

Role of the Safeguarding Governor



Outline of role:

The Children's Act 2004 places a duty on agencies to ensure that their functions are discharged having regard for the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

By safeguarding and promoting welfare we mean:

- Protecting children from abuse or neglect.
- Preventing impairment of the child's health or development.
- Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Creating opportunities to enable children to have optimum life changes in adulthood.
- As the governor responsible for safeguarding children, you will play an essential role in ensuring children in education are kept safe from harm.

Suggested duties:

It is recommended that the Safeguarding Governor should not be a parent governor or teacher governor as this could lead to them being compromised in the event of a disciplinary matter.

- To be familiar with Warwickshire Safeguarding guidance and The Stour Federation Trustwide policy relating to child protection, safeguarding and associated issues, and to attend training for nominated Child Protection and Safeguarding governors.
- To ensure that there is a suitable Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and associated procedures which has been ratified by the Trust Board and Local Academy Council Governors.
- To champion safeguarding and child protection issues within the school.
- To encourage other Governors of the Local Academy Council to develop their understanding of the Local Academy Council's responsibilities with regard to Child Protection and assist them to perform their functions in respect of Safeguarding Children and Young People.
- Report to other Governors as appropriate at Local Academy Council meetings.
- To contribute to ensuring any deficiencies in the school's safeguarding practices are addressed which may be brought to Governors' attention by a member of school staff, a parent, an officer of the Local Authority or from any other source.
- To meet regularly with the senior member of the school's Leadership Team who is the designated teacher for safeguarding and child protection in order to monitor the effectiveness of the Local Academy Council's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and sign a copy of the Single Central Record. It is recommended that this is at least a termly meeting.

- To ensure that the Local Academy Council receives an annual report on the implementation of the Trust's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures including:

Arrangements for ensuring that the Trust's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is communicated to, and implemented by, all staff:

- Ensuring that the designated member of staff with lead responsibility for Child Protection and Safeguarding is part of the school's Leadership Team, and has sufficient time and resources at his/her disposal to carry out his/her duties effectively.
- Ensuring that a deputy designated teacher for safeguarding and child protection is identified.
- Ensuring that the designated teacher for Child Protection and Safeguarding and his/her deputy receive training every two years.
- Training in Child Protection and Safeguarding undertaken by ALL staff, including Lunchtime Supervisors, clerical staff and other ancillary staff, every three years.
- Arrangements are in place for the inclusion of child protection procedures in an induction programme for all people working in the school, no matter for how long, nor the status of that individual.
- Arrangements to ensure safer recruitment procedures and appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers.
- The number of students currently subject to a Child Protection Plan. NB. details of names will not be provided to maintain confidentiality.
- How Safeguarding and Child Protection issues are addressed through the curriculum.
- The provision of information to the LA about how the Local Academy Council's duties in respect of Child Protection and Safeguarding have been discharged (annual audit).
- The Chair of the Local Academy Council will liaise with the Executive Headteacher and the Authority over matters regarding confidential child protection issues involving allegations against staff.
- Where there is an allegation of abuse against the Headteacher, the Local Academy Council Chair will take the lead in liaising with the LA and/or partner agencies unless a member of the Trust Board or Local Academy Council has relevant expertise which would mean that person was better fitted to take this role, including:
 - ❖ Notifying the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) immediately.
 - ❖ Ensuring Warwickshire Safeguarding agrees that appropriate action is to be taken in accordance with agreed procedures.
 - ❖ Attending initial and subsequent Position of Trust (POT) meetings and strategy meetings as required if other agencies are involved.
 - ❖ To take the lead in an investigation under employment procedures in conjunction with Human Resources and Warwickshire Safeguarding when the other agencies' involvement is at an end.