

Safeguarding Statement



Policy Owner:	Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust
Approved/ Ratified:	
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1.0	September 2025	

At the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust, keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust promotes a positive culture of safeguarding, as reflected in our policies, procedures and actions. The policy applies to the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust employees and associated governors, committee members, volunteers, and those who use our academy premises for extended academy arrangements.

All academies have their own safeguarding policy, based on the principles as defined within the Multi-Academy Trust and requirements from the Local Authority.

Each academy has its own safeguarding key contacts list and summary of local issues, which contains information unique to that academy and reflects their specific contextual situation.

We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment within all of our academies where all children and adults are respected and valued. We will make sure that all children and young people have the same protection regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

We are alert to the signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation and follow our procedures to ensure that children and adults receive effective support and protection. We recognise the additional needs of vulnerable and disabled children and young people barriers they may face, especially around communication.

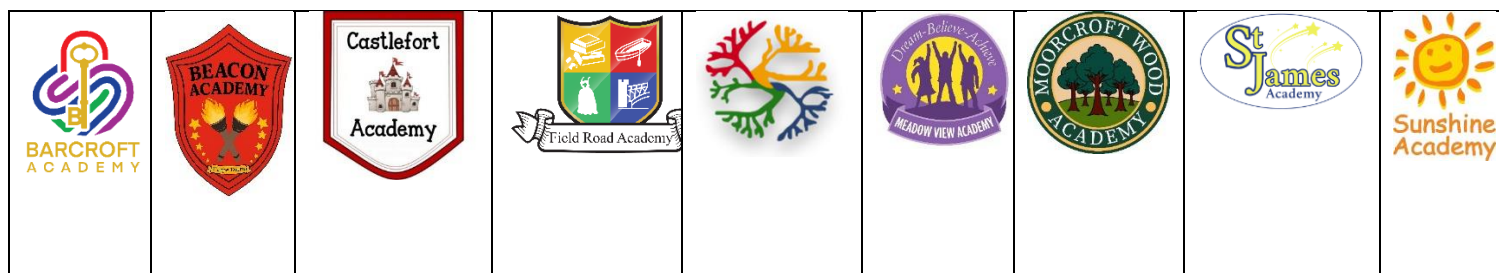
We work closely with Walsall Local Authority and other neighbouring boroughs to support families whose concerns or actions may have led to a referral being made either by academy staff or those external to the Multi-Academy Trust.

There is a DSL at each academy who is the first point of call for safeguarding concerns within each academy.

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust has a Director of Safeguarding and Attendance who has strategic overview of safeguarding.

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust has a lead Trustee who has responsibility as defined within Keeping Children Safe in Education for safeguarding across all academies within the Multi Academy Trust.

To access the individual academy policies, please go to their websites below:



The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Safeguarding Pledge

Staff within the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust have supported the development of our pledge. As part of ongoing development for safeguarding we will continue to seek the voices of the children and their families to ensure the pledge is fit for purpose, achievable and measurable. The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust, Governors, and Trustees will drive the pledge forward and hold all academies to account.

We offer support to our families through difficult economic times, based on principles of dignity and respect

We champion the personal development of children through learning and our curriculum

We exercise our professional curiosity and are not afraid to have difficult conversations with families

We understand children can be vulnerable inside and outside of the home, including online.

All Governors and Trustees within our Multi Academy Trust will challenge our processes to drive improvement in safeguarding

We measure the effectiveness of our safeguarding practice using surveys and communication with children, staff and families

We use bespoke ways to deliver messages to our families, understanding reading doesn't suit everyone

The rights of children are central to our practice

We work collaboratively with external agencies to ensure families get the right support at the right time

Listening to children and their families is key to understanding lived experience

Inclusive practice and behaviours means no child is marginalised

Guidance to other agencies supports our delivery of right help, right time

Hearth and wellbeing for all children, families and staff is our focus

Trusting in what children are communicating to us help them be heard

Human rights legislation is embedded in our PSHE curriculum

Online safety advice is always available to children and their families

Understanding how to process data supports our decisions for sharing information

Staff and volunteers are robustly vetted to ensure their suitability to work with children

