



**GEORGE  
SALTER  
ACADEMY**

**Issue Number 1**

**May 2016**

# Safeguarding Bulletin

Welcome to the first issue of George Salter Academy's Safeguarding Bulletin for Parents and Pupils.

The objective in issuing this bulletin regularly is to raise awareness amongst our Academy community of safeguarding issues. It is the fundamental objective of all schools to keep their students safe and we believe that this is best achieved through sharing information and tips to support parents and young people in this aim.

This bulletin is intended to summarise key areas of Safeguarding whilst at the same time remind all parents of the best ways to communicate with staff at GSA should any concerns arise.

If you have any questions following reading this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0121 553 4665, Ext 257 or via my email address ([richard.reeve@georgesalter.com](mailto:richard.reeve@georgesalter.com)).

Best wishes,

Mr R Reeve

Vice Principal (Inclusion) & Designated Safeguarding Lead.

## **Safeguarding Concerns and who do you inform?**

If you have a concern about the safety of a child at GSA then please inform us.

There are various ways of contacting us, for example through your child's House Office. However, if your concern is about any child, and is related to suspected or known safety concerns, for example abuse, please contact one of the following:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mr R Reeve  
(ext 257; [richard.reeve@georgesalter.com](mailto:richard.reeve@georgesalter.com))

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): Mrs N Good  
(ext 329; [natasha.good@georgesalter.com](mailto:natasha.good@georgesalter.com))

Interim Principal: Mrs P Walters (ext 222; [pat.walters@georgesalter.com](mailto:pat.walters@georgesalter.com)) or Mr A Westerman (ext 222; [alan.westerman@georgesalter.com](mailto:alan.westerman@georgesalter.com))

## **Safeguarding Training**

All staff at GSA, both teaching and non-teaching, are trained in at least Level 1 Safeguarding Training and this is refreshed annually. The Designated Safeguarding Lead and his Deputy, as well as the Head of Sixth Form are trained at Level 3.

Level 1: All staff and Governors receive refresher training each year, which includes the signs and symptoms of abuse that may raise a concern about a child's welfare, as well as updates on the latest legal requirements for all schools as mandated by Her Majesty's Government. For example, in 2015 a new statutory requirement was put in place for school staff to report concerns about potential radicalisation/extremism (as part of the government's "Prevent" strategy) and also Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). All staff have received specific training in both. This enables our staff to support our students in how to keep themselves safe in 21st century Britain, reinforcing the British Values of tolerance of others and respect for the rule of law and democracy.

Level 3: This is advanced training undertaken by senior leaders in the Academy with responsibility for Safeguarding. This enables these staff to understand and implement all statutory guidance for schools, as well as the process necessary should the Academy staff become concerned about the welfare of a young person in their care. The Designated Safeguarding Lead has the responsibility of reporting concerns to the local authority.

## **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.

## **Support for Parents**

### **E-Safety**

For most parents, monitoring the use of the internet and social media by our children is a stressful and difficult thing to achieve! At GSA, we seek to support parents in keeping their children safe by teaching youngsters the best ways to stay safe in the modern "electronic" world.

Two useful websites for parents to support in keeping their children safe online are:

#### **Net aware: Parents review kids' social networks, apps & games**

Netware is a parents' guide to the social networks children and young people use. Stay up to date and keep your child safe in today's digital world. [www.net-aware.org.uk/](http://www.net-aware.org.uk/)

#### **Staying safe on Minecraft | ParentInfo: support for parents whose children play "Minecraft".**

<http://parentinfo.org/article/staying-safe-on-minecraft>

### **E-Safety Policy**

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

All pupils must agree to the code of conduct for the use of our computer software — they will be required to agree to these conditions each time they log on.

The Academy will monitor the use of ICT within the GSA network. Any misuse of Academy software (for example accessing prohibited sites and searching for illicit material) will be sanctioned within the Behaviour Policy.

Social Network Sites: Students **must not seek to contact staff as "friends"/"followers"** on social media.

The Academy **will only publish images of students on the Academy website where consent has been given by parents/carers.**

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

### **Key Safeguarding Information**

On the first page of this bulletin, I referred to the "Prevent Duty", FGM and CSE. Here is some information on these 3 key areas that we at GSA feel is important to share information on in order to keep our children safe:

**Prevent Duty** This is one strand of the Government's "Contest" strategy, designed to prevent people becoming radicalised into an extremist ideology, eventually leading to terrorism. Teachers are trained to look out for the signs of radicalisation. For more information, visit [educateagainsthate.com](http://educateagainsthate.com), a website for parents and teachers offering practical advice on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation.

**Female-Genital Mutilation (FGM)**: An increasingly worrying and illegal activity is the practise of young girls being forced to undergo a painful operation that is regarded as "the deliberate mutilation of female genitalia". Teachers are trained to be aware of the signs and symptoms of a young person who has or may be in danger of undergoing this procedure. For more information on FGM, visit the Daughters of Eve website, [dofeve.org](http://dofeve.org) which explains what FGM is and why it happens.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**: CSE is a distressing form of sexual, emotional and physical abuse of children. National concern about CSE is such that our local safeguarding board has placed it as a priority within Sandwell social care. Indeed, each time we at GSA refer a concern to the local authority, we complete a CSE checklist on that young person—even if the immediate concern may appear unrelated to CSE. For more information on CSE, visit [paceuk.info](http://paceuk.info). PACE is an organisation set up to support parents in understanding the dangers of CSE and to prevent their children from becoming vulnerable to these dangers.

