

Changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education from September 2016

Pool Academy complies with guidance Safeguarding and Protecting the welfare of all children. Our Policy was reviewed in July 2016, but based on revisions made to *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, due to come into force on the 5th September, Pool aims to update this policy. Steps have already been made to review changes and these have been highlighted below and all staff made aware of changes and additions.

The main changes to the guidance, introduced in the new version, are:

- A greater emphasis on the role *all* staff play in safeguarding
- More information on 'early help'
- A requirement for staff to receive regular safeguarding updates at least annually
- Information on the difference between a 'concern' about a child and a child in 'immediate danger or at risk of harm', and the actions to be taken in each situation
- Clarification of the role of the designated safeguarding lead, including on cover for the role and updating knowledge and skills
- A requirement to ensure appropriate internet filters and monitoring systems are in place
- A requirement to teach pupils about safeguarding, including online safety
- More guidance on peer-on-peer abuse
- Updates to requirements for safer recruitment checks
- Information on 'honour-based' violence

Designated safeguarding lead (DSL):

The DSL should be a member of the senior leadership team and take lead responsibility for safeguarding. Schools may also decide to have one or more deputy DSLs. The DSL and/or a deputy should always be available to staff during school hours.

Safeguarding training:

In addition to existing safeguarding training requirements, the knowledge and skills of the DSL and any deputies should be updated at least annually. Staff should also receive safeguarding updates at least annually.

Safer recruitment:

Section 128 direction checks are required for governors and staff involved in managing an independent school, including academies and free schools. These checks are also covered by barred list checks. Employer Access Online has been replaced by the Teacher Services system, which can be used to carry out prohibition from teaching and section 128 direction checks. The new guidance also has more detail on checks on people who have lived or worked outside the UK.

Reporting and recording concerns:

All staff need to be aware of the early help process and be prepared to identify children who may benefit. The guidance distinguishes between a 'concern' about a child and 'immediate

danger or risk of harm'. Concerns should be discussed, if possible, with the DSL, and a course of action decided on. Where a child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, a referral should be made to children's social care and/or the police immediately. Anyone can make a referral. In both cases, staff making a referral should inform the DSL as soon as possible. All concerns, discussions and decisions should be recorded in writing. Staff should know how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality while liaising with relevant professionals.

Online safety:

Schools should ensure appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect pupils from inappropriate and harmful online material. Schools should consider a whole-school approach to online safety, including a clear policy on the use of mobile technology.

Teaching pupils about safeguarding:

Schools should now teach pupils about safeguarding, including staying safe online.

Specific safeguarding issues:

There is more information about specific safeguarding issues including children missing in education, female genital mutilation and radicalisation, now in annex A.