

Procedure 6.15 Safeguarding

General statement of intent

Docklands Academy London believes that all children attending courses or participating in any activity are entitled to thrive in a happy, safe and secure environment. All parents, adult assistants and employees/sub-contractors will be made aware of the fact that organisations that work with children must have child protection procedures in place. The Academy will take its responsibilities regarding child protection seriously and has developed a clear and common sense set of procedures covering all children under the age of 18 for whom the Academy may have responsibility. Fundamental elements are:

- the Academy has a legal responsibility to protect children and vulnerable adults in its care
- a child is defined as any person under the age of 18. Note that this might include teaching assistants and other assistants or volunteers
- in addition to employees/sub-contractors of the Academy, parents and adult assistants fulfilling nominated roles at Academy events are agents of the Academy
- parents, adult assistants and employees/sub-contractors should not put themselves in positions where they could be accused of any form of abuse
- if any parent, adult assistant or employee sees or hears anything which could be perceived as either poor practice or abuse in relation to the care of children, the incident has to be reported to the designated lead safeguarding officer and/or any other safeguarding officer.
- the Designated Lead Safeguarding officer (DSL) must have a level 3 qualification in Leading in Child Safeguarding. The other Safeguarding Officers must have a level 2 qualification.

Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer (DSL): Murray Cooper

Safeguarding Officers: Birgul Rose Aslan and Eglina Bubliauskaite

DBS checks

All staff including volunteers and group leaders coming from outside the UK, who have unsupervised access to children and young people, must be subject to DBS checks or the equivalent and the Academy must hold a copy of every DBS or equivalent check document for all relevant staff and volunteers.

Where it is not practicable to obtain actual police check documents of group leaders coming with U18s through partner agencies, a signed letter must be provided stating what type of police check has been obtained for each group leader. This should be stipulated in a standard agreement contract which must be signed between The Academy and the partner Agency. New staff will not be able to work alone with children until their enhanced DBS check has been completed and the original certificate been seen and recorded. Such staff will not be permitted to teach U18s and must never be left alone in a room with U18s without another member of staff with up-to-date DBS check.

Safe recruitment procedures

The Academy will ensure that all staff and volunteers recruited to work with children will be subject to the following procedures:

- Paid and unpaid staff must complete written application forms which include a section about past convictions, cautions, reprimands and final warnings including any pending cases and a section about any previous complaints of abuse against them
- All candidates short-listed must be interviewed by a panel of at least two
- There must be a full investigation of every applicant's employment history and any gaps in their cv must be questioned and fully explained
- Applicants must provide references from two referees that specify there is no reason why the applicant should not be engaged in situations where they will have responsibility for, or substantial access to, persons under 18
- Applicants must provide proof of ID and address.

Safeguarding at Docklands Academy, London

The Academy is based near Crossharbour DLR close to open water and park land and children need to be supervised by an appropriate adult if they are walking outside the building. The Academy may offer work placements and internships to U18s in its restaurant chain.

While working in the restaurants and making trips from the Academy to the restaurants, U18s must be supervised by an appropriate member of staff or group leader.

Induction and training for staff and volunteers

All staff and volunteers must:

- participate in a full induction briefing session on taking up their employment, which includes reading and responding to the Academy's Safeguarding and Health and Safety procedures
- attend training courses on safeguarding as and when made available, so that they are able to recognise signs of abuse and know the appropriate reporting systems for it and how to respond to disclosures of abuse
- be supervised on a daily basis and their progress monitored and reviewed once every year by their line manager and submitted to the Board of Governance for evaluation.

Definitions of the four forms of abuse

There are four main forms of abuse:

Neglect

This is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It includes such things as failure to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, allowing a child to wear inappropriate clothing, providing inappropriate food, providing insufficient attention including unresponsiveness to basic emotional needs, lack of supervision, deficient safety provision, exposure to undue cold, unnecessary risk of injury.

Physical abuse

This involves physically hurting a child in any way such as hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating, giving a child alcohol, giving medication without permission, intensity of training beyond the capacity of the individual. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent/carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child they are looking after. A person might do this because they enjoy or need the attention they get through having a sick child. Physical abuse, as well as being the result of an act of commission can also be caused through omission or the failure to act to protect.

