

Safeguarding Strategy



Inspire
Partnership

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. At Inspire Partnership Academy Trust (IPAT), we recognise that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is fundamental to everything we do. This strategy outlines how the Trust ensures the highest standards of safeguarding across all schools, continuously improving practice and embedding a culture of vigilance, accountability, and care.
- 1.2. This strategy should be read alongside the Trust's [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#) and the latest statutory guidance from [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSiE\)](#).

2. About this Strategy

- 2.1. This document sets out IPAT's strategic approach to safeguarding, detailing our governance structures, review mechanisms and improvement processes. It provides clarity on roles, responsibilities and oversight functions within the Trust to ensure robust safeguarding across all schools.
- 2.2. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Every member of our Trust community has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action to protect children from harm.

3. Trust Safeguarding Governance

3.1. IPAT Standards Committee

- 3.1.1. Members: Chair of Trustees, Safeguarding Link member, Chief Executive Officer and Trust Education Leader
- 3.1.2. Terms of Reference:
 - To review the effectiveness of safeguarding and attendance processes and systems across all Trust schools.
 - To review trends and patterns in safeguarding incidents and ensure prompt response to emerging concerns.

- To monitor compliance with statutory and Trust safeguarding requirements.
- To provide regular safeguarding reports and recommendations to the Trust Board.

3.1.3. Meetings: Once per term.

3.1.4. Reporting to: IPAT Trust Board.

3.2. IPAT Safeguarding Networking Hub

3.2.1. Members: Trust Inclusion Leader, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) from each Trust school.

Invitees: Trustee with safeguarding responsibility.

3.2.2. Terms of Reference:

- To share safeguarding best practice across all Trust schools.
- To review anonymised case studies and discuss learning outcomes.
- To ensure schools remain informed about updated statutory and local safeguarding guidance.

3.2.3. Meetings: Once per term.

4. Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

4.1. Policy in respect of safeguarding is mainly determined at a national and local authority level and is the responsibility of each school to implement. Within the Inspire Partnership Trust, the Trust Education Leader and Trust Inclusion Leader ensures policy and compliance adherence to national and local policies in the interest of vulnerable children and young people. Failure to implement appropriate arrangements in schools to safeguard and promote the well-being of children carries significant reputational risk for the Trust.

- 4.2. The Inspire Partnership's template policy is based on National guidance and legislation. Each school personalises this template to reflect local procedures inline with the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership for the Local Authority in which they are situated.

5. Safeguarding Oversight Framework

- 5.1. To ensure safeguarding remains strong and consistent across the Trust, the following activities take place on an annual, termly, weekly and ongoing cycle.

5.2. Annual Activities

5.2.1. Annual Safeguarding Audits

Each school completes a full safeguarding audit every autumn term. DSLs receive training from the Trust on how to carry out the audit to ensure consistency in approach and judgements reached. The process is evidence-based and follows a secure fit model when. Findings are reviewed each term and are used to develop action plans for improvement. The actions are monitored by the Local Community Council (LCCs) and the Trust education team. LCC monitoring visits are formally reported and recorded.

5.2.2. Annual Safeguarding Report

A comprehensive Annual Safeguarding Report is presented at the first full Trust Board meeting each academic year. The report summarises Trust-wide data, trends and key actions from the previous year's audits and reviews.

5.2.3. Safeguarding CPD Programme

Annual safeguarding and child protection training is delivered to all school staff, Trustees, the central team, and Local Community Council (LCC) members. Compliance checks ensure all staff complete the training, and content is updated in line with the latest KCSiE and local safeguarding partnership requirements.

5.2.4. Internal Safeguarding Audit (SCR/HR Focus)

An internal audit reviews Single Central Record and HR processes annually to ensure compliance and to identify any risks or improvements.

5.3. Termly Activities

- 5.3.1. Standards Committee Meetings
The IPAT Standards Committee meets once per term to review safeguarding effectiveness, emerging issues, and compliance across the Trust.
- 5.3.2. DSL Network Meetings
Designated Safeguarding Leads from each school meet termly to share updates, discuss practice, and reflect on national and local safeguarding challenges.
- 5.3.3. Inclusion Check-ins
Termly inclusion meetings take place with all schools to review safeguarding audits, inclusion priorities, and follow-up actions. Additional sessions are scheduled for schools requiring enhanced support.
- 5.3.4. Safeguarding Supervision
All DSLs receive structured termly supervision. This allows for reflective discussion on current caseloads, professional development, and identification of gaps in knowledge or unconscious bias.
- 5.3.5. Trust Leader School Visits (Safeguarding Focus)
Trust leaders visit schools routinely, with safeguarding forming a key component of their reviews.
- 5.3.6. Desktop Review of CPOMs and Arbor
Termly reviews of safeguarding logs (CPOMs) and attendance/welfare data (Arbor) are completed. Findings are discussed with school leaders and followed up as necessary.
- 5.3.7. Single Central Record (SCR) Monitoring
SCRs are reviewed three times per half term by the Trust Education Leader in collaboration with the HR to ensure all checks remain up to date. An alert system identifies DBS renewals three months prior to expiry.
- 5.3.8. Trustee Link Meetings
The Trust Safeguarding Lead meets with the Link Trustee for Safeguarding once per

half term to review Trust-wide safeguarding performance, key trends, and areas for focus.

5.3.9. Safeguarding Action Plans

Each school maintains an up-to-date safeguarding action plan, reviewed termly and monitored by the Trust Safeguarding and Inclusion Lead. The actions identified in the audit are also monitored by the Local Community Council (LCC) which are reported and recorded in the meeting minutes.