Every child and family matter to us



Key Contacts

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Safeguarding Team	
CEO	Mr Paul Drew
Director of Safeguarding and Attendance	Mr Richard Rose

Governance/Directors at Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust	
Chair of the Board of Trustees	Pat Hunt
Lighthouse Trustee for Safeguarding and Attendance	Helen Mallet
Safeguarding and Attendance Link Governors	Please refer to the local safeguarding and child protection policy and individual academy websites

Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust policies linked to this safeguarding statement

- Local safeguarding and child protection policy
- Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Online Safety Policy
- Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Management of Allegations Policy
- Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Code of Conduct Policy
- Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Whistleblowing Policy
- Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Prevent Policy and Prevent Risk Assessment
- Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Managing Child on Child, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy
- Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Safer Recruitment Policy

Please note that the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Safeguarding Statement should be read in conjunction with each local academy safeguarding and child protection policy.

The Lighthouse Multi-Academy Trust Safeguarding Vision

At the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust, we have a passion for releasing potential in all our children, young people and staff through encouragement, ambition and aspiration for excellence in all aspects of our work.

Our commitment to safeguarding children and young people is based around our safeguarding pledges, ensuring we provide early identification and early intervention to all children, young people and families.

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trustee's Roles and Responsibilities

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trustee's understand its statutory duties as outlined in the Safeguarding and Welfare requirements in the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, Working Together to Safeguard Children, the Prevent Duty, and Keeping Children Safe in Education.

The Trustees for Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust has ultimate responsibility for safeguarding effectiveness. The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust will appoint a Director of Safeguarding and Attendance, Richard Rose, who is available at all times to support the academies with their child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures.

Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Operationally, the responsibility for safeguarding is delegated to the Principal's and Designated Safeguarding Leads who ensure the day-to-day care and safety of pupils and manage child protection issues within their relevant academy.

Designated Safeguarding Lead who share lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within their own academy. They are clear about their role, have sufficient time and receive relevant support and training to undertake their responsibilities, which includes close contact with outside agencies including social services, the local safeguarding partners and relevant health care organisations.

Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads must ensure that their knowledge and training is kept up to date with specific safeguarding issues around abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The Trust's Director of Safeguarding and Attendance and/or the Central Team must be aware of these cases from a strategic level to report/raise concerns directly through the safeguarding partners. All academies should use the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Escalation Document to notify the Trust.

Examples of Trust Escalation (please note this is not exhaustive)

- Difficulty in escalating a case for social care involvement
- Missing child/young person
- Child/young person being placed into emergency care
- Incidents of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence (please follow the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Policy and complete the Risk Assessment)
- Serious Safeguarding Incident
- Management of Allegation, please complete the notification form

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust will ensure that the Lighthouse Trustees are updated with a strategic overview of significant safeguarding incidents promptly.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust ensures policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding children are up to date and in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education. Policies and procedures are reviewed by the Trust's Director of Safeguarding and Attendance and wider Central Team, Headteachers, Designated Safeguarding Leads, Governing Bodies and Trustees regularly.

Policies are accessible to all staff and parents through the individual academy websites. Contextualised safeguarding information is available on each academy website. This includes, for example, the names of the Designated Safeguarding Leads and their deputies and how to raise a 'cause for concern'.

All Lighthouse academies use CPOMS to record concerns, information and actions towards keeping a child and young person safe.

Please refer to each local academy safeguarding and child protection policy.

Our suite of safeguarding policies must be shared with staff to ensure that they receive, read, and understood the expectations and practice in regard to safeguarding children, young people and families.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and Employment Checks

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust meets its statutory requirements in relation to Disclosure and Barring Service as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education. All staff, members, Directors, Governors and volunteers who meet the 'regulated activity test' are required to undergo an enhanced DBS and online check prior to employment or engagement. Each academy Single Central Record details safer recruitment checks and DBS information.

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust will ensure all academies have regular single central record audits to ensure compliance.

Safer Recruitment Processes

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust is committed to creating a culture of safer recruitment and, as part of this, adopts the consistent recruitment procedures across all its academies that help deter, reject or identify people who may present a risk to children.

