

Annual Safeguarding Statement of Assurance

Academic Year 2018 – 2019

1. Nexus Multi Academy Trust provides high quality educational provision for children and young people on roll at:
 - Abbey Special Academy, Rotherham;
 - Hilltop Special Academy, Rotherham;
 - Kelford Special Academy, Rotherham;
 - Pennine View Special Academy, Doncaster.
2. The Nexus MAT Board of Directors understands the safeguarding responsibilities placed upon the Trust as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 and considers them of vital importance.
3. The organisation meets its statutory requirements in relation to the Disclosure and Barring Scheme. Trust policy ensures all employees and volunteers who work with children and young adults have had appropriate check and that these are recorded – along with other relevant information – on the Single Central Record of each academy.
4. Safeguarding policies are up to date and robust. Policies are reviewed regularly (at least annually) and updated in response to national guidance and guidance from local safeguarding children boards.
5. Each academy has a named Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Each Designated Safeguarding Lead is offered half termly supervision from an external social work consultant, commissioned by the Trust.
6. All staff have undertaken and are up to date with safeguarding training, both core and on specific subjects or themes (such as child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation etc). There is a plan in place in each academy which provides clear expectations of training. This is delivered through face to face sessions on school INSET and/or twilight sessions, with updates shared at regular whole-school workforce briefing sessions.
7. Children and young people are supported to self-safeguard through each academy's personalised approach to delivery of the PSHE curriculum.

8. Half termly safeguarding audits are undertaken in each academy by an external auditor commissioned by the Trust. Reports are produced and submitted termly to local governing body meetings and the Trust's Standards Committee.
9. The Trust has a named e-safety lead for each academy and facilitates half termly network meetings to share best practice and ensure peer support and development is in place. In 2018-19, all e-safety leads were offered the opportunity undertake accredit CEOP training to further their skills development.
10. Each academy has a named link governor for safeguarding. Local Governing Bodies review safeguarding across their academy at least 3 times a year through the business meetings cycle for local governance.
11. There is a Board Director who is the named lead for safeguarding. The Board reviews safeguarding across the organisation at least 3 times a year through the work of the Standards Committee.
12. Behaviour and wellbeing is reporting on separately to local governing bodies, to ensure a holistic view of safeguarding and welfare is presented. Reports are submitted to local governors at least 3 times per year.
13. The Trust executive lead for safeguarding is the Chief Executive Officer.
14. In 2018-2019, Ofsted inspections at Abbey, Hilltop and Kelford Schools found safeguarding to be effective in each academy.
15. The Nexus MAT Board has been assured by Ofsted that at Abbey School:
 - The school safeguarding team is highly motivated and effective.
 - The deputy designated safeguarding lead (DSL) adheres very closely to all aspects of the requirements of the legislative guidance in 'Keeping children safe in education 2018'.
 - Staff are well trained and have a clear understanding of what to do should a child seek help from them.
 - Notes kept in pupils' safeguarding records are detailed and evidence the active role played by leaders in championing the needs of pupils and their families in safeguarding meetings.
16. The Nexus MAT Board has been assured by Ofsted that at Hilltop School:
 - Safeguarding is effective.

- The school has ensured that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose and that records are detailed and of high quality. The well-maintained register of staff pre-employment checks meets all statutory requirements.
- Staff are knowledgeable about the circumstances that arise which make pupils vulnerable, both in and out of school. Staff training about safeguarding and child protection is extensive and refreshed with weekly briefings. The interventions team works well with families and other agencies to keep pupils safe. The school make sure that concerns about pupils are identified and reported immediately. As a result, prompt action is taken to keep pupils safe and protect them from harm.

17. The Nexus MAT Board has been assured by Ofsted that at Kelford School:

- The leadership team ensures that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose and records are of a high quality. The two designated safeguarding officers (DSOs) are meticulous and knowledgeable, both in relation to safeguarding training and the pupils within the school. Across all sites, the DSOs and their deputy work effectively to support and manage pupils who have complex issues and report these to the local authority when necessary.
- The wider staff team has a positive grasp of safeguarding issues and understands the risks to their pupils. Staff are vigilant for signs of distress, agitation and any possible neglect and abuse. They are confident with the safeguarding policies and procedures of the school and know how to record and report any concerns effectively.
- The school ensures that there are ongoing opportunities for pupils to learn how to keep themselves safe through the wider curriculum. As a result, pupils feel safe and can articulate how to keep themselves safe outside school, for example when online or on public transport.

18. Whilst Pennine View has not yet been inspected by Ofsted since becoming an academy in April 2017, it was subject to a non-formal designation section 8 inspection in February 2017, two months before it officially converted and 4 months after Nexus MAT began supporting the school. From that visit, the Nexus MAT Board were assured by Ofsted that at Pennine View School:

- During the inspection, [the HMI] scrutinised the single central record, staff recruitment files and other documents relating to safeguarding and child protection arrangements. [The HMI] met with the Headteacher, the senior team, staff members, two representatives of the 'intervention board' (interim governing body arrangements) and the chief executive of Nexus...

- Having considered the evidence, [the HMI is] of the opinion that at this time safeguarding is effective;
- Significant and timely work has been undertaken to upskill staff in understanding what constitutes a safeguarding or child protection concern and their responsibilities in how to respond to such concerns;
- Strong support from Nexus, not least through placing an interim executive Headteacher, has been pivotal in the development of the rigorous practice now in school. The collective impact of the external support has helped to promote the culture of safeguarding now clearly evident across the school.

19. On the basis of this work, Nexus Multi Academy Trust confirms it has considered its position in regard to safeguarding children and has assurance that it is meeting requirements and is following good practice.

Name:	Peter Castleton
Designated:	Named Director – Safeguarding
Date:	24 th July 2019