



## **SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS & CARERS**

### **What does Safeguarding mean?**

Every child has the right to be safe from harm and danger. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that every child is free from fear and able to learn and develop in safe and secure environments.

### **Why am I being given this information?**

All parents, guardians and carers of children who join our academies will be given this information. This leaflet explains what we must do if we are worried about a child.

### **What we will do if we are worried about your child?**

If your child tells us something that worries us, we will, in most cases, contact you to talk through what your child has told us. This will either be on the phone or a face to face meeting at the Academy.

We regularly undertake wishes and feeling with children as this helps us to understand how they are feeling and what life is like for them.

### **Why would we make a referral to Children's Services?**

All schools have a duty to refer cases of suspected child abuse to Children's Services.

### **What is child abuse?**

A child is abused when a parent, guardian, carer, other family member or adult known to the child deliberately causes harm; neglects or fails to protect their child from harm. Harm can be physical, sexual, and emotional or take the form of neglect.

### **When might this take place?**

We would seek advice/make a referral to Children's Services if your child has an unexplained injury or an injury where the explanation for it is inconsistent. We would also liaise with Children's Services if we feel care and protection for a child is not adequate or improving. If we want to make a referral about your child we will talk to you and discuss this. You may not agree with our view but we endeavour for us to work together. If we make a referral about your child, in most cases we will tell you unless Children's Services have asked us not to.

### **What happens when a referral has been made to Children's Services?**

An experienced and qualified social work manager will review the referral and decide what needs to happen next. They may ask for assistance from other agencies like the School Nurse, GP, Police, and Health Visitors to get a rounded view of your family.

Children's Services are able to offer a range of services to support families within the home and at school so your child can thrive and feel happy and safe. For cases where there are significant concerns around whether a child is being abused, a Child Protection Conference may be held. This enables everyone within your family,

including parents/guardians/carers to meet to discuss what is working well, what the concerns are and what needs to happen next.

### **Will my child be taken away?**

It is very unusual for children to be taken away from their parents or carers. A child will only be removed if there is absolutely no other way of keeping them safe. The Children Act says everything possible must be done to help parents to look after their children at home.

### **Why is the Academy involved in safeguarding?**

The Children Act 1989 requires everyone working with children to inform Children's Services about any child thought to be in need of support or at risk of harm. The Education Act 2002 requires all schools and academies to have arrangements in place to safeguard children.

We have procedures and policies in place and named members of staff in each Academy who are responsible for safeguarding. More information can be found on our academy website or from the office.

Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead –  
Mrs J Graver (Greenpark Academy),  
Ms N Taylor (Blenheim Park Academy)  
Miss Helen Fendley (Reffley Academy)

Deputy Safeguarding Leads –  
Ms R. Jones (Greenpark Academy),  
Mr A. Stanton (Greenpark Academy)  
Mr L. Enters (Blenheim Park Academy)  
Mrs Claire Hodgson (Reffley Academy)  
Safeguarding governor Mr Richard Curtis (Reffley Academy)  
Safeguarding Director – Mrs D Pulsford-Harris

### **How can we work in partnership?**

Children will get the most out of their time at the Academy if we can work together on every issue.

Please can you let us know about anything that might affect your child, any medical issues, accidents or whether your child will be absent from the academy?

**What can you expect from us?**

1. A safe place for your child to learn in that complies with safeguarding in education legislation and guidance.
2. We will talk to you about anything that we are worried about.
3. We will contact you if your child is absent and we haven't heard from you.
4. We will keep accurate and up to date records.
5. We will respond promptly with any problem you tell us about.
6. If your child transfers to another school or academy, we will share important information with them that will help to support your child's move.
7. Our staff will offer support and assistance when needed.