

drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust

Safeguarding Statement of Intent

Trust Vision

The Trust has been established through a shared belief that lives can be transformed by what goes on in schools. We believe that the process of teaching and learning shapes futures. To this end our vision is to provide every child with learning experiences that excite them and give them the power to begin to shape their own lives.

all pupils achieve the highest standard of educational outcomes regardless of circumstances or background.

Safeguarding Statement of Intent

The Trust is wholly committed to ensuring that all children and adults engaging with our Trust are cared for in a safe and secure environment. To fulfil this commitment, a comprehensive safeguarding system is in place in line with the DfE statutory guidance, *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019*.

Culture of Safeguarding - The Trust is clear that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is the responsibility of *everyone*. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

To achieve this, we recognise that the Trust and its schools are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in full in the DfE statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children*.

Policies and procedures

All Trust policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding children are up to date and in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019*. The policies are accessible to all staff through the Trust's website and sharepoint. Policies and procedures are reviewed and revised by the Trust Board annually. Further safeguarding information is available on each schools' website.

Trust Board Responsibilities

The Trust Board is committed to ensuring full compliance with its duties under statutory legislation. As delegated by the Trust Board, **David Sheldon is currently the Trustee for Safeguarding Children** and has oversight of the Achievement Support and Scrutiny Sub Committee which reports to the Board on all safeguarding issues.

The Trust is committed to working with the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards of both Dudley and Birmingham Local Authorities and all local inter-agency procedure in place through the LSCBs. Any issues related to safeguarding children will be discussed at these boards as required. The Board also works to ensure that all schools contribute to multi-agency working in line with statutory guidance **Working Together to Safeguard Children**.

Strategic planning and reporting

The Trust Board have an Annual Improvement Plan for safeguarding and keeping children safe in education. This forms **Workstrand 6 of the Trust's Strategic Business Plan**. An annual Safeguarding Report to Trustees is also presented to the Board by the Trust CEO at the end of each academic year alongside termly updates at each Board Meeting

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

The Trust meets statutory requirements in relation to Disclosure and Barring Service checks. All staff, members, trustees, executive governance group members and volunteers are required to undergo an enhanced DBS check prior to employment or engagement. The Single Central Record (SCR) logs includes all safer recruitment checks and details of DBS.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

The Trust Board has ultimate responsibility for safeguarding issues. Operationally, this responsibility is currently overseen by the **Headteacher of the Oval School, Dawn Williams**, who works alongside the designated safeguarding leads within each Trust school. Currently, every school has designated safeguarding leads and deputy designated safeguarding leads who take a lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety). They are clear about their role, have sufficient time and receive relevant support, and training, to carry out the duties of the post. This includes close contact with outside agencies including social services, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and relevant health care organisations. All schools also have Children's Safeguarding Boards to ensure the voice of the child is heard and responded to.

Training

Designated safeguarding leads and deputies undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out their role. This training is updated annually. The designated safeguarding leads also undertake ***Prevent awareness training.***

Within the Trust and its schools all staff are aware of systems which support safeguarding and these are explained as part of staff induction. This includes the:

- child protection policy
- behaviour policy
- staff code of conduct
- safeguarding response to children who go missing from education
- role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the DSL and any deputies)


Safer recruitment

The Trust is committed to creating a culture of safe recruitment and, as part of this, adopts recruitment procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might abuse children. The Trust and its schools act reasonably in making decisions about the suitability of any prospective employee based on checks and evidence, including criminal record checks, DBS checks, barred list checks and prohibition checks, together with references and interview information.

Audit

The Trust keeps an audit checklist to assure that safeguarding systems and processes are working as part of the Trust's Accountability Framework. The audit includes: the monitoring of the Single Central Record, policies and procedures including, 'Allegations against Professionals' and the training strategy. The next audit will be undertaken in Autumn 2020.

Review

Monitoring and review	Trust Board Trust Safeguarding Lead Headteachers
Links	Trust Safeguarding Policies and Procedures 2019/20
Staff responsible	Trust Board Headteachers
Committee responsible	Achievement Support and Scrutiny
Committee responsible	Trust Board
Date approved	November 2019
Reviewed	November 2019
Next review	November 2020
Sign off by Chair of Trust	 date: November 2019

*Please note that should there be any changes/further national guidance issued relevant to this policy, it will be updated accordingly prior to the review date shown above and referred to the next Trust Board meeting.

Change Management

Issue No.:	Change date:	Change description:
1.0	Nov'16	Initial release
2.0	Nov'18	Rebranded, updated and signed off for release
3.0	Nov'19	Updated Ref to KCSIE from 2018 to 2019