



ST. MARY'S  
ACADEMY TRUST

# **St Mary's Academy Trust**

## **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**

**Date agreed by Board: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019**

**Date to be reviewed: October 2020**

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## **1. Aims, Purpose and Principles**

### **1.1 Aims of this Policy**

- To ensure that children are effectively safeguarded from the potential risk of harm at St. Mary's Academy Trust and that the safety and wellbeing of the children is of the highest priority in all aspects of the Trust's and Academies' work.
- To help St. Mary's Academy Trust maintain its ethos whereby staff, pupils, parents and governors feel able to articulate any concerns comfortably, safe in the knowledge that effective action will be taken as appropriate.
- To ensure that all stakeholders, including staff, governors and those who come into contact with children and their families, understand that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and that they all have a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

### **1.2 Purpose of this Policy**

To ensure that all employees, volunteers and members of the Trust:

- are aware of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and child protection.
- know the procedures that should be followed if they have a cause for concern.
- know where to go to find additional information regarding safeguarding.
- are aware of the key indicators relating to child abuse.
- fully support the Trust and Academies' commitment to safeguarding and child protection.

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy should also be read in conjunction with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children July 2018' and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2019'. All St. Mary's Academy Trust staff must read part 1 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education.'

### **1.3 Principles**

Section 175 and 157 of the Education Act 2002 gives maintained schools and academies a statutory duty to promote and safeguard the welfare of children, and have due regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State at all times.

St. Mary's Academy Trust recognises its legal and moral duty to promote the well-being of children, and protect them from harm, and respond to child abuse concerns when they arise.

We believe that every child and young person has at all times and in all situations a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged.

We agree that we have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge, and we will carry out this duty through our teaching and learning, extracurricular activities, pastoral care and extended school activities. In order to achieve this, all members of staff (including volunteers, the Board of Directors and members of the local governing body) in St. Mary's Academy Trust, in whatever capacity, will at all times act proactively in child welfare matters especially where there is a possibility that a child may be at risk of significant harm.

The Trust and its Academies seek to adopt an open and accepting attitude towards children as part of their responsibility for pastoral care. The Trust hopes that parents and children will feel free to talk about any concerns and will see their school as a safe place if there are any difficulties at home.

Children's worries and fears will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff. However, staff must not promise secrecy if concerns are such that referral must be made to the appropriate agencies in order to safeguard the child's welfare.

In all of our Academies, if there are suspicions that a child's physical, sexual or emotional well-being is being, or is likely to be, harmed, or that they are being neglected, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the Child Protection procedures issued by Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership ([www.safeguardingchildrenbarnsley.com](http://www.safeguardingchildrenbarnsley.com)).

As a consequence, we

- assert that teachers and other members of staff (including volunteers) in school are an integral part of the child safeguarding process
- accept totally that safeguarding children is required and is an appropriate function for all members of staff in school, and wholly compatible with their primary pedagogic responsibilities
- recognise that safeguarding children in school is a responsibility for all staff, including volunteers, and the Local Governing Body
- will ensure through training and supervision that all staff and volunteers in school are alert to the possibility that a child is at risk of suffering harm, and know how to report concerns or suspicions;
- will designate a senior member of staff in each school with knowledge and skills in recognising and acting on child protection concerns and appropriate Designated Lead training. He or she will act as a source of expertise and advice, and is responsible for co-ordinating action within the school and liaising with other agencies; (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- will designate a senior member of staff in each school with knowledge and skills in recognising and acting on child protection concerns and appropriate Designated Lead training as the Deputy Safeguarding Lead
- ensure (through the Designated Safeguarding Lead) that all staff with designated responsibility for child protection will receive appropriate training to the minimum standard set out by the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- will share our concerns with others who need to know, and assist in any referral process
- will ensure that all members of staff and volunteers who have a suspicion or concern that a child may be suffering, or may be at risk of suffering significant harm, refer such concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Designated Deputy in their absence), who will refer on to Children's Social Care Assessment and Joint Investigation Service in accordance with the procedures issued by Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- safeguard the welfare of children whilst in the school, through positive measures to address bullying, especially where this is aggravated by sexual or racial factors, disability or special educational needs, cyber bullying or Internet technologies

- will ensure that all staff are aware of the Child Protection Procedures established by Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership and, where appropriate, the Local Authority, and act on any guidance or advice given by them
- will ensure through the recruitment and selection of volunteers and paid employees that all people who work in our school are suitable to work with children
- will be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. In the first instance, staff should discuss early help requirements with the designated lead and be prepared to support other agencies or professionals in an early help assessment
- will act swiftly and make appropriate referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer where an allegation is made that a member of staff has committed an offence against a child, harmed a child, or acted in a way that calls into question their suitability for working with children.

