



## Risk Assessment Policy

### **Policy Statement**

Eden Park Academy (Radical Services Ltd) is committed to the protection of children and young people, and regards the safeguarding and promoting of their interests and wellbeing to be of paramount concern. As our Academy spans across the border into Scotland we also consult and take guidance from Scottish government guidance and legislation.

We consider it the duty of all those employed or involved with the organisation to prevent the physical, emotional, neglectful, financial, institutional or sexual abuse of all children and young people with whom they come into contact and to protect and promote their general welfare and wellbeing for all young people.

To protect young people and support their progress in learning appropriately a detailed, accurate and personalized risk assessment must be maintained highlighting the specific risks to young people (as perpetrators or as victims) for their academic progress, physical safety and overall health and wellbeing (measured using stability indicators). Risk assessments identify risks to individual young people, groups of young people and staff. They ensure control measures are in place to limit the impact. It must also evolve to reflect the needs of young people as they progress in their learning and wellbeing.

### **Principles**

- All young people have an absolute right to a childhood free from abuse, neglect or exploitation with an equal right to protection from abuse, neglect or exploitation and a responsibility not to abuse or exploit others
- All young people have a right to progress in their education in a safe and purposeful learning environment where risks are limited
- All staff (teaching and support) have a responsibility to be aware of issues limiting safety, health and wellbeing and progress in learning and act to limit risk in these areas
- Young people are best kept safe when professionals communicate effectively and share responsibility for limiting risks

- A robust system of cross-referencing of policy and procedures and regular systematic risk assessment will ensure that all risks are known
- Staff should be proactive and take positive steps to inform young people of their rights to safety and protection and the options available to express their fears or concerns, and these will most likely impact on their risk assessment

## **Aims**

- To ensure that the needs of young people cared for, or educated, at Eden Park Academy (Radical Services) (will be referred to as ‘the company’ throughout) are well known, their risks appropriately assessed and limited
- To ensure that the company meets the expectations of The Children Act (2004); Education Act 2011, The United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989; the Regulation of Care Act (2001), The Protection of Children Act 1999 and the Children and Young People Act 2008 in ensuring protection and effective care, a key aspect of this being effective risk assessments
- To ensure that the company complies with the Children and Young People Act (2008), Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018) and local Child Protection Committee’s policies and procedures (2005).

## **Objectives**

- To ensure that the safety and welfare of young people looked after or educated by the company is paramount
- To document all associated risks and use daily to monitor risks
- To reassure parents / carers, those with parental responsibility and Placing Authorities that the company takes the issue of child protection and risks seriously – A YOUNG PERSON WILL NOT BE ADMITTED BEFORE A RISK ASSESSMENT IS RECEIVED FROM THE HOME AND THE SCHOOL CAN ASSESS ANY IDENTIFIED RISKS.

## **Definitions of risks to be identified**

The most recent Government consultation document (2018) states that “Teachers, social workers and other professionals can and do play a vital role in keeping children safe from harm”. Therefore, the school’s role in ensuring those risks are identified and assessed is crucial to the safety and welfare of all students.

Abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. Detailed definitions of the types of abuse are contained within the Child Protection Policy. Risk assessments identify risks represented by issues arising from young people’s exposure/vulnerability to:

- **Disengagement with education and failure to progress/thrive**
- **Physical abuse – as a perpetrator or victim**
- **Emotional abuse – as a perpetrator or victim**
- **Sexual abuse and CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) – as a perpetrator or victim**
- **Sexualised behaviour/language**
- **Social isolation/exclusion from peer group**
- **Challenging/distressed behaviour detrimental to progress/health and wellbeing**
- **Medical conditions and administration of medication**
- **Poor mental health (depression, anxiety, bipolar, etc.)**
- **Damage to building or school/other property and resulting harm to others – arson, smashing glass/windows, punching, etc.**
- **Absconsion**
- **Drug (including alcohol) and substance use**
- **Smoking**
- **Risky behaviour – climbing, hanging, throwing, etc.**
- **Disruptive and distracting behaviour**
- **Bullying, including cyber bullying**
- **Use of implements to harm/threaten/damage e.g. knives, tools, scissors, etc.**
- **Social media and ICT – linked to CSE and other forms of abuse and exploitation**
- **Self-harm and suicide**
- **Radicalisation**
- **Racial abuse of young people and staff**
- **Assault of staff**
- **Any other behaviour/conduct/situation impacting on a young person's (or other young people's) progress, safety and/or wellbeing**

## **Risk assessment process**

Any young person to be admitted (see Admissions Policy) to Eden Park Academy will have a risk assessment completed.

### Sources of information informing the risk assessment

During this assessment, information from the following sources is used:

- **Behaviour Plan from children's home (if applicable)**
- **Profiles from children's home (if applicable)**
- **Daily logs, incident reports from children's home (if applicable)**
- **Chronology/relevant information from social services**
- **Any Safeguarding/Child Protection documentation available**
- **Educational progress/tracking reports from previous education provision**
- **Coordinated Support Plan (if applicable)**
- **Information from TAC (Team Around the Child) and LAC (Looked After Child) meetings (if applicable)**
- **EHCP (Education and Healthcare Plan)**
- **Discussions with Police and other agencies with involvement with young people in the community**
- **Any other relevant information pertaining to the young people**

The Risk Assessment pro forma front page contains a checklist of sources of information which staff must complete to detail where the information the assessment is based on originated.

### Identification of risk and control measures

There is a high level checklist on Page 1 to identify the main risks to be assessed in greater depth throughout the assessment, to give a summary of risk at a glance.

Individual risks are then detailed in the 'Identified risks, potential impact and control measures' table on Page 2. Evidence and sources are required to support the decision to highlight the risk. Control measures are also required to be detailed here; it is expected that this requires discussion and consultation with stakeholders to identify, verify and confirm details around risk.

### Monitoring, review and update

The risk assessment will be reviewed daily by the staff team, with overall responsibility sitting with the Key Teacher and quality assured by the Head Teacher.

Page 3 of the assessment provides space to catalogue any significant events which lead to amendments to the risk assessment. The date, nature of incident/situation and impact on the risk assessment must be detailed in the table.

The following documents will inform the production, monitoring, review and update of the risk assessment:

- Any information from homes/external agencies/parents/carers, etc. previously not known about/taken into account
- Daily narratives/observations
- IEPs and discussions with Key Teacher(s)
- Child Protection concerns raised through disclosure forms (CP1)
- Accident Report forms
- Incident Reports
- Daily Logs
- Any other significant incidents/discussions/events considered material to the risk assessment

#### Version control and tracking of amendments

Page 4 of the risk assessment contains a table to be updated with any amendments made to the risk assessment. The risk assessment should be kept electronically and minor changes can be made on the original assessment. Major changes should be made on a new assessment and the original kept on file.

Any amendments should be logged in the version control table to track the changes to risks recorded.

## **Cross Reference**

### Radical Services Policies:

- Absconding Policy
- Administration of medication Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Anti-Racism Policy
- Arson Prevention Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Child Sexual Exploitation Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Cyber Bullying Policy
- Drugs Education Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Safer Caring Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

### **Legislation:**

The Children Act (2004)

Education Act (2011)

The Protection of Children Act (1999)

The Human Rights Act (1998)

Protection of Children (1999)

Sexual Offences Act (Scotland) 2009

Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985:

Modern Slavery Act (2015)

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Act 2010

### **Government Guidance:**

National Guidance for Child Protection (2017)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

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