



**Wingfield Academy**

# **Safeguarding Children in Education Child Protection Policy**

**(Adapted from a model from RMBC)**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Academy's Health and Safety Policy, Positive Behaviour Management Policy, Personalised Learning Policy, , Inclusion & SEN Policies, Safer Working Practices Guidance, Safer Recruitment advice, Academy's Confidential Reporting Code and with reference to the procedures outlined in the Powerpoint on Safeguarding for Staff. Other relevant policies can be found on the Academy's intranet.

Wingfield Academy fully recognises its responsibilities in relation to child protection and the safeguarding of children in education.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the Academy.

There are five main elements to our work:

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan and working in partnership with multi-agency professionals.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop including screening and awareness raising regarding Safeguarding of visitors to the Academy.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, Academy staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The Academy will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the Academy whom they can approach if they are worried
- Include opportunities in the PSHCEE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse

We will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills to:

- Ensure we have a designated senior officer (DSO) for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role – Lindsay Wootton Ashforth.
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection – Heather Green
- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and governing body knows the name of the designated senior officer responsible for child protection and their role and the names of these staff and their photographs are on posters visible in Academy and issued on a card to all visitors to the Academy for reference.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers through training understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated senior officer for child protection in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the Academy and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the Academy prospectus.

- Notify Social Services/EWO if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is on the child protection register.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately via CPOMS (Child Protection Online Management System).
- Ensure all records are kept securely; separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The Academy may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at Academy, their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.

The Academy will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The Academy ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- The Academy behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the Academy. The Academy will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- The Academy will liaise with other agencies that support the pupil such as Children and Young Peoples' Service, Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and Educational Psychology Service.
- The Academy will ensure that, where a pupil on the child protection register leaves, their information is transferred to the new educational setting immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

### **Whistle blowing**

*Adults should report any behaviour by colleagues that raises concern regardless of source and should acknowledge their individual responsibilities to bring matters of concern to the attention of senior management and/or relevant external agencies. This is particularly important where the welfare of children may be at risk.*

Whistle blowing is the mechanism by which adults can voice their concerns, made in good faith, without fear of repercussion. Adults who use whistle blowing procedure should know that their employment rights are protected.

- Allegations should be reported to the Head immediately who will then discuss the case with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for dealing with allegations.
- If the allegation is about the Head, it should be reported to the Chair of

Governors and the LADO.

- **The LADO contact in Rotherham is: Viv Woodhead, Assistant Manager Safeguarding Unit;**
- You can also raise concerns verbally or in writing with the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services, Assistant Chief Executive, Human Resources or the Chief Executive. (01709 382121)
  - please mark envelope “to be opened by addressee only”
  - the background and history of the concern (giving relevant dates);
  - the reason why you are particularly concerned about the situation.
- **Please refer to the Academy’s Confidential Reporting Code and Safer Working Practices Documents**

The Designated Senior Person for child protection in this Academy is:

**Lindsay Wootton Ashforth,**

Assistant DPs are: **Maureen Connolly**  
**Wendy Cadman**  
**Julie Harris**

The Nominated Governor for child protection in this Academy is:

**Heather Green who will:**

- Receive regular updates on Safeguarding and Child Protection issues
- Support the Child Protection Team in the role of “critical friend”
- Where parents request governor involvement the nominated governor will take an independent role but in line with Safeguarding procedures, seeking advice from the Children’s Social Care Access Team (01709 823987).
- Will ensure records are maintained and stored securely in liaison with the Designated Officers in Academy.
- Work with the Headteacher where allegations are made against staff or with the LADO if an allegation is made about the Headteacher.