## **2. Designated Safeguarding Lead in School**

- 2.1 The Designated Safeguarding Lead for safeguarding and child protection in all St. Mary's Academy Trust Academies is the Headteacher unless another senior member of staff has been approved by the CEO for this role
- 2.2 In their absence, these matters will be dealt with by the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. In all St. Mary's Academy Trust Academies this should be either the Assistant Headteacher or the SENDCo as appointed by the Headteacher unless another Senior member of staff has been approved by the CEO for this role. The ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the designated safeguarding lead.
- 2.3 The designated person is key to ensuring that proper procedures and policies are in place and are followed with regard to child safeguarding issues. They will also act as a dedicated resource available for other staff, volunteers and governors when they may have child protection concerns to discuss.
- 2.4 The Trust recognises that:
- all members of staff (including volunteers) must be made aware of who the Designated Lead is and what their role is.
  - The Designated Safeguarding Lead will act as a source of advice and coordinate action within the school over child protection cases
  - The Designated Safeguarding Lead will need to liaise with other agencies and build good working relationships with colleagues from these agencies, including working with the local authority and other agencies, inline with 'Working together to safeguard children'.
  - They should possess skills in recognising and dealing with child welfare concerns
  - Appropriate training and support should be given, including designated lead safeguarding training for the lead and deputy every two years and additional regular safeguarding updates, as required, but at least annually.
  - The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the first person to whom members of staff report concerns.

- In the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Lead, members of staff should report concerns to the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for referring cases of suspected abuse or allegations to the relevant investigating agencies according to the procedures established by the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is not responsible for dealing with allegations made against members of staff, unless the Designated Safeguarding Lead is also the headteacher.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will also ensure that the school is represented at Child Protection Conferences and that the required reports are written and available within the appropriate timescales as prescribed by Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership and discussed with families in advance of Conference.

2.5 To be effective they will:

- Act as a source of advice, support and expertise within the school and be responsible for coordinating action regarding a request for service by liaising with Children's Social Care and other relevant agencies over suspicions that a child may be suffering harm.
- Cascade safeguarding advice and guidance issued by Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- Where they have concerns that a request for service has not been dealt with in accordance with the child protection procedures, they can discuss this with the Head of Safeguarding and Welfare/members of the Safeguarding Unit and consider what needs to happen next.
- Ensure each member of staff and volunteers at the school, and regular visitors (such as Education Welfare Officers, Connexions personal advisors, trainee teachers and supply teachers) are aware of and can access readily the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Liaise with the Headteacher (if the Headteacher is not the Designated Safeguarding Lead) to inform him/her of any safeguarding issues and ongoing investigations and ensure there is always cover for the role.
- Be able to keep detailed accurate secure written records of all concerns, discussions, referrals and decisions made, and ensure that these are held in a secure place.
- Ensure parents are aware of the Child Protection Policy in order to alert them to the fact that the school may need to make referrals of concerns to Children's Social Care. Raising parents' awareness may avoid later conflict if the school does have to take appropriate action to safeguard a child.
- Where children leave the school roll, ensure any child protection file is transferred to the new school as soon as possible but certainly within the 15 day national requirement, separately from the main file, and addressed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for child protection. Wherever possible, this should include a face to face discussion and handover of the records. Both schools should sign a form to confirm the handover of the records. Both schools should retain a copy of the transfer form. The statutory guidance states the DSL should ensure that records are transferred to the new school as soon as possible, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.
- Where a child leaves and the new school is not known, ensure that the local authority is alerted so that the child's name can be included on the database for children missing in education. The Local Authority should also be informed if a parent is considering elective home education so the relevant checks can be completed. Referrals regarding Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education

should be made to the Education Welfare Service.

- Arrange adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours / out of term activities.

