



PONTRACFT
ACADEMIES TRUST



Safeguarding Strategy

Our Mission

Running top quality, high achieving schools that give our children and young people the chance in life they deserve.

Our Vision

Where every child and young person makes outstanding progress.

Introduction

The Trust's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance. The safeguarding strategy for Pontefract Academies Trust is aligned entirely by the Trust's strategic priorities. Leaders and all staff have a collective responsibility to ensure that our children and young people are safe from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

We are committed to creating a safeguarding culture where all leaders and staff ensure there is vigilance around keeping everyone safe and that decisions are made in the best interests of the child.

Working alongside Wakefield Safeguarding Partnership and other agencies to ensure that rigorous arrangements are in place to identify, assess, and support (including the sharing of information appropriately) those pupils who are potentially suffering harm and to keep them safe and secure whilst in our care.



Principles

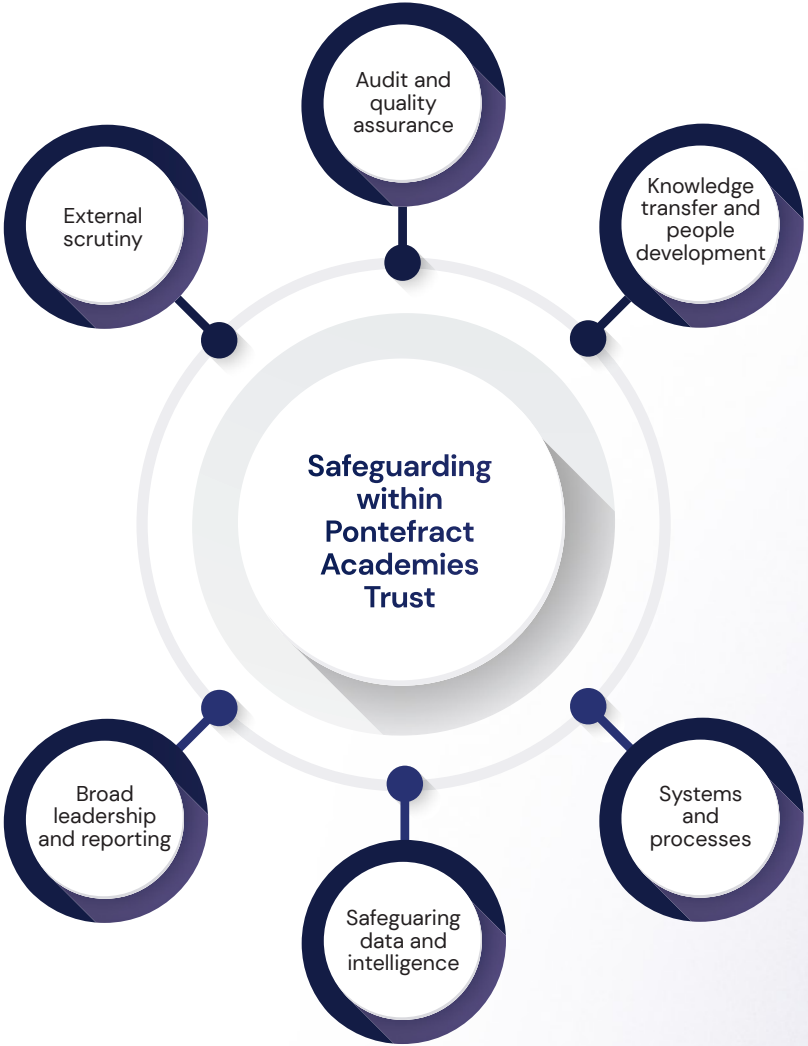
Pontefract Academies Trust works on three overarching principles which we believe are realistic, achievable, and measurable:

Our Principles

1. The voice and experience of our children are central to the work that we do to uphold strong safeguarding across our Trust partnership. We will promote, hear and learn from stakeholder groups which in turn will inform our responses and policies.
2. Pontefract Academies Trust has a workforce that has the knowledge, skills, and expertise to effectively uphold strong safeguarding standards across our partnership, understands abuse, and is equipped to respond in a timely, appropriate, and sensitive manner.
3. Through robust auditing and quality assurance a Trust culture of Safeguarding is underpinned by operational consistency, continuous improvement, and communication that is challenged at all levels.

