



Safeguarding

**GEORGE
SALTER
ACADEMY**

Issue Number 1
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Bulletin

Welcome to the first issue of GSA's Safeguarding Bulletin.

The objective in issuing this bulletin regularly is to raise awareness of Safeguarding issues at GSA, enabling us all to keep the policies, processes and statutory obligations at the forefront of our day-to-day practice.

This bulletin is intended to summarise key areas of Safeguarding whilst at the same time remind all staff of the processes should any concerns arise.

If you have any questions following reading this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me on Ext 257, my email (richard.reeve@georgesalter.com) or via my office (Academy reception).

Best wishes,

Richard.

Safeguarding Concerns and who do you inform?

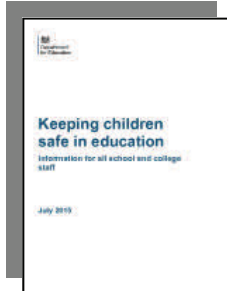
If you have a concern that a child is being abused (Physical; Emotional; Neglectful; Sexual) or in danger of suffering from abuse, please inform your Designated Safeguarding Lead. If unavailable, please inform the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Principal.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Richard Reeve
(ext 257; richard.reeve@georgesalter.com)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): Natasha Good
(ext 329; natasha.good@georgesalter.com)

Key Documents

As a reminder, the two key DfE documents that everyone in GSA **must have read** are:



Keeping Children Safe in Education – Statutory guidance for schools and colleges - Summary:

Sets out what institutions should and must do to keep children safe in their setting.

It outlines in 4 parts the responsibilities of school staff:

- 1) What school staff should know and do
- 2) The responsibilities of the Governing Body
- 3) Safer Recruitment selection and pre-employment vetting/checks
- 4) How schools must handle allegations made against teachers and staff

Working Together to Safeguard Children - Summary:

This is guidance for all levels of the local authority, including the Chief Executive in Sandwell, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), Children's Services and Senior Managers within a range of agencies, including schools. It covers legislative requirements and expectations for individual services to, effectively, work together.

The guidance outlines for all agencies the importance of assessing needs and providing help to children and families of concern; the legal responsibilities of all agencies; the statutory requirements for LSCB's and the processes for improving support (for example through Serious Case Reviews undertaken upon the death of a child).

Sandwell Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB)

The SSCB is our Local Safeguarding Children's Board. When we at GSA have concerns about a child, the DSL refers the child and the concern to the SSCB via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The current priorities of the SSCB include gathering information on Child-Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Each time the DSL refers a child to the MASH team (ie where there is a serious concern of abuse) we must also complete a CSE checklist - even if the concern does not, on the surface, obviously relate to CSE.

Key Policies

Female-Genital Mutilation (FGM)

mandatory reporting Duty

On 1st October 2015 the new mandatory duty to report suspected cases of FGM to the Police came into effect. The relevant section in the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) guidance appears to suggest that individual teachers should contact the Police themselves in such cases. However, at a Safeguarding briefing recently the advice given was that **teachers should report it to their Designated Safeguarding Lead** (as per any child protection concern) who will then pass the information onto the Police. There is then one person through whom all referrals go rather than a free-for-all. The general feeling appears to be that the advice in KCSIE will be revised for the next edition with the onus on staff to report suspected cases of FGM to their DSL—and not to take on the responsibility of referring things to the Police themselves. Therefore: if at GSA you have an FGM-related concern, always contact the DSL as soon as possible.

E-Safety

We have a new E-Safety policy that is due to be ratified by the Governing Body shortly. The key points are:

All staff and pupils must agree to the ICT code of conduct to be able to access the GSA network.

The DSL and ICT Technicians will monitor the use of ICT within the GSA network.

Social Network Sites: Staff should ensure that their social media pages are "private" and **must not accept current students as "friends"/"followers"** on social media or identify themselves as working for GSA.

GSA Social Media Pages **must only publish images of students where consent has been given. It is the responsibility of the staff member to ensure this (there are up-to-date consent lists on Frog).**

GSA Social Media Pages must not refer to student names or links to student social media pages.

The misuse of the Academy's computer systems by a member of staff will be reported to the Principal or the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Staff can be subjected to disciplinary action.

This policy accompanies the new "Use of Photographs and Videos Policy". Please note the following quote from this policy: "Only official academy owned equipment will be used to capture images of children for official purposes. Use of personal cameras by staff (including mobile phones) is prohibited at all times."

Key Policies Continued...

Procedure for responding to allegations of abuse by teachers and other school staff

Our policy with regard to reporting allegations of abuse by any staff in GSA has been updated and the key points for all staff to be aware of are here:

Where a member of staff needs to report an allegation of abuse by any member of staff in GSA, this allegation **must be reported to the Principal**.

Where the allegation is concerning the Principal or DSL, this allegation **must be reported to the Chair of Governors**. (The Chair of Governors can be contacted via Sarah Davies, Ext 234).

Prevent Duty

To help schools fulfil their Prevent duty (ensuring students are not drawn into extremism, radicalisation and terrorism) the DfE has launched a new website called Educate Against Hate (<http://educateagainsthate.com>)

The overarching message put forward on this website is as follows....

“Our school is a place that inspires and engages young minds. Our school believes in democracy and the laws of the country, where every individual has a voice that is heard and respected, no matter what their faith or belief. Our school values discussion, debate and learning from others. Our school believes that division belongs in mathematics, not the classroom. There is no place for extremism in our school.”

Please share this message with pupils whenever appropriate—whether that is in form period, a lesson, during unstructured time or in an assembly. Posters promoting this message will be appearing around school in due course.

Put yourself in this scenario.....

A pupil has sent you a piece of homework via e-mail that you pick up at home at 8.45pm. On the e-mail it also says, “This piece of homework is the last thing I will do because I am going to kill myself later.” What would you do when you are not in school, have no contact with the DSL and are faced with this on your screen ?

In such circumstances the best advice is to dial 999. You will have the pupil's name and their address can easily be found on e-portal through GSA's Frog Website. It is also worth noting the phone number for Sandwell MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) who would provide another avenue of assistance. The number there is 0121 569 8144. Always alert the DSL as soon as possible the next day if you have had to take such action.