



# **TRUST POLICY STATEMENT FOR SAFEGUARDING INCORPORATING CHILD PROTECTION**

**Ratified: May 2019**

**Review: October 2019**

## **Overview**

Each school within Synergy Multi-Academy Trust maintains a set of local procedures regarding Safeguarding. These procedures outline how each school delivers Safeguarding at a local level, and are reviewed on a regular basis by the Local Governing Body.

The following document provides the Safeguarding Policy statement for the whole Trust and is the policy against which each local school is delivering. This policy is also reviewed on a regular basis by the MAT board, and disseminated to local schools via senior management team meetings.

## **Policy Consultation & Review**

All local procedures are made available on each schools website. This Policy statement is made available on the Synergy MAT website. Hard copies of policies and procedures are also made available on request from each school office. Parents and carers are also informed about this policy when their children join one of our school and through our schools newsletters.

We recognise the expertise 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 at induction alongside our Staff Code of Conduct. In addition, all staff are provided with Part One of the statutory guidance ['Keeping Children Safe in Education'](#), DfE (2016).

This policy will be reviewed in full by the MAT Board on an annual basis, with local procedures for Safeguarding being reviewed in full on an annual basis by each schools Local Governing Body. This policy was last reviewed and ratified by the MAT Board in September 2017. It is due for review in September 2018.

## **1. PURPOSE & AIMS**

1.1 The purpose of Synergy Multi Academy Trusts safeguarding policy is to ensure every child who is a registered pupil at 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 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 statement sets out the purpose, aims and ethos of Safeguarding across our Trust. Each school within our Trust will outline specific procedures giving clear direction to staff, volunteers, visitors and parents about expected behaviour and the legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children at their school.

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 in each school 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 in schools across our Trust. All pupils, staff, parents, governors, volunteers and visitors in individual schools should refer to the local procedures 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 at our schools if they are worried or concerned about something.

2.2 Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. We recognise that staff across our Trust and 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 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.

2.4 Throughout our curriculum we will provide activities and opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to identify risks and stay safe. This will also be extended to include material that will encourage our children to develop essential life skills.

2.5 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 (2015) and [Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board procedures](#).

For further details on roles and responsibilities, and recording information regarding Safeguarding, please see the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures documents held by each school in our Trust.