- 2.6 The Designated Safeguarding Lead also has an important role in ensuring all staff and volunteers receive appropriate training. They should:

Attend training in how to identify abuse and know when it is appropriate to refer a case. Training is required to be updated every two years.

Have a working knowledge of how Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership operates and the conduct of a child protection case conference and be able to attend and contribute to these when required, to enhance the implementation of the Child Protection Plan.

Attend any relevant training courses or workshops and then ensure that any new or key messages are passed to other staff, volunteers and governors.

Make themselves (and any deputies) known to all staff, volunteers and governors (including new starters and supply teachers) and ensure those members of staff have had training in child protection. This should be relevant to their needs to enable them to identify and report any concerns to the designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.

### **3. Designated Safeguarding Governor**

- 3.1 Each Academy within St. Mary's Academy Trust must have a designated safeguarding governor appointed on its Local Governing Body. This Governor must be named and made known to all members of staff.

- 3.2 Where appropriate, the Governors will ensure that sufficient resources are made available to enable the necessary tasks to be carried out properly under inter-agency procedures.

- 3.3 The Governors will ensure that the designated member of staff for safeguarding is given sufficient time to carry out his or her duties, including accessing training.

- 3.4 The Governors will review safeguarding practices in the school on a regular basis, and no less than annually, to ensure that:

- All policies, procedures and training in their Academy are effective and comply with the law at all times
- The school is carrying out its duties to safeguard the welfare of children at the school
- Hold a termly monitoring meeting with the designated safeguarding lead with an agreed focus
- Its school follows the procedures set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'; those agreed by Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership, and any supplementary guidance issued by the Local Authority
- Members of staff and volunteers are aware of current child protection practices and that staff receive training where appropriate in line with advice from the LSCB
- Child protection is integrated into the school induction procedures for all new members of staff and volunteers and supply staff
- Ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place for keeping children safe online.

- 3.5 St. Mary's Academy Trust Board of Trustees will, through the CEO:

- Review safeguarding procedures annually as part of the Trust's Behaviour and Safety review alongside the Headteacher of the school to ensure that the school is carrying out its duties to safeguard the welfare of children at the school.
- Ensure that each individual Academy follows the procedures agreed by Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership, and any supplementary guidance issued by the Local Authority
- Ensure that all staff, volunteers etc. will be vetted to ensure that only persons suitable to work with children shall work in the school.
- Where safeguarding concerns about a member of staff are raised, ensure that the Academy takes appropriate action in line with BSCB Allegations against Staff Procedures and BMBC Disciplinary Procedures and DfE guidance Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against teachers and other staff. Guidance for Local Authorities, Head Teachers, School Staff, Governing Bodies and Proprietors of Independent Schools (October 2012).

#### **4. Recruitment**

- 4.1 In order to ensure that children are protected whilst at this school, we will ensure that our staff and volunteers are carefully selected, screened, trained and supervised.
- 4.2 We accept that it is our responsibility to follow the guidance set out in "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education". In particular we will ensure that the following checks are satisfactorily completed before a person takes up a position in the school:
- Identity checks to establish that applicants are who they claim to be e.g. having sight of an applicant's birth certificate, passport and/or driving licence
  - Academic qualifications, to ensure that qualifications are genuine
  - Professional and character references prior to offering employment
  - Satisfy conditions as to health and physical capacity
  - Previous employment history will be examined and any gaps accounted for.
  - DBS and Barred list Checks and Disqualification by Association forms will also be completed.
  - The process should also confirm that the Preventing Illegal Working Declaration of Entitlement to Work in the UK is completed.
  - Prohibition list checks for teachers

#### **5. Volunteers**

- 5.1 We understand that some people otherwise unsuitable for working with children may use volunteering to gain access to children; for this reason, any volunteers in the school, in whatever capacity, will be recruited in line with SMAT Recruitment Policy.
- 5.2 'Working with Volunteers' policy is in place and WWV1 forms are used for all volunteers working within school.

#### **6. Induction & Training**

- 6.1 All new members of staff will receive induction training, which will give them an overview of the organisation, including information regarding the role of the designated safeguarding lead, deputy and safeguarding governor, and ensure they know its purpose, values, services and structure, as well as how to identify and report abuse and



child protection concerns within the appropriate levels of confidentiality.

