

**Marianne Amos – Safeguarding review Visit**  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**1) Outstanding student welfare (Mr C Bull – Vice Principal Achievement for All)**

Mr Bull and I carried out a safeguarding walk around the Academy and he also explained the update to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2016), the evacuation procedure in event of an emergency and the key areas of focus for all schools nationally including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Prevent. The Academy has a very clear, efficient and effective plan for emergency evacuation and has invested in evacuation chairs for Physically Impaired (PI) students needing assistance with getting down the fire escape stairs. New Fire Marshall training for Senior Leaders has been scheduled in Term 3. We also looked at the security of the Academy, the safe line and how safe students are once inside the Academy areas. I was very pleased to hear about the systems in place to keep children safe whilst on site.

As I have reported on in my previous review, it is clear that Academy staff are aware of the most recent 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' document and the Safeguarding, Child Protection and Student Welfare policy has been updated accordingly. Safeguarding training for all staff and indeed Governors including FGM, CSE and Prevent is compulsory.

**2) Effective intervention through monitoring and tracking (Mr J Willoughby – AVP Head of Senior Houses)**

Mr Willoughby and I discussed the Student Leadership Team and Student Voice and how students are now even more effective at instigating initiatives themselves, helping others and meeting together. They have a clear Student Manifesto which is both positive and creative. This helps to ensure that Mr Willoughby and other pastoral leaders are working alongside students and are able to listen and intervene where appropriate.

I was made aware of the importance of attendance, behaviour and progress tracking for pastoral staff. This not only impacts on Academic progress but also the safeguarding of young people at the Academy.

We discussed the daily reports that AHOH and HOH produce and analyse and how the Academy has a clear focus on the key vulnerable groups to ensure they are making progress. The gap between them and non-vulnerable groups is closing through the interventions put in place.

SEND attendance has increased and staff work closely with the families to ensure students get into the Academy on time each day. It is clear that children feel safe in the Academy and we discussed the long holidays and whether or not we could get some volunteer groups in for various workshops over the summer holidays to give them a break from home and for students to come and learn new skills for example Dance, Drama, Art, Sport, Music and Writing Workshops etc.

A focus for the pastoral teams this year is to track and monitor the effectiveness of interventions so that interventions can become even more focused and personalised.

### **3) Safe and Effective Transition (Mrs K O'Gormley – AVP Head of Junior House)**

The transition programme at the Academy is extensive. Transition from primary schools to the Academy actually starts through six Year 5 Academy Learning Days where over 600 students experience a typical Academy day. The Academy also holds an Open Evening and an Open Morning (Saturday) every year.

In April, Year 6 packs are sent out to the incoming cohort of Year 7 students and Mrs O'Gormley and the transition team go and meet with every child that successfully applied for a place at SKA at their primary school. They will also meet with any SEND Managers/DSLs/Parents to ensure that the young people joining the Academy are safe and supported during the transition process.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs S Paulus, then goes through the files of each child to ensure that any safeguarding concerns are identified and recorded. A system which was commended by Ofsted during their inspection (June 2016). The team then look at details such as friends and family issues so they can ensure students are put into appropriate tutor and teaching groups.

All new Year 7s then take part in three induction days. Two in July, when the children experience a typical Academy day and take part in testing. This not only eases the transition from primary to secondary, staff get an opportunity to meet and better understand the needs of the young people prior to September. Students are given staff and student buddies if needed. They then have one final transition day on their first day in September where they spend the day learning about the expectations at the Academy and meeting their new tutor and fellow tutees. This programme is clearly effective. Students also receive E-Safety training on this day too.

### **4) Outstanding Safeguarding (Mrs S Paulus, Designated Safeguarding Lead)**

Mrs Paulus and her team are extremely effective in this area.

The time and effort that she and her team puts into each student is quite incredible. Mrs Paulus's caring nature is outstanding and as a parent at the school I would be 100% comfortable with her if I needed her help/advice for my child.

We talked about engaging parents more with E-safety and how we could engage parents in conversations about this topic. I was also made aware of the Academy's opening hours to enable all students to have a safe place to study and complete their Independent Learning. Children can arrive at 7.30am for breakfast and to work and they can stay until 5pm every day too.

I was particularly impressed to hear that there is a 4 year action plan following a review last year for both Safeguarding and Vulnerable Students.

I would like to thank the staff that I met with on 15 September 2015 for their time with me and I have been impressed by how lucky our students are to have such incredible, genuinely caring staff throughout the Academy. The staff ensure students are very safe both at the Academy and at home as a result of the work they carry out.