



Safeguarding and Prevent Policy

The Copper Academy has a statutory and moral duty to ensure that it safeguards and promotes the welfare of all learners receiving education and training at, and through, the academy.

Throughout these policies and procedures, reference is made to “children and young persons, or young people”. This term is used to mean “those under the age of 18 years”. The Governing Body recognises that some adults are also vulnerable to abuse. Accordingly, the procedures may be applied (with appropriate adaptations) to seek to ensure their protection as well.

The procedures apply to all staff, whether teaching, administrative, management or support, as well as to volunteers. The word “staff” is used for ease of description.

Safeguarding is taken to mean ‘All agencies working with children, young people and adults at risk of, or experiencing harm and their families taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the risk of harm to children’s welfare are minimised and where there are concerns about children, young people and vulnerable adult’s welfare, all agencies working together to take all appropriate actions to address those concerns, working to agree local policies and procedures in full partnership with each other.

Law and legislation.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004 and in line with government publications: □ Keeping children safe in education (KCSiE) : statutory guidance for schools and colleges DfE September 2020 (with amendments for leaving the EU January 2021) □ All staff must read section 1 of KCSiE guidance. □ PREVENT Duty Guidance (for England and Wales July 2015) □ CONTEST Strategy 2018 (September) □ ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ 2015 □ ‘Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families 2000

□ ‘What To Do If You Are Worried A Child Is Being Abused’ March 2015 □ Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges □ ‘Safeguarding Children in Education’, DfS Guidance, September 2004 □ ‘Safeguarding Children and Safer recruitment in Education’ DfES Guidance 2007 □

Devon Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) Online Multi Agency Child Protection Procedures □ *Section 11 Children Act 2004* □ *Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006* □ *Partnership www.devonchildrenandfamiliespartnership.org.uk/* □ *Early Help Process* □ *The Care Act 2014*

- The Copper Academy takes seriously its responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and section 11 of the Children Act 2004, alongside other Government guidance referenced in 1.1, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements are in place to identify, assess and support those children who are suffering harm.
- We recognise that all staff have a full and active part to play in protecting children, young people and adults at risk of or experiencing harm and that the children and adults welfare is our paramount concern.
- At the Copper Academy it is our duty to have a safeguarding policy in place; this includes safer recruitment and the Prevent Duty. To oversee the Academy's safeguarding policy and review it annually and to advise the employees on all matters of Safeguarding that might affect the organisation and to deliver information, training and guidance as appropriate. To act as Safeguarding Champions in recognising that members of staff and learners have an important role to play in safeguarding the welfare of children and Adults at Risk in preventing their abuse.
- It is to acknowledge the need for effective and appropriate communication between all members of staff in relation to safeguarding students. Develop a structured procedure within The Copper Academy which will be followed by all members of staff in cases of suspected abuse.
- Develop effective working relationships with all other agencies involved in safeguarding children and adults.
- Ensure that all The Copper Academy staff who have access to children, young people and Adults at Risk, have been checked as to their suitability in accordance with Devon County Council policy and procedures.
- The Copper Academy owner Emma Hosie is committed to ensuring that the academy provides a safe environment in which children, young people and adults at risk can learn. That they identify children, young people and adults at risk who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm, and takes appropriate action to see that such children, young people and adults at risk are kept safe, both at home and at the Academy.
- The Academy will refer concerns that a child, young person or adult at risk, who might be at risk of, or experiencing significant harm to the local authority Care Direct, and where appropriate, to the Police.

Types of abuse and neglect All academy staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

Definition of abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

Definitions of abuse.

- Physical Abuse causes harm to a child's person. It may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning or suffocating. It may be done deliberately or recklessly or be the result of a deliberate failure to prevent injury occurring.
- Neglect is the persistent or severe failure to meet a child or young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs. It will result in serious impairment of the child's health or development.
- Sexual abuse involves a child, young person or vulnerable adult being forced or coerced into participating in, or watching, sexual activity. It is not necessary for the child to be aware that the activity is sexual, and the apparent consent of the child is irrelevant.
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child abuse which involves children and young people (male and female, of a range of ethnic origins and ages, in some cases as young as 10) receiving something in exchange for sexual activity. Perpetrators of child sexual exploitation are found in all parts of the country and are not restricted to particular ethnic groups.
- Emotional Abuse Emotional abuse occurs where there is persistent emotional ill treatment or rejection. It causes severe and adverse effects on the child's, young person's or vulnerable adult's behaviour and emotional development, resulting in low self worth. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all forms of abuse.
- FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) Legal Duty FGM is illegal in the U.K and is child abuse. The mandatory reporting duty is a legal duty provided for in the FGM Act 2003 (as amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015).The duty requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report known cases of FGM in under 18-year-olds to the police. It came into force on 31 October 2015.

