



# Managing Allegations against other children or learners Policy

Policy to be reviewed on:	September 2019
As defined by the AET Governance and Accountability Framework (ARCI)	AET Board
Responsibility	ST/SG

## 1. Introduction

At Tamworth Enterprise College we believe that all children have a right to attend the Academy and learn in a safe environment, Children should be free from harm by other adults as well as other children.

In instances where students negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the behaviour policy.

## **2. Safeguarding allegations**

In an instance where allegations have been made against students by others in the Academy, and the allegations are of a safeguarding nature, this policy will work in conjunction with the TEC Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a pupil, some of the following features will be found.

The allegation:

- is made against an older pupil and refers to their behaviour towards a younger pupil or a more vulnerable pupil
- is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence
- raises risk factors for other pupils in the school
- indicates that other pupils may have been affected by this student
- indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this student

### **3. Examples of safeguarding issues against a student**

#### **3 a) Physical Abuse**

- violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to use drugs or alcohol
- Emotional Abuse
  
- blackmail or extortion
- threats and intimidation

- Sexual Abuse
- indecent exposure, indecent touching or serious sexual assaults
- forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sexting
- Sexual Exploitation
- encouraging other children to attend inappropriate parties
- photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts
- Older students may attempt to recruit younger pupils using any or all of the above methods. Young people suffering from sexual exploitation themselves may be forced to recruit other young people under threat of violence.

#### **4. Minimising the risk of safeguarding concerns towards pupils from other students**

The Principal will have the information from the authority of any students who have the potential to raise safeguarding concerns, for example, they are coming back into school following a period in custody or they have experienced serious abuse themselves.

These students will need have an individual risk management plan to ensure that other pupils are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations.

#### **5. Procedure**

- When an allegation is made by a pupil against another student, members of staff should consider whether the complaint raises a safeguarding concern. If there is a safeguarding concern the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL Simon Turney Principal) should be informed.
- A factual record should be made of the allegation, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances.
- The DSL should contact social services to discuss the case. It is possible that social services are already aware of safeguarding concerns around this young person. The DSL will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a social services referral where appropriate.
- The DSL will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both pupils' files.

- If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police should be contacted at the earliest opportunity and parents informed (of both the student being complained about and the alleged victim).
- It may be appropriate to exclude the pupil being complained about for a period of time according to the school's behaviour policy and procedures.
- Where neither social services nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school's usual disciplinary procedures.
- In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan.
- The plan should be monitored and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned.

This Policy will be used in conjunction with the TEC Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy