



Aldridge Education Safeguarding Policy

Policy Title:	Safeguarding Policy
Version:	April 2017 Final
Approval:	April 2017
Date of Next Review:	April 2018

Aldridge Education Safeguarding Policy

1. Background

Aldridge Education (the Trust) is committed to ensuring and promoting the safeguarding and wellbeing of all its students and staff and expects all staff and volunteers to proactively share this commitment.

This policy reflects the requirements and duties of the September 2016 Department for Education publication Keeping Children Safe in Education , the Education and Skills Act 2008 and the relevant sections of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and associated Regulations.

2. Aims and Objectives

Aldridge Education expects all adults within the Trust to be aware that they have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm whether at school, at home or in the community.

The statutory requirements together with the values of Aldridge Education mean that the Trust as well as its constituent academies must ensure compliance at local level but also has a strategic aim of ensuring that safeguarding practice is of the highest standard.

3. Safeguarding Lead

Each academy has its own designated professional lead and a designated local governor for safeguarding.

The safeguarding lead for the Trust is the Head of Governance & Policy, Liz Dawson, and the designated Trustee is Michael Blakey.

4. Responsibilities for individual academies

Each academy within Aldridge Education will:

- i. have a Safeguarding Policy which is on their website and available on request in hard copy
- ii. ensure that there are effective procedures in place to deal with any safeguarding issues which may arise and that these are shared and followed by everyone within the academy community
- iii. appoint safeguarding and child protection leads who have clearly defined roles and that staff, students, parents and volunteers are aware of these roles

- iv. ensure that the identified leads with designated responsibility for safeguarding and/or child protection are appropriately trained and have adequate resources and support to perform their duties
- v. ensure all staff and governors receive regular training on safeguarding and child protection and are aware of their responsibilities
- vi. adhere to safer recruitment procedures
- vii. provide all staff and volunteers with written information on the standard of conduct required to ensure that they can work safely and avoid any conduct which could call into question their actions
- viii. continuously engage with students on safeguarding and child protection matters so that they are equipped with the information and skills needed to keep themselves safe and know who to speak to if they have any concerns
- ix. ensure that there are effective procedures for dealing with allegations made against staff or volunteers and that these procedures are followed in the event of an allegation
- x. ensure that the Trust Complaints Policy and Whistleblowing Policy are well publicised

5. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

The Trust and its academies will ensure that all child protection records are kept confidential except for any disclosure necessary to safeguard the welfare of a child.

The Trust and each academy will co-operate with relevant local authorities and/or the police to ensure that all relevant information is shared in relation to a child protection investigation. The Trust and each academy will work in accordance with the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015), the Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (2015) and Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting Vulnerable People From Being Drawn into Terrorism (2015).

6. Monitoring and Reporting

The Trust will regularly monitor the effectiveness and robustness of safeguarding and child protection both centrally and at its academies. It will do this by:

- i. a requirement for the Trust Safeguarding Lead to be informed of any safeguarding or child protection issues or concerns relating to a member of staff, volunteer or visitor where it is felt that there is a significant risk to a child
- ii. providing anonymised reports to every meeting of the Trust Board on any significant safeguarding or child protection issues and the action taken
- iii. reviewing the safeguarding procedures within an academy following any significant child protection incident and reporting the findings to trustees and local governors including recommendations on any improvements required. The Trust Safeguarding Lead will appoint the reviewer who may be a safeguarding lead from another Trust academy or an external specialist

- iv. undertaking an annual review of this policy and assessing the effectiveness with which the duties within it have been fulfilled at the academies

7. Additional Information*

Keeping Children Safe in Education

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf

Working together to Safeguard Children

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592101/Working_Tgether_to_Safeguard_Children_20170213.pdf

The Prevent Duty

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf

- * these links are correct as at 10th April 2017. Although these will be reviewed on a regular basis those using the policy are reminded of the need to ensure that the guidance is the most up to date version.