

External Safeguarding Audit Progress Report

April 2017

Conducted by J C Austin (St Chad's Academies Trust)

Brewood CE Middle School

Local Authority: Staffordshire
(Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board)

Website: www.brewood.staffs.sch.uk

Headteacher: David Swift

Email address: headteacher@brewood.staffs.sch.uk



Context

Brewood is a Church of England (C) Middle School. It has 419 pupils on roll from 9 up to 13 years of age. The proportion of pupils are eligible for pupil premium is lower than schools nationally. The proportion of pupils with SEN(D) is lower than schools nationally.

The school formed a federation with St Mary's Church of England First School, Wheaton Aston, in April 2011. Both schools share a governing body. The headteacher is executive headteacher of both schools.

In 2015/16, the school met the government's floor standards for pupils' attainment and progress in Key Stage 2.

An independent Safeguarding Audit was commissioned by the Governing Body and Headteacher at Brewood CE Middle School that took place in January 2017 and left the school with some recommendations for action. In March 2017 the school made a further request for another audit to monitor the progress made by the school.

In December 2016, the school received an overall judgement of 'inadequate' from Ofsted despite the quality of teaching, learning and assessment and outcomes being judged as 'good'. At the time of writing of the previous Safeguarding Audit Report in January, the school had not yet received the draft report. The Ofsted inspection report has since been received by the school with recommendations for improvements in Safeguarding.

The purpose of this audit is to review the progress made by the school against both recommendations made in the previous external Safeguarding audit and the recommendations made from the Ofsted inspection.

Meetings were held with members of the senior leadership team including Headteacher and Chair of Governors, Designated Safeguarding Lead & Safeguarding team including Assistant Head/SENCo. A meeting was also held with the school's Attendance Lead.

A wide range of evidence was scrutinized including:

- *Safeguarding file; Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy;*
- *Provision Map for SEND/PP pupils;*
- *Pupil CP case files; Pupil re-integration plans;*
- *Attendance data for vulnerable pupils (PP & SEND) and discussions with Attendance lead; School newsletters;*
- *External Review of Pupil Premium (March 2017);*
- *Safeguarding training log;*
- *Governor's strategic monitoring plan; Governing Body minutes; External Review of Governance (April 2017);*
- *Risk assessments in PE/DT/Science leader folders;*
- *SMSC Life Curriculum Planning;*
- *SIAMS inspection February 2017.*

Previous area for improvement	Progress	Details
<p>External Safeguarding Audit January 2017: "Implement existing plans for the integration of pupils on part time timetables so that they are in school full time."</p> <p>Ofsted December 2016: "Eliminate the use of part-time timetables for anything other than long-term medical reasons and ensuring that if they are used, proper Safeguarding arrangements are made."</p>	<p>Fully evidenced</p>	<p><i>Pupils who were previously on part time timetables have been integrated fully into school and are now attending every day.</i></p> <p><i>The school's relationship with the pupils and their parents is strong and supportive. The two pupils receive personalised support, are settling in well and, under the guidance of well-trained staff, are building friendship groups. Paperwork has been adapted so that parents sign a parent-school contract which has been supported by the District Inclusion Officer. The school has tightened procedures and parents phone school when their child returns home every day.</i></p> <p><i>This re-integration to attend school full time has been carefully managed by leaders, working with the local authority and parents. The staggered entry arrangement has enabled both pupils to acclimatise to the new arrangements. Both pupils are positive and enjoy their time at the school. Governors have been fully informed and have supported this transition to full time education.</i></p> <p><i>One student, currently unable to attend due to school phobia following mental health issues, is being supported to return to school and IS having home tuition in the interim. All appropriate safeguarding arrangements have been made.</i></p>
Previous area for improvement	Progress	Details
<p>External Safeguarding Audit January 2017: "Ensure that the Child Protection policy is updated to include the information that the school IT devices are monitored by SECURUS e-safety monitoring software and the related consequences if staff and pupils use IT inappropriately."</p>	<p>Fully evidenced</p>	<p><i>The Safeguarding Policy has been updated to include the information that the school IT devices are monitored by SECURUS e-safety monitoring software.</i></p> <p><i>There are now clear related consequences if staff/pupils use IT inappropriately.</i></p> <p><i>The school has further refined the system to include words that relate to radicalisation.</i></p> <p><i>The school has added new information to the Safeguarding Policy from NSPCC.</i></p>