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust and its academies act reasonably in deciding the suitability of any prospective member of staff based on relevant checks and evidence, including criminal record checks, enhanced DBS checks, barred list checks, online and prohibition checks, together with references and interview information.

All members of staff across the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust, who enrol in the DBS Update Service, must provide their details to their academy, which will then check the DBS Update Service on an annual basis.

Online checks for candidates will be completed via the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust and the Trust's Director of Safeguarding and Attendance.

All members of staff across the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust will sign a self-declaration on their 3rd anniversary of their DBS, with a new enhanced DBS being undertaken on the 5th year.

Please refer to the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Safer Recruitment Policy.

Management of Allegations

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust is committed to creating a safe culture for all children.

All staff should ensure that if they have a concern, disclosure or worry in regard to a member of staff that this is discussed directly with the Headteacher.

Headteachers/Executive Headteachers should access the Management of Allegation Training provided by Walsall LA, delivered by the LADO. These sessions can be booked via the following link: [Event List : All Adults & Children](#)

If the concern is regarding the Headteacher, this should be discussed with the CEO of the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust and/or Chair of Governors.

Academies should speak to the Local Authority Designated Officer for advice/guidance when an allegation is made.

Where an allegation is made, the Trust's Director of Safeguarding and Attendance and/or CEO should be made aware following the Management of Allegation Notification Form in the earliest stages, for oversight purposes. The academy should complete the Concern/allegation notification form without delay.

Please refer to the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust Managing Allegations Policy.

Professional Development and Training

All staff, Trustees, Governors, and Volunteers are required to undertake relevant safeguarding training, and this is regularly reviewed by each academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure it is up to date.

A training schedule is put together by the Trust Director of Safeguarding and Attendance to ensure that everyone has the knowledge and skills to carry out their role and responsibilities safely and with confidence.

Across the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust and its academies, all staff are consistently reminded of the systems, policies, and procedures used to support child protection and safeguarding. These are also explained as part of the staff induction and reviewed at the very start of the academic year.

There is a Lighthouse DSL/DDSL Network, facilitated by the Trust's Director of Safeguarding and Attendance and made up of at least one representative from each academy. Which meets regularly (at least termly) to talk through new initiatives, training opportunities, local contextual issues, and the wider perspectives involving child protection.

Curriculum

All Lighthouse academies make age-appropriate provision for teaching children about how to keep themselves safe, including online, and enjoy healthy lifestyles as part of each academy's personalised approach to delivery of the PSHE and computing curriculum.

Our academies are committed to offering our learners preventative education to ensure that learners are aware of safeguarding risks, recognise when they are at risk and how and where to get help and support if they need it.

They will be taught about healthy relationships online and offline, how to keep themselves and others safe, including online. To be effective, we employ best practice principles to help create a safe classroom environment and to plan and teach effectively.

Academies recognise this will need to be tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of individual children, including those who have been victims of abuse and children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Monitoring

Safeguarding and child protection is reviewed regularly in each academy by the Director of Safeguarding and Attendance. Reviews/visits are undertaken to ensure that safeguarding systems and processes are working.

These include (but not limited to) the monitoring of each academy Single Central Record, the monitoring of safeguarding policies and procedures including, an audit of CPOMS records and the effectiveness of report writing, website compliance checks and learning walks as the monitoring of training for all employees and volunteer's guidance and support.

A full written summary of findings and actions that need attention is produced which is shared with the CEO and each local governing body/Trustees.

Any areas of need are followed up with each academy with actions revisited to ensure compliance.

Each academy has a named link governor for safeguarding and attendance. The link governor reviews safeguarding procedures across the academy on a termly basis and will be invited into the academy alongside the Trust Director of Safeguarding and Attendance at the Safeguarding Context Visits.

The CEO, wider central team and the Trust Director of Safeguarding and Attendance are responsible for supporting Head teachers, Designated Safeguarding Leads fulfil their statutory duties and hold them to account.

