



**Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust
(DoWMAT)**

Statement Regarding Safeguarding and Child Protection

MAT Board Approval: January 2018
Review Date: Spring 2019
Member of staff responsible: Mrs Claire Davies

DoWMAT Vision

The Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT) will, through its mission statement 'to love, to learn, to serve', enable all its academies to flourish so that all stakeholders can 'live life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)

DoWMAT Aims

To Love:

- For pupils to grow and learn in schools where, as children of God, their individual qualities are nurtured to give them fulfilment, self-worth, the skills to contribute to society and confidence in the future
- For staff, accorded dignity and respect, to be enabled to become the very best practitioners that they can be, inspiring and sharing a joy for learning and aspiration
- For academies to be hospitable to diversity, to become the centre of their communities as places of nurture and beacons of educational excellence
- For all learning to be centred in relationships based upon compassion, generosity, truth-telling, forgiveness and reconciliation

To Learn:

- For academies to be resourced and supported so that all pupils within the DoWMAT are enabled to flourish and achieve of their best whatever their starting points
- To ensure staff and governors access high quality professional development so that standards of teaching and learning are excellent
- For academic rigour to be set in the context of rich curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for learning
- For academies to be places where explicit Christian values, collective worship, religious education and opportunities for reflection nurture the spiritual and moral growth of pupils and staff

To Serve:

- To fulfil the wider vision of the Church of England, serving our communities through the work of local academies
- To ensure academies are places of safety for pupils and staff where needs are met with dignity and respect
- To offer help and advice to those who lead our academies at all levels so that they are well equipped to face the challenges ahead
- To ensure that Members, Trustees, Local Governing Bodies and Trust staff understand the pressures, challenges and opportunities of education in the 21st century ensuring that those leading and teaching in our academies are resourced and supported

1. POLICY STATEMENT

1.1. The Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT) fully recognises its moral and statutory responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and thus is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all the pupils and staff within the academy trust and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

1.2. The Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust expects that everyone working within the Trust academies will contribute to the creation of an environment in which all children and adults have an equal right to protection regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual identity or culture.

1.3. The Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust requires members of the academy trust to maintain an open mind and an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the interests of the child.

1.4. The Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust expects that all adults within the academy community are aware that they have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm at home, in the community or in the academy. Anybody can make a referral although reporting procedures should be established in the academy to ensure information is shared with the key safeguarding and child protection staff at the academy as soon as possible after any concern arises.

1.5. The Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust expects that each academy will follow the guidance provided by their Local Safeguarding Children Board and Local Authority children's services departments.

1.6 The Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust will nominate a senior officer as the Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer and nominate a Director as having particular responsibility for safeguarding matters.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to the process of protecting children from maltreatment, preventing the impairment of health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

2.2. Child protection refers to the processes undertaken to protect children who have been identified as suffering, or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

2.3. Staff refers to all those working for or on behalf of the academy, full time or part time, temporary or permanent, in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

2.4. Child includes everyone under the age of 18 (including staff or volunteers under that age)

2.5. Parent refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example step-parents, foster carers and adoptive parents.

3. AIMS OF THE SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

3.1. To establish the commitment of the Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust to promoting good safeguarding and child protection practices throughout the Trust and Trust academies.

3.2. To set out the requirements that every academy within the Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust must:

- ✓ Have a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy which can be found on the academy website
- ✓ Ensure a senior leader is nominated as Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who has received appropriate training and support for this role
- ✓ Ensure it has at least one member of staff who will act in the absence of the DSL (Deputy DSL) who has received appropriate training and support for this role
- ✓ Ensure a record of training attended by members of staff or volunteers is kept in line with KCSIE (2016)
- ✓ Ensure the Local Governing Body nominates a member to be responsible for safeguarding children and liaise with the DSL and / or Headteacher in matters relating to safeguarding
- ✓ Ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and the Local Governing Body knows the name of the DSL and any deputies and understands their role
- ✓ Ensure that the DSL and/or a Deputy DSL is always available during school hours and has made adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term time activities
- ✓ Ensure all staff and volunteers have read (and signed to confirm) the school Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy including its Appendices, Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education, and the school's Code of Conduct
- ✓ Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and neglect, including the specific issues of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Children Missing Education (CME) and Radicalisation and Extremism, and maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'
- ✓ Ensure that there are effective procedures in place to deal with any safeguarding issues which may rise and that these are embedded, shared and followed by everyone within the academy community
- ✓ Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibility for referring any concerns to the DSL or Head Teacher in a timely manner and are aware that they may raise concerns directly with Children's Social Care Services if they believe their concerns have not been listened to or acted upon
- ✓ Ensure the Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer at the Multi Academy Trust is informed of any safeguarding or child protection issues or concerns relating to a Headteacher, governor, member of staff, volunteer or visitor or where staff feel there is significant risk to a child
- ✓ Ensure staff new to the schools are informed of the safeguarding children arrangements in place. *They will be given a copy of the school Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy including its Appendices, Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education, the school's Code of Conduct and told who the DSL is, who acts in their absence and what this role includes.*
- ✓ Ensure all volunteers, supply staff and regular visitors to the academy are told where the policy is kept, given the name of the DSL and deputy/ies and informed of the academy's procedures in reporting concerns.
- ✓ Establish a safe environment in which children and young people can learn and develop

- ✓ Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus and publishing its policy on the school website
- ✓ Ensure that the duty of care towards its pupils and staff is promoted by raising awareness of illegal, unsafe and unwise behaviour and assist staff to monitor their own standards and practice
- ✓ Ensure that all staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and are aware of whistleblowing procedures and helplines
- ✓ Be aware of and follow procedures set out by the DfE and the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Local Authority children's services departments where an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff or volunteer, including making a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- ✓ Ensure that a referral is made to the DBS and/or National College for Teaching and Leadership if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns, or would have been had they not resigned
- ✓ Ensure that there are effective procedures in place to deal with any safeguarding issues which may rise and that these are embedded, shared and followed by everyone within the academy community
- ✓ Ensure all staff and governors receive appropriate regular training on dealing with safeguarding and child protection issues and are aware of the wide range of indicators and types of abuse and what action to take if they have a concern
- ✓ Ensure all Governors have read (and signed to confirm) the school Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy including its Appendices, Part 2 of Keeping Children Safe in Education and the school's Code of Conduct
- ✓ Set out written standards on the expected conduct of staff and ensure all staff work safely and responsibly, monitoring their own standards and practices on a regular basis, avoiding any conduct which may lead someone to question their motivation or intentions
- ✓ Raise awareness of safeguarding and child protection issues with the children or young people and equip them with the skills needed to keep themselves safe
- ✓ Support children who have been abused or are vulnerable to abuse, this includes robustly tackling incidents of bullying
- ✓ Establish a safe environment in which children and young people can learn and develop
- ✓ Operate a lettings policy which ensures the suitability of adults working with children on school sites at any time
- ✓ Ensure that community users organising activities for children are aware of, and understand the need for compliance with the school's child protection guidelines and procedures

4. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Children Acts 1989 and 2004; the Education Act 2002

The Teachers' Standards 2012

'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2015

'Keeping Children Safe in Education' September 2016