

"Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility"

Low-Level Concerns Policy

Audience:	School and academy staff, visitors and volunteers
Consulted:	March 2022
Adopted:	March 2022
Other related policies / procedures	 Visitors policy Tackling extremism and Radicalisation policy Online Safety Attendance policy Peer on Peer Abuse Positive touch policy Anti- bullying policy Safer recruitment policy Equality and diversity policy Policy for the support of pupils with medical and mental health needs School security to include Lockdown and Critical Incident Health and Safety policy Intimate Care School conduct/behaviour policy PREVENT Strategy - HM Gov Keeping Children Safe in Education - DFE September 2023 Use of Mobile Phone policy Staff, Visitor and Volunteer Code of Conduct Whistleblowing policy

Introduction

The Trust and its schools have a range of duties in relation to safeguarding pupils and take these responsibilities very seriously through an embedded *culture of safeguarding*. The statutory guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023* provides an overview of duties with regard to the reporting of *low-level safeguarding concerns*. This Policy sets out the Trust's approach to the reporting of low-level concerns.

Purpose of the policy

The Trust believes every child attending a Trust school should be able to learn in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from all forms of abuse. This is the responsibility of involved with the Trust and its schools.

The

Allegations

An *allegation* means that it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child
- possibly committed a criminal offence against a child
- behaved towards a child in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to that child
- behaved in a way in their personal life that raises safeguarding concerns.
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

For note:

These concerns do not have to directly relate to a child, but could for example, include:

- an arrest for possession of a weapon
- having, as a parent or carer, become subject to public protea6468h,82.04 reW*nB/f 11.04

What to do if there is a low-level concern

All low-level concerns should be referred to the Trust/school CEO/headteacher.

It is important to

- share concern with the headteacher asap and within 24 hours of becoming aware of it.
- in the absence of the headteacher contact the School Improvement Partner
- if behaviour

- all external conversations
- their determination
- the rationale for their decision
- any action taken

Step 3 - Decision making and next steps

If the information shared meets the Trust's expectations and is compliant with the Trust's *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure*:

• Headteacher to inform the

Appendix 1.

Recording Template

Name of Individual concerned:	Date concern reported:	
Name of Individual completing form:		
Statement of concern: (who, when, what, where)		
Statement from individual concerned:		
Record of discussion held with individual concerned and headteacher:		
Have checks of previous concerns be carried out: Yes/No (delete as approp.)		
If yes, what was decided in consultation with SIP/LADO??		
Agreed action:		
Signed:	(Individual concerned)	
Date:		
Signed:	(Headteacher)	
Date:		

Appendix 2. Case Studies

Why is this important? Examples From Cases – Two Serious Case Reviews