

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY – FOR PARENTS / CARERS



VANTAGE ACADEMY TRUST

Document Name	Child Protection Policy – For Parents / Carers
Document written by	L. Jones
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Responsibility	Trustees
Approved by	

*subject to any relevant changes in legislation or other appropriate guidelines

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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Vantage Multi Academy Trust, herein 'the Trust', is concerned that all pupils remain safe, free from harm and is committed to playing a full and active part in the multi-agency response to child protection concerns. Additionally, the Trust has a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to have a child protection policy to meet Department for Education and Skills and Department of Health requirements.
- 1.2 Through their day to day contact with pupils, and direct work with families, education staff have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect. Parents should be aware therefore that where it appears to a member of staff, that a child may have been abused, the school is required as part of the local child protection procedures, to report their concern to Social Care immediately. To avoid any misunderstandings therefore, parents of children who sustain accidental injuries which result in cuts/bruises/fractures should inform the school **without delay**.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 2.2 Guiding principles at the core of the Trusts safeguarding ethos are:
- Children have a right to be safe.
 - Parents have a right to be informed.
 - Children are best protected when parents and school can work together.

PARTNERSHIP

- 3.1 Our Schools will inform parents of any concerns about their children (providing it does not compromise the pupil's safety) and will help and support them as necessary.

PREVENTION

- 4.1 We will take positive action to prevent children suffering abuse and neglect through the development of an open culture that informs children of their rights and encourages them to speak about any concerns. The Trust will also address the issue of children's safety through the curriculum.

RESPONDING TO CONCERNS

- 5.1 We will refer all allegations or concerns that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected to Social Care within the Children's Services Department.
- 5.2 We will consult with other agencies when it has concerns that a child may have been abused or neglected.
- 5.3 Our Schools will discuss with parents any concerns they have about children.
- 5.4 Parents will be kept informed of what has happened.

CHILD/CHILD ABUSE

- 6.1 Physical and emotional abuse of children by other children will be dealt with through the school's anti-bullying policy.
- 6.2 Parents will be kept informed.
- 6.3 All concerns about possible sexual abuse will be referred to Social Care.

CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

- 7.1 Our employees will attend conferences and provide information about children and families. This information will be shared with parents beforehand.
- 7.2 The Trust will keep confidential child protection records separately from a pupil's academic and other school records.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1 Information from parents about possible child abuse cannot be kept confidential.
- 8.2 Information and records about children on the Child Protection Register will be given only to those people who need it and will be kept strictly confidential by them.
- 8.3 If parents have concerns about their child, they should contact the School Principal.