



Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust



Written Statement Regarding Safeguarding and Child Protection

Reference: SAFE MAT/25

Multi Academy Trust Policy (MAT)

Policy Date:	March 2016
MAT Board Approval:	14 th March 2016
Review Date:	March 2017

1. Version	Date	Author	Changes
v1.0	14/03/16	Jo Baker	v1.0 approved by MAT Board

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1. The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust 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 Coventry Multi Academy Trust expects that everyone working within the academy trust will create 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 Coventry 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 Coventry 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 a report is made.
- 1.5. The Diocese of Coventry 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.

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.
- 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 SAFEGARDING STATEMENT

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

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

- have a Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy which can be found on the academy website;
- 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;
- appoint nominated safeguarding and child protection leads at the academy with clearly defined roles and ensure these are shared with staff, children, parents, volunteers and visitors to the academy;
- ensure that identified staff with designated responsibility for child protection and/or safeguarding are appropriately trained, well-resourced and supported to perform the duties required of them;
- 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;
- 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;
- have procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff or volunteers at the academy which are actively followed where a concern is raised;
- follow safer recruitment procedures, checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children;
- 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;
- develop robust and effective reporting procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse, including informing visitors and volunteers of how to report a concern;

- 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;
- ensure there are well publicised and robust complaint and whistleblowing policies in place;
- 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.

4. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/447595/KCSIE_July_2015.pdf

Working Together to Safeguard Children HM GOV 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf