

Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust



Safeguarding Statement

October 2019

Introduction

TTMAT aims to make explicit the Trust's commitment to the development and dissemination of good practice and sound procedures. TTMAT is committed to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils.

TTMAT fully adopts the DfE statutory guidance for schools and colleges, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (Sept 2019). This document details information for schools, colleges and academies, setting out their legal duties.

Whilst Local Authorities have an overarching statutory responsibility and play a lead role for safeguarding, as well as promoting the welfare of children and young people in their area, TTMAT recognises their duty of collective responsibility and their position as a 'relevant partner' to safeguard and protect children and young people (Independent School Standards) guidance August 2019. TTMAT will fully cooperate with the designated Local Authority lead to protect the vulnerable from harm. These values and principles underpin TTMAT and assume a strategic responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice is of a high quality.

All schools/academies will have:

- A designated professional lead who will have the responsibility for the day-to-day management of safeguarding.
- A designated governor for safeguarding, who will report termly to the Local Governing Board on all safeguarding matters.
- Safeguarding procedures in place to deal effectively with safeguarding issues including Child Criminal Sexual Exploitation, County Lines, Female Genital Mutilation, Preventing Radicalisation, Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment.
- Clear procedures in place to handle allegations of abuse against children with a coordinated response.
- A developed culture of listening to children with a robust reporting and recording systems.
- A clear procedure, in line with government guidance, of the transfer of children confidential information.
- A teaching and learning programme embedded into the curriculum giving opportunities to teach children about safeguarding themselves and managing e safety.
- Protocols and procedures in place to work collaboratively with outside agencies and the sharing of information.
- Professional links and a commitment to responding, in accordance to Local Authority's procedures and practices established by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (combined with a willingness to comply with any requests from that Board in all cases where there is a concern about significant harm.

- A consistent approach in place to ensure all staff receive appropriate Child Protection/Safeguarding training with regular updates in line with government guidance.
- Effective Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies, available on individual school web sites which comply with Section 175 The Education Act 2002, Section 11 of Children's Act 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children July 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2019.
- A consistent approach to disseminate the Child Protection/Safeguarding policy to ensure all staff review the policy annually.
- Staff Code of Conduct protocols in place.
- Clear procedures for dealing with allegations against staff.
- Clear whistleblowing procedures, which reflect the principles of Sir Robert Francis's Freedom to Speak Up review.
- An appointed designated Lead for Children in Care. The teacher will have responsibility for liaising with Local Authorities and monitoring the educational achievement and welfare of these children through termly Personalised Educational Plan meetings and Child in Care meetings.
- Robust safeguarding responses for children who go missing from education with clear procedures for following up absences.
- An adherence to safe recruitment practices.
- An approach that ensures the fulfilment of all statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Supporting and Reporting Role of TTMAT

TTMAT will:

- Promote a consistent approach to monitoring safeguarding procedures. All schools will receive an external support visit to audit safeguarding procedures and protocols twice a year.
- Monitor the quality of safeguarding practices and their impact on outcomes for children across the Trust and provide regular reports to the Executive Advisor and the TTMAT Board.
- Work with Head Teachers to ensure that the performance of vulnerable children is effectively monitored and that appropriate support is available for children who are the subject of a Common Assessment Framework or Children's Social Care intervention and are at risk of achieving poor outcomes.
- Report on the outcomes of children subject to Child Protection plans (S47) or who are Children in Care.
- Liaise with Local Authority Safeguarding Children's Board lead professionals with regard to safeguarding issues, Ofsted and other agencies as required.
- Produce an annual Safeguarding report as part of the TTMAT's business planning arrangements.

- Commission external challenge and support where appropriate to ensure all schools meet their statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Ensure that the level of training staff is consistent across TTMAT.
- Provide regular collective opportunities for the Designated Safeguarding Leads to reflect and promote effective outcomes of good practice and develop action points to improve practice which will benefit TTMAT as a whole.

TTMAT's safeguarding service ensures adherence to national and local policy in the interests of vulnerable children and young people. It is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and young people in their schools and expects all staff to share this commitment.

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