



# EDUCATION and LEADERSHIP Trust



## MANAGING ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE MADE AGAINST OTHER CHILDREN

V1.3

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Responsible for this policy:	Deputy Headteacher Student Wellbeing

## Approval History

Approved By:	Date of Approval	Version Approved	Comments
Policy Committee		V1.0	
		V1.1	Addition of protocols for students on bail

## Revision History

Revision Date	Previous Revision Date	Rev	Summary of Changes	Changes Marked	Owner/Editor
			New Policy		
17.09.15			Added in Academy Headteacher and Executive Headteacher to <b>6</b> .		KLU
14.10.15		V1.2	Amended school name to Trust on No.1		KLU
25.10.16	14.10.15	V1.3	TEMA Logo Added		SME

## CONTENTS

1. Purpose of the Policy .....	4
2. Safeguarding Allegations .....	4
3. Examples of safeguarding issues against a student .....	4
4. Minimising the risk of safeguarding concerns towards pupils from other students ..	5
5. Action .....	5
6. Students on bail following an arrest .....	6

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

In our Trust we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other students.

We recognise that some students will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy.

## **2.0 SAFEGUARDING ALLEGATIONS**

Occasionally, allegations may be made against students by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a pupil, some of the following features will be found.

The allegation:

- is made against an older pupil and refers to their behaviour towards a younger pupil or a more vulnerable pupil
- is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence
- raises risk factors for other pupils in the school
- indicates that other pupils may have been affected by this student
- indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this student

## **3.0 EXAMPLES OF SAFEGUARDING ISSUES AGAINST A STUDENT COULD INCLUDE:**

Physical Abuse

- violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to use drugs or alcohol

Emotional Abuse

- blackmail or extortion
- threats and intimidation

Sexual Abuse

- indecent exposure, indecent touching or serious sexual assaults
- forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sexting

## Sexual Exploitation

- encouraging other children to attend inappropriate parties
- photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts

In areas where gangs are prevalent, older students may attempt to recruit younger pupils using any or all of the above methods. Young people suffering from sexual exploitation themselves may be forced to recruit other young people under threat of violence.

### **4.0 MINIMISING THE RISK OF SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS TOWARDS PUPILS FROM OTHER STUDENTS**

On occasion, some students will present a safeguarding risk to other students. The school should be informed that the young person raises safeguarding concerns, for example, they are coming back into school following a period in custody.

These students will need an individual risk management plan to ensure that other pupils are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations. There is a need to balance the tension between privacy and safeguarding.

### **5.0 ACTION**

When an allegation is made by a pupil against another student, members of staff should report this using the school's Child Protection protocol and alert the Child Protection team.

A member of the Child Protection Team should make a factual record of the allegation, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances.

A referral should be made to Children's Services. It is possible that Children's Services are already aware of safeguarding concerns around this young person.

The member of the Child Protection Team will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both pupils' files.

If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police should be contacted at the earliest opportunity and parents informed (of both the student being complained about and the alleged victim).

It may be appropriate to exclude the pupil being complained about for a period of time according to the school's behaviour policy and procedures.

Where neither social services nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school's usual disciplinary procedures.

In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan.

The plan should be monitored and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned.

## **6.0 STUDENTS ON BAIL FOLLOWING ARREST**

The school acknowledges that the circumstances where a student has been arrested and is released on bail will differ and therefore there follows a general set of procedures with the acknowledgement that these will need to be bespoke for each individual circumstance.

- 1) Academy Headteacher and Executive Headteacher informed of student on bail by relevant agency and any relevant bail conditions pertaining to school and/or which would impact on the safeguarding of other students or staff
- 2) Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher (Safeguarding Lead) informed. Decision to be taken whether a further key worker to be assigned.
- 3) Risk Assessment generated, taking into account the safeguarding of the student concerned plus other students and staff.
- 4) Risk Assessment signed off by Academy Headteacher.
- 5) Daily welfare check undertaken with student by keyworker
- 6) Multi-agency meeting to be arranged where protocols regarding attendance, absence, behaviour, liaison with parents are to be established.
- 7) Risk Assessment to be reviewed regularly as circumstances both internally and externally may change
- 8) Staff informed only on a need to know basis.