



Discovery
Primary Academy

DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SAFEGAURDING, ATTENDANCE, E-SAFETY AND WELFARE TEAM

Parent and Carer

Information Brochure

2020—2021

“Through Discovery We Grow”



Introduction

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Discovery Special Academy caters for pupils age 4 – 11 with severe learning difficulties (SLD) and is an academy within the Tees Valley Education Trust.

The Academy is dedicated to delivering outstanding inclusive practice through a culture of co-production, experiential learning and growth where carers and professionals work together to support the holistic development of the child in which all therapies are an integral part of pupils' education.

Discovery Academy is committed to enhancing the lives of all the pupils in its care to enable them to secure the best possible life chances as they move through their educational career and beyond. We ensure pupils are confident, tolerant and resilient by offering a challenging and exciting curriculum through which they can take risks and grow with each and every learning opportunity.

Pupils at Discovery work collaboratively and independently. This allows them to develop high levels of self-esteem, communication and interaction across the day through both learning and therapies. In this way, all pupils are supported to reach their full potential and develop the life skills they need.

Therefore, the principles of the Discovery Special Academy are to achieve excellence and enjoyment for all by building a learning community that ensures all pupils are well supported, can reach their personal potential and are equipped with the necessary life skills.

This Brochure gives a brief insight into safeguarding, attendance, welfare support and e-safety that helps keep our children safe. It also gives some vital information and links that may be useful.



Discovery Policies

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www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Child-protection-policy-MIDDLESBROUGH.updateddocx.pdf

www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DSA-Trust-safeguarding-policy-COVID-19-April-2020-V1.1.pdf

www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Attendance-Policy.pdf

<https://www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Supporting-Young-People-Online.pdf>

https://www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Social-Media-Policy_December-18.pdf

The Academy Website has all policies and extra Information that you may require, so please take a look!

www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk



Websites and Apps Parents

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Coronavirus – A book for Children

Covid Social Story

Cbeebies series

YouTubeKids

Duck duck moose

The sight word adventure

Gracie and friends city skate

Endless numbers

Little digits

Bob books reading magic

Marco Polo ocean

iWriteWords

Elmo loves 123s

Endless alphabet

abc PocketPhonics: letter sounds & writing + first words

Marble Math

Todo Math

Monkey Preschool Lunchbox

Reading Raven HD

Phonics island

Edukitchen

Phonics song youtube

How to say the sounds

Super simple songs count & move

Numbers to 10 song

Numbers to 20 song

Count to 30

Early Years Emily

Maths games 3-5 years/counting

Maths games 5-7 years/counting



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Safeguarding

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At Discovery we see children's welfare as of paramount importance. We are committed to working with parents to ensure that our pupils have a happy, safe and a good learning environment both at school and at home.

As an academy we are committed to and have a legal duty to safeguard your child's welfare. We follow the model policies and protocols outlined by the Trust, the LEA and the DFE in order to ensure the welfare of our children. All members of staff are trained in safeguarding children and are committed to ensuring the safety of all our pupils.

If the academy is worried about a pupil's welfare and that a child is at risk of harm, we must legally look into the matter and follow policy and procedures.

Our priority is to work with you but there may be times when we have to involve other professionals. Everybody has a responsibility to keep children safe. Discovery has a statutory responsibility to share any concerns it may have about a child in need with other agencies and in particular police, health and children's services. Schools are not able to investigate concerns but have a legal duty to refer them. In most instances, the school will be able to inform parents of its need to make a referral.

However, sometimes the academy is advised by children's services or police that the parent cannot be informed whilst they investigate the matter. We understand the anxiety parents feel when they are not told about any concerns from the outset. The academy follows legislation that aims to act in the best interest of the child.

Every academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Safeguarding team to help keep children, parents/carers, staff and the community safe.



Therapeutic Curriculum

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At Discovery the Therapeutic Curriculum is carefully weaved throughout the day. Central to the success of the curriculum above is the integration of therapeutic approaches.

