audit and Risk Committee which has responsibility for oversight of Trust safeguarding and child protection systems. The Designated Safeguarding Member will ensure regular reporting on safeguarding activity and systems in Trust academies to the Trust Board. The Trust will not receive details of individual pupil/student situations or identifying features of families as part of their oversight responsibility. The Designated Safeguarding member is also the Designated member for Child Protection. The Designated Safeguarding member for each LAB will liaise with the Designated Director and Trust CE from the Trust Board in the event of allegations of abuse made against the Headteacher. In the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Head teacher the allegation should be reported directly to the Trust CE. Referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer will then be determined.

The Trust is a community and all those directly connected (staff, Board Member, 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.

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.

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PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHERS

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](#) (SCP) | [Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (SCP)), will work within the Cumbria 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](#); [Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#) and the [Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (SCP) | [Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (SCP).

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 [Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (SCP) | [Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (SCP) website and within the ***Trust and Academy's Child Protection Policy and Procedures***. In other cases where the child or family would benefit from early intervention, we will put in place appropriate 'Early Help' strategies, working with other agencies as appropriate and where necessary.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

The Trust will ensure that appropriate training is in place throughout the organisation. It will ensure that the respective Designated Safeguarding Leads (and Deputy DSLs) attend suitable child protection training which is updated every 2 years; all staff including the Headteacher, the designated teacher (looked-after and previously looked-after children), the designated LAB member and the LAB members 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 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.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads will undertake Prevent Awareness Training to enable them to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. Other staff to receive this training will be determined through risk assessment. Designated Health and Safety Co-Ordinators in schools will receive training in relation to their role.

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Although now no longer a legal requirement, in accordance with good practice guidelines, academies will ensure that designated Educational Visits Co-Ordinator 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 training will include for example health and safety induction, first aid, supporting pupils with medical needs including general awareness training, training in the administration of medication and any training regarding complex medical needs of children (from a medical professional as necessary); asbestos management, fire safety, positive handling, moving and handling, minibuses drivers, risk assessment, food hygiene, safe use of machinery and other training commensurate with the roles and responsibilities of staff.

PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENTIALITY

The Trust has a clear confidentiality statement that forms part of the Child Protection Policy and procedures which is reviewed annually by the full LAB and is discussed with all staff and shared with all working (paid and unpaid) adults within our schools.

SAFE RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

The Trust pays full regard to the DfE statutory guidance [Keeping children safe in education 2025](#). We will deter and prevent people who pose a risk of harm from working with children by adhering to statutory responsibilities to carry out appropriate checks on staff or others who work (paid or unpaid) unsupervised with children, taking proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required and ensuring those without full checks are appropriately supervised. The Trust Board has a written Recruitment and Selection Policy ([Recruitment and Selection Policy – Cumbria Education Trust](#)) in place. In line with the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 the Governing Body ensures that at least one person on any appointment panel has attended safer recruitment training. Online safety checks take place for short-listed candidates.

Further details can be found in ***the Trust/Academy's Child Protection Policy and procedures and the Trust Recruitment and Selection Policy***.

RELATED SCHOOL POLICIES

(to be read and followed alongside this document)

- Child Protection Policy and procedures
- Child on Child Abuse Policy and procedures
- Health and Safety Policy and procedures
- Online Safety Policy and procedures
- Behaviour and Culture Policy including procedures for preventing and dealing with bullying (in all its forms) and discrimination, unacceptable behaviour, drug misuse etc.
- Attendance Policy and procedures
- Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy and procedures
- Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education Policy and procedures
- Recruitment, Selection and Pre-Employment Vetting Policy and procedures including the Single Central Record (restricted access)

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- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy and procedures
- Code of Conduct for staff and others who work with children
- Single Equality Scheme/Equality Objectives
- Data Protection Policy and related Privacy notices
- Accessibility Plan
- SEND Policy/Information report
- Guidance on the Use of Photographic Images
- Safeguarding, Health and Safety Induction procedures and related addendum
- Positive Handling procedures
- Missing Child procedures
- Intimate Care procedures
- Educational Visits procedures
- First Aid and Accident Recording and Reporting procedures
- Emergency procedures (including Lockdown procedures and cyber response plan)
- Risk Assessments (incl. Fire Safety)
- Premises Management including security measures (formal Inspections and Buildings Register/Maintenance records)
- Lettings Arrangements
- Safeguarding Children – Contractors/Visitors Code of Conduct leaflet

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SCHEDULE 1

DOCUMENT CONTROL – RECORD OF CHANGES

Version Number:	Publication Date:	Nature of, and Reason for, Change(s)
001	September 2015	Original.
002	November 2015	Updated to include additional information relating to the Prevent Duty, CSE, CME etc. Change in title of former 'LADO' to 'DO' throughout.
003	May 2016	Minor Updates throughout.
004	October 2016	Updated as a result of publication of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education – September 2016.
005	September 2017	Minor Updates as a result of changes to EYFS statutory framework April 2017.
006	September 2018	Updated as a result of publication of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', September 2018 and Working Together to Safeguard Children, July 2018.
007	September 2019	Updated as a result of publication of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' – September 2019 and Ofsted's Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years, Education and Skills Settings, September 2019 and changes to create the Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) from 29 September 2019.
008	September 2020	Updated as a result of publication of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' – September 2020.
009	September 2021	Updated as a result of publication of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' – September 2021.
010	September 2022	Updated in line with the publication of statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2022. Note the DfE document 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges: Advice for governing bodies, headteachers and DSL's' has now been withdrawn and incorporated into the September 2022 version of KCSiE and into this Policy and procedures and the Child on Child Abuse Policy.
011	September 2023	Updated Hub and external links only.
012	May 2024	Updated to reflect changes in 'Working together to Safeguard Children' December 2023. Changes not required to be ratified by Trust Board.
013	September 2024	Reviewed – no changes required. Policy owner now Director of Strategy and Operations.

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014	September 2025	Reviewed and minor amendments made in relation to links.
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