

Brighter Futures Academy Trust

The Role of the Safeguarding Governor



Name of Policy Writer/Amendments	Date Written/Amended	Next Review Date
L. Johnson	July 2013	July 2014
L. Johnson	May 2014	July 2015
L. Johnson	August 2015	August 2016

It is important that the whole board of trustees and local governing bodies understand the difference between Child Protection - the protection of the most vulnerable, at risk children in our school and Safeguarding - ensuring the health, safety and well being of all our children.

A key role of the Safeguarding Governor is to ensure that the school has clear policies, strategies and procedures to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of pupils, including those relating to behaviour, bullying, health and safety, harassment and discrimination, and meets all required duties.

To meet the minimum standard required by Ofsted to be considered 'satisfactory' it is required that *'all safeguarding regulations and duties are met and arrangements and policies for safeguarding are in line with government requirements and are systematically reviewed'*. (Ofsted 2009)

If your school is judged to be inadequate in this strand of the evaluation schedule, its overall effectiveness is likely to be judged to be inadequate.

As with all trustee/governor roles, your task is to provide the overview and monitor implementation of policy. It is not your role to become involved in individual cases other than to ensure policy and procedure has been adhered to.

All schools in Calderdale are expected to adopt the Area Child Protection Procedures and the Calderdale Education Child Protection Policy and procedures. Copies of these procedures are available in your school; additional copies are available from Heath.

You should know who the named staff member who is designated safeguarding lead in your school and should meet with them at least once a year (termly would be preferable) to ensure that any issues that have arisen in relation to child protection policy and procedures are addressed. This can include issues relating to other agencies working with the school or the internal management and issues of cases that have occurred over the year. It is good practice to meet termly where there are significant child protection issues.

You should also ensure that the designated safeguarding lead attends area child protection committee training at least every three years and should give consideration to the training needs for other staff in the school.

Please be aware of the requirement for at least one trustee/governor to have undertaken the Safer Recruitment training. Calderdale's recommendation would be that at least 2 governors are accredited and that they should be the trustees/governors most likely to be involved in recruitment and selection.

In addition to these specific tasks, you should ensure that all school policies and procedures and activity are consistent and compliant with the child protection policy. Particular attention should be given to behaviour and anti-bullying policy, Recruitment and volunteers in school. Trustee and governor training on child protection and safeguarding is available as one of the annual courses offered by One Education.

In reality, this means that your role is:

- to be familiar with LA guidance and policy relating to child protection and associated issues, and to attend training for nominated child protection governors. To ensure that the governing body/board of trustees puts in place a suitable child protection policy and associated procedures.
- to champion child protection issues within the school.

- to encourage other members of the governing body to develop their understanding of the governing body's responsibilities with regard to child protection and assist them to perform their functions in respect of safeguarding children and young people.
- to remedy any deficiencies in the school's safeguarding practices which may be brought to the governing body's attention by a member of school staff, a parent, an officer of the LA or from any other source.
- to meet regularly with the senior member of the school's leadership team who has lead responsibility for child protection issues, in order to monitor the effectiveness of the governing body's child protection policy. It is recommended that this is at least a termly meeting.
- To ensure that the governing body receives an annual report on the implementation of the school's child protection policy and procedures including:
 - arrangements for ensuring that the school's child protection policy is communicated to, and implemented by, all staff.
 - ensuring that the designated member of staff with lead responsibility for child protection has sufficient time and resources at his /her disposal to carry out his / her duties effectively
 - ensuring that a deputy designated person is identified
 - ensuring that the designated person/deputy receive regular and appropriate training
 - ALL staff, including lunch time supervisors, clerical staff and other ancillary staff are aware of the child protection policy and receive training where appropriate
 - 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 safe recruitment procedures and appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers
 - the number of students currently on the child protection register
 - how child protection issues are addressed through the curriculum.
 - the provision of information to the LA about how the governing body's duties in respect of child protection have been discharged.

Where there is an allegation of abuse against the executive head teacher, the chair of the trustees will take the lead in liaising with the LA and/or partner agencies unless a member of the governing body has relevant expertise which would mean that person was better fitted to take this role, including:

- Conducting a preliminary investigation to see if the circumstances of the allegation could have happened.
- Ensuring with LA support that appropriate action is to be taken in accordance with agreed procedures
- To attend initial and subsequent strategy meetings as required if other agencies are involved.
- To take the lead in an investigation under employment procedures in conjunction with Educate HR and the Education Child Protection Service when the other agencies' involvement is at an end.

The vice chair will deputise for the chair in the chair's absence as appropriate.