



Eastern Multi-Academy Trust
Empower - Motivate - Aspire - Transform

Eastern Multi Academy Trust
Statement of Intent
For
Safeguarding

September 2021



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Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility'

All children and young people linked with the Eastern Multi Academy Trust [EMAT], wherever they are, whoever they are with, whatever they are doing, have the right to protection from neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

All EMAT Staff, Trustees, Board Members and Volunteers who come into contact with the children, young people and their families will:

- Be able to identify potential indicators of abuse or neglect
- Have read the Safeguarding Policy
- Know their role and responsibilities within their team
- Know how to communicate and record concerns
- Know to act upon concerns in line with the principles and procedures for local child protection management and Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Therefore, all children and young people in contact with any EMAT Academy will:

- Be treated with respect and afforded full civil and legal rights
- Be listened to and taken seriously, whatever their level of development or communication
- Be given time to do things for themselves, to understand and be understood
- Be involved in decisions that affect them
- Have their privacy respected at all times and in all places
- Have a right to confidentiality – all information about them will be treated carefully, be kept safe and only shared with those people who need to know.

The wellbeing of a child is the paramount consideration in all circumstances.



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Introduction

This Safeguarding Statement of Intent has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and related guidance. This includes the DfE “Keeping Children Safe in Education”, September 2021, the DfE’s Statutory Framework for “Early Years Foundation Stage (2014), and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018”.

EMAT is committed to working with the Safeguarding Children Board of each Local Authority in which it operates. The Trust refers to, and follows the policies and procedures developed by each Local Authority’s Local Safeguarding Children’s Board. Because of our close day to day contact with children, we acknowledge that all Trust staff have a crucial role to play in helping identify welfare concerns and indicators of possible abuse and neglect at an early stage.

Ethos

EMAT recognises the importance of providing an ethos and environment within each of its academies that will help children to feel:

- ★ Safe and secure
- ★ Respected
- ★ Able to talk openly
- ★ Listened to
- ★ Trusted

Our statement relates to all members of the Trust’s community including pupils, staff, academy council members, the trustees and Board, visitors, contractors, volunteers and trainees working within our academies. It is fully incorporated into each academy’s ethos and is underpinned throughout the teaching of the curriculum, within PHSE, RSE and the safety of the physical environment we provide for our pupils.

Policy and Procedures

All policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding children are up to date and compliant. The policies are accessible to all staff through the EMAT web-site and individual academy websites. Policies and procedures are reviewed and revised by each Trust school’s Local Academy Council. Please visit each individual Trust Academy’s website to read their full Safeguarding Policy.

Responsibilities

The safeguarding responsibilities within the Trust are detailed in the EMAT Scheme of Delegation and are as follows:

Trust Board

The Trust Board has overall responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding policies are implemented across the Trust and that it is satisfied that procedure and practice are compliant with those policies.

As delegated by the Trust Board, Mark Cresswell, Regional Director of Education (West) is currently the lead for Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk.



The CEO

Through the Trust DSL:

- Ensures that each Academy has members of staff appointed as designated leads and a Member of the Academy Council for Looked After Children and Safeguarding.
- Makes arrangements for safeguarding audits (including the Single Central Record) and reports the outcomes to Local Governing Bodies in detail and in summary to the Board.
- Ensures that the Single Central Record for central trust staff is maintained.
- Ensures that Disclosure and Barring Service checks are undertaken for all central trust staff, trustees and volunteers.

The Trust Designated Lead for Safeguarding [TDSL]

- Ensures Trust level policies are compliant and up to date
- Audits each academy on a rolling programme to ensure best practice, compliance and competence, making full written reports to the Principals and AC Members
- Has an overview of Safeguarding across all Trust Academies
- Supports DSLs across the Trust with advice and guidance
- Meets termly with all DSLs to share and support best practice
- Produces a Trust-wide Safeguarding Newsletter each term [*Safeguarding Matters*]
- Keeps up to date with training, local and national issues, and communicates such as necessary

The Academy Councils (Local Governing Bodies)

- Each academy's Academy Council is responsible for the implementation of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for the academy and monitoring its effectiveness.
- The AC appoints one of its members as the designated safeguarding member to liaise with the Principal regarding safeguarding matters and to arrange regular safeguarding training for all members.
- The designated safeguarding governor should meet regularly with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to ensure compliance.
- Receives an annual Safeguarding Report to Governors and similarly a LAC Review

Principal

- The Principal ensures a senior qualified Designated Safeguarding member of teaching staff (DSL) has been appointed and also appoints a designated teacher for Looked After Children.
- The DSL for the academy provides the Academy Council with an annual written report. The DSL must complete the annual Safeguarding Training and Induction return for the Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- Ensures all staff and AC members receive regular safeguarding and Prevent training.
- Reports regularly to the AC on safeguarding matters.
- Notifies the AC Chair, CEO/TDSL and HR adviser immediately of any allegation made against a member of staff.



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- Maintains the Single Central Record along with the HR Team
- Undertakes Disclosure and Barring Service checks for all staff, governors and volunteers.

DSLs and ADSLs

- Take full responsibility for the safeguarding of pupils at each academy on a daily basis.
- Ensure there is always DSL or ADSL coverage on site
- Report to the Academy Council on all matters Safeguarding
- Train and update staff on a regular basis, including delivering the Core Package at the start of the year
- Keep their training up to date and their competency high
- Maintain the integrity of the local reporting system at the academy
- Contribute to the DSL Trust Hub meetings [termly]
- Disseminate all safeguarding resources and knowledge as needed within the academy

All other staff [not named above]

- Must always be aware that it 'could happen here'
- Know the systems and procedures for reporting concerns and disclosures
- Know who the DSL/ADSLs in their academy are.
- Attend (at least) yearly update training on safeguarding
- Read and acknowledge the required documentation as expected [KCSIE 2021, Safeguarding Policy and other associated documents]

Disclosure and Barring Checks

EMAT meets statutory requirements in relation to the Disclosure and Barring Service – all staff and volunteers who work within Trust schools who meet the 'regulated activity test' (Freedom of Information Act 2012) are required to undergo an enhanced DBS check prior to employment. A Central Register is also held for members of the Trust Board and central Trust staff.

Mark Cresswell
Trust Designated Safeguarding Lead
September 2021