



## **The Inspire Multi Academy Trust (South West)** **Safeguarding Statement**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1** The Trust believes that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. The term 'child' or 'children' relates to anyone under the age of 18. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play. The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by the provision of a safe environment in which children can learn and thrive. All people working with children and visiting school premises must be aware that children may be at risk of harm or abuse, are well placed to observe signs of abuse, have a duty to protect children from harm and abuse, and have a responsibility to identify and report child welfare concerns and take appropriate action, acting on concerns about a child's welfare immediately, in association with other Trust staff and volunteers, visitors, families and other agencies.
- 1.2** All Trust staff and volunteers have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn and thrive and should make sure their approach is always child centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child and fulfil their legal responsibilities to identify children who may need early help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.
- 1.3** The Trust recognises that all schools also play a crucial role in preventative education. This is in the context of a whole-school approach to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain and will create a culture of zero tolerance of racism, sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphobia and sexual violence/harassment. This will be underpinned by the school's:
- Behaviour policy and procedures
  - Pastoral support system
  - Planned programme of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE), which is inclusive and delivered regularly in an age appropriate context
- 1.4** Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in KCSIE 2024 as:
- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge;
  - protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online;
  - preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
  - ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
  - taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- Children includes everyone under the age of 18 (Education Act 2002 and Children Act 1989, KCSIE 2024).
- 1.5** The Trust and its schools recognise that some children have an increased risk of abuse, and that additional barriers can exist for some children with respect to recognising or disclosing it. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children's diverse circumstances. We will ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.
- 1.6** The Trust and its schools will give special consideration to children who:
- Is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs
  - Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan)
  - Has a mental health need
  - Is a young carer

- Is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from education, care or from home
- Has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded, is accessing alternative provision or attending a PRU
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual and / or criminal exploitation.
- Has a parent or carer in custody, or is affected by parental offending
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- Has returned home to their family from care
- Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Is a privately fostered child
- Is at risk of so called 'honour' based abuse such as FGM or Forced Marriage

**1.7** The Trust and its schools will ensure that pupils feel safe and comfortable to come forward and report any concerns and/or allegations through:

- Having systems in place for pupils to confidently report abuse and ensuring that their views are always taken into account
- Ensuring reporting systems are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for all pupils
- Making it clear to pupils that their concerns will be taken seriously, and that they can safely express their views and give feedback

**1.8** The Trust and its schools recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”, as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for pupils. All child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

**1.9** Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under the behaviour policy, but the application of the safeguarding policy will apply to any allegations that constitute a safeguarding concern. This might include where the alleged behaviour:

- Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence
- Could put pupils in the school at risk
- Is violent
- Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol
- Involves sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment, such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, up skirting or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos (including the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes)

This statement and our policy and procedures also apply to extended school and any off-site activities.

**1.10** This Trust-wide approach applies to all staff, including the Board of Trustees, paid staff, volunteers, agency staff, students or anyone working for and on behalf of the Trust. This should be read in conjunction with the school specific policies.

**1.11** The Trust and the Local Governing Boards (LGBs) of all schools take seriously their responsibilities under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our Academies to identify, assess and support those children and young people who are suffering harm.

**1.12** This document sets out overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection for staff, governors, volunteers, visitors and parents. The Trust fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children from harm and to support and promote the welfare of all children who are registered pupils in our Academies.

**1.13** This should be read in conjunction with each Academy's policies and Safeguarding documents.

## 2. Legal Framework

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Education Act 2002
- The Children Act 2004
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) (September 2024 edition)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- Guidance for Safer Working Practice

## 3. Responsibilities

**3.1 Trustees:** All Trustees need to understand their safeguarding duties and should be kept up to date with legislation and regulation. The Trust Board has a legal responsibility to make sure that schools have effective safeguarding policies and procedures in place and monitors the implementation of these policies regularly.

The Trust Board will do this by:

- Identifying a named Safeguarding lead from the Board of Trustees
- Ensuring full visibility of safeguarding processes and systems across the Trust which allows them to ensure they are rigorous and effective
- Arrange annual safeguarding audits for each of our schools
- Receiving regular reports from the CEO on safeguarding which include details of the training undertaken by all stakeholders in relation to safeguarding
- Delegating operational responsibilities to LGBs as defined below
- Receiving and approving this safeguarding statement and the safeguarding policy annually

**3.2 Governors:** The LGB of each Academy has appointed a named Safeguarding Governor who has lead responsibility for overseeing and monitoring all safeguarding issues in each school.

- The LGB will ensure that the named governor for Safeguarding & Child Protection undertakes the relevant training at least annually
- The named safeguarding governor will meet with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) regularly and update the board accordingly
- The LGB must receive, at least annually safeguarding reports, this should detail the training undertaken by all staff and volunteers and identify contextual safeguarding themes.

## Named Staff and Contacts

Trust CEO & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Aaron Meredith – contact via: [timat@timat.org.uk](mailto:timat@timat.org.uk)

Trust Safeguarding Lead Trustee: Claire Jones – contact via [timat@timat.org.uk](mailto:timat@timat.org.uk)