

Title of Policy/Procedure	Safeguarding Statement
Reviewer(s):	Behaviour and Safeguarding Board Education Standards and Strategy Committee
To be read in conjunction with the following policies:	School Safeguarding Policies Allegations Against Staff Policy Safer Recruitment Policy Staff Code of Conduct Volunteer Policy Whistleblowing Policy Acceptable Behaviour Policy Keeping Children Safe in Education
Consultation Process	N/a
Policy Date:	September 2023
Review Date:	September 2024
This policy has been ratified by:	Education Standards and Strategy Committee

Introduction

1. The Blue Kite Academy Trust recognises its moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all its pupils. The Trust endeavours to provide a safe and welcoming environment in all BKAT schools where children are respected and valued.
2. This document provides the Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy statement for the whole Trust and should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy for each BKAT school.
3. Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 require proprietors of independent schools (including academies and city technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In line with this requirement, The Blue Kite Academy Trust has systems in place which are designed to:
 - prevent unsuitable people working with, or coming into contact with pupils within school;
 - promote safe practice and challenge poor or unsafe practice;
 - identify pupils who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm¹ and take appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home and at school;
 - identify pupils who may be susceptible to messages of violence and radicalisation and take appropriate action to ensure early intervention challenges extreme ideologies and diverts young people from the risk they face before illegality occurs;
 - contribute to effective partnership working between all those involved with providing services for pupils.

There are three main elements to the school-level Safeguarding:

- **prevention** – a commitment to early help and identification of unmet needs and vulnerabilities and partnerships with agencies to promote the welfare of pupils and keep children safe;
- **protection** - all staff and volunteers are trained to recognise and respond to abuse and neglect and are expected to be vigilant and act quickly when they suspect a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, harm (in line with the Safeguarding Partners procedures);
- **support** – recognition of the sensitivity and complex nature of safeguarding and child protection, ensuring that pupils, staff and families are supported appropriately.

These are embedded through the Safeguarding Policy template provided by Sarah Turner, the Safeguarding Consultant for the Blue Kite Academy Trust which all schools are expected to use.

¹ Significant harm can be defined as ‘the ill-treatment or impairment of health and development of a child or young person’ where:

- development includes physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development;
- health includes physical and mental health;
- ill-treatment includes sexual abuse and other forms of ill-treatment which are not physical

Aims

4. To ensure that all practices of a school and its stakeholders contribute towards safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all BKAT pupils.
5. To communicate clear procedures for identifying, reporting and recording suspected cases of abuse, extremism and radicalisation.
6. To support the mission, vision and values of the Trust and its establishments.

Who is responsible for the policy statement?

7. The Trust has overall responsibility for the development and effective operation of the Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy Statement. The Trust has delegated day-to-day safeguarding responsibility to the individual schools in line with individual school policies.
8. The Trust has a specific responsibility to ensure the fair application of the policy statement and all are responsible for supporting colleagues and ensuring its success.
9. The policy statement and school safeguarding policies must be implemented alongside the procedural guidance set out by each local authority.

The Trust's commitment

10. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. School staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children, to prevent concerns from escalating.
11. The Trust is committed to providing safe, caring and welcoming environments where every child is able to reach their full potential free from harm, abuse and discrimination. All staff and volunteers are expected to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities effectively and recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, peer support and clear lines of communication with trusted adults helps all children, especially those at risk of or suffering abuse, to thrive.
12. Schools are alert to the signs of abuse, neglect and radicalisation and follow procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.
13. Each BKAT school has a safeguarding team with relevant training in line with the local safeguarding partnership requirements.
14. All staff receive safeguarding training and information at induction and then on an annual basis (including reference to agreed materials/resources) and are expected to have read (as appropriate to their role) and understood Keeping Children Safe in Education.
15. Schools will work with social care, the police, health services and other services (such as Channel co-ordinators/Police Practitioners where appropriate) to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Role of The Blue Kite Academy Trust

16. The Trust has responsibility for development and review of the Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy statement and for ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory framework. The policy statement is designed to ensure that effective systems and procedures are in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people.

17. BKAT Central Team and Lighthouse will support BKAT schools to ensure the effective implementation of their Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy.