- 6.2 All new staff at the school (including volunteers) will receive child protection information (including: Keeping Children Safe in Education, Part 1 and What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused, Advice for Practitioners) and a copy of the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy on starting their work at the school.
- 6.3 All staff will be expected to attend training on safeguarding children and this will enable them to fulfil their responsibilities in respect of child protection effectively. The school will provide access to this training and new staff will also as part of their induction, complete the online safeguarding training which can be accessed via a Trust approved provider.
- 6.4 All Staff will attend refresher training every three years, and the Designated Safeguarding Lead every two years.
- 6.5 In addition, Designated Safeguarding Leads will receive regular safeguarding updates, as required, but at least annually, to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.
- 6.6 Staff visiting the school for short periods of time e.g. 1 day supply cover, will receive information in relation to safeguarding children and the procedures they must follow. (See Induction Policy and School Induction Handbook).
- 6.7 All staff members should receive regular safeguarding and children protection updates through the appointed safeguarding lead (for example, e-bulletins; staff meetings; standing agenda items on weekly staff briefings) as required.
- 6.8 All adults are required to attend safeguarding training. Attendance at school training will also be open to parent helpers, volunteers, extended schools providers, governors and any other parties that come in to contact with children on a regular basis. These staff will also be signposted to the online training available via the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership website.
- 6.9 For staff who are unable to access face to face Safeguarding awareness training the school expects them to complete online training as above. All NQTs and students are expected to have completed the Safeguarding awareness training prior to commencing their employment.
- 6.10 When dealing with concerns, St. Mary's Academy Trust and all of its Academies recognise that children with special education needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges, and that it is the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure that all staff are appropriately training to recognise such barriers.

## **7. Dealing with Concerns**

- 7.1 It is not the responsibility of any member of staff or volunteer to investigate any suspicions or concerns that a child/young person is at risk of or is suffering significant harm.
- 7.2 Their concerns should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately and should also be recorded using the school's Cause for Concern documentation.

- 7.3 A Cause for Concern is an action, observation or discussion that makes you feel anxious about the safety or wellbeing of a child.
- 7.4 All causes for concern must be recorded on the Cause for Concern record and must be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.
- 7.5 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide on the appropriate actions, completing the section 'For designated teacher use' on the Cause for concern form.
- 7.6 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider if the issue needs to be passed to Children's Social Care Assessment and Joint Investigation Team for further action via a telephone conversation and the Request for a Service procedure.
- 7.7 A Vulnerable Pupil file will also be raised and this includes:
- Vulnerable Pupil Information Sheet
  - Monitoring Record sheet
  - Cause for concern form
  - Sticker on the front of the folder indicating if there are any other siblings
  - The folder is placed in the 'live' Vulnerable Pupils and Families Section
  - Make relevant staff aware that the file has been raised.
- 7.8 All discussions, telephone calls and meetings in relation to the child/young person must be recorded on the monitoring record sheet.
- 7.9 The Designated Safeguarding Lead and other appropriate professionals will hold a monthly meeting to discuss and review all live and dormant records. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will then be able to:
- monitor that the agreed actions have taken place
  - assess the impact of the actions and the progress being made
  - agree the next steps
  - quality assure the written records
  - collate a report for the Governing body outlining the level of child protection concerns and work being undertaken
  - ensure that clear actions are followed up where there is a Child Protection Plan in place and the outcomes are monitored.
  - Ensure school is represented at Core Groups and Conferences
- 7.10 The documentation for each child/young person must be stored in a secure place.

## **8. Looked After Children**

- 8.1 The Designated Safeguarding Lead must ensure that they have the details of the social worker and name of the virtual school head in the authority that looks after the child for any looked after child in their Academy.
- 8.2 For all looked after children the Designated Safeguarding Lead should ensure that all appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status and care arrangements

- 8.3 A designated teacher must be appointed to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after.
- 8.4 The designated teacher should work with the virtual school head to discuss how funding for each looked after child can be best used to support the pupil's progress and meet the identified needs in the child's personal education plan.

