

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The County High School, Leftwich fully recognises its role and responsibilities in protecting children and keeping them safe so as to enable those children and young people to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully. The Academy complies with the guidance given in Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, updated September 2019). The Academy expects all staff to read the summary document referred to as Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, updated September 2019); each member of staff is expected to sign to confirm that they have read this document. This process will be repeated annually. **Any safeguarding concerns can be raised with Academy staff members. All members of the Academy staff are trained in their obligation to see that safeguarding concerns are forwarded promptly to a designated safeguarding professional. The County High School Leftwich is committed to proactively engaging with external agencies such as Social Care, compliance with Cheshire West and Chester Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) and Safeguarding in Education (SCiE) and will make rigorous use of the referral procedures associated with liaising with such agencies.**

The Academy acknowledges that safeguarding is not just about protecting children and young people from deliberate harm, but encompasses a wide variety of issues including information, advice and guidance, care and support, anti-bullying, safe internet use, providing first aid, racial equality and educating our young people about drug and substance misuse. Within this range of issues, the Academy acknowledges its responsibility to foster informed discussion and protect students from the potential harm caused by extremist attitudes of all sorts. In our belief that 'every child really does matter', safeguarding must be prioritised in all that we do and although clear policies will facilitate a consistent approach, it is day-to-day vigilance in sustaining best practice that will make the most difference to young people's feelings of safety, wellbeing and happiness.

1) Peer-on-peer abuse

Staff Safeguarding Basic Awareness training draws attention to this form of abusive behaviour and guidance given includes the following:

- Prompt reporting to key staff is essential
- Incidences of peer-on-peer abuse must be dealt with the same rigour and promptness as for incidences of any other sort of abusive behaviour
- The potential need to support both victims, perpetrators and other associated young people must be acknowledged

2) Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) including County Lines

This is a term defined by the UK Government to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more areas, using dedicated mobile phone lines. These groups are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation and violence. Home Office guidance states that signs that a young person may be involved in county lines may include: having unexplained amounts of money, clothes or mobile phones/SIM cards; unexplained relationships with controlling or older individuals or groups, often accompanied by a significant decline in school performance or behaviour. Guidance around this safeguarding issue forms part of the Staff Safeguarding Basic Awareness

3) Upskirting

'Upskirting' typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is now a criminal offence.

Effective guidance must also be given to students to help them to behave appropriately and respectfully towards one another. There is a critical role for the Education for Life (EFL) curriculum in offering this support and guidance. The establishment of our EFL (Education for Life) Faculty is given status in our curriculum offer, enabling the student to spend time with the Personal Tutor/Learning Mentor. It is intended that the tutor mentors the young person for five years to build a constructive and supportive relationship with both the student and his/her parents/carers. Tutors are supported by their Year Leader who, in turn, is supported by a Vice Principal who is also the Senior Designated Teacher for Safeguarding. The Senior Designated Lead Teacher for Safeguarding is line-managed directly by the Principal.

4) Safeguarding of SEND students

In dealing with safeguarding incidents involving SEND students due regard must always be given to the bearing their SEND status may have on the alleged incident and how best to investigate and seek to resolve any incidents. The Academy will ensure that the SENDCo is a member of the safeguarding team and has a level of safeguarding training that is commensurate with that role.

5) Raising concerns about the conduct of professionals (Whistleblowing)

Should the concerns raised be about any of the designated safeguarding professionals the matter should be raised with the Principal. Should the concern raised be about the Principal the matter should be raised with the Chair of the Governing Body.

6) Safeguarding of looked after and previously looked after students

Effective safeguarding provision for looked after and previously looked after students must acknowledge that there is the potential for these students to be more vulnerable than their peers. The Academy will ensure that the Designated Teacher for looked after and previously looked after children is a member of the safeguarding team and has a level of safeguarding training that is commensurate with that role.

7) Safeguarding of students accessing alternative provision

The Academy acknowledges its responsibility to ensure the same standard of safeguarding provision is maintained when alternative provision is commissioned for students. Those commissioned providers must provide adequate written confirmation of effective training for their staff members.

8) Safe recruitment

Safeguarding is a paramount consideration in the recruitment of teachers and other staff. Adults in the school community must be trustworthy and safe and be perceived to be by our students. These expectations apply equally to adults working as volunteers or with commissioned services. Accordingly, apart from the vigilance of interviewers, the Academy strives to enhance the importance of safeguarding in practical ways:

- Specific reference to safeguarding within the advertisement and application pack for prospective candidates;

- All member of the Senior Leadership Team and relevant members of the Local Governing Body have received “Safer Recruitment in Education training” via the NSPCC online training programme;
- At least one member of any interviewing panel having appropriate and current “Safer Recruitment” training;
- Appropriate recruitment and vetting checks on intended new employees, particularly identity and Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks, with outcomes logged on the Academy’s Single Central Record.

The Academy also concurs with Lord Laming’s emphasis within the Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report that safeguarding is “everybody’s” responsibility. Staff are expected to complete a level of training that is commensurate with their level of safeguarding responsibility; all staff receive Level 1 training (Basic Awareness) in Safeguarding every three years or following the introduction of revised guidance.

Approved at Behaviour & Personal Development Committee: 19th November 2019
Ratified at Full Governors Meeting: 25th November 2019

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This document is part of the group which include Child Protection, Behaviour for Learning, Anti-Bullying, Acceptable Use, Online Safety, Exclusions, Policy Statement Additional & Special Education Needs, Drugs’ Education, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Use of Images, Student Illness, Accident & First Aid, Use of Force, Recruitment, Supporting Children with Medical Conditions, Single Equality Scheme and Health & Safety Policies.