



## **Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust**

### **Trust Safeguarding Policy Statement**

- The Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust (ESCAT) instils the ethos that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The ESCAT Board of Directors are ultimately accountable for safeguarding in the Trust's academy schools.
- The ESCAT Board of Directors understands the safeguarding responsibilities placed upon the Trust as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education last updated in September 2024 and other relevant documentation.
- The Trust recognises the contribution it can and must make to protecting and supporting children and young people in its schools. Their welfare is of paramount importance.
- ESCAT requires each individual school within the Trust to have safeguarding policies and practice which:
  - meet statutory requirements
  - reflect the requirements of the Local Authority
  - comply with any additional expectations of good practice, determined at Trust level.

### **School and Local Authority Policies and Contacts**

Please check an individual school's Safeguarding Policy for further details of school and Local Authority contact points, together with other locally determined arrangements. This can be obtained via the school website or the school office, upon request.

### **Responsibilities of the Trust**

The Trust ensures the following:

#### **Recruitment**

- Rigorous recruitment process for all staff and checks for all visitors in school.
- That all schools meet the statutory requirements in relation to the Disclosure & Barring Scheme. In conjunction with school Safer Recruitment Policy.
- All employees and volunteers who work with children and young adults in regulated activities have had an appropriate DBS check and this information is recorded, along with other pre-employment checks in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education on the Single Central Record of each school.

#### **Specific Policies and Processes**

- Safeguarding policies are up to date, robust and relevant, reflecting the context of each school. Policies are reviewed at least annually, normally in the Autumn term, and updated to reflect national guidance from external legislation.
- Schools have in place safeguarding arrangements which are designed to take account of all possible safeguarding issues including Child Sexual Exploitation and Preventing Radicalisation.

- All staff within Trust schools are aware of the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy, Behaviour Policy, Code of Conduct, identity & role of Designated Safeguarding Leads and Safeguarding response to children who go missing from education on induction and at regular intervals or when guidance/legislation is updated.
- All staff in Trust schools are provided with Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education on Induction or each time the document is updated.

### **Designated Safeguarding Leads**

- Each school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead and an appropriate number of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Training is completed in accordance with guidance set out in KCSIE 2024 by the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

### **Training and Awareness Raising**

- All staff and governors receive safeguarding training or updates at least annually. As part of their induction process, all new starters receive initial safeguarding training. Further training on new guidance/updates is delivered to all staff through face to face sessions on INSET days and/or staff meetings.
- All staff are aware of their responsibility to provide a safe environment for children to learn, which includes identifying children who may benefit from early help. Staff are trained in their own school's processes in making referrals should they recognise any early identification of abuse or neglect of a student. They are also trained in the process to follow should a student make a disclosure to them.
- All staff are made aware of the reporting lines in the event of a safeguarding concern which concerns another member of staff, a school Whistle Blowing and Low Level Concern Policy is also in operation.

### **Working with Other Agencies**

- There are robust arrangements in place in Trust schools for working together with other agencies and for sharing information with other professionals.
- Schools take account of their Local Authority's procedures and practices established by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and comply with any requests from that Board
- There are procedures in place in schools to handle allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers and that such allegations are referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)/Designed Officer at the Local Authority and that procedures are in place to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) when the criteria has been met. There are also procedures in place to handle allegations of abuse by young people against other young people also known as 'peer on peer abuse' or 'child on child abuse'.

### **Online Safety**

- There is a whole school approach to online safety to address the three areas of risk; content, contact and conduct. This includes a policy or procedures on the use of mobile technology in the setting, appropriate filters and monitoring systems to ensure young people are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate material online, including terrorist and extremist material, as well as online safety training for staff. As technology in this area evolves and changes rapidly, online safety will be regularly reviewed.
- Ensure that within the curriculum students are taught about safeguarding, including mental health/well-being and online safety (this incorporates healthy online/offline relationships, sexting/'youth produced sexual imagery' and terrorist/extremist material), through teaching, learning opportunities and tutorials.
- There are systems in place for young people to report any concerns, express their views and feedback. Staff will not agree confidentiality and will always act in the best interests of the child.

## **Monitoring**

### **How does the Trust monitor this?**

- Safeguarding audits are completed regularly in each school and a summary of this audit and the actions are reported to Local Governing Bodies and to the Trust.
- The Trust will consider the quality of Safeguarding challenge and support by Local Governing Bodies.
- Each Academy has a named link Governor for Safeguarding, the link Governor reviews the Safeguarding arrangements for the school on a termly basis. Where issues arise or concerns are raised this is reported to the Trust Board.
- Where a school in the Trust believes there has been a significant safeguarding or Child Protection issue, this is reported to the Trust, this may lead to an internal scrutiny to identify any failings and lessons learned.
- Where necessary the Trust will commission additional external challenge and support where appropriate to ensure schools meet their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Failure to implement appropriate arrangements in academies to safeguard and promote the well-being of children carries significant reputational risk for the Trust.

## **ESCAT Pay and Remuneration Personnel**

### **Key Personnel:**

Safeguarding Director:            Marc Evans