

drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust

Safeguarding Statement of Intent

Trust Vision

The Trust has been established through a shared belief that lives can be transformed by what goes on in schools. We believe that the process of teaching and learning shapes futures. To this end our vision is to provide every child with learning experiences that excite them and give them the power to begin to shape their own lives.

all pupils achieve the highest standard of educational outcomes regardless of circumstances or background.

Safeguarding Statement of Intent

To support our vision, everyone working in the Trust is wholly committed to ensuring that all children and adults are cared for in a safe and secure environment. To fulfil this commitment, comprehensive safeguarding and child protection systems are in place in line with the DfE statutory guidance, ***Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020***.

Culture of Safeguarding

The Trust is clear that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is the responsibility of ***everyone***. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all staff make sure their approach is wholly child-centred. This means that at all times, they should consider what is in the best interests of the child. To sustain this approach effectively and consistently, we recognise that the Trust and its schools are an important part of the wider local and national safeguarding system for children. This system is described in full in the DfE statutory guidance ***Working Together to Safeguard Children 2019***.

Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures

All Trust policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding and child protection are up to date and in line with ***Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020***. They are accessible to all staff through the Trust and individual school websites. Policies and procedures are reviewed and revised by the Trust Board at least annually. Contextualised, local school safeguarding information is available on each school website.

Trust Board Responsibilities

The Trust Board is committed to ensuring full compliance with its safeguarding and child protection duties under statutory legislation. As delegated by the Trust Board, ***David Sheldon is currently the Trustee for Safeguarding Children*** and has oversight of the Trust Improvement Board and Achievement Support and Scrutiny Sub Committee which report to the Board on all safeguarding issues.

The Trust is fully committed to working with the local **Safeguarding Partner** arrangements in both Dudley and Birmingham and all other multi agency partners in line with statutory guidance ***Working Together to Safeguard Children 2019***.

Strategic planning and reporting

The Trust Board have an Annual Improvement Plan for safeguarding and keeping children safe in education. This forms ***Workstrand 6 of the Trust's Strategic Business Plan***. An Annual Safeguarding Report to Trustees is also presented to the Board by the Trust CEO at the end of each academic year alongside termly updates at Board meetings.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

The Trust meets statutory requirements in relation to Disclosure and Barring Service checks. All staff, members, trustees and volunteers are required to undergo an **enhanced DBS check** prior to employment or engagement. The Single Central Record (SCR) includes all safer recruitment checks and details of DBS.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

The Trust Board has ultimate responsibility for all safeguarding issues. Operationally, this responsibility is currently overseen by the **Headteacher of the Oval School, Dawn Williams**, who works alongside the designated safeguarding leads within each Trust school. Currently, every school has designated safeguarding leads and deputy designated safeguarding leads who take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety). They are clear about their role, have sufficient time and receive relevant support and training to carry out the duties of the post. This includes close contact with external agencies e.g. social services, Safeguarding Children Partners and relevant health care organisations. All schools have established **Children's Safeguarding Boards** to ensure the voice of the child is heard and responded to.

Professional Development

The designated safeguarding leads and deputies undergo regular training to ensure they have the knowledge and skills required to carry out their role. This training is ongoing. The designated safeguarding leads also undertake regular **PREVENT awareness training**.

Across the Trust and its schools all staff are aware of the systems used to support safeguarding and these are explained as part of staff induction and reviewed with all staff at the start of the academic year. These include the Trust's:

- Safeguarding and child protection policy
- Behaviour policy
- Staff code of conduct
- Whistle Blowing policy
- Role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the DSL and any deputies)
- DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2020 update


Safer recruitment

The Trust is committed to creating a culture of safe recruitment and, as part of this, adopts recruitment procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might present a risk to children. The Trust and its schools act reasonably in making decisions about the suitability of any prospective member of staff based on checks and evidence, including criminal record checks, enhanced DBS checks, barred list checks and prohibition checks, together with references and interview information.

Audit

The Trust keeps an audit checklist to assure that safeguarding systems and processes are working as part of the Trust's monitoring arrangements. The audit includes: the monitoring of the Single Central Record, policies and procedures, any safeguarding complaints and the professional development strategy. The next audit will be undertaken in December 2020.

Review

Monitoring and review	Trust Board Trust Safeguarding Lead Headteachers
Links	Trust Safeguarding Policies and Procedures 2020/21
Staff responsible	Trust Board Headteachers
Committee responsible	Achievement Support and Scrutiny, Trust Improvement Board
Date approved	November 2019
Reviewed	September 2020
Next review	September 2021
Sign off by Chair of Trust	 Date: September 2020

*Please note that should there be any changes/further national guidance issued relevant to this Statement of Intent, it will be updated accordingly prior to the review date shown above and referred to the next Trust Board meeting.

Change Management

Issue No.:	Change date:	Change description:
1.0	Nov 16	Initial release
2.0	Nov 18	Rebranded, updated and signed off for release
3.0	Nov 19	Updated Ref to KCSiE from 2018 to 2019
4.0	Sept 20	Updated Ref to KCSiE 2020