CAMPFIRE EDUCATION TRUST SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

September 2025

Review Date: September 2026

At Campfire Education Trust, the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is of paramount concern and we are wholly committed to ensuring that every child is cared for in a safe and secure environment.

Safeguarding legislation and government guidance says that safeguarding means:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- Protecting children from maltreatment whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

(Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025)

We promote a culture of 'Everyone's Responsibility' in our Trust and school settings. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all Trust members, employees, governors and volunteers are expected to adopt a child-centred approach. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child and should at all times follow the safeguarding policies and procedures set out by the Trust. To fulfil our safeguarding commitment, a number of arrangements are in place.

<u>Policies and Procedures:</u>

All members of the Trust and employees are required to comply with all legislation, and other guidance approved by the Trust. In particular, members of the Trust and employees must be aware of their duty under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As a group of schools, we have a particular opportunity and responsibility to notice indicators of possible abuse or neglect and to report them.

All academies in the Trust adhere to the following three DFE safeguarding documents:

- Working together to safeguard children
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DFE latest guidance)
- The Prevent Duty

All policies in respect of safeguarding children are kept up to date and in line with the DFE's latest guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025*. The Child Protection policy is reviewed annually

by Trustees and is adapted by each school to reflect local reporting routes and contexts. It is then approved by the Local Governing Body (LGB) of each academy.

All policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding are accessible to staff via the staff shared drive and to volunteers and parents via the school websites. The Trust website also provides access to all statutory policies.

Safeguarding responsibilities and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

The Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for safeguarding issues and ensuring that appropriate policies to safeguard and protect children are adopted and followed by the Trust itself and by the individual academies that belong to it. The strategic oversight of safeguarding is delegated to the CEO of the Trust.

The Trust Safeguarding Lead is Jo Moore (Education and Standards Director). The Deputy Trust Safeguarding Lead is Sarah Jones (Executive Headteacher).

Within each academy there are Designated Safeguarding Leads who lead on child protection issues in their school. They are clear about their role, have sufficient time and receive relevant support, and training, to undertake their roles, which includes close contact with outside agencies including social services, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and relevant health care organisations.

The Trust supports each academy with their safeguarding duty by:

- Having a nominated Trustee with special responsibility for safeguarding;
- Ensuring there is a governor on each academy's Local Governing Board with special responsibility for safeguarding;
- Having a school improvement director who supports all academies with safeguarding and attendance and is responsible for ensuring the consistency of policies and procedures across the Trust;
- Undertaking safeguarding external/internal reviews and Local Authority audits on a regular basis.

Training

All Trust members, governors and employees receive appropriate Child Protection and safeguarding training, which is regularly updated. The Headteacher of each academy school is responsible for ensuring staff training is up to date and a training log is maintained to monitor this. Trust employees are expected to have a regular safeguarding training cycle that includes the statutory Child Protection training as well as wider safeguarding training (eg the Prevent Duty and Online Safety training). Trust employees should also receive regular safeguarding updates, at least annually.

Safer Recruitment

All applicants for employment at Campfire Education Trust and its Academies will be fully vetted in accordance with DfE Guidelines Safeguarding Children: Safer Recruitment and Selection in Education Settings. All employees undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Check (DBS) prior to starting their employment at Campfire Education Trust.