Previous area for improvement	Progress	Details
<p>External Safeguarding Audit January 2017: "Implement school's existing plans to introduce a timetabled Safeguarding session 'LIFE' in the curriculum to further address key Safeguarding issues with all pupils."</p> <p>Ofsted December 2016: "Improve the quality of provision for pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare by ensuring that there is clear communication within school and between the school and other agencies, especially with regard to pupils who are most vulnerable."</p>	<p>The curriculum is being refined and will be implemented after Easter</p> <p>Fully evidenced</p>	<p><i>Since the last audit, the school has set up a LIFE working group in order to research and develop a new PSHEE curriculum called 'LIFE', with appropriate resources E.g. you tube clips that enhance current topics.</i></p> <p><i>There is now a clear overview for each year group that is organised over six half terms over an academic year. Well chosen, age appropriate resources have been selected to support lessons and the school has identified key areas that are to be taught during the 2017 summer term. Pupils are being consulted for their ideas to enhance the LIFE curriculum further.</i></p> <p><i>The SIAMS inspection report notes the high quality Personal development opportunities that the school provides its pupils E.g. visit to Auschwitz.</i></p> <p><i>The school's systems for sharing information and recording actions that have been taken have improved considerably. Communication between the school and other agencies are evidenced in a number of ways, including through SENCo documentation and pupils' CP case files.</i></p> <p><i>Leadership meetings take place every week and provide an opportunity for information sharing. The Headteacher and other members of the Safeguarding Team are consistently copied into emails so that they always kept up-to-date. The Chair of Governors, who is one of the Safeguarding Governors, attends school regularly in order to monitor progress and is included in regular email and telephone communication.</i></p>
Previous area for improvement	Progress	Details
<p>External Safeguarding Audit January 2017: "Implement the school's strategic Safeguarding and Health and Safety training programme for staff (including training on restraining</p>	<p>Robust systems in place</p> <p>All training to be completed</p> <p>by end July</p>	<p><i>The school has further refined the strategic overview of the training that staff have completed and training that needs to be completed. Leaders have been uncompromising in identifying the gaps in training for every member of staff. Staff that cannot attend training are followed up by the Assistant Headteacher who re-arranges training for them and regularly updates their training record.</i></p> <p><i>An overview of training on restraining has taken place, although the school will be updating this. The new Assistant Headteacher (previously</i></p>

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pupils)."		<i>worked in a PRU) has been fully trained and will also be disseminating strategies to all staff. Identified staff have been placed on the full course, although this has been quite difficult due to the few training opportunities that are available.</i>
Previous area for improvement	Progress	Details
External Safeguarding Audit January 2017: "Working with the LA, the school to pursue existing plans to further streamline risk assessments."	Robust systems in place	<i>The school has been proactive in re-commissioning a Local Authority specialist who has provided sound advice about risk assessments. It has been recommended that the school provides training for pupils to look out for risks and report them to staff. The Design & Technology/Science/PE subject leader files include up to date policies and guidance. Risk assessments have been reviewed and updated where required. The school will be presenting these in the next Full Governing Body meeting.</i>
Previous area for improvement	Progress	Details
Ofsted December 2016: "Ensuring that Governors have an accurate view of the Safeguarding and attendance of pupils so that improvements in these areas happen quickly and are sustained."	Fully evidenced Robust systems in place	<i>Leaders and governors have acted with urgency to address safeguarding concerns raised by Ofsted. In order to monitor their progress, the school has commissioned a range of External Reviews to ascertain the effectiveness of the processes and systems in place (Safeguarding/Pupil Premium/Governance). The recent External Review of Governance states: "Governors are thoroughly committed to the school and have a good range of skills to offer challenge and support to school leaders. Governors were hurt by the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection, but have acted with rigour and urgency to address the reported shortcomings. Although the medium to long term future of the school will be in a multi academy trust, Governors have demonstrated the capacity to bring about the immediate changes required to ensure the future success of the school..."</i>
Ofsted December 2016: "Ensuring that all processes and systems related to safeguarding are coherent, planned and orderly and give leaders at all levels the information they need to make sure that pupils are safe, making sure that	Fully evidenced Robust systems in place	<i>Governance has been judged as sound in all areas. The Chair of Governors works closely with the Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead, forming a strong team dedicated to making the necessary changes. The school's relationship with parents is a strength with parents continuing to be overwhelmingly supportive of the school. The Chair of Governors is further strengthening this partnership by writing a section in the weekly newsletter which gives parents an update of any monitoring activities undertaken by Governors. Governors provide sufficient challenge regarding the school's duty of</i>

