



PONTEFRACT
ACADEMIES TRUST

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy



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1. Policy Statement

1.1 Pontefract Academies Trust (the Trust) recognises its overarching and individual schools' responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance. It aims to ensure that each school is committed to creating a safeguarding culture where all leaders and staff ensure there is vigilance around keeping everyone safe and that decisions are made in the best interest of the child. In doing so, it will implement procurement procedures which:

- Ensure that our children and young people are safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Ensure compliance with all associated statutory obligations.
- Ensures collaborative working and co-operation with other relevant parties and stakeholders such as Wakefield Safeguarding partnership.
- Facilitates rigorous arrangements are in place to identify, assess and support (including the appropriate sharing of information) those pupils who are suffering harm and to keep them safe and secure whilst in our care.
- Provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued.
- Promotes the physical, emotional, and mental health wellbeing of all children,
- Identify children who may benefit from early help.
- Act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm.
- Ensure that all children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection.
- Ensure that there is a culture of transparency, openness and, where necessary, challenge with regards to maintaining high standards in safeguarding.
- Ensure that all pupils and staff involved in child protection issues receive appropriate support.
- Provide all staff with the necessary information to enable them to meet their child protection responsibilities.
- Address the additional safeguarding challenges that may be present for children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), or with long term medical conditions.
- Ensures consultation with relevant internal experts such as Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinators (SENDCos).
- Ensure consistent good practice across all schools and all staff.

- 1.2 The Trust acknowledges that any failure to do so could result in:
- A failure to protect children from maltreatment.
 - The impairment of a child's mental and/or physical health or development.
 - Failing to enable all children to achieve the best outcomes.
 - A breach of legislation.
 - Fines and/or litigation.
 - Claims for damages.
 - Loss of reputation.
 - Disciplinary action against employees/volunteers.
- 1.3 This policy is supported by the Trust's Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedural Instructions. The procedural instructions provide the detailed instructions for those undertaking safeguarding and child protection activities on behalf of the Trust as described at Section 1.1. The activities, roles and responsibilities defined within the procedural instructions are designed to facilitate and ensure compliance with this policy.
- 1.4 The Trust will maintain the role of Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding who will work with colleagues throughout the Trust, providing specialist professional advice, guidance, and where necessary intervention, in relation to all safeguarding and child protection activities. This will serve as additional support for the safeguarding team and the nominated DSL within setting.
- 1.5 The Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding is responsible for producing and updating the Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedural Instructions.
- 1.6 Any material changes to the Procedural Instructions will be presented to the Executive Leadership (ELT) for approval. Any revisions will not become effective until ELT approval is given.
- 1.7 Procedural advice and/or guidance may be sought from the Education and Standards Committee prior to approval of the associated Procedural Instructions where this is deemed necessary by the ELT.
- 1.8 This allows for an equitable balance of strategic direction and oversight for Trustees, whilst ensuring that the Trust is in a position to proactively and reactively review, respond to and update operating processes in a timely manner, drawing upon the professional knowledge and expertise within the Trust's Central Team.
- 1.9 This approach is consistent with the Trust's Scheme of Delegation.

2. Legal Framework

2.1 This policy has due regard to legislation, statutory guidance and accepted industry standards including but not limited to:

- [The Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [The Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Section 157 of the Education Act 2002](#)
- [Section 175 of the Education Act 2002](#)
- [Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2024](#)
- Current [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) statutory guidance
- [The Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)
- [The Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [The Police and Criminal Evidence Act \(PACE\) 1984](#)
- [Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)
- [Children Missing Education 2016](#)
- [The Children and Families Act 2014](#)
- [Safeguarding disabled children](#) DfE guidance.
- [Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#) DfE guidance.
- [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#) DfE guidance.
- [Prevent Duty Guidance](#)
- [Gender Questioning Children - non-statutory guidance](#)
- [Children and the court system 5 to 11 year olds](#)
- [Children and the court system 12 to 17 year olds](#)

2.2 It will also be implemented in accordance with:

- The Trust's Staff Code of Conduct
- The Trust's Information Policy
- The Trust's Whistleblowing Policy
- The Trust's Complaints Policy
- The Trust's Equality and Diversity Policy
- The Trust's Disciplinary Policy
- The Trust's Managing Allegations Against Staff Policy
- The Trust's Grievance Procedures
- The Trust's Health and Safety Policy
- The Trust's Online Safety Policy
- The Trust's SEND Policy
- The trust's Attendance and Punctuality Policy
- The Trust's Bereavement Policy
- The Trust's Behaviour and Relationships (Primary Phase) Policy

- The Trust's Behaviour and Relationships (Secondary Phase) Policy
- Relationships Education (Primary) and Relationships and Sex Education (Secondary) Policy
- The School's Accessibility Plan
- The Trust's Anti-Bullying Policy
- The Trust's Single Central Record Policy
- The Trust's Contractors at Work Policy
- The Trust's Acceptable Use Policy
- The Trust's First Aid Policy

3. Policy Scope

3.1 This policy applies to those involved with procurement activities on behalf of the Trust including:

- Teaching Staff
- Non-Teaching Staff
- Volunteers (including members of the Governance Structure)

4. Policy Author

4.1 This policy is the responsibility of the **Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding**.

5. Policy Approval

5.1 This policy is approved by the **Education and Standards Committee**, in line with the Trust's Scheme of Delegation.

5.2 This policy was approved by the Committee becoming effective on **01/09/2024**.

6. Policy Review

6.1 This policy will be subject of review annually.

6.2 It will only be re-presented to the Education and Standards Committee for approval in the event of any material changes. Where the review results in no material changes, the previous effective date will continue to apply, however the last review date will be specified in this section.

6.3 This policy was last reviewed on **20/06/2024**.

7. Policy Distribution

7.1 This policy will be made available via:

- The Compliance Library
- The Trust Website
- School Websites

8. Version Control

8.1 The changes to this policy over time will be documented on Every.

8.2 If you spot any broken links or errors within this policy, please report this to clerk@patrust.org.uk.