Dear Governors,

Attached are safeguarding related documents that we ask you to  read by the 8th October.  We also ask that you engage with the 30 minute webinar and confirm you have done so via email to Karen.

KCSIE

Keeping Children Safe In Education applies to all those who work within a school or college. Although your role as a governor is not directed in the same way, it is important you understand the principles that guide our working practices. It is part 1 that all school staff are expected to read

[Keeping children safe in education 2021 (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1014057/KCSIE_2021_September.pdf)

Safeguarding and child protection policy

Also attached in full is our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. This is updated regularly and is agreed  over the summer ready for INSET via consultation with Julian as Safeguarding Governor and Jane as Chair. The policy explores in detail our approach and expectations regarding safeguarding as well as how this matches the Southend Essex and Thurrock, “SET” procedures which are the guidelines produced by Essex. In terms of you as governors understanding the effectiveness of the policy, I include below a list of areas that should be included and where the detail can be found in the policy. Safeguarding monitoring visits further explore the effectiveness of the policy and our practices.

An Effective Child Protection Policy:

* *reflects the whole school/college approach to peer on peer abuse* – the idea of “all staff” is used in place of ‘whole school’ throughout the policy. “All staff” as a term appears 26 times in the policy. There is specific reference made within the definition of sexual abuse (page 21). Page 23 outlines issues related to Peer on Peer abuse. We also have a separate peer on peer abuse policy.
* *reflects reporting systems* – first reference to new reporting system CPOMS in on page 10-11 which outlines initial reports.  Page 16 contains information on records and information sharing. INSET training will also take staff through this.
* *should describe procedures which are in accordance with government guidance* – each time an action or procedure is informed by government guidance it is referenced accordingly. Additionally, guidance and legislation that has informed the policy are signposted on pages 7-8
* *refers to locally agreed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements put in place by the safeguarding partners* – this is referenced as the “windscreen” in the policy. It is first referenced within the aims of the policy but is fully explored in Appendix 2.
* *includes policies as reflected elsewhere in Part two of this guidance, such as online safety  and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)*  - The Online Safety policy is referenced numerous times, additionally the concept of abuse or risk also being online forms part of the child protection policy. SEND information is referenced numerous times but explicitly referenced as an increase risk factor on page 19
* *where appropriate, reflects serious violence. Further advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office’s Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance* – Details related to serious violence are on page 25, Criminal exploitation details are on page 25, county lines is page 25-26. The guidance document itself is referenced on page 8.
* *should be reviewed annually (as a minimum) and updated if needed, so that it is kept up to date with safeguarding issues as they emerge and evolve, including lessons learnt* – not including the Covid addendums, the policy was reviewed 3 times last academic year. This version represents the first review for the 2021-2022 academic year.
* *is available publicly either via the school or college website or by other means* – Current policy is available on website. If agreed this version will replace existing version on website and be printed for staff to sign for on INSET.

Also  attached for you is our concise staff guide and staff code of conduct. These again explore our expectations of staff regarding safeguarding.

Webinar - <https://youtu.be/cHF_8_U6-5Y>

 This is a version of the training I led during staff INSET. It is specifically aimed at those who work within the school. This will give you firm understanding of what safeguarding is and how we fulfil our duty regarding it within school. The training is intended for adults so please be mindful of this if you watch at home. The final element of the training explores CPOMS, this is something you do not have access to as governors though it will become familiar through things such as safeguarding updates in S&P. Should you become aware of a concern whilst on a monitoring visit or when on site for a meeting, you should report this immediately with a DSL or Carole.