Safeguarding broad areas

Alongside our three overarching principles Pontefract Academies Trust operate safeguarding practices that are aligned to six broad areas:



Audit and quality assurance

This is about reviewing the reality. This plan will demonstrate how the delivery of safeguarding will be assured, and standards improved. This will enable the Trust to offer effective internal challenge, monitor and ensure improvements take place.

Knowledge transfer and people development

High quality people development can have a positive impact on safeguarding standards. Our strategy will include how we are committed to knowledge transfer and links directly to our Trust Strategic Plan.

Systems and processes

Focusing on safeguarding delivery, our systems and processes will focus on standardising online systems. This will include onboard systems and processes for Trust growth.

Safeguarding data and intelligence

High quality online systems enable the Trust to consider intelligence from the community, including the local authority, parents and staff which can trigger powerful preventative interventions.

Board leadership and reporting

The opportunity to ensure long term appropriate scrutiny, oversight, support and challenge by the governance and Trust Board.

External scrutiny

Linked to audit and quality assurance, the Trust will welcome independent review and challenge, we will take this as an opportunity to draw different perspectives and work collaboratively.

Strategic Priorities



Operation Consistency

- Trust-wide safeguarding and child protection including associated policies that are in line with local safeguarding partners' recommendations and national legislation which is the foundation stone of all Trust safeguarding practices.
- To embed the role of Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding within the Trust.
- To embed the Trust wide quality assurance approach, safeguarding spotlights, incident reviews audits, network meetings, site learning walks, review of annual statutory audits, policy and procedures, staff safeguarding training and continued professional development of Designated Safeguarding Leads.
- Represent the Trust at local and national conferences and partnership meetings.
- Audit safeguarding arrangements in the schools, including the single central record, recording and reporting, child voice and the culture across the Trust annually.
- External alternative provision providers audit model to be developed as part of safeguarding due diligence.
- Consider a model of enhanced early intervention that is used Trust wide.
- Attendance to feature as an integral role as part of safeguarding practice and reporting.



Trust Wide Communication

- Comprehensive signposting safeguarding elements across the Trust websites that is accessible to both parents and pupils.
- Establish a cycle of regular safeguarding leader network meetings for all designated leaders across the Trust to access information and signposting to services that are available across the locality.
- A published directory of services.
- The Trust wide supervision model to be filtered into safeguarding teams in each setting in order to share advice and experiences, and provide opportunities to talk, listen and reflect. Supervision training for safeguarding leads.
- To ensure that a clear operating model in safeguarding follows the Trust model of upscaling for potential growth.

Knowledge Transfer and Professional Development

- Embed a development cycle of training for all staff from induction to established safeguarding leads using both in house training and external providers for successful knowledge transfer.
- To develop the role of Trustee for Safeguarding in line with DFE recommendations.
- To begin to share good practice and Trust expertise beyond the bounds of the Trust. To work on collaborative projects cross Trust.
- To develop the mental health and well-being charter across the Trust.
- Establish a rigorous induction model for all newly appointed staff during the onboarding process to ensure that safeguarding is of high priority in line with the embedded practice of safer recruitment.



Governance and Accountability

- The Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding will ensure that regular reports are presented to the Executive Leadership Team and Trust Board on the area of Safeguarding.
- To ensure that the relevant committees have oversight of the Pontefract Academies Trust Safeguarding Strategy and review, support and challenge the priorities of the Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding and the safeguarding teams.
- Safeguarding representation to feature as a part of the Governance Conferences.

Quality Assurance

- To work collaboratively with other Trust leads in Safeguarding to establish an audit system to use across settings. These links to be used as peer quality assurance from external sources.
- To ensure that external validation is in place through a detailed audit of Safeguarding across the Trust.



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