



WHISTLEBLOWING STATEMENT

Whistleblowing Policy (linked to our Safeguarding Policy) and Dealing with Allegations of Abuse

In our academy, we want all pupils, employees, volunteers, governors, parents/carers and visitors to feel safe and protected from harm. With this in mind, we have a policy which ensures everyone must be vigilant for unacceptable or unexpected behaviour which might raise alarm in relation to wellbeing and harm of various forms.

All concerned with the academy have a duty to report to a senior member of staff any behaviour which they feel is unacceptable, including historical information. They can be assured that all allegations will be taken seriously and that investigations will be carried out fully with sincerity and followed up with appropriate external agencies if necessary e.g. the police or Gateshead's LADO.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEMBERS OF STAFF/WHISTLEBLOWING

If anyone makes an allegation that any member of staff (including any volunteer or Governor) who may have:

- Committed an offence against a child or other member of the academy community;
- Placed a child at risk of significant harm;
- Behaved in a way that calls into question their suitability to work with children; other member of the academy community;
- Financial Malpractice;

The allegation will be dealt with in accordance with national guidance and agreements, as implemented locally by Gateshead Council and our academy. The Headteacher, rather than the Designated Members of Staff will handle such allegations, unless the allegation is against the Headteacher, when the Chair of Governors will handle the school's response. The Headteacher (or Chair of Governors) will gather information about the allegation, and report these without delay to the Local Safeguarding Board.