<p>registers are maintained accurately for all pupils at all times.”</p> <p>Ofsted December 2016: “Clear, effective and secure records are kept with reference to pupils who are most at risk.”</p>	<p>Fully evidenced</p>	<p><i>care to and to monitor the care of pupils who are at risk and that accurate and effective attendance registers are maintained.</i></p> <p><i>Governors are more effective in holding leaders to account for the impact of the use of pupil premium funding, especially in terms of the attendance and Safeguarding of disadvantaged pupils.</i></p> <p><i>The termly Safeguarding monitoring report for Governors is sharp in its focus. The reporting framework has been developed from the areas identified in the previous Safeguarding audit and the recommendations from Ofsted. These include improving attendance for vulnerable pupils. There is a good amount of evidence that shows more challenging questions from the Governing Body.</i></p> <p><i>The Executive Headteacher communicates on a weekly basis with the Chair of Governors on a range of school matters which includes relevant safeguarding issues. The Pupil Premium governor also meets regularly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Pupil Premium intervention plan is being reviewed by the leadership team and Governors to ensure that the pupils with low attendance do not miss out on key interventions.</i></p> <p><i>As part of this audit, pupils’ CP files were scrutinized. Records are clear, succinct and accurate. Details of conversations and actions taken are recorded and show that leaders are following up issues in a timely fashion.</i></p> <p><i>The Provision Map has been refined further and cross references all aspects of vulnerable pupils, including attendance and progress, thus providing up to date and immediately accessible information about pupils who are most at risk.</i></p>
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Suggested Follow-up Actions from Safeguarding Audit

Governors are advised to monitor regularly the school's progress against the following actions so that improvements can be sustained:

- *To continue to focus on improving the attendance for pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding and pupils with SEND in order to ensure sustained impact on the attendance of these groups. This should be shared with the Full Governing Body.*
- *To consult and engage more with pupils to further refine the LIFE curriculum planning and to implement it as planned, taking into account regular pupil evaluations. This should be shared with the Full Governing Body*
- *To ensure that all the required safeguarding / health and safety training takes place before the end of the current academic year. This should be shared with the Full Governing Body.*
- *To present the DT/Science/PE files including revised risk assessments and policies to the Full Governing Body for sign off.*
- *To ensure that the robust monitoring of Safeguarding and attendance (particularly PP and SEND pupils) continues and that impact is evidenced appropriately so that all Governors have an accurate view of the school.*

Note to Governing Body: It is strongly advised that the strategic monitoring plan of the Governing Body includes all sections and aspects detailed in this report.

J C Austin (St Chad's Academy Trust)

Disclaimer

The information contained in this audit report is believed to be correct at the time of writing and is based on evidence provided by a range of staff at the school. No liability for incorrect information will be accepted by St Chad's Multi-Academy Trust, CECET.

Confidentiality Statement

This audit has been completed in confidence and will not be shared by St Chad's Trust, CECET to any third party. It is, however, acceptable if the school shares this information to any third party.

Please note, where it is believed by the reviewer, that the information received suggests that children are at serious risk of harm, the concerns will be shared with the relevant authorities.