

Chief Executive Officer: Mr P Rhodes BA Hons NPQEL  
Chief Finance and Operations Officer: Mrs S Bridges

info@apat.org.uk  
Tel: 01322 923172

13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Amadeus Primary Academies Trust and Holy Trinity Lamorbey CE Primary School we take safeguarding very seriously. Parents will have noted reports in the media over the last term surrounding peer on peer abuse and as a Trust we have been refining our approaches to further embed and adapt our systems and train our wider team in response.

In the context of Peer on Peer Abuse, you'll find the Trust policy on our website [here](#), which has been developed in collaboration with all of our schools. This sets out clearly a definition of what Peer on Peer abuse is and how this will be protected against and responded to at academy level.

We are aware that some children will be more vulnerable than others, in particular our children with a special education or mental health needs and our youngest pupils. Our Designated Safeguarding Leads and SENCo closely monitor the children, to ensure they are supported appropriately and all responses and communications around this area with children will be developed with an understanding at local level of the age, maturity, circumstances and understanding of each child.

It is important to recognise that all children are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts as they form different relationships in their neighborhoods, schools and online and these can feature violence and abuse which is often hidden to adults. Peer influence and pressure is a major factor in decisions made by young people to join groups, however many online / social media groups are a particular danger to children, in this area.

Each of our Academies closely support our children and have a culture of looking out for each other and this is essential in ensuring that Pupils report concerns. We are able to offer support to our children and families when they feel that a situation needs addressing or is making someone feel uncomfortable. In following this policy alongside our safeguarding policy (recently updated to match Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021) has robust systems and processes already in place to keep the children and young people safe, and we have a number of available options for them to report any incident or anything that is worrying them.

Signs to look out for include:

- absence from school or disengagement from school activities
- physical injuries
- mental or emotional health issues
- becoming withdrawn – lack of self esteem
- lack of sleep
- alcohol or substance misuse
- changes in behaviour
- inappropriate behaviour for age
- abusive behaviour towards others

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As a result we need to ensure the young people in our care know the risks and what would be done should they be at risk, or subject to peer on peer abuse.

This will be achieved by:

- Talking about peer on peer abuse in an age appropriate way.
- Creating opportunities for young people to weigh up risks and recognising that sometimes this means they will take risks we as adults might disagree with.
- Supporting them by influencing the children to be making the healthiest long-term choices and keeping them safe from harm in the short-term.

Our approach is part of a wider whole-academy (and indeed whole-trust) approach to supporting pupils to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school.

For example, the curriculum on relationships complements, and is supported by, the school's wider policies on behaviour, inclusion, respect for equality and diversity, bullying and safeguarding. The curriculum and wider policies are part of a broader ethos and approach to developing pupils socially, morally, spiritually and culturally and this is encapsulated within our pastoral care offers.

Our children are aware that they can speak to any adult in school who will deal with any worries, to ensure these are addressed.

NEW NSPCC helpline: In addition if you have concerns, a new dedicated, confidential helpline is run by the NSPCC and is available to current or past victims as well as parents, carers or professionals with concerns. The dedicated NSPCC helpline number is 0800 136 663.

If a worried parent or carer has any concerns they can talk directly to:

Angela Molloy	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Sebrina Dawes	Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Amy Gallagher	Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Amanda Western	Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Many thanks for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely



Mr Peter Rhodes  
Chief Executive Officer