Our Rock Academy

Safeguarding Governance and Accountability Framework

" A nurturing, ambitious and inclusive school where every child feels known, valued and connected."

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Resilience, Ownership, Creativity and Kindness

Purpose

This document sets out the safeguarding governance arrangements for Our Rock Academy and clearly defines the distinct responsibilities of the Proprietor and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). It ensures that strategic oversight and operational safeguarding functions remain separate, providing appropriate challenge, accountability and assurance.

Safeguarding Governance Structure

The Proprietor holds overall responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are effective and comply with statutory requirements. The DSL is responsible for the day-to-day management and implementation of safeguarding procedures.

The Proprietor does not undertake the operational role of the DSL and does not manage safeguarding cases. Their role is to provide strategic oversight, scrutiny, challenge and support.

Strategic Responsibilities of the Proprietor

The Proprietor will:

- Ensure the school complies with all safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Approve and annually review safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Monitor safeguarding effectiveness through regular reporting and quality assurance activities.
- Receive safeguarding reports from the DSL, including information on training, referrals, concerns, attendance, behaviour and safeguarding trends.
- Ensure that the Proprietor and anyone with a governance role receive safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, at induction and keep their knowledge up to date.
- Provide appropriate challenge where safeguarding arrangements require improvement.
- Ensure sufficient resources, staffing and training are available to support effective safeguarding.
- Ensure the DSL has sufficient time, authority, training, resources and support to carry out the role, and that safeguarding concerns are monitored and acted on when the DSL is unavailable
- Verify that safer recruitment procedures are implemented effectively.
- Commission audits or external reviews where necessary.
- Ensure safeguarding remains a standing item within governance and leadership meetings.
- Hold the DSL and school leadership team accountable for safeguarding performance.

The Proprietor will not manage pupils' safeguarding cases. Allegations about staff or leaders will be handled under the school's allegations procedure, with advice from the LADO where required. An

allegation involving the Proprietor will be referred directly to the LADO and will not be managed by the Proprietor.

Operational Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The DSL will:

- Lead and manage safeguarding arrangements on a day-to-day basis.
- Receive, record and respond to safeguarding concerns.
- Make referrals to Children's Social Care, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), the police and other agencies where appropriate.
- Maintain safeguarding records and case files.
- Coordinate multi-agency working and attend safeguarding meetings.
- Provide advice and support to staff regarding safeguarding concerns.
- Deliver and monitor safeguarding training for staff.
- Monitor vulnerable pupils and ensure appropriate support is in place.
- Ensure safeguarding policies are implemented consistently across the school.
- Report safeguarding activity, trends, training compliance and emerging risks to the Proprietor.

Reporting and Accountability

The DSL will provide safeguarding reports to the Proprietor at least termly and more frequently where significant concerns arise.

Reports will include:

- Number and nature of safeguarding concerns.
- Referrals made to external agencies.
- Staff safeguarding training compliance.
- Safer recruitment compliance.
- Attendance and welfare concerns.
- Emerging safeguarding themes and risks.
- Actions taken to address identified issues.

The Proprietor will review these reports, provide challenge where necessary and record the scrutiny undertaken.

Maintaining Separation of Roles

To ensure clear lines of accountability:

- The DSL retains operational responsibility for safeguarding practice and case management.
- The Proprietor retains strategic responsibility for safeguarding oversight and assurance.
- The DSL may contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) directly about an allegation involving the Proprietor or a member of the Proprietor's family, without seeking the Proprietor's permission.
- Safeguarding reports and monitoring activities provide evidence-based scrutiny without compromising the confidentiality or operational independence of safeguarding casework.
- Any concerns regarding the performance of the DSL will be managed through appropriate governance and leadership arrangements.

This framework ensures that safeguarding responsibilities are clearly defined, effective oversight is maintained and governance arrangements meet independent school safeguarding requirements.