## **9. Safeguarding in School**

- 9.1 As well as ensuring that child protection concerns are addressed, we will also ensure that children who attend the school are kept safe from harm whilst they are in our charge.
- 9.2 To this end, this policy must be seen in conjunction with the school's policies on:
- Personal, Social and Health Education and Sex and Relationships Education; child protection issues will be addressed through the curriculum as appropriate.
  - Anti Bullying Policy; the school will also ensure that bullying and racial harassment is identified and dealt with so that any harm caused by other pupils can be minimised. We will pay particular attention to sexualized behaviour, or bullying that is homophobic in nature, cyber bullying or where there appear to be links to domestic abuse in the family home. Incidents of bullying will be investigated, recorded through the Causefor Concern Process and reported to the Local Authority on the electronic recording system.
  - Safe recruitment
  - Code of conduct for staff
  - Confidentiality
  - Behaviour and discipline
  - Exclusions
  - SEN
  - Health & Safety
  - Physical Intervention - managing challenging behaviour
  - Allegations against members of staff
  - E-safety
  - Whistle Blowing
  - Visitors policy
  - Induction policy
  - Information sharing policy
  - Supervision Policy
  - Children Missing Education
  - Prevent

## **10. Photographing Children**

- 10.1 We understand that parents like to take photos of or video record their children in the school play, or at sports day, or school presentations. This is a normal part of family life, and we will not discourage parents from celebrating their child's successes.
- 10.2 However, if there are Health and Safety issues associated with this - i.e. the use of a flash when taking photos could distract or dazzle the child, and cause them to have

an accident, we will encourage parents to use film or settings on their camera that do not require flash.

- 10.3 We will not allow others (visitors to school e.g. theatre groups or workshop providers) to photograph or film pupils during a school activity without the parent's permission.
- 10.4 We will not allow images of pupils to be used on school websites, publicity, or press releases, without express permission from the parent, and if we do obtain such permission, we will not identify individual children by name.
- 10.5 The school cannot however be held accountable for photographs or video footage taken by parents or members of the public at school functions.
- 10.6 At the start of each academic year parental consent to the taking and use of photographs and videos will be updated for each pupil.
- 10.7 The allowing of photographs and videos at any school event will be at the discretion of the Headteacher. The Headteacher should put into place any steps deemed appropriate to ensure the safeguarding of children in relation to photography at school events, including sending out letters to parents/making announcements to parents prior to events regarding rules or restrictions on photography.

## **11. Confidentiality and Information Sharing**

(refer to the School Confidentiality and Information Sharing Policy)

- 11.1 The school, and all members of staff at the school, will ensure that all data about pupils is handled in accordance with the requirements of the law, and any national and local guidance.
- 11.2 Whilst the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 places duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully, it is not a barrier to sharing information where the failure to do so would result in a child being placed at risk of harm.
- 11.3 Any member of staff who has access to sensitive information about a child or the child's family must take all reasonable steps to ensure that such information is only disclosed to those people who need to know.
- 11.4 Regardless of the duty of confidentiality, if any member of staff has reason to believe that a child may be suffering harm, or be at risk of harm, their duty is to forward this information without delay to the designated Safeguarding Lead.
- 11.5 Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about an allegation, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.

## **12. Conduct of Staff**

- 12.1 The school has a duty to ensure that high standards of professional behaviour exist between staff and children, and that all members of staff are clear about what constitutes appropriate behaviour and professional boundaries.
- 12.2 At all times, members of staff are required to work in a professional way with children. All staff should be aware of the dangers inherent in:

- working alone with a child (Including transportation of a child)
  - physical interventions
  - cultural and gender stereotyping
  - dealing with sensitive information
  - giving to and receiving gifts from children and parents
  - contacting children through private telephones (including texting), e-mail, MSN, or social networking websites.
  - disclosing personal details inappropriately
  - meeting pupils and families outside school hours or school duties
- 12.3 If any member of staff has reasonable suspicion that a child is suffering harm, and fails to act in accordance with this policy and Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures, we will view this as misconduct, and take appropriate action.
- 12.4 An agreed code of conduct in relation to safeguarding has been agreed and adopted by all adults working with children at St. Mary's Academy Trust. Any member of staff who does not adhere to the policy will be subject to disciplinary procedures.
- 12.5 An agreed Whistle Blowing policy in relation to safeguarding (appendix 1) to supplement to Trust corporate policy has been agreed in order to support the Trust ethos where pupils and staff can talk freely about concerns knowing they will be listened to and appropriate action taken.
- 12.6 There are a range of mechanisms in place to ensure that pupils feel comfortable to express their concerns to adults for example:
- To the school learning mentor via concern boxes
  - Through encouragement to discuss issues at school assemblies
  - Via the school council meetings
  - Learning mentor drop in sessions
  - An open approach to discussing issues with staff

