

## **Background**

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, safeguarding children and protecting them from harm is everyone's responsibility.

Under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, duties are placed on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure that effective arrangements are in place to safeguard children and young people. The statutory guidance (Working Together) does not identify a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) as a separate organisation. Although, schools and colleges within a MAT are not named under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, they are captured under other legislation, for example Sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002, Sections 94 (1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008 and the Education Regulations 2011 and 2014.

**Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)** is statutory guidance for schools and colleges. This guidance contains information on what schools and colleges, including academies, should do and sets out the legal duties which they must comply with. KCSIE is updated each year, and the updated version must be read by all staff, governors, and Trustees.

In law, individual schools and colleges 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 Regulations 2014 applies a duty on the proprietors of independent schools including academies to ensure that arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people are in place and that their arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

This legal requirement, along with the values and principles that underpin the Summit Learning Trust, means that we are committed to both complying with local arrangements as well as ensuring that our own safeguarding arrangements is of the highest quality. This includes our compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

We will meet our obligations through the following systems and responsibilities.

## **Summit Safeguarding Board**

**Members:** Chief Executive; Summit Safeguarding Trustee; Directors of Education; Director for Inclusion; HR Director (noted by the Clerk to the Board of Trustees)

**Terms of reference:** to review the effectiveness of safeguarding processes and systems in academies and the Trust on a termly basis; to review trends and patterns of safeguarding incidents across the Trust and to be informed of any concerns or issues; to be informed of any updated requirements for academies and the Trust; to provide a report to the Board of Trustees.

**Meetings:** Once a term

**Reporting to** the Summit Board of Trustees

**Summit Learning Trust (through Education Directors, the Director for Inclusion, the HR Director, Local Governing Body representatives and the Safeguarding Trustee representative) will ensure that all Summit academies:**

- Implement and adhere to the common Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (adapting it to their academy information), Staff Code of Conduct Policy and all other related policies and procedures and leaders provide evidence that all members of staff have declared they have read, understood, and agreed to working to these policies
- Have a fully trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a designated Local Governor for safeguarding
- Maintain the established Trust Supervision processes for academy DSLs
- Have in place safeguarding arrangements which are designed to take account of all possible safeguarding issues including Child Sexual Exploitation, Preventing Radicalisation, and child on child sexual abuse
- Always adhere to the safer recruitment practices
- Have arrangements for working together with other agencies and for sharing information with other professionals
- Take account of the local authority's procedures and practices established by the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership and comply with any requests from that Board
- Maintain and promote a culture of listening to children and young people and take account of their wishes and feelings
- Provide appropriate supervision and support for colleagues including undertaking safeguarding induction and training
- Follow clear policies for dealing with allegations against those who work with children and young people
- Have clear procedures in place to handle allegations of abuse against children or young people
- Have a clear understanding of the whistleblowing procedures at Summit Learning Trust.
- Consider how children and young people may be taught about safeguarding, including online safety, through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum
- Appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after and ensure that colleagues have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keeping looked after children safe
- Put in place appropriate safeguarding responses to children who go missing from education
- Fulfil all their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people

**The CEO (advised by Education Directors and the Director for Inclusion) will:**

- Produce an annual Safeguarding report as part of the Trust's business planning arrangements
- Ensure that the Scheme of Delegation is clear around the responsibilities for safeguarding at all levels
- Lead the termly Summit Safeguarding Board (SSB) meetings

- Commission external challenge and support where appropriate to ensure academies meet their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people

**The Human Resources Director will:**

- Ensure there is an accurate record and register of all DSLs and Deputy DSLs which details their training records in academies each year.
- Ensure that all colleagues receive appropriate training for their roles within suitable timeframes (including annual online training, and safer recruitment)
- Keep an accurate and up to date single central record
- Ensure half termly reviews of each academy's single central record is undertaken, with an external review to take place annually
- Ensure that the HR colleagues are appropriately trained in the most up to date safeguarding procedures and processes.
- Review the Trust Supervision process and procedure on an annual basis to ensure high quality, impact, and value for money

**Education Directors will:**

- Support Principals in post-incident reflection after high level safeguarding issues and include this in reports to LGB and in the Education Director report to the Board
- Work with the Data Insight Analyst to ensure that accurate and useful reports are provided to LGBs, and the Summit Safeguarding Board on the outcomes of vulnerable learners who are in need, subject to Child Protection plans or who are Looked After
- In partnership with the Trust Director for Inclusion, determine the focus of Inclusion meetings.
- Work with the Principals across all phases to ensure that the performance of vulnerable learners is effectively monitored, and that appropriate support is made available to those learners who are at risk of achieving poor outcomes because they are the subject of an Early Help Family Plan, Child in Need Plan or Child Protection Plan.
- Liaise with local authority lead professionals for safeguarding, LSCBs, Ofsted, ESFA and other agencies as required

**The Trust Director for Inclusion will:**

- Arrange for DSLs to lead safeguarding visits across the academies and bring together the findings of these visits to inform future training and development.
- Lead the half-termly Inclusion meetings
- Meet with DSLs at least termly and report to the SSB
- Work with the Principals across all phases to ensure that the performance of vulnerable learners is effectively monitored, and that appropriate support is made available to those learners who are at risk of achieving poor outcomes because they are the subject of an Early Help Family Plan, Child in Need Plan or Child Protection Plan.
- Liaise with local authority lead professionals for safeguarding, LSCBs, Ofsted, ESFA and other agencies as required



## Safeguarding Strategy

2022-2023

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. Summit Learning Trust's safeguarding service 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 well-being of children carries significant reputational risk for our Trust.

Each individual academy is responsible for ensuring compliance with its Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership procedures and policies and for publishing its Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in accordance with statutory requirements (this is the Summit Learning Trust policy with appropriate information added for each academy).