

Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust



Safeguarding Statement of Intent

September 2024

Approved at TTMAT Board: 17 October 2024

Introduction

The TTMAT Trustees understands its statutory duties as outlined in the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) January 2024, Working Together to Safeguard Children (update December 2023), the Prevent Duty Guidance for Schools (Last updated March 2024) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2024). The Board of Trustees for TTMAT has ultimate responsibility for Safeguarding issues. The Trust has a Trust Safeguarding Lead who is available to support the Academy teams with Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and procedures.

Whilst Local Authorities have an overarching statutory responsibility and play a lead role for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. 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:

- An approach that ensures the fulfilment of all statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Designated Safeguarding Lead with operational responsibility for safeguarding to ensure the day-to-day care and safety of pupils, and manage child protection issues within their relevant school setting. Designated Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads share responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within their own school. Training for DSLs is formally refreshed every two years, and updated at least annually.
- A Designated Safeguarding Governor, 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 (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), County Lines, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Preventing Radicalisation, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment, Child on Child abuse, Serious Violence/Domestic Abuse.
- A developed culture of listening to children with a robust reporting and recording systems.
- A clear procedure, in line with government guidance, of unexplained and or persistent absences from education and the transfer of children's confidential information.
- A teaching and learning programme embedded into the curriculum teaching children about safeguarding themselves and staying safe online.
- Secure IT monitoring with clarity of expectation around filtering and monitoring systems. The Designated Lead, all staff and Governors will have knowledge of systems. All systems will be reviewed regularly.
- Clear procedures for promoting positive Mental Health and Wellbeing.
- A clear procedure, that all children have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious belief, or sexual identity.
- Protocols and procedures in place to support children who experience harm outside their families.

- Establish close liaison between the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the SENCO.
- 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 Partnerships (combined with a willingness to comply with any requests from that Board/Partnership in all cases where there is a concern about significant harm.
- A consistent approach in place to ensure all staff and Governors 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 (last update December 2023) and Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2024.
- A consistent approach to disseminate the Child Protection/Safeguarding policy to ensure all staff review the policy at least annually.
- Staff Code of Conduct protocols in place.
- Clear procedures in place to handle Low Level Concerns and allegations of abuse with a coordinated response.
- Clear whistleblowing procedures.
- An appointed designated Lead for Children in Care (CIC). 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 (PEP) meetings and Child in Care meetings.
- Robust safeguarding responses for children who go missing from education with clear procedures for following up absences in relation to safeguarding concerns. Work in partnership with schools/academies and Local Authorities to support Elective Home Education (EHE) when required.
- All schools/academies will be compliant with legal requirements for Safer Recruitment.

Supporting and Reporting Role of TTMAT

TTMAT have a strategic leadership responsibility for the schools/academies safeguarding arrangements and they will comply with their duties under legislation. The arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children must be compliant with Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2024. TTMAT hold ultimate accountability for those safeguarding arrangements, by assurances from their local governing body, Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads across the schools/academies.

The Trust understands and is committed to the vital contribution that Trustees, Staff, Parents and Students can make to the safeguarding of children. Every member of staff has a collective recognition of the importance of providing an environment that helps students to feel safe and respected, whilst also providing a culture that encourages students to talk openly and have the confidence that they will be listened to. This means that at all times, they consider what is in the best interests of the child.

TTMAT will:

- Monitor reviewing and scrutinising school/academy systems and procedures through regular monitoring by the both the Link Governor for Safeguarding and the Trust Safeguarding Lead. School/academies are expected to complete the relevant LA Section 175 audit and Trust 'in house' good practice audits in partnership with the Trust safeguarding lead and Governor.
- 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 Partnership 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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