

ALSTON MOOR FEDERATION PTA- Safeguarding Policy

All members of Alston Moor Federation Parent Teacher Association (AMF PTA) whether volunteers or committee members have a duty to safeguard children and anyone who they may come into contact with through their role within the PTA.

They should respond to any concerns they may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a child or vulnerable person.

This policy is in place to protect all children and vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

Principles

The welfare of the vulnerable is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All vulnerable adults and children, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards anyone will not be permitted or tolerated.

Policy Statement

1. No volunteer or committee member will be alone with a child (under 18 years of age) at any time while acting on behalf of AMF PTA, without prior consent and knowledge of the committee.
2. All suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and reported to the relevant agency.
3. All volunteers need to be aware of this policy and vulnerable person issues.
4. These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.

Safe Recruitment

All volunteers who have unsupervised physical access to children will:

- Undergo a DBS security vetting and present the original certificate to the nominated Safeguarding Representative for review and recording in the scheme's register. (The Scheme will not keep copies of original certificates.)
- Provide two references if they are not known to the committee.

Having a conviction, caution, reprimand or warning will not necessarily bar anyone from volunteering. This will depend on the circumstances of the event and the nature of the voluntary role to be undertaken. The committee will seek appropriate advice and guidance as necessary from the relevant Safeguarding Authority.

Reporting Incidents

The nominated Safeguarding representative will have the responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the local authority Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult lead agency. If the nominated person is unavailable any member of the committee may act in their place, following this guidance, and any incidents must be reported to the nominated person in full when they are next available.

The nominated person should:

- Know who to contact at the local Authority to report any safeguarding concerns
- Know who to contact in Social Services for advice and referrals.

- Know about helplines and other sources of help for children and young people and vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that there is an environment in which volunteers have the opportunity to raise any child protection or vulnerable adult protection concerns.

Guidelines for responding to abuse or suspicions of abuse

DO

- Do treat any allegations extremely seriously and listen to what is being said.
- Do tell the person they are right to tell you.
- Do reassure them they are not to blame.
- Do be honest about your own position, who you have to tell and why.
- Do tell the person what you are doing and when, and keep them up to date with what is happening.
- Do take further action – you may be the only person in a position to prevent future abuse – tell your nominated person immediately.
- Do write down everything said and what was done.
- Do seek medical attention if necessary.
- Do inform carers unless there is a suspicion of their involvement.
- Contact the school safeguarding officer or a member of the school leadership team as soon as possible.

DON'T

- Don't make promises you can't keep.
- Don't interrogate the person – it is not your job to carry out an investigation – this will be up to the police and social services, who have experience in this.
- Don't cast doubt on what the person has told you, don't interrupt or change the subject.
- Don't say anything that makes the person feel responsible for the abuse.
- **Don't Do Nothing** – make sure you tell your nominated safeguarding person immediately – they will know how to follow this up and where to go for further advice.

NOMINATED PERSON: REBECCA ENGLAND

DATED: 23rd September 2020

REVIEW DATE: September 2021