WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

For schools and Multi-Academy Trusts safeguarding usually covers arrangements in place to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people so that students _are_ safe and _feel_ safe.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) defines safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (everyone under the age of 18) as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Safeguarding Adults (18+) means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. This includes having an outcomes approach and supporting individuals in making choices and having control in how they choose to live their lives.

The Charity Commission has described safeguarding as "the range of measures in place to protect people in a charity, or those it comes into contact with, from abuse and maltreatment of any kind."

Actions for the Board include:

- Ethos and Policy inc Safeguarding Lead appointments
- Standard setting, monitoring and evaluation (inc Audits and Annual Reports)
- Compliance: including safer recruitment and Single Central Register
- Staff (and volunteer) training
- Inter-agency working (including information sharing)

SAFEGUARDING FORMS PART OF THE WORK OF ALL TRUST COMMITTEES

CONTACTS

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Never keep concerns about the safety or well-being of a child or vulnerable adult to yourself.

You should share your concerns with:

SchoolDesignated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) or Headteachers or the Trust's CEO

Out of hours / school holidays
- Oxfordshire MASH: **0345 050 7666**
- Out of hours MASH: **0800 833 408**

If you think a child is in immediate danger call the Police on 999

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Hendred Way
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SAFEGUARDING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR TRUSTEES

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Safeguarding Trustee for Abingdon Learning Trust is:

Lynn Fathers:
lfathers@abingdonlearningtrust.org

The Committee with Trust oversight of Safeguarding is:

TrustCompliance Committee:
Clerk@abingdonlearningtrust.org

The TrustExecutive lead for safeguarding is:

Chief Executive Officer:
CEO@abingdonlearningtrust.org

The Trust Board has delegated responsibility for ensuring effective Safeguarding arrangements are in place for each school to:

The **Local Academy Board** (LAB) of each school

WHAT MUST TRUSTEES DO?

The Charity Commission expects Trustees to make sure all trustees, employees, volunteers and beneficiaries:

- know about safeguarding and people protection

- have appropriate policies and procedures in place

- check that people are suitable to act in their roles

- know how to spot and refer or report concerns

- have a clear system of referring or reporting to relevant organisations as soon as you suspect or identify concerns

- set out risks and how you will manage them in a risk register which is regularly reviewed

- be quick to respond to concerns and carry out appropriate investigations

- not let one trustee dominate our work - trustees should work together

WE DO THIS BY

a) ensuring that the Trust and its Schools follow
  ⇒ national KCSIE guidance
  ⇒ local Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) procedures and model policies
  ⇒ TrustCodes of Conduct

b) working through the Scheme of Delegation, enabling schools to manage safeguarding responsibilities locally so that risk assessments, action plans and approaches are responsive and reflect local context

c) establishing oversight monitoring and reporting arrangements to ensure compliance and promote good practice across the Trust

WHAT DOES THE BOARD DO?

The Abingdon Learning Trust Board sets four core expectations relating to safeguarding:

TO:

1. Provide a SAFE and TRUSTED ENVIRONMENT to safeguard everyone in our organization

2. Set an ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE that prioritises safeguarding

3. Establish, regularly review and evaluate POLICIES and PROCEDURES to keep our learning community safe

4. Establish clear procedures for DEALING WITH, REPORTING and LEARNING from incidents

WE DO THIS BY working with our schools to:

⇒ Clearly delegate and define roles and responsibilities through schemes of delegation, role descriptions and codes of conduct;

⇒ Ensure that all staff and volunteers are appointed with appropriate checks, that they receive the training they need to carry out their roles and to understand their responsibilities, including for safeguarding;

⇒ Put policies in place, informed by good practice, customized to reflect local context and regularly reviewed to ensure compliance and effectiveness;

⇒ Keep safeguarding on our agenda, rigorously evaluating our procedures with regular monitoring, reporting, reflection and external review;

⇒ Maintain a vigilant open, transparent, listening culture that encourages early identification and sensitive handling of concerns and enables us to continually improve our practice.

SAFEGUARDING TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trust Board appoints a Safeguarding Trustee to:

- act as the key link for safeguarding between the Trust Board and Local Academy Boards and their nominated safeguarding governor including supporting the induction of new trustees

- meet regularly with the CEO to facilitate rigorous oversight e.g. to
  ⇒ support and ensure the completion and circulation of statutory reports
  ⇒ review safeguarding arrangements and emerging risks
  ⇒ keep safeguarding issues on Board/Committee agenda

- participate in policy and scheme of delegation reviews to ensure governance arrangements are working effectively

In the event of a significant incident, the Safeguarding Trustee will liaise closely with the Chair of the Trust and CEO, supporting the Trust in making any public statement or media response.

KEY READING FOR TRUSTEES

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) (Part 2 as a minimum)

- Trust Safeguarding Policy

- Trust Scheme of Delegation

- Trust Local Governance Handbook