

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Introduction

The DfE's Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance for schools and colleges contains information on what schools and service providers should do to ensure children and young people are safeguarded and sets out the legal duties they must comply with.

In law, individual academies are deemed to be 'relevant partners' of their local authority and as such are under a duty to co-operate with that local authority's Local Safeguarding Children's Board arrangements. Each Board of Directors ensures compliance at the local level and takes strategic responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice is of high quality across all of their operations.

Both NEAT Academy Trust and NEAT Active Ltd have a Safeguarding Link Director and a designated senior leader who is responsible for sharing good practice and developing its safeguarding policies and procedures.

Policy statement

The NEAT Board of Directors, as the proprietor of its academies and the parent company of its trading subsidiary, ensures that the following are in place at all locations:

- There is a Designated Safeguarding Lead who has overall accountability for safeguarding within the school/service.
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are appointed who are the point of contact for pupils, parents, community and colleagues and are responsible for Looked after Children, early help interventions and e-safety. They also promote the educational achievement of vulnerable children by ensuring that colleagues have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep our children safe, and recognise the needs of vulnerable adults where relevant. Every school has also appointed a Designated Teacher for looked after children and previously looked after children.
- The NEAT Academy Trust Board, as well as the NEAT Active Ltd Board and each school's Local Governing Committee, monitors and reviews safeguarding as part of their responsibilities.
- There is a termly Strategic Safeguarding Leads Group with representatives from each school/service and NEAT Active Ltd to develop best practice and consistency across the NEAT Group.
- Safeguarding arrangements are in place which are designed to take account of all possible safeguarding issues including child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and preventing radicalisation.
- Safer recruitment practices are adhered to and relevant colleagues, non-executive directors and local governors receive approved training.
- Working alongside existing safeguarding processes, schools use CPOMS to record, monitor and review child protection, safeguarding and a range of

pastoral and welfare issues.

- Arrangements are in place for working together with other agencies and for sharing information with other professionals. The procedures and practices established by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board are taken into account and any requests from that Board are complied with.
- Effective child protection and dealing with concerns/allegations policies and codes of conduct are in place.
- A culture of listening to children and vulnerable adults is developed which takes account of their wishes and feelings.
- Appropriate supervision and support for colleagues is provided including undertaking safeguarding induction and training. Non-executive directors and local governors receive safeguarding briefings at least annually.
- There are clear procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against people who work with children and referrals to external agencies are made where appropriate.
- The trust works closely with its external safeguarding partner, Clennell Education Solutions, when dealing with more complex/sensitive cases.
- Children are taught the skills they need to help safeguard themselves, including online safety through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Appropriate safeguarding responses are implemented for children who go missing from education.
- All statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children are fulfilled.

NEAT Academy Trust also:

- Monitors the quality of safeguarding practices and their impact on outcomes for children in our schools/services through the Risk Management and Annual Safeguarding Audit and Action Plan.
- Ensures that the physical estate is safe through prioritising essential capital works and improvements identified through the safeguarding audit process/building condition surveys.
- Works with its Local Governing Committees to ensure that the performance of vulnerable children is effectively monitored, and that appropriate support is made available to those children who are at risk of achieving poor outcomes because they are a child in need or subject to children's social care intervention.
- Reports on the outcomes of vulnerable children who are in need, subject to child protection plans, or who are looked after.
- Liaises with lead professionals for safeguarding such as the LADO and other agencies such as LSCBs, NSPCC, DBS, Ofsted and DfE as required.

This policy statement is supplemented by individual safeguarding policies for each school/service and NEAT Active Ltd. Developing a model policy is co-ordinated by the trust and it is the responsibility of each school/service and NEAT Active Ltd to adapt it to ensure it reflects their local context and is implemented effectively. Each individual school is responsible for ensuring compliance with its Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures in accordance with statutory requirements.

FINAL VERSION 3.0 agreed on behalf of the NEAT Academy Trust and NEAT Active Ltd Boards of Directors (21/09/23) To be reviewed September 2024