



This Policy has been adopted and approved by Gippeswyk Community Educational Trust and is to be used by all members of the Trust.

SAFEGUARDING – STATEMENT OF INTENT	
Approved by GCET	8.12.23
Reviewed/Amended	September 2023
Date of next Review	Autumn Term 2024-2025 (<i>Reviewed annually</i>)
Responsible Officer	Head of Trust Standards: Mr J Eveson
Policy Number	STH13

Definition of a Parent

- All biological parents, whether they are married or not.
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative
- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person.

A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

The Gippeswyk Community Educational Trust is wholly committed to ensuring that all students and adults who engage with our Trust are cared for in a safe and secure environment.

1 PRINCIPLES

The Trust will:

- Establish and maintain an environment and culture where:
 - Students are kept safe, feel safe, are able to talk about and are listened to when they have a worry or concern.
 - Parents are confident that their child is kept safe and feels safe.
 - Gippeswyk Community Educational Trust (GCET) staff and volunteers feel safe, are encouraged and able to talk and are listened to when they have concerns about the safety and wellbeing of a student or a member of staff.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in any school within the GCET Trust whom they can approach if they are worried.

- Ensure that students who have additional/unmet needs are supported appropriately. This could include referral to early help services or specialist services if they are a child in need or have been/are at risk of being abused and neglected.
- Consider how students may be taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

All staff members within the Trust working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a student, staff members should always act in the interests of the student.

2 PROCEDURES

The Trust and every academy in the Trust follow the procedures established by the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' document (KCSIE) (latest version); a national guide

All policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding children throughout the trust are up to date and in line with the DfE's Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Each academy will have its own Safeguarding Policy based upon the Trust model policy which will include named individuals with responsibilities for that school.

3 TRUST ARRANGEMENTS

GCET ensures that all of their academies:

- Have a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and a designated governor for safeguarding.
- Have in place safeguarding arrangements which adhere to the latest statutory guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education which is designed to take account of all possible safeguarding issues.
- Adhere to safe recruitment practices as described in the KCSIE document
- Maintain a Single Central Record (SCR) in accordance with the KCSIE document.
- Have arrangements for working together with other agencies and for sharing information with other professionals.
- Take account of Suffolk County Council's latest policies, procedures and practices and comply with any requests from the Local Authority.
- Have in place effective child protection and staff behaviour policies.
- Provide appropriate supervision and support for staff including undertaking safeguarding induction and training.
- Have appropriate policies and procedures for managing allegations against staff in accordance with the latest KCSIE document
- Follow clear policies for dealing with allegations against people who work with children.
- Have clear whistleblowing procedures as described the GCET Whistleblowing Policy.
- Appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after and ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keeping looked after children safe.
- Put in place appropriate safeguarding responses to children who go missing from education.
- Fulfil all of their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

4 MONITORING AND REPORTING

GCET will nominate an overall safeguarding lead (Mr John Eveson) across the trust to

- Monitor the quality of safeguarding practices and their impact on outcomes for students across the Trust and provide regular reports to the Trust Board. An annual report to the Board of Trustees will address key safeguarding concerns that have arisen, issues flagged following post incident reviews and audits, emerging safeguarding issues and training needs.
- Monitor academy compliance at each academy within GCET, through an annual safeguarding audit, and make an annual report to the Trustees.
- Work with the Principals of the academies 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.
- Liaise with local authority lead professionals for safeguarding, and other agencies as required.
- Commission external challenge and support where appropriate to ensure academies meet their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Provide opportunities to DSLs from each academy across the Trust to meet to discuss practice, to share learning and to train together. This will include sharing post incident reviews and action points to improve practice.
- Ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online, ensuring that appropriate filters and monitoring systems for online usage are in place. Our children will be taught how to keep themselves safe through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

5 REVIEW

This statement will be reviewed annually or whenever statutory safeguarding requirements or guidance changes, whichever is sooner.

6 TRAINING

All Trust staff will receive appropriate safeguarding children training from an accredited body. Formal update and/or re-training from an accredited body. Formal update and/or re-training will take place at least every three years, as advised by the Local Authority, to ensure staff remain sufficiently knowledgeable and aware of their role in the early recognition of the indicators of abuse or neglect and of the appropriate procedures to follow. In addition, all schools will ensure all staff receive update training annually and will provide staff members with additional safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required, but at least termly, to

provide them with relevant skills and up-to-date knowledge to safeguard children effectively. Training will include the topics referred to in the latest version 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' that might not have been explicit in the past. These topics may include:

- Child-on-Child Abuse
- So-called Honour-based Violence
- Understanding the additional safeguarding vulnerabilities of learners with SEN and disabilities, and how those barriers can be overcome.

7 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 Trustees

The Trustees of the Gippeswyk Community Educational Trust have responsibility for safeguarding issues.

Operationally, this responsibility is delegated to the CEO.

Across GCET, the designated senior person (Mr John Eveson) will be available at all times for Headteachers, school DSLs and/or local governors to discuss any safeguarding concerns. The CEO must be made aware of all serious safeguarding concerns. The CEO must be made aware of all serious safeguarding issues as they arise.

The GCET designated senior person (DSP):

NAME: Mr John Eveson

EMAIL: jeveson@gcetrust.org.uk

TELEPHONE: 01473 277240

There is a nominated Trustee on the GCET Board of Trustees for child protection. This is Mr Bob Wade

7.2 Local Governing Boards (LGBs)

LGBs must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must also have regard to this guidance to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in their school or colleges are effective and comply with the law at all times. Each Academy Governing Board will appoint a designated governor for safeguarding. LGBs should also follow the advice in *Keeping Children safe in Education* regarding IT use in school.

7.3 Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)

All local governing bodies should ensure that the school designates an appropriate senior member of staff to take the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. This

person should have a job description outlining the status (member of the senior team) and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post including committing resources and, where appropriate, supporting and directing other staff. At individual academy level, a Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or a deputy will always be available during term time for school staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. This responsibility cannot be delegated to others.

The DSL's full training will be updated every two years with an update at least annually. DSLs will also liaise with representatives at the local authority/Virtual School regarding children looked after by the local authority in their school.

- 7.4 The Board of Trustees, Local Governing Bodies and Designated Safeguarding Leads of individual schools within the Trust will work together on any aspect of safeguarding and child protection that is identified as an area of development over the coming year.

8. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a statutory responsibility on the Board of Trustees of GCE Education Trust to have policies and procedures in place that safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are students of schools within the Trust. Our schools also work in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Education Act 2002 (Section 175/157) Outlines that Local Authorities and School Governing Bodies have a responsibility to: "ensure that their functions relating to the conduct of school are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are its pupils".
- Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (Electronic).
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, current version).
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2015) – Updated version Aug 2018
- The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005
- Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- Section 26, The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (PREVENT duty)
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (Section 74, Serious Crime Act 2015)

Other acts that should be considered for inclusion in the above list:

- Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners (HMG, 2015)
- Data Protection Act (2018)
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (HMG, 2015)
- Searching, screening and confiscation (DfE, 2018)
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying (DfE, 2017),
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges (DfE, 2021)
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (HMG, 2015)
- Serious Crime Act 2015 (Home Office, 2015)