All therapies are considered an integral part of pupil's education and are carefully planned using specialist knowledge from all agencies. The team works together to provide a holistic approach encouraging independence, opportunities for greater access to the curriculum and the development of children's physical and social wellbeing. Children have access to a variety of therapies to support their sensory, communication, speech and language and physical needs.

Discovery Special Academy work closely with South Tees Paediatric Speech and Language team to deliver, support and develop speech and language therapies to use within the academy.

South Tess SALT have a wealth of amazing resources available on 'You Tube' for you to use to continue developing your child's speech and language at home using songs, stories, activity ideas and information to support you.

Enjoy having a go at home.



Welfare Team

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Meet the Team



Sian Lamb
Parent Support



Michele Harding
Parent Support



Mae Thomas
Administration



Megan Appleyard
Administration

Please contact the academy
or visit our website if you
require any information or
support.



Safeguarding



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The Team



Miss Jennifer Duncan
Head Teacher
(Deputy Safeguarding Lead)



Mrs Ann Titchener
Deputy Head Teacher
(Designated Safeguarding Lead)



Mr Andrew Wilkinson
Safeguarding, SEND and
Inclusion Manager
(Deputy Safeguarding Lead)



Christina Jones
Trustee Safeguarding Lead



Louise Stogdale
Trust Safeguarding Lead

Any incident can be reported to any member of staff who would then inform a member of the Safeguarding Team.

What is Harm?

Harm is defined by the NSPCC as:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Other factors to look out for are:

- Online safety
- Bullying /Cyber bullying
- County Lines
- Sexual exploitation
- Grooming
- Radicalisation
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse.
- Domestic Abuse
- Mental Health
- Child Criminal



At Discovery we also believe in supporting our families. We have a dedicated team who work along side the safeguarding team to ensure that our families get the support they need.

We pride ourselves on our community ethos and know that by working together, your child will make the best possible progress. We can offer strategies to help with a range of needs as well as signposting together other agencies who may be able to help also.

As a Trust and Academy we work with many agencies that can support families and we also have access to a range of therapies and wellbeing interventions.

List of some of the Therapies and Interventions

The Link.

My Sister Place.

Speech and Language.

The Junction.

Trust Counsellor.

Headlight Project.

ELSA.

Trust Education Psychologist (EP).

Occupational Therapy (OT).

Tree Tops Sensory (OT).

Social Stories.

Barnado's Bridgeway Project .

HeadStart programme.

Positive Handling/de-escalation.

Physiotherapy.

LA Educational Psychologist.

Aquatic Therapy.

A Time 4 You (Counselling).

Harbour.

Children and Young People

Mental Health.

Reporting

If you would like to report any online concern then you can speak with the academies Safeguarding Team and Police. You can also report to the app /site or make it Facebook or Xbox as they will have a duty of care to investigate the incident.

You can also report to Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) are in command of the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA), and is tasked to work both nationally and internationally.

Useful Links

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

www.childnet.com

www.safesearchkids.com

www.youtube.com/education

www.net-aware.org.uk

nspcc.org.uk/online-safety



Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Every Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to have a LADO who is responsible for co-ordinating the response to concerns that an adult who works with children may have caused them harm.

LADO decides whether the alleged may have:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk to harm to children.

How to contact the LADO

Peter Storey – Middlesbrough LADO middlesbroughlado@middlesbrough.gov.uk

01642 726004

Joanne Dickson – Redcar LADO RedcarLADO@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

01642 130700

Phil Curtis – Hartlepool & Stockton LADO LADO@hartlepool.gov.uk

01429 01844

For further information please refer to the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures: www.stscp.co.uk

Useful Links

<http://www.teescpp.org.uk/>

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/child-protection-and-safeguarding>

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Attendance

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For a child to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered, it is vital that they attend the academy, on time, every day the academy is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. The routines children develop around attendance and punctuality at school are the same as the expectations of any future employer in the world of work.