Sexual abuse

This involves any aspect of sexual abuse, whether physical or verbal including inappropriate physical contact. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in all kinds and degrees of sexual activity whether or not the child is aware of or consents to what is happening. Physical contact includes penetrative and non-penetrative acts such as fondling. Sexual abuse may also include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at, or the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Boys and girls can be

sexually abused by males and/or females, by adults and other young people regardless of their background.

Emotional abuse

This is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve making a child feel or believe they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only as a means of meeting the needs of another person and not their own. This type of abuse can often take the form of shouting, threatening or taunting children, constant criticism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform.

Signs of Abuse

To recognise child abuse, look for the following physical and behavioral symptoms:

Some signs of physical child abuse

- burns, bite marks, cuts, bruises, or welts in the shape of an object
- reluctance to return home
- fear of adults

Some signs of emotional child abuse

- apathy, depression
- hostility
- difficulty concentrating

Some signs of sexual child abuse

- inappropriate interest in or knowledge of sexual acts
- seductiveness
- avoidance of things related to sexuality, or rejection of own genitals or body
- either overcompliance or excessive aggression
- fear of a particular person or family member

Some signs of neglect of a child

- clothing unsuited to the weather
- being dirty or unbathed
- extreme hunger
- apparent lack of supervision

For further information check the following websites:

www.helpguide.org www.chidline.org.uk www.nspcc.org.uk

Effects of abuse

Abuse in all its forms can affect a child of any age. The effects can be so damaging that they may follow an individual into adulthood.

A number of studies suggest that children with disabilities are at increased risk of abuse through various factors such as stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, isolation and powerlessness to protect themselves or adequately communicate that abuse has occurred. Children from ethnic minorities, who may also be experiencing racial discrimination, may be doubly powerless.

Responding to the child

If a child says or indicates that he or she is being abused, or information is obtained which gives concern that a child is being abused, the person receiving this information should:

- react calmly so as not to frighten the child
- do not interrogate the child. It is not your job to carry out an investigation – this will be up to the police and social services
- don't cast doubt on what the child has told you and don't interrupt or change the subject
- don't say anything that makes the child feel responsible for the abuse. Tell the child that he or she is not to blame and that it was right to tell
- take what the child says extremely seriously, recognising the difficulties inherent in interpreting what is said by a child who has a speech disability and/or differences in language

- act at all times towards the child as if you believe what they are saying
- keep questions to the absolute minimum to ensure a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said
- reassure the child but do not make promises of confidentiality which might not be feasible in the light of subsequent developments
- take further action immediately. Tell your designated child protection person who must follow it up
- make a full written record of what has been said, heard, and/or seen as soon as possible using the confidential Child Abuse Incident Record Form.

The Academy`s Code of Behaviour

General

The following notes are provided to give general guidance to avoid the possibility of claims of abuse against parents, adult assistants or employees/sub-contractors. If parents, adult assistants or employees/sub-contractors have any uncertainty over whether they are using good practice they should seek guidance from his or her supervisor or senior manager. Avoid doing anything which is not totally open and make sure that all children are treated the same way.

- avoid any favouritism
- avoid being overly tactile
- avoid fitting clothing or equipment; try to get the children to put things on for themselves
- if it is necessary to assist a child to put on clothing or equipment, get him or her to agree that you will fit it and explain what you are doing while you are assisting him/her
- if you have to assist a child to put on clothing or equipment, make sure you do so openly and in sight of other participants
- avoid making any contact with the child`s genitalia and, in the case of a girl, her chest
- if you are required to lift, carry or support a child, for instance, lifting a child into a chair after a fall, avoid making contact with sensitive parts of the body, explain what you are doing while you are doing it and, where practicable, gain their consent

- do not put yourself in a position where you find yourself alone with a child out of public view
- do not make any sexually suggestive comment to any child
- do not engage in rough physical or provocative games or horseplay with any child
- if you are working with groups where physical contact is inevitable, such as disabled or younger children (under 12 years old), it is essential that carers` or parents` consent to the methods of lifting, carrying or other contact which will take place
- never leave a child or a group of children unsupervised

Parents and Guardians in Lessons

Parents entering a lesson can be disruptive to the children's learning. Therefore, parents/guardians will be asked not to enter the classroom during a lesson and group leaders will be informed about this rule before lessons begin

Toilets and changing rooms

Males should not enter female toilets or changing rooms unless there is an emergency. Females should not enter male toilets or changing rooms unless there is an emergency.

