



Safeguarding Update

Summer Term 2021

Dear All,

Happy Summer!

Congratulations on making it to the holidays! To finish off the term we'd just like to share our Summer Term Safeguarding Update. Feel free to save this until you are back at work in September!

At Learning Academies we collectively take our responsibilities in regards to Safeguarding extremely seriously. We work hard to keep everyone as safe as possible, our students, tutors, families and all who work as part of the Learning Academies team.

We work in partnership with a range of organisations to maintain a safe learning environment for all, including SAFE CIC, the NSPCC, Essex Safeguarding Board and GBG to name but a few. As an organisation, we believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and by encouraging each other to remain vigilant and well informed we can all play an important part in this endeavour.

Our termly newsletters pull together information from our key partners and other national briefings and we encourage you to read through this latest Safeguarding Update to ensure you remain up to date with changes and developments, on both a local and national basis - particularly in the current climate of Covid-19. We'd like to pass on our thanks, as ever to SAFE CIC for their ongoing safeguarding support and to Jo Barclay, Head of Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing Education Directorate, for Essex County Council. We'd also like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all our tutors who have been incredible during a time of real change.



Learning Academies - Covid Update

During the first 'lockdown' we added a Covid 19 Amendment to our Safeguarding Policy and completed a Coronavirus Risk Assessment. Both documents, along with an Online Zoom Safety Guide. These have been added to our website and shared previously. In addition, as we moved back towards Face to Face working we produced two new documents summarising our company's Covid response. For your convenience all five documents are shared here and can be found on the [SAFEGUARDING PAGE](#) of our website.

[Covid 19 – Amendment to Safeguarding Policy](#)

[Coronavirus – Risk Assessment](#)

[Online Safety Zoom Pdf](#)

[Our-Covid-19-Response ParentsCarers](#)

[Our-Covid-19-Response Tutors](#)

Your Apollo Portal

The development of our Tutor Apollo Portal has been incredibly helpful. It's now the 'gateway' to all our recruitment work. Tutors that have completed their recruitment checks with LA can log into their portal to access the dashboard below.

All LA policies, including our [Safeguarding Policy](#), can be found in the Policies and Procedures section. <https://apollo.learningacademies.co.uk/>

You are also able to update your contact details (including your emergency contact and any relevant medical information).

The section highlighted below under 'Induction, CPD and Shop' includes a full induction to the background of our company, the way we work and, amongst other key information, our approach to safeguarding. All tutors must ensure they are familiar with this.

The screenshot shows the Apollo Portal dashboard for a tutor. The dashboard is a grid of colorful tiles. A yellow circle highlights the 'Induction, CPD and Shop' tile, which is located in the bottom left of the grid. Other tiles include 'Notifications', 'My Profile Details', 'My CV / Application Form', 'Further Profile Details', 'My Contract', 'My Students', 'Registers', 'Resources', 'Pre and Post Session Checklists', 'Policies and Procedures', 'Safeguarding', and 'Contact Us'. The top of the page shows the website URL 'apollo.learningacademies.co.uk/Tutor/Dashboard' and contact information for Learning Academies.

In particular we draw your attention to the following policies;

Safeguarding
Behaviour and Organisation
Fire Safety
Fire Evacuation Procedure and our
Health and Safety Policy.

Government Guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1. Part One (Summary) of this key document can be found [HERE](#). This is shared with all tutors upon recruitment and updated via these updates as required.

Please note, that our [Safer Recruitment Policy](#) has been updated to include the new core legislation and guidance as part of 'Keeping Children Safe in School' which was reissued by the Government in September 2020 and updated in January 2021 (Post Brexit). [Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2020](#). The DfE revised version of [KCSIE 2020](#) has changes strictly limited to those related to the UK leaving the EU. From 01 January 2021 the TRA Teacher Services system no longer maintained a list of those teachers who have been sanctioned in EEA member states. This means that, for Learning Academies, all candidates from overseas **must** undergo the same checks as all other staff in schools, including obtaining an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list information. This still applies even if the candidate has never been to the UK.



Supporting Our Online Learning

We have recently introduced 3 new guidance documents to support our online tutoring work, ensuring we all work in a safe and organised way. These outline our expectations for online learning, specifically for tutors, students and parents. Copies of these can be found on our website.

[Tutors' Online Protocols](#)

[Students' Online Protocols](#)

[Parents/Guardians Online Learning Guidance](#)

Wider opening of schools

The DfE has published the [Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance \(DfE, February 2021\)](#) to set out arrangements for the wider opening of schools in March 2021. Whilst this does not impact directly upon us, it does have a major impact on the provision of our NTP Programme work. Wherever possible we aim to continue working online to reduce the footfall of additional adults to our schools. Where our iAspire Tuition Programme is a student's only educational provision we will continue to follow the relevant county guidelines in regards to delivery.