### **13. Physical Contact and Restraint**

- 13.1 Members of staff may have to make physical interventions with children. Members of staff will only do this in line with Trust's and Academies' policy on managing challenging behaviour (referenced in the Trust Behaviour Policy, Positive Handling Policy and each Academy's Behaviour Policy)
- 13.2 Members of staff using physical interventions with children should have undertaken Team Teach training and interventions should be in accordance with the Team Teach principles.
- 13.3 All incidents of physical restraint should be recorded in accordance with the school's safeguarding records.

### **14. Allegations Against Members of Staff**

(Refer to the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.)

- 14.1 If anyone makes an allegation that any member of staff (including any volunteer or Governor) may have:

- Possibly committed an offence against or related to a child
- Behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child
- Behaved towards a child in a way which indicates s/he would pose a risk of harm if they worked regularly or directly with children.

14.2 The allegation will be dealt with in accordance with national guidance and agreements, as implemented locally by BSCB.

## **15. Allegations of Abuse Against Pupils**

- 15.1 In most instances, the conduct of students towards each other will be covered by the school's behaviour policy. Some allegations may be of such a serious nature that they may raise safeguarding concerns. These allegations are most likely to include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation (see Appendix 3).
- 15.2 When an allegation is made by a pupil against another pupil which raises a safeguarding concern the Designated Safeguarding Lead should be informed immediately and should also be recorded using the school's Cause for Concern documentation.
- 15.3 All school safeguarding procedures as outlined in section 7 should be followed with regards to the recording and reporting of Cause for Concerns and confidentiality.
- 15.4 Where the report includes an online element, staff must follow the advice outlined in 'Searching screening and confiscation advice (for schools)' and 'UKCCIS sexting advice (for schools and colleges)', in particular not viewing or forwarding illegal images of a child.
- 15.5 It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. Allegations of this nature will not be dismissed and a victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem or made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- 15.6 It is important that the victim understands what the next steps will be and who the report will be passed to.
- 15.7 The Designated Safeguarding Lead should contact social services to discuss the case and should then follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a social services referral where appropriate.
- 15.8 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both pupils' files.
- 15.9 If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police should be contacted at the earliest opportunity and parents informed (of both the pupil being complained about and the alleged victim).
- 15.10 Where neither social services nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school's usual disciplinary procedures. The school may consider other appropriate support mechanisms such as early help, specialist support and pastoral support.
- 15.11 In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared immediately and stored electronically along with a preventative, supervision plan. This should consider the protection and support of the victim; the alleged perpetrator; and all the other children at the school.

- 15.12 The risk assessment should consider how best to keep the victim and alleged perpetrator a reasonable distance apart and in doing so, take into consideration the nature of the allegation and the proportionality of the response, including the removal of the alleged perpetrator from class where appropriate. These actions are in the best interests of both pupils and should not be perceived to be a judgement on the guilt of the alleged perpetrator.
- 15.13 Schools should not wait for the start or outcome of a police investigation before carrying out a risk assessment.
- 15.14 The risk assessment plan should be monitored and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned.
- 15.15 On occasion, some students will present a safeguarding risk to other students. These students will need an individual risk management plan to ensure that other pupils are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations. There is a need to balance the tension between privacy and safeguarding.
- 15.16 All staff should be trained to manage allegations of abuse against pupils as in accordance with section 6 above.

## **16. Before and After School Activities**

- 16.1 Where the Trust transfers control of the use of the school premises to bodies (such as sports clubs) to provide out of school hours activities, we will ensure that these bodies have appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place, and that there are arrangements in place to link with the school on such matters. Such considerations will be made explicit in any contract or service level agreement with the bodies.

## **17. Contracted Services**

- 17.1 Where the Trust contracts its services to outside providers, we will ensure that these providers have appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures, and that there are arrangements in place to link with the school on such matters. Such considerations will be made explicit in any contract or service level agreement with the provider.

