



Acorn
Education Trust

Link 2 Safeguarding Statement

Updated April 2021

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 finding learning in a mainstream primary school extremely challenging. It is staffed by one teacher and two TAs. It aims to be a “link” for the child to their home primary school.

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. All staff working at Link 2 have undergone the necessary safeguarding checks upon appointment to the post including enhanced DBS clearance. We follow Acorn Education Trust's safeguarding and child protection policy (available on the Trust website). Staff at Link 2 will refer to the home school's safeguarding and child protection policy if concerns arise and report issues via the home school's online safeguarding procedures (MyConcern). The responsibility lies with the home school DSL as they have the child on their school roll.

Should the staff at Link 2 be unable to reach the home school DSL in an urgent situation, they will contact Sue Fulbrook (Head of SEND and DSL trained) or Jo Ronxin (Head of School Support including lead on safeguarding.)

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 class teacher 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 teacher at Link 2 or one of the Trust DSLs for Acorn Education trust will attend the core group meetings or any case conferences alongside the home school DSL and any pertinent information will be shared.

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

- 1) The Link 2 teacher or TA will complete a "MyConcern" form online on the home school account.
- 2) This will be followed-up by the home school DSL who will respond to the Link 2 staff by the end of the following school day at the latest either via email, phone or MyConcern.
- 3) Should the Link 2 staff not hear a response in this time frame, they will telephone the home school to check up.
- 4) If a serious welfare concern is raised, the Link 2 teacher will telephone directly to the home school DSL. Where this person is unavailable, the Link 2 teacher will contact either the Head of SEND for Acorn Education Trust or the Head of School Support for Acorn Education Trust. In the unlikely event that none of the above people are available, and the situation is an emergency, the Link 2 class teacher would ring MASH.
- 5) A "pastoral log" will be kept by the Link 2 class teacher for any minor concerns and be reviewed at least every fortnight with the Head of SEND.
- 6) The Link 2 teacher will inform the Head of SEND of any MyConcerns registered.

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 via MyConcern.
- 5) An additional risk assessment has been carried out in light of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Staff training

- 1) Staff receive safeguarding training and this is updated every 3 years as a minimum, but usually annually. This ensures staff within Link 2 understand their role in safeguarding. Staff also receive regular safeguard updates and training from the safeguarding lead for Acorn Education Trust or New Close Primary School.
- 2) The Head of School Support and safeguarding lead for Acorn Education Trust circulates details of updates to all DSLs and chairs a termly DSL network meeting across the Trust.

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 by 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 Head of SEND will be informed.
- 2) This may then be discussed with the Head of School Support and safeguarding for the Trust.
- 3) The case will be referred to the DOFA.
- 4) One of the Trust DSLs will investigate.