



Eastern Multi Academy Trust
Statement of Intent
For
Safeguarding

September 2024

[Updated annually]



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, Academy Committee and 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 and appropriate parts of KCSIE
- Understand the Prevent strategy and know where to make a referral
- 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 each and every child is the paramount consideration in all circumstances.



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 2024, the DfE’s Statutory Framework for “Early Years Foundation Stage (updated 2024), Working Together to Safeguard Children” (updated 2024) and the Prevent Duty for Schools (2023).

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 Committee. Please visit each individual Trust Academy’s website to read their full Safeguarding Policy and associated Annex A (giving the local context).

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, Primary School Improvement Director is currently the lead for Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk. Imran Khan, Primary School Improvement Director is the Alternate person.

The CEO

Through the Trust DSL:

- Ensures that each Academy has members of staff appointed as designated leads and a Member of the Academy Committee for Looked After Children and Safeguarding.
- Makes arrangements for safeguarding audits (including the Single Central Record) and reports the outcomes to Academy Committees in detail and in summary to the Board.
- Ensures, through the People Team, that the Single Central Record for central trust staff is maintained.
- Ensures, through the People Team, that Disclosure and Barring Service checks are undertaken for all central trust staff, trustees and volunteers.
- Ensures that a Lead DSL has oversight and responsibility for the Filtering and Monitoring system within each academy, reporting each half term to the Academy Committee

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
- Implements the Trust Safeguarding Supervision process for DSLs across the Trust

The Academy Committees (Local Governing Bodies)

- Each academy's Academy Committee 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
- Update their Safeguarding knowledge and training on a regular basis
- Support the Lead DSL in completing the Annual reports to the AC

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 Committee 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.
- Has responsibility for and helps maintain the Single Central Record along with the HR Team
- Understands the need for Disclosure and Barring Service checks for all staff, governors and volunteers, which are undertaken by the People Team.
- Completes Safer Recruitment training.

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, or that there is easy contact.
- Report to the Academy Committee 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
- Consider their own well-being, and support other members of the Safeguarding Team
- Access the Safeguarding Supervision sessions available

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 2022, 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' (Freedoms 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 2024 (updated)