



Christ Centred, Child Centred, Catholic Educational Excellence

Safeguarding Statement of Intent

The Catholic Church in England and Wales is striving towards a culture of safeguarding. It aims to ensure all are safe from harm and abuse and where every person is encouraged and enabled to enjoy the fullness of life in Jesus Christ through the prayerful, caring, nurturing, supportive and protective endeavours of the Catholic community, both individually and collectively.

Living a Culture of Safeguarding as defined by the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission the Trust will seek to have a culture of:

- Openness & Transparency
- Love & Respect
- Responsibility & Accountability
- Compassion & Support
- Justice & Integrity
- Honesty & Humility
- Questioning & Challenging
- Learning & Changing

The Board and Directors have a responsibility to ensure that:

- They are adequately informed about safeguarding matters in order to make informed decisions.
- Adequate policies and procedures are in place across the Trust schools that meet the most up to date version of [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) guidance.
- All members of staff, directors and local governors understand their responsibilities to keeping children safe.
- Policies and procedures are implemented and monitored.
- Adequate safeguarding resources are available at Local Governing Body level to ensure safe processes and the minimisation of risk.
- Directors, staff and local governors recognise they have a duty of care and a duty to act.

The Board and Trustees have taken reasonable and proper steps to protect vulnerable pupils from harm or abuse by:

- Having adequate and proper safeguarding policies and systems in place, including appropriate vetting procedures for those who work with children and vulnerable adults including Members and Directors themselves.
- Safer recruitment/selection practice is in place at each academy within the Trust (including but not only rigorous checking of applications, references and enhanced DBS checks). At least one member of the interview panel will have undertaken recognised and recent Safer Recruitment in Education training.





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- Ensuring allegations of abuse or concerns are dealt with seriously and responsibly in line with DfE policies and Local Safeguarding Board policies and procedures
- Ensuring the information about serious incidents is reported as soon as possible.
- DOWAT is associated with the Local Safeguarding Children Board of each Local Authority in which it operates through its academies. Any issues related to safeguarding children will be discussed at these boards as required.
- The Board of DOWAT has ultimate responsibility for Safeguarding issues. Operationally, this responsibility is delegated to the Director of Primary Improvement as the Trust Safeguarding Lead to lead on policy issues in relation to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk across DOWAT.
- Within each academy across the Trust there are Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)/Child Protection Officers who lead on Child Protection and Safeguarding issues within their relevant location. They are clear about their role, have sufficient time and receive relevant support, and training, to undertake their roles, which includes close contact with outside agencies including social services, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and relevant health care organisations .
- Good induction programmes and on-going training/updates and CPD for staff (and others) in minimum standards in child protection are provided by each academy.
- Listening to concerns of children and their parents with an open mind and promotion of a policy/culture of safeguarding children.
- Clear and accessible complaints through the Trusts policy and whistle-blowing procedures.
- Good supervision of staff/volunteers.
- Regular audits by Safeguarding Governor reported to Local Governing Body to ensure compliance with reporting to full board.
- Development of a Trust-wide system for monitoring child protection (CPOMs)
- Trust-led reviews led by Safeguarding specialists.
- Keeping policy and practice under continuous review.

Statement Approved by the Board of Directors for publication by the Trust and all academies academic year 2023-24.