Being approached by a child

If any child makes approaches to you or is overly familiar, you should extract yourself from the situation and report the matter to your supervisor or senior manager as soon as possible.

Supervision

The Academy has a clear responsibility for supervising children when undertaking any programme or activity on the premises or outside. The person responsible for supervising children at any given time must:

- keep a check on visitors and guests using a visitors book to record whether their visit is by invitation or unsolicited to ensure the welfare of children is safeguarded at all times
- ensure there is a minimum of two members of suitably appointed staff in attendance at all times children are present and unaccompanied by a parent/carer and a minimum ratio of 2 adults to every 20 children
- ensure Health & Safety procedures are adhered to and equipment checked on a regular basis
- ensure parents/carers complete the written consent form before children or young people can be taken off site.

Responsibility

For all classes/events the following table identifies who is responsible and when. The table is applicable to most other Academy activities and the Activity Organiser is responsible for examining the table for applicability, and drawing up and publishing a similar table if necessary.

Table 1

Activity	Responsibility
From stated start of teaching, activities or events until declared completion of training activities or events for the day.	Teacher, leisure activities supervisor, group leader or child-carer, recruited by the Academy.
Child unable to participate in activities through being unwell.	Teacher, leisure activities supervisor, or assistant until specifically relieved of this obligation by the child's own parent/guardian or nominated guardian.
From declared completion of teaching, activities or events for the day until stated start of subsequent day's activities.	Parent or guardian nominated by the child's own parent/guardian.

Children who are unwell

If an unaccompanied child is unwell while participating in a class, activity or event, the Academy is responsible for the child's care. If more than a minor nature, that is, needing to see a doctor or be taken to hospital, the child's own parents (or guardians) must be contacted to inform them of the situation. No young person under the age of 18 can be left unattended with either a doctor or at a hospital.

A child who is unable to participate in activities through being unwell must be supervised. Senior management must be informed of the situation.

If you suspect abuse or poor practice is taking place

You have a responsibility to report any concern you may have that a child attending a class, activity or event is being subjected to any form of abuse or poor practice. If you have a concern, you must take the action identified in the Child Protection procedures management flow chart

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

ROUTINE PRECAUTIONARY PROCEDURES

For all activities involving children

The designated safeguarding officer:

- Nominates a Group Supervisor from the teachers, play-workers or child-carers recruited and identifies who is in charge overall during events/activities involving children.

The Group Supervisor:

- Ensures relevant medical details are made available to the designated child protection officer.
- Ensures details of parents' home addresses and contact phone numbers are available to the designated child protection officer.
- Ensures that an adult nominated by each child's parent or carer is available in the locality of the venue and that a contact telephone number is held by the designated child protection officer on site.

Whistle - blowing protocols

All staff and volunteers have a duty to report concerns about a member of staff or volunteer. It is important that any concerns for the welfare of a child arising from suspected abuse or harassment by a member of staff or volunteer must be reported to either the designated child protection officer or his/her deputy immediately (see contact details below). Anyone reporting concerns in good faith about a colleague abusing a child will receive the Academy's full support. Whistleblowers will be regarded as witnesses and not complainants so that it is possible to separate the message from the messenger.

All allegations of abuse against a member of staff or volunteer must be fully recorded and reported using the **Child Abuse Incident Record Form**.

The designated child protection officer will make every effort to maintain confidentiality for all concerned and consideration will be given to the support that may be appropriate to children, parents/carers, staff members and volunteers.

If unsure about how to proceed with a whistle blowing situation staff and/or volunteers should seek immediate advice from Social Services or the NSPCC (see contact details below).

MANAGEMENT FLOW CHART

IF YOU HAVE CONCERN

Your action	<i>You have concern that a child might be being subjected to abuse or poor practice by an employee, adult assistant or accompanying parent/carer.</i>	
	Record what you saw or heard on the child protection report form.	
	Report the incident to the designated safeguarding officer, or duty officer at social services if the child protection officer is unavailable and it is deemed appropriate.	
	<i>Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of these incidents you should not discuss the matter with other staff or members of the public.</i>	
Action – normally initiated by the responsible person at the time indicated by Table 1.	Take report from whoever reported the matter and complete the child protection report form.	
If it appears to be a case of poor practice:		If it appears to be a case of abuse:
Interview the reported person immediately.		Interview the reported person immediately.
Record details on child protection report form.		Record details on child protection report form.

