

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Date of last review: October 2021

Principles

The Spencer Academies Trust (SAT) recognises the contribution it can and must make to protecting and supporting children and young people in its academies. Their welfare is of paramount importance. SAT require each individual academy within the Trust to have safeguarding policies and practice which

- meet statutory requirements
- reflect the requirements of their Local Authority in which the academy is situated
- comply with any additional expectations of good practice, determined at Trust level

Academy and Local Authority Policies and Contacts

Our Academies are based in several Local Authorities. Each academy has their own individual 'Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy' which contains the arrangements for safeguarding and further details of academy and Local Authority contact points, together with other locally determined arrangements. This can be obtained via the academy website or office.

Trust named staff and contacts

- Designated Trust Safeguarding Lead: Sarah McAneny: sarahmcaneny@satrust.com
- Trust Safeguarding Advisers: Fiona Hallam (Primary) & Tracie Morris (Secondary)
- Deputy Designated Trust Safeguarding Lead/s: Designated Safeguarding Leads at each of the Trust Academy's. (See details in the safeguarding policies on our academy websites).
- Nominated Safeguarding Director: Donna Kinderman

Safeguarding concerns should ordinarily be raised with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Principal of the Academy they relate to. If this route is unavailable or inappropriate please contact The Spencer Academies Trust via safer@satrust.com

The National Context

Local authorities have overarching statutory responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area. Whilst local authorities play a lead role in this, safeguarding children and protecting them from harm is **everyone's responsibility**.

The DfE publishes 'Keeping Children Safe in Education – statutory guidance for schools and colleges'. [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(DfE\)](#). This guidance contains information on what schools, including academies, should do and sets out the legal duties with which they must comply. This document is regularly updated to ensure that schools and colleges are clear about what they must do to protect children and young people from harm, and the action they must take if they believe there is risk of harm to individuals.

In law individual academies are deemed to be 'relevant partners' of their local authority and as such are under a

duty to co-operate in that local authority's Local Safeguarding Children's Board arrangements.

The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 apply a duty on proprietors of independent schools, including academies, to make arrangements for ensuring that their functions are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This legal requirement and the values and principles that underpin The Spencer Academies Trust mean that it is essential that our Trust ensures not only compliance at local level but also assumes a strategic responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice is of high quality.

The Trust is committed to ensuring that our academies' policies and procedures comply with what is expected in law, but also reflect best practice guidance. We want to go beyond compliance to ensure that our schools have a culture in which safeguarding is at the heart of their work with children and young people.

In keeping with DfE requirements, the Spencer Academies Trust Board of Directors take **leadership** responsibility for our academies' safeguarding arrangements.

Spencer Academies Trust (SAT) ensures that all SAT academies fulfil all of their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Individual academies will:

- have a designated professional leader and a designated governor for safeguarding
- have in place safeguarding arrangements which are designed to take account of all possible safeguarding issues including Child Sexual Exploitation and Preventing Radicalisation [Prevent Duty \(DfE\)](#)
- adhere to safer recruitment practices
- have arrangements for working together with other agencies and for sharing information with other professionals
- take account of their local authority's procedures and practices established by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and comply with any requests from that Board
- have in place effective child protection and staff expectations/code of conduct policies
- develop a culture of listening to children and take account of their wishes and feelings
- provide appropriate supervision and support for staff including undertaking safeguarding induction and training
- follow clear policies for dealing with allegations against people who work with children
- have clear whistleblowing procedures
- make age appropriate provision for teaching children and young people about how to keep themselves safe, including online, and enjoy healthy lifestyles, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum
- appoint a Designated Teacher to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after (LAC), and for those who are post LAC (PLAC), and to ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep LAC safe
- put in place appropriate safeguarding responses to children who are missing from education

Policy in respect of safeguarding is mainly determined at national and local authority level and it is the responsibility of each academy to implement such policy. SAT's safeguarding support ensures adherence to national and local policy in the interests of vulnerable children and young people. Failure to implement appropriate arrangements in academies to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children will result in direct intervention by the Trust, in order that children and young people are fully and properly protected.