All staff have an awareness of safeguarding issues, some of which are listed below. Staff should be aware that behaviours linked to the likes of drug taking, alcohol abuse, truanting and sexting put children in danger.

All staff should be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to, bullying (including cyberbullying), gender based violence/sexual assault, fabricated illnesses, child missing from home and sexting. Staff should be clear as to the Academy's policy and procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse.

DEALING WITH DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE AND PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING CONCERNS

If a child, young person or adult at risk tells a member of staff about possible abuse, that member of staff must: □ listen carefully and stay calm; □ not interview the child (young person or adult at risk), but allow her/him to convey all the information (s)he wants. (Inappropriate questioning can prevent the presentation of evidence upon which decisions are made about the care of children or the prosecution of offenders.); □ ensure that (s)he understands what the child is telling her/him; □ not put words into the child's (young person or adult at risk) mouth; □ reassure the child (young person or adult at risk) that by telling the member of staff, (s)he has done the right thing; □ inform the child (young person or adult at risk) that (s)he (the member of staff) must pass the information on, but that only those who need to know about it will be told. □ inform the child (young person or adult at risk) of to whom the member of staff will report the matter; NB College Counsellors may, under exceptional circumstances and with guidance afforded by their professional supervisor, continue to work in confidence under their professional code of ethics; (an appropriate risk assessment will be carried out in such circumstances) □ as soon as possible, (the same day) write down everything that is said by both staff and pupils.

Staff should not investigate concerns or allegations themselves, but should report them immediately to the designated staff member or, in their absence, to the senior staff member with lead responsibility. Failure to report such an allegation or concern could lead to action being taken against the member of staff under the academy's staff disciplinary procedures.

Referrals will normally be made within one working day of recognition, by completing a MASH referral form. In cases where a child is at significant risk, I will make a telephone referral to MASH or contact the police.

Devon Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – 0345 155 1071 (office hours)

Emergency Duty Service – 0345 600 0388 (out of office hours)

In most cases, we will discuss our concerns with parents/carers and seek their consent before making a referral in order to maintain positive relationships and promote the best outcomes for the child. If we feel that this course of action could place the child at further risk of harm, we will agree with MASH what information should be shared with the child and parents following the referral. We would expect a response from MASH within two working days of receiving a written referral. If we have not received a response within 3 working days, we will contact them again. After making a referral, parents will be given a copy of the MASH leaflet.

In cases where the child is not attending the academy for a sustained period of time (e.g. during COVID lockdowns), we will maintain regular contact with families using a variety of methods (e.g. phone calls, email, Messenger and non-contact visits) to support the child & their families. This is particularly important for vulnerable children, for whom sustained absences & additional pressures may place them at increased risk. Any concerns about a child in these situations will be reported in the normal way.

We recognise that any information recorded about a child at risk of harm will be of a highly confidential and sensitive nature. All records will be kept securely and only shared on a need to know basis when we feel it is in the best interests of the child in order to protect them from harm. We will not attempt to confront any person suspected of abusing a child and will not share any suspicions or information with any person other than MASH, Children's Social Care or the police. We will co-operate fully with any investigation undertaken by Children's Social Care or the police and will seek guidance from them on any further action to be taken.

If an allegation is made against a member of staff, we will immediately inform the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for advice and support. If the LADO is not available, I will contact Devon MASH or in an emergency, the police.

Local Authority Designated Officer – 01392 384964

We will co-operate fully with any investigation undertaken by Children's Social Care or the police and will seek guidance from them on any further action to be taken. In all cases where an allegation is made against the academy, I will inform Ofsted at the earliest opportunity (within 14 days of the allegation being made).

We will review this policy and procedure every 12 months and/or in response to changes in legislation.

Designated Safeguarding Officer – Emma Hosie

Deputy Safeguarding Office – Poppy Quartermain-Winsor

Written by – Emma Hosie

Written - 1.6.2018

Reviewed & Updated by – Emma Hosie & Sam Lewin

Reviewed & Updated – 24.03.2021

Next Review date – 1.6.2021