## **18. Opportunities to teach safeguarding**

- 18.1 Safeguarding permeates through all aspect of the wider school curriculum. The following examples are not exhaustive but give a flavour for how safeguarding is promoted at St. Mary's Academy Trust:
- Our curriculum helps to educate children to keep safe in a variety of ways. Through the teaching of E-safety, SRE and PHSE, children have regular opportunities to learn about safety and discuss their feelings in a safe and secure environment
  - Our wider opportunities and curriculum enrichment, including initiatives such as regular theme days and assemblies, Crucial Crew, Sports leaders, Playground Buddies and Mentors Programme, School Council and Bikeability, along with highly effective work with other agencies ensure that children are well-placed to keep themselves and other children safe in their everyday lives.

- Our development of Parent Support Advisors, Behaviour Specialists and Welfare Teams in schools across the Trust who have regular opportunities for networking and development with each other

## **19. Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

19.1 All adults in school will receive a copy of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and will be asked to sign to say that they have read and agree to follow its procedures. It will be discussed at least annually at staff meetings. Safeguarding and child Protection will be a regular standing agenda item at weekly staff briefings.

- The effectiveness of the policy will be reviewed and evaluated by St. Mary's Academy Trust annually in light of any specific incidents or changes to local/national guidance.
- The designated governor for safeguarding at each Academy's local governing body will monitor one aspect of the school's child protection work termly and report back to the full governing body.
- The Headteacher will report on safeguarding matters through their half termly Headteacher's report to their local governing body and safeguarding will be a standing item on the agenda at each full governing body meeting.
- The Headteacher will also complete the Annual Headteacher's Safeguarding report which is submitted to the Local Authority after it has been agreed with the Governing Body. The Headteacher will also submit a copy of this report to the CEO of St. Mary's Academy Trust.
- Parents will be consulted via each Academy's parent council or parent questionnaire and pupils via the school council annually.

## **20. Parents and Carers**

- Parents and carers will be informed that they can have a paper copy of the Child Protection on request.
- The policy will also be available on St Mary's Academy Trust's website and each Academy's website.
- Academies should be proactive in their consultations and involvement with parents and carers where there are child protection concerns unless this would be prejudicial to the safety and wellbeing of the child/young person.

## **21. Annual Review of Policy**

- It is the responsibility of the CEO of St. Mary's Academy Trust to ensure that this policy is updated and reviewed annually with the Trust Board of Trustees
- It is the responsibility of the Headteacher in each Academy to ensure that this policy is shared with all members of the school (including volunteers and members of the Local Governing Body) annually



## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

- It is the responsibility of the Designated Lead Safeguarding Officer (if not the Headteacher) to ensure that this policy is available and updated annually on the school's website to share with parents and all stakeholders

## Appendix 1

### Safeguarding Children: Whistle Blowing

All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in an Academy's safeguarding regime and know that such concerns will be taken seriously by the Senior leadership team. Staff must acknowledge their individual responsibility to bring matters of concern to the attention of the Head Teacher. Although this can be difficult, this is particularly important where the welfare of children may be at risk. You may be the first to recognise that something is wrong but may not feel able to express your concerns out of a feeling that this would be disloyal to colleagues or you may fear harassment or victimisation. These feelings, however natural, must never result in a child or young person continuing to be unnecessarily at risk. Remember it is often the most vulnerable children or young people who are targeted. These children need someone like you to safeguard their welfare.

*Don't think what if I'm wrong - think what if I'm right*

### Reasons for whistleblowing

Each individual has a responsibility for raising concerns about unacceptable practice or behaviour in order to:

- prevent the problem worsening or widening
- protect or reduce risks to others
- prevent becoming implicated yourself

### What stops people from whistleblowing

- Starting a chain of events which spirals
- Disrupting the work or project
- Fear of getting it wrong
- Fear of repercussions or damaging careers
- Fear of not being believed

