



EDUCATION
and
LEADERSHIP
Trust



MANAGING ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE MADE AGAINST OTHER CHILDREN

V1.4

Date reviewed and approved by policy committee:	26.06.19	Responsible for this policy:	Deputy Headteachers 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 6 .		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
26.06.19	25.10.16	V1.4	Amendments	Yes	CTE

CONTENTS

1. Purpose of the Policy	4
2. Safeguarding Allegations	4
3. Examples of Peer on Peer Safeguarding issues	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 from 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

All staff should be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse.

Occasionally, allegations may be made against students by other students 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 PEER ON PEER SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

- bullying (including cyberbullying)
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shoving, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- sexual violence and harassment
- sexting (also known as youth pictured sexual imagery)
- initiations / hazing type violence and rituals

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.

Criminal exploitations of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity.

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 Designated 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.