Role of the Trust Board

18. All Trustees read and have due regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education (statutory guidance) to ensure that key safeguarding and safer recruitment duties are undertaken effectively in all schools through policies, procedures and training.
19. The Trust Board through the Education Standards and Strategy Committee ensure they facilitate a whole Trust approach to safeguarding, ensuring safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy.
20. The Trust Board appoint a Link Trustee with responsibility for safeguarding and request that all Local Governing Bodies have a Safeguarding Link Governor.
21. The Trust Board ensures a senior member of the school's leadership team is designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. This role is known as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
22. All Trustees commit to completing Safeguarding Training and the Prevent online training.

Role of the Local Governing Body

23. All governors read and have due regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education (statutory guidance) to ensure that key safeguarding and safer recruitment duties are undertaken effectively in the school through policies, procedures and training.
24. The LGB appoint a safeguarding governor.
25. All governors commit to completing Safeguarding Training and the Prevent online training.
26. Safeguarding is an agenda item for every LGB meeting in order to monitor safeguarding within the school and review safeguarding audits.

Disclosure and reporting

27. BKAT Central staff going into schools should be familiar with the Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy relevant to each BKAT establishment including key contacts as well as the reporting procedures for that setting. A school's individual policy can be found on their website.
28. If there are safeguarding concerns or a disclosure is made whilst within a school setting (about a pupil or member of staff), the BKAT Central Team member of staff should report it as soon as possible to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Headteacher ensuring they follow the school's reporting procedures. The Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead (Gary Evans, CEO) should also be informed that a report has been made and they will follow up with the school to ensure

appropriate and timely action is taken.

29. If the safeguarding concern/disclosure is about the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Headteacher, this should be reported as soon as possible to the Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead, who if appropriate may also inform HR or the Local Authority Designated Officer. This should then be followed up in writing to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school. The Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead will follow up with the Trust, HR team to ensure appropriate and timely action is taken.
30. If the safeguarding concern/disclosure is about a member of the BKAT Central team, this should be reported as soon as possible to the Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Trust HR team.
31. If the safeguarding concern/disclosure is about the CEO, this should be reported as soon as possible to the Trust's DCEO (Mr Bob Buckley), or the Head of HR.
32. If any type of safeguarding concern/disclosure is made directly to the BKAT Central team, this should be passed on to the Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.
33. The Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead will keep a log of all reports made including action steps taken by the Trust and school.

Monitoring safeguarding arrangements

34. Each school is required to report to the Trust's Behaviour and Safeguarding Board 3 times a year.
35. Following the report, where necessary, follow up information/ actions may be required and, in some cases, an action plan will be compiled and regular review dates will be agreed.
36. Safeguarding data will be collected 3 times a year, to inform the Safeguarding Dashboard which will be used as a mechanism of reporting safeguarding strengths and weaknesses to the local governing body, BKAT Executive and the Board of Trustees.

Concerns about safeguarding practices

37. Staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime.
38. Where staff or volunteers wish to raise concerns, they should be raised with the school's management team or if this is not appropriate the Head of HR, CEO or Chair or Trustees under the Trust's Whistleblowing Policy
39. Where a staff member feels unable to raise the issue with the school or Trust or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, then they are advised to either follow the Allegations policy or contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub directly on: 01793 466903 and choose Option 2, or email: swindonmash@swindon.gov.uk.
40. The NSPCC also provide an alternative route for reporting concerns, staff can email help@nspcc.org.uk or call their helpline 0808 8005000

Recruitment

41. Blue Kite Academy Trust has developed a Trust-wide Safer Recruitment Policy and Volunteers Policy that is updated in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education. Additionally, the

Trust is developing an online centralised recruitment system that will incorporate safer recruitment processes.

Code of Conduct

42. All school staff must comply with the Trust Code of Conduct and Acceptable Behaviour procedure

Supervision

43. All staff working in this Trust have a responsibility to safeguard the children in their care. Staff can only achieve this effectively if they:-

- are clear about what is expected of them
- have the skills, knowledge, behaviours, values and attitudes to carry out their role
- are fully supported in their role and managed effectively

Safeguarding supervision should be available for any member of staff as required. Members of safeguarding teams within schools should receive regular planned safeguarding supervision.

Complaints

42. The Trust's complaints procedure will be followed where a pupil or parent raises a concern about unsafe practice towards a pupil.