Academy Safeguarding Expectations

Everyone working across The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust is wholly committed to promoting the welfare of children. All children have the right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious belief or sexual identity.

To fulfil this commitment, comprehensive safeguarding and child protection systems are in place in line with the DfE statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children.

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust believes that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is the responsibility of everyone. We demonstrate this through our shared culture of safeguarding. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play, and all staff should make sure their approach is wholly child-centred. This means that at all times, they consider what is in the best interest of the child and young person.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to, and respecting them – embedding a culture where the voice of the child is paramount
- Appointing a nominated Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSLs) and at least one Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in each academy who share overall accountability for safeguarding in their academy and whose names are displayed for staff, pupils and visitors to refer to, in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education. DSL/DDSLS will receive an annual safeguarding update and refresh their DSL/DDSLS certificate every two years
- Appointing a named link governor for Safeguarding and attendance. The link governor will review the academy safeguarding arrangements on at least a termly basis.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers in order for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare
- Reviewing and scrutinising academy systems and procedures through regular monitoring by the link governor, Trust Director for Safeguarding and Attendance and wider central team. Academies are expected to complete the relevant Section 175, Trust Reviews and regular reporting and data capture
- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all academies adhere to the safer recruitment practices. Those involved with the recruitment and employment of staff to work with children will have received the appropriate safer recruitment training
- Recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection and legislation and guidance
- Monitoring and reviewing child protection, safeguarding and pastoral/welfare issues through local systems which culminate in accurate reporting and external scrutiny arrangements
- Using safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our systems and policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently and that they have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. This includes reading part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education. All staff across the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust must read part (not the slimmed down version), the safeguarding and child protection policy, the staff code of conduct, the behaviour policy and the academy procedures for children who are absent from education.
- Using the published procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place and that these have been communicated across each academy community
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff, volunteers, children, young people and families treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work, and one-to-one discussions
- Making sure that children, young people, and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff, and volunteers by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

Policy

Each academy has its own Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy written in accordance with their respective local authority procedures.

Our academies recognise that they have an important role to play in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and contribute to multi-agency working as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children.

As a relevant agency, each academy understands its role within local safeguarding arrangements and operates in accordance with their relevant local authority multi agency procedures, including the Threshold Document, and local protocols for assessment.

The purpose of each academy's safeguarding policy is to ensure appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

Academy policies will:

- Reflect the whole academy approach to child on child abuse
- Reflect reporting systems as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education. Describe procedures which are in accordance with government guidance
- Refer to locally agreed multi agency safeguarding arrangements put in place by the local safeguarding partners
- Include policies as reflected in Part 2 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, for example online safety, and special educational needs and disabilities
- Be reviewed annually (as a minimum) and updated if needed, so that it is kept up to date with safeguarding issues as they emerge and evolve including lessons learnt.

Attendance

Please refer to the local academy attendance and punctuality policy.

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust and its academies are aware that children being absent from the academy, particularly repeatedly and/or for prolonged periods, and children missing education can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities.

This may include abuse and neglect such as sexual abuse or exploitation and can also be a sign of child criminal exploitation including involvement in county lines. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation, so called 'honour'-based abuse or risk of forced marriage.

We recognise that early intervention is essential to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future. Therefore, all staff will receive training on attendance, with dedicated attendance training for any staff with a specified attendance function in their role, including administrative, pastoral or family support staff, and senior leaders.

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust will closely monitor attendance of all pupils. The Trust Director of Safeguarding and Attendance and wider central team will gather regular attendance data for pupils across the Trust.

We will closely monitor persistent absenteeism and those pupils who are severely absent from the academy. We will also monitor demographics and groups and how this compares to local and national data.

The Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust will monitor processes and procedures, conducting termly attendance spot checks, attendance reviews, multi-agency work and their compliance to policy.

All academies will identify a senior leader as a Senior Attendance Champion, who will liaise with the Lighthouse Attendance Officer and the wider central team as and when required.

The Lighthouse Academy Trust will also support academies with embedding policy and procedures including following the EBSNA pathway. Each academy will follow the DFE Guidance 'Working Together to Improve the academy Attendance'.