Discovery is committed to providing an education of the highest quality and endeavours to provide an environment where all young people feel valued and welcome. Parents/ carers, pupils and the wider community all play a part in making Discovery successful. Every child has the right to access the full education to which they are entitled.

Parents / carers are primarily responsible for ensuring their academy-registered child attends every day. Where attendance problems occur, appropriate and effective case management will take place. This will be bespoke to each case and may include a range of collaborative working between the pupil, parent, academy, wider school community and Local Authority services.

Parents / carers are expected to follow attendance procedures. Parents are encouraged to work in partnership with the academy and are expected to notify them of the reason for any of their child's absences. Families are also encouraged to speak to staff with any areas of concern around attendance so that these can be addressed promptly.



E-Safety



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Online Gaming

6 ways to keep gaming fun:

- Block, report and mute people who troll or bully you in games
- Take short breaks if you're gaming for a long time
- Don't share personal information with people in games
- Avoid in-game purchases like loot boxes
- Check the age rating of any games you play
- Tell an adult .



Please protect your children from these Apps. Children under the age of 13 shouldn't be accessing them and anyone under the age of 18 need parental consent.



WhatsApp

E-Safety

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What to look out for when your child is accessing any Online game, video, app or devices.

- Bullying/Cyberbullying—make sure parental controls are on.
- Sexting—monitor who your child is friends with if they have a phone or tablet.
- Gaming—check content of game, age and who they are friends with.
- Online Video—Youtube accounts and content.
- Harmful Content—anything online which causes a person distress or harm.
- Gambling
- Pop ups/adverts—asking to buy or subscribe.

Please make sure you are monitoring and have parental controls on all devisers. Also make sure content is age appropriate. Use child friendly apps, games and video links ie YouTube Kids.



Also make sure card payments have passwords and all devises are password protected.



Attendance



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Expectations of Attendance Levels

Discovery works to the attendance bands below:

GREEN Band = 93% to 100% (Good)

AMBER Band = 90% to 92.9% (Requires Improvement)

RED Band = 85% to 89.9% (Cause for concern with attendance plan in place)

PERSISTENT ABSENTEE = 85% and below (Significant concern with identified / be-spoke plan in place)

The Overall Academy Attendance Target, in line with national data on Special School attendance, is a minimum of 93%.

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend the academy regularly and punctually.
- Pupils should be appropriately prepared for each day.
- Pupils, parents and carers, in line with both attendance and safeguarding policy, should be encouraged to talk to their teacher / member of academy staff about any problems that prevent good attendance.

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and poor attendance.
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically and find academy routines, work and friendships easier to cope with.
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school, higher education, employment or training.



Attendance

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Parents/carers must make contact with the academy on the first day of absence, and all subsequent days of absence. This phone call should be made by 8.30am.

Any unexplained absence will be unauthorised.

Where explanations for absence are not received, a member of the Inclusion & Welfare Team will contact parents/carers by telephone, or home visit if necessary, asking them to provide the reason for their child's absence.

For prolonged absence, clear medical reasons are needed to support illness. Medical evidence must be provided, such as an appointment card or hospital letter.

Contacts

School Office - 01642 248333

Andrew Wilkinson - 07718584084

It is the parents/carers responsibility to inform the academy of any absence



E-Safety

Online and Your Child

Discovery Special Academy are fully committed to the safeguarding of our pupils and E-Safety is of paramount importance. With the ongoing support of you as parents, we aim to educate our children to make the right decisions to keep themselves safe online. Throughout the year we offer a range of support to parents on the subject of E-Safety through talks, information on our website and general updates. E-Safety is an intrinsic part of our computing lessons and at any time the children access technology.

These risks are grouped into four categories:

- **Conduct:** children's behaviour may put them at risk.
- **Content:** access to inappropriate or unreliable content may put children at risk.
- **Contact:** interaction with unsuitable, unpleasant or dangerous people may put children at risk.
- **Commercialism:** children's use of platforms with hidden costs may put them at risk.

Its important to talk to your children about On Line Safety and its dangers. Your children need to know they can talk to you if something does go wrong.

