



# Link 2 – Safeguarding Statement

*Vision for SEND:*

*We believe that every child in every school should aspire to achieve their potential. We embrace the philosophy of learning for all and strive to prepare the children in our schools for their future in their time.*

*Vision for Link 2:*

*Every child attending Link 2 will progress in their social and emotional and/or communication and interaction skills to ensure that they can either re-integrate fully to their mainstream primary school or move on to the next stage in their education. Children will feel safe, valued and supported at Link 2 in order that they aspire to be the best they can be.*

## What is Link 2?

The Link 2 is a purpose-designed set of two classrooms annexed to New Close Primary School. It is a nurture base centre offering temporary education placements to children who find learning in a mainstream primary school extremely challenging. It is staffed by one teacher and one TA. It aims to be a “link” between primary schools and an alternative provision.

## Why Link 2?

We will focus on the following as key aims and objectives:

- To support children to recognise their emotions, conduct and learning needs and the impact on their behaviour.
- To support children to become more independent in managing their behaviour.
- To support children to be ready to re-integrate to their own primary school and have a bank of strategies to employ in the classroom.
- To ensure that children have access to education.

## Safeguarding at Link 2

Our primary concern at all times is the welfare and safeguarding of the children in our care at Link 2. We follow Acorn Education Trust’s safeguarding and child protection policy (available on the website -<https://www.acorneducationtrust.com/policies>) and staff will refer to the home school’s safeguarding policy where required. The responsibility lies with the home school as they have the child on their school roll.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Link 2 is Sue Fulbrook (Head of SEND for Acorn Education Trust).

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) for Link 2 is Jo Ronxin (Safeguarding Lead for Acorn Education Trust)

The information which follows details the arrangements for safeguarding children during their time at Link 2.

## How do we safeguard children at Link 2?

### **On applying to Link 2**

- 1) On the school application form which is completed in order to request a place at Link 2, there is a box where schools should outline whether there are safeguarding concerns.
- 2) If there is a concern, a discussion will take place between the Head of SEN (DSL) and/or class teacher (DDSL) at Link 2 and the home school in order that necessary information is shared.
- 3) If there is an open Child Protection (CP) case, a meeting will be convened at the home school for the teacher at Link 2 to read the CP file and to be updated by the home school's DSL.
- 4) The CP file will continue to be held at the home school.
- 5) If there is an open CP case, either the DSL, DDSL or safeguarding lead for Acorn Education trust will attend the core group meetings or any case conferences alongside the home school DSL.

### **If a concern arises during a child's placement at Link 2**

- 1) The Link 2 teacher or TA will complete a welfare form. Welfare forms are printed on white paper and serious concerns are on blue.
- 2) Forms are kept in a locked filing cabinet at Link 2.
- 3) If a serious welfare concern is raised, the DSL or DDSL will call MASH for advice or to make a referral. The Link 2 teacher will also contact the home school's DSL to discuss the case and send on the blue form.
- 4) All white welfare forms are reviewed every two weeks by the DSL and DDSL. White forms are sent immediately to home school.

### **Attendance**

- 1) If a child does not arrive at Link 2 at their designated time and session, the home school will be notified by email.
- 2) Parents are asked to telephone New Close Primary School in the event of their child being too ill to attend. Any planned absence should be reported to the class teacher at Link 2.
- 3) Attendance at Link 2 is reported on the weekly behaviour charts which are sent home and to home schools.
- 4) Link 2 and home schools should liaise regarding attendance procedures in the event that a child is not attending school or Link 2.
- 5) If a child who is on a child protection plan does not arrive at Link 2 at their designated time and session, a telephone call will be made to the child's social worker. The home school will also be notified.

### **Within the setting**

- 1) A risk assessment has been carried out on the setting and is available from the Link 2 class teacher.
- 2) Staff are well-versed in these procedures.
- 3) Should children be taken offsite in an educational capacity, a further risk assessment would be carried out.
- 4) Any incidents of peer on peer abuse or bullying and any racial incidents will be logged. Home schools will be notified.

### **Staff training**

- 5) Staff receive annual safeguarding updates from the safeguarding lead for Acorn Education Trust or New Close Primary School.
- 6) The safeguarding lead for Acorn Education Trust circulates details of updates to the DSL.

### **Parent and child voice**

- 1) Parent voice is sought at least twice a year. Included in this survey is a question about whether their child feels safe at Link 2.
- 2) Child voice is collected informally on an ongoing basis and is recorded on one of the notice boards and also be the class teacher.

### **If concerns arise over staff conduct**

- 1) Should a child or another member of staff raise a concern over the conduct of a member of staff, the DSL will be informed.
- 2) The case will be referred to the DOFA.
- 3) The DSL will investigate.