5.4. Weekly Activities

5.4.1. Weekly Attendance Check-ins

Trust education team leaders conduct weekly attendance reviews with identified schools to monitor pupil attendance and follow up on concerns.

5.4.2. Executive Oversight of Attendance Data

Attendance data is reviewed weekly at Trust level to identify patterns and ensure timely intervention.

5.5. Ongoing Activities

5.5.1. Continuous Policy Review

All safeguarding policies are reviewed at least annually and updated in line with national guidance, local authority protocols, and KCSiE updates.

5.5.2. Safeguarding Action Plans

Each school maintains an up-to-date safeguarding action plan, reviewed termly and monitored by the Trust Safeguarding and Inclusion Lead. The actions identified in the audit are also monitored by the Local Community Council (LCC) which are reported and recorded in the meeting minutes.

5.5.3. Culture of Safeguarding

Safeguarding is embedded in all aspects of Trust life, with staff encouraged to remain professionally curious, vigilant, and proactive in promoting the welfare of children.

- 5.5.4. External Safeguarding Visits
Visits are conducted by the school improvement partner, providing an objective assessment of safeguarding practice in schools and informing Trust-wide learning.
- 5.5.5. Leavers and joiners
For pupils leaving, the DSL ensures the safe transfer of child protection files to the next school; for pupils arriving, the DSL requests the safe transfer of such files from the previous school.
- 5.5.6. Safer recruitment practices
The Trust consistently implements rigorous safer recruitment processes and practices for all new staff.

5.6. Review and Evaluation

- 5.6.1. The Trust Safeguarding Strategy is reviewed annually by the Standards Committee and approved by the Trust Board. Updates reflect statutory changes, audit outcomes, and findings from internal and external reviews.
- 5.6.2. The Trust's cycle of monitoring and evaluation ensures that safeguarding is not a compliance exercise but a continuous journey of improvement and accountability.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. Through clear governance, structured oversight, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of children, Inspire Partnership Academy Trust ensures that safeguarding remains at the heart of its work.
- 6.2. This strategy ensures a consistent, evidence-based, and transparent approach to safeguarding across all schools, empowering staff and leaders to keep every child safe.

7. Safeguarding Timeline

7.1. This document provides a termly overview of key safeguarding practices and how these are reported to at Trust level.

| Term | What | Shared with |
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| Autumn 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trust Inclusion Leader delivers safeguarding training to Central team, members and Trustees ● School Designated Safeguarding Lead ensures updated CP Policy is on website and ratified by Trust Board ● School Designated Safeguarding Lead delivers Annual Safeguarding using training material provided by the Trust ● Standards Committee meeting ● Annual safeguarding audits ● Half-termly Trustee Link Meetings ● Trust Education Leader produces Annual Safeguarding Update for previous year for Trust ● Online training completed for all staff ● KCSIE compliance checks carried out ● Disqualification checks carried out ● Inclusion check in carried out ● Desktop Review of CPOMs and Arbor ● Single Central Record (SCR) Monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HT ● TEL/TIL ● DSL/HT ● CEO, DCEO TB |

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| Autumn 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust Inclusion Leader carries out inclusion check in with all schools Safeguarding Network for sharing of good practice across schools Half-termly Trustee Link Meetings LCC monitoring of the safeguarding Audit Inclusion check in carried out Safeguarding supervision Single Central Record (SCR) Monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HT, TIL CEO/DCEO, TB LCC |
| Spring 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards Committee meeting: Annual Safeguarding Audit Action plan Summary for Trust Half-termly Trustee Link Meetings Audit (internal and external) across all 10 schools Inclusion check in carried out Desktop Review of CPOMs and Arbor Single Central Record (SCR) Monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEO, DCEO TB |
| Spring 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Network for sharing of good practice across school Half-termly Trustee Link Meetings Audit termly review LCC monitoring of the safeguarding Audit Inclusion check in carried out Safeguarding supervision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TEL/TIL LCC |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single Central Record (SCR) Monitoring | |
| Summer 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards Committee meeting: Annual Safeguarding Audit Action plan Summary for Trust • Half-termly Trustee Link Meetings • Inclusion check in carried out • Desktop Review of CPOMs and Arbor • Single Central Record (SCR) Monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HT, TIL • CEO, DCEO TB |
| Summer 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Network for sharing of good practice across schools • Trust Inclusion Leader updates Trust CP Policy updated to reflect latest KCSIE guidance • Half-termly Trustee Link Meetings • LCC monitoring of the safeguarding Audit • Audit termly review • Inclusion check in carried out • Safeguarding supervision • Single Central Record (SCR) Monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TIL • CEO, TB, DSL |
| Misc | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Attendance Check-ins & Executive oversight of attendance • Safeguarding training if outside 3 year window • DSL arranges Safeguarding Induction for each new employee as they join school. • Pupils leaving DSL arranges for safe transfer of CP files to next school | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEL/TIL • HR • HT/DSL |

| | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils arriving DSL requests safe transfer of any CP files from previous school • External Improvement Partner visits | |
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Key

- HT Headteacher
- DSL Designated Safeguarding Lead (School)
- HR Human Resources
- TEL Trust Education Leader
- TIL Trust Inclusion Lead
- CEO Chief Executive Officer
- DECO Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- TB Trust Board
- LCC Local Community Council