

**CHILD PROTECTION**

**POLICY**

**September 2023**

**Aims and Values**

West Midlands Consortium staff, including all associates and ATs, have a responsibility to ensure that they adhere to the three main elements of Child Protection policy:

* **Prevention** through the creation of a positive school atmosphere and the teaching, and pastoral support, offered to pupils.
* **Protection** by following agreed procedures and ensuring that all staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to child protection concerns.
* **Support** to pupils who may have been abused.

**The Legislative Framework**

Child protection is the responsibility of all adults and especially those working with children.

Our schools work in accordance with the statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (DfE, September 2018) and ‘[Working Together’](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf) (DfE, 2015).

As of July 2015, the [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (HMG, 2015)](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents) placed a duty on schools and other education providers. Under section 26 of the Act, schools are required, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the PREVENT duty.

It requires schools to:

* teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life and must promote community cohesion
* be safe spaces in which children/young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas
* be mindful of their existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues

Our partnership schools work in accordance with the PREVENT Duty and approach this issue in the same way as any other child protection matter.

As of October 2015, the [Serious Crime Act 2015](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/serious-crime-bill) (Home Office, 2015) introduced a duty on teachers (and other professionals) to notify the police of known cases of female genital mutilation where it appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18. Our schools operate in accordance with the statutory requirements relating to this issue, and in line with existing local safeguarding procedures.

**Associate Teachers’ Role in Safeguarding**

ATs should follow their placement school’s safeguarding policies and procedures.

Any AT receiving a disclosure of abuse or noticing signs or indicators of abuse, should make an accurate record as soon as possible noting what was said or seen (if appropriate using a body map to record), putting the event in context, and giving the date, time and location.  All records should be dated and signed and will include the action taken. These should then presented to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy) who will decide on appropriate action.

Confidentiality is an issue which needs to be discussed and fully understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of child protection.  The only purpose of confidentiality in this respect is to benefit the child.  An AT must **never** guarantee confidentiality to a pupil and will not agree with a pupil to keep a secret as, where there is a child protection concern, this must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and may require further investigation by appropriate authorities.

**Allegations involving an Associate Teacher**

Partnership schools work in accordance with statutory guidance in respect of allegations against an adult working with children, including ATs.

Partnership schools have processes in place for reporting any concerns about a member of staff (or any adult working with children). Any concerns about the conduct of an AT should be referred to the Headteacher (or the Deputy Headteacher in their absence) and to the Director of ITT. These concerns would then be investigated following our disciplinary procedure and referred to the Chair of West Midlands Consortium.

**Data will be processed in line with the requirements and protections set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation.**

**To be reviewed September 2024 – or sooner if necessary**