

Pickwick Academy Trust



Overarching Safeguarding Statement

Written: October 2017

Reviewed: September 2021

Ratified: September 2021

Pickwick Academy Trust



“Working together to provide the best schools and outcomes for our children”

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 “Keeping Children Safe in Education”, September 2021, the DfE’s Statutory Framework for “Early Years Foundation Stage (April 2017)”, and “Working Together to Safeguard Children July 2018”. Pickwick Academy Trust is committed to working with the Safeguarding Children Board of each Local Authority in which it operates. The Trust refers to, and follows the policies and procedures developed by each Local Authority’s Local Safeguarding Children’s Board.

Because of our close day to day contact with children, we acknowledge that Trust staff have a crucial role to play in helping identify welfare concerns and indicators of possible abuse and neglect at an early stage.

Ethos

Pickwick Academy Trust recognises the importance of providing an ethos and environment within each of its schools that will help children to feel:

- Safe and secure
- Respected
- Able to talk openly
- Listened to
- Trusted

Our statement relates to all members of the Trust’s community including pupils, staff, governors, visitors, contractors, volunteers and trainees working within our schools. It is fully incorporated into each school’s ethos and is underpinned throughout the teaching of the curriculum, within PHSE and the safety of the physical environment we provide for our pupils.

Policy and Procedures

All policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding children are up to date and in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2021. The policies are accessible to all staff through the Pickwick Academy Trust web-site and school intranets. Policies and procedures are reviewed and revised by each Trust school’s Local Governing Committee annually.

Please visit each individual Trust school’s website to read their full Safeguarding Policy.

All Trust schools are expected to use *Safeguard* which is an online record keeping system where all staff can log safeguarding concerns on. It enables safeguarding leads in every school to monitor child protection concerns, keep ongoing records of actions and store relevant paperwork.

Board of Trustees Responsibilities

The Board of Trustees has a nominated Trustee who oversees safeguarding as well as its own Trust Designated Safeguarding Leads for Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk (TDSL). The TDSL role is carried out by the Executive Headteachers; they have an oversight of each Trust school's Safeguarding Policy and supporting procedures. The TDSL's are expected to regularly report to the Board on all safeguarding matters. The Trust expects any issues related to safeguarding children to be discussed at each Local Governing Committee meeting and then be reported to the TDSL's who will keep the Trust Board informed.

Disclosure and Barring Checks

Pickwick Academy Trust meets statutory requirements in relation to the Disclosure and Barring Service – all staff and volunteers who work within Trust schools who meet the 'regulated activity test' (Freedoms Act 2012) are required to undergo an enhanced DBS check prior to employment. A Central Register is also held for members of the Trust Board and central Trust staff.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

The Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for safeguarding matters. Operationally, this responsibility is currently delegated to the Local Governing Committees and the TDSLs who lead on policy issues in relation to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk across the Trust on behalf of Trustees. Within each school there is a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who takes responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. They are clear about their responsibilities, have sufficient time and receive relevant support, and training, to undertake their roles. This includes close contact with outside agencies including social services, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in which the school is based and relevant health care organisations.

Training

The Trust has delegated responsibility to Local Governing Committees to ensure all eligible governors, staff and volunteers undertake relevant safeguarding training and this is regularly reviewed by each Designated Safeguarding Lead and Governor Lead in individual schools to ensure it is up to date. *Safeguard* and *SSS Learning* can be used by Trust schools as a training tool as it provides up to date training modules and documents on a range of safeguarding topics. The TDSL's, on behalf of the Board, will review each Trust school's central training database ensuring training needs are identified and appropriate courses are offered. Each Trust school Designated Safeguarding Lead and the TDSL's 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.

Audit

The TDSL's, on behalf of the Trust, keep an audit checklist to assure that safeguarding systems and processes are working effectively in each school.

The audit includes the monitoring of each:

- School's Single Central Record
- Child Protection Record
- Adults at Risk Policies and Procedures including:
 - ✓ Allegations against Professionals

- ✓ The monitoring of training for all employees and volunteers, guidance and support

Safeguarding audits will take place in terms 2 and 4, the results of these will be reported to the Trust School Improvement Committee. When necessary, Pickwick Academy Trust will take part in relevant audits with partner agencies including those from relevant Local Authorities.

Partnerships with Others

Schools do not operate in isolation. The welfare of children is the corporate responsibility of the entire Trust, working in partnership with other public agencies, the voluntary sector, service users and carers. All local authority services have an impact on the lives of children and families, and have a particular responsibility towards 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. Pickwick Academy Trust follows all Local Authority Child Protection Procedures and has links with the Local Authority, the School Health Service, the local police, Children's Centres and Social Care Services.

Where it is believed a child is suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm, Trust schools will follow the procedures as outlined on the Local Safeguarding Children Board website and within the school's Safeguarding Policy.

Professional Confidentiality

All schools have a clear policy on confidentiality which forms an important part of their Safeguarding and Staff Behaviour/Code of Conduct Policies. This approach is in line with the DfE guidance document 'Information Sharing – Guidance for Safeguarding Practitioners' July 2018.

Safer Recruitment and Selection

The Trust pays full regard to the DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2021) and the supporting guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education – Information for all School and College Staff", September 2021. The Local Governing Committee will 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 has a Recruitment Policy in place. Each Local Governing Committee is responsible for ensuring there is at least one person any appointment panel with safer recruitment training. Part of the Trust safeguarding audit will include a review of each school's recruitment strategy.

Date of next review: September 2022 - a review will be done annually in September alongside schools reviewing their own safeguarding policies