### How to raise a concern

- You should voice your concerns, suspicions or uneasiness as soon as you feel you can. The earlier a concern is expressed the easier and sooner action can be taken
- Try to pinpoint exactly what practice is concerning you and why
- Approach the Headteacher
- If your concern is about your immediate manager/Headteacher, or you feel you need to take it to someone outside the school, contact the Chair of Governors, the CEO of St. Mary's Academy Trust or the Local Authority Designated Officer
- Make sure you get a satisfactory response - don't let matters rest
- Put your concerns in writing, outlining the background and history, giving names, dates and places where you can
- A member of staff is not expected to prove the truth of an allegation but you will need to demonstrate sufficient grounds for the concern

### What happens next?

- You should be given information on the nature and progress of any enquiries
- Your employer has a responsibility to protect you from harassment or victimisation
- No action will be taken against you if the concern proves to be unfounded and was raised in good faith
- Malicious allegations may be considered as a disciplinary offence

### Self-reporting

There may be occasions where a member of staff has a personal difficulty, perhaps a physical or mental health problem, which they know to be impinging on their professional competence. Staff have a responsibility to discuss such a situation with their line manager so professional and personal support can be offered. Whilst such reporting will remain confidential in most instances, this cannot be guaranteed where personal difficulties raise concerns about the welfare or safety of children.

### Further advice and support

It is recognised that whistle blowing can be difficult and stressful. Advice and support is available from your line manager, HR department and/or your professional or trade union.

"Absolutely without fail- challenge poor practice or performance. If you ignore or collude with poor practice it makes it harder to sound the alarm when things go wrong"  
(reproduced with acknowledgement to "Sounding the Alarm" – Barnardos)

## Appendix 2: Definitions and Symptoms of Abuse

There are four main categories of abuse – physical injury, neglect, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. The list of symptoms given is not exhaustive or comprehensive but consists of frequently observed symptoms. It is important to remember that most abuse involves more than one main type, for example, sexual and emotional abuse may be recognised together. These symptoms, for example cuts and grazes, may also be accidental and not a sign of abuse.

### Physical Abuse

A form of abuse which 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.

#### *Symptoms:*

Behaviour changes/wet bed/withdrawal/regression	Finger marks
Frequent unexplained injuries	Broken bones
Afraid of physical contact	Cuts and grazes
Violent behaviour during role play	Cigarette burns

Unwillingness to change clothes

Cowering

Aggressive language and use of threats

Bruising in unusual areas

Changing explanation of injuries

Not wanting to go home with parent or carer

### Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and /or psychological need, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

#### *Symptoms:*

Lack of appropriate clothing

Dirty

Cold – complaining of

Body sores

Hunger – complaining of

Urine smells

Unkempt hair

No parental interest

Not wanting to communicate

Behaviour problems

Attention seeking

Lack of respect

Often in trouble – police

Bullying

Use of bad language

Always out at all hours / lack of adequate supervision

Lack of confidence – low self-esteem

Stealing

Jealousy

Significantly underweight

Neglect in pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse

Child not provided with adequate shelter (e.g. exclusion from home)

Lack of medical care

### Sexual Abuse

Involves 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. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration or non-penetrative acts. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in

preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

*Symptoms:*

Inappropriate behaviour – language	Withdrawn
Change of behaviour	Role play
Rejecting physical contact or demanding attention	Rocking
Physical evidence – marks, bruising	Knowledge
Pain going to toilet, strong urine	Stained underwear
Bruising/marks near genital area	
Drawing – inappropriate knowledge	
Relationships with other adults or children for example, being forward	

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

*Symptoms:*

Crying	Rocking
Withdrawn	Not wanting to socialise
Cringing	Bad behaviour
Aggression	Behaviour changes
Bribery by parent	Self infliction
Lack of confidence	Attention seeking
Isolation from peers – unable to communicate	Clingy

Afraid of authoritative figures

Treating others as you have been treated

Picking up points through conversation with children

*Further information on understanding and identifying abuse and neglect, including examples of potential signs, can be found at 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused – Advice for practitioners' on the Gov.uk website.*

### **Appendix 3: Examples of safeguarding issues against a pupil**

Examples of allegations of abuse against another pupil could include:

#### Physical Abuse

- violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to use drugs or alcohol

#### Emotional Abuse

- blackmail or extortion
- threats and intimidation

#### Sexual Abuse

- indecent exposure, indecent touching or serious sexual assaults
- forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sexting

#### Sexual Exploitation

- encouraging other children to attend inappropriate parties
- photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts

*Further advice and support for schools is available in: Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges.*