<p>If not an employee of the Academy, report to the organisation concerned verbally and in writing.</p>		<p>Contact Course Supervisor and Centre Manager who will discuss incident with Board of Governance.</p>
<p>Identify the poor practice.</p>		<p>Deal with internally or refer to external agencies.</p>
<p>Treat as a misconduct issue. Identify areas for improvement.</p>		<p>If not an employee, report to the organisation concerned verbally and in writing.</p>
<p>Record details for future reference on child protection report form.</p>		<p>If internal, treat as disciplinary matter. Record details on child protection report form. Identify aspects below required standard. Issue warning and file on personal file.</p>
<p>Monitor the situation.</p>		<p>If referred externally:</p>
		<p>Suspend employee pending inquiry.</p>
		<p>Inform social services and co-operate with them and/or the police during the inquiry.</p>
		<p>Keep Principal informed of investigation and outcomes.</p>
		<p>Comply with inquiry findings.</p>

Child Abuse Incident Record form

Attach all relevant information to this form.

1. Date of incident:.....Time of incident:.....
2. Person completing this form:.....
3. Position of person completing this form:.....
4. Details of the person reporting the incident:

Name.....
Address.....
.....

5. Details of the child involved in the incident

Name.....
Address.....
.....
DoB.....

6. Details of the parent/carer(s)

Name.....
Address.....
.....

7. Details of the person reported for poor practice or potential abuse:

Name.....
Address.....
.....

8. Notes of Incident and what was said or done by whom (*do not lead the child – record actual details*). Continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

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9. Action taken so far:

10. Is this a case of poor practice or potential abuse?

11. Poor practice – state action taken:

12. Is it potential abuse?

13. Contact designated child protection officer or Principal immediately.

14. Brief notes of this discussion:

15. If agreed follow external investigation procedure.

16. Suspend employee in writing, pending investigation.

Date of suspension:

Time of suspension:

Attach copy of letter

17. Inform Social Services, who will carry out an investigation or involve police.

Date:

Time of call:

Contact officer:

Telephone number:

18. Action taken as a result of external investigation:

Safe environment

It is the policy of the Academy to comply with the terms of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsequent legislation to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our employees and volunteers, and to provide such information, training and supervision as they need for this purpose.

The Academy also recognises and accepts its responsibility to protect the health and safety of all visitors to the workplace (including contractors, temporary staff, visiting teachers, students, children and other centre users and any members of the public) who might be affected by our activities.

The Academy will also ensure suitably robust Health and Safety procedures are in place in any other locations where we may run activities for children and/or adults.

A copy of this procedure will be issued to each member of staff and volunteer. The procedure will be kept up to date and the way in which it has operated will be reviewed each year. Please refer to Policy 9 *Facilities and Health and Safety* and its associated procedures for further details.

The designated Child Protection Officer or his/her deputy will be responsible for the following:

- liaising with the Board of Governance regarding all health and safety issues relating to children involved in activities run by the Academy.
- carrying out risk assessments prior to any away days or trips
- ensuring adequate monitoring of the safety and suitability of all materials and equipment has been carried out prior to use by children including the study/play area(s), play equipment, transport arrangements and vehicles
- ensuring that adequate First Aid provision is available on site with a qualified First Aider that has immediate access to a phone with emergency contact phone numbers.

Contact details

**Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for concerns about children
Local Area Designated officer (LADO) for allegations about staff**

Tower Hamlets

Mulberry Place, Policy, Programme & Community Insight
5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG
Tel: 020 7364 2063
Web: <http://www.LSCB-towerhamlets.gov.uk>

LSCB Chair: Stephen Ashley, stephen.ashley@towerhamlets.gov.uk

LSCB Business Manager: Monawara Bakht
monawara.bakht@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Emergency: if you believe a child is in imminent danger: 999

Anonymous reporting of Child Abuse to Police

Tel: 020 7421 0307

NSPCC

Child protection helpline 0808 800 5000