**Any Concerns re. Safeguarding?
You can always speak to our DSLs.**

Learning Academies Designated Safeguarding Leads

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are trained to at least a Level 3.

Our current DSL's are Sacha Brakenbury and Matthew Brakenbury.

Sacha can be contacted on 0845 463 1342 or by email at sacha@learningacademies.co.uk.

Matthew can be reached on 01206 252152 or by email at matthew@learningacademies.co.uk.

SAFE CIC Update:

The top of the news this month is for education colleagues, with the publication of two long awaited draft guidance documents, both to commence September 2021.

[Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#) for governing bodies, proprietors, headteachers, principles, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads . This update highlights best practice and cross-references other advice, statutory guidance and the legal framework. Much of the document remains unchanged but some areas have been developed to increase knowledge, learning and reporting on this difficult subject. It is an important resource for anyone who works in schools and colleges.

and

Statutory [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#) Annex G, provides a table of substantive changes from September 2021 (page 161)

Resources: SAFEcic provides a range of free sector specific resource sites providing information on the safeguarding requirements within your setting. Here is a link to the Education Information.

Education

News

The Guardian and other news media have reported that the government has pledged to raise the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 in England and Wales. [Read more...](#)

Statutory and Good Practice Guidance

1. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) have updated ID checking guidelines in line with new right to work rules. [Read more...](#)
2. New minimum standards for the support of rape and sexual violence victims has been published by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). [Read more...](#)

Reports, Reviews, Resources, Research and Inquiries

1. Ofsted's inspectors visited 32 state and private schools and colleges and spoke to more than 900 children and young people about the prevalence of sexual harassment in their lives and the lives of their peers. [Read more...](#)
2. Statement from the CQC Chief Inspectors on developing the CQC's monitoring approach:
"As we move forward from the last year, we're making some changes to how we regulate." [Read more...](#)
3. Ofsted has published updated education inspection handbooks, effective from September 2021, clarifying how inspectors will assess how schools and colleges confront sexual harassment, abuse and violence among children and young people. [Read more...](#)

Worthy of note

1. A tool that works to help young people get nude images or videos removed from the internet has been launched this week by the NSPCC's Childline service and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). [Read more...](#)
2. A specialised new team will take 'digital fingerprints' of millions of images so companies and organisations around the world can spot them and have them removed. [Read more...](#)
3. A whole generation of children may have been left "traumatised" during the pandemic, social workers have warned.
They say a 20% fall in child protection orders in Wales, a figure found by a BBC probe, paints a false picture. [Read more...](#)
4. Tax credits customers should be vigilant and alert to potential scams, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has warned, as the remaining annual renewal packs will arrive in the post this week. [Read more...](#)

5. Pope Francis has worked to tackle child sexual abuse since 2013. The change is the biggest change in the criminal code of the Church for nearly 40 years. [Read more...](#)

6. The creation of a central NHS digital database from GP records in England will be delayed by two months, the government has announced. [Read more...](#)

Other Useful Links

Keeping Children safe online

www.thinkuknow.co.uk www.disrespectnobody.co.uk www.saferinternet.org.uk
www.internetmatters.org www.childnet.com/cyberbullying-guidance <https://www.educateagainsthate.com/>
www.pshe-association.org.uk www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-use-of-social-media-for-online-radicalisation

General Safeguarding Advice

[Government Guidance: What To Do If You Are Worried About A Child Being Abused](#)

[Government Guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

[Government Guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education PART ONE ONLY](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)

In addition, should you ever find yourself in a position whereby you need to contact your local council if you think a child or young person is at risk or is being abused or neglected then you can use the Government's Postcode Tool below;

[Government Postcode Tool: Reporting Child Abuse to Your Local Council](#)

Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes (DfE, 2021)

In collaboration with partners in the UK Council for Internet Safety's Education subgroup and the Samaritans, the DfE has provided [new guidance](#) and advice for schools and colleges, that will support their approach to tackling harmful online challenges and online hoaxes, whilst keeping children safe online.

Concerns about Driving Instructors

Our Essex Safeguarding Lead has been made aware of a number of concerns raised by older pupils and their parents about inappropriate conduct of driving instructors. If you find yourself tutoring students who are accessing driving lessons it may be helpful to share the following links to help students safeguard themselves;

<https://www.gov.uk/learn-to-drive-a-car>

<https://www.gov.uk/find-driving-schools-and-lessons> (all instructors on the list will have had a DBS check and passed all the qualification tests to become an instructor)

<https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-a-driving-instructor>

Barnardos – Invisible Lives / CAPI (Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment)

Sadly, COVID-19 has impacted on funding for many organisations and Barnardos has had to cease its Invisible Lives (previously known as CAPI) Service, with effect from 4th February 2021.

ENDS