

Astrea Academy Trust: Safeguarding Link Member

Overview and Purpose

One of the five core accountabilities of the local committee is to work with the central team to ensure that high standards of safeguarding are maintained.

To help to achieve this, each committee must appoint a named member with link responsibility for safeguarding. He or she will be expected to:

- Ensure that safeguarding is consistently discussed at meetings of the local committee, in particular by questioning and challenging the relevant section of the Principal's Report.
- Undertake the required training and, wherever possible, to complete the other training available in order to strengthen his or her confidence in discussing safeguarding matters.
- Promote this training or reading – and an understanding of safeguarding matters – to others on the committee.
- Liaise with the central team's safeguarding officers concerning any audit activity or matters of concern.
- Support the school, as appropriate, in any audit activity required by the Local Authority.

Individual safeguarding links may agree with their committees to take on other responsibilities as part of the role, but may not remove responsibilities above.

The chair of the committee should take responsibility for ensuring that a link member is appointed.

Participation in the Audit

Astrea's central team conduct at least one safeguarding audit visit a year for each school, liaising directly with the Principal and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) about this. In advance of the audit, the safeguarding link member will be contacted in order to obtain the views of the local committee. This conversation will consider:

- How effective the committee considers safeguarding to be at the school and why;
- What the school's main strengths or advantages are in relation to safeguarding;
- What the biggest safeguarding concerns are for the school.

Once the audit is completed, the findings will be discussed with the link member and he or she will have an opportunity to speak to this item when it is reported to the committee at the next meeting.