



TCAT SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

Incorporating Child Protection

Member Academies:	Beamont Collegiate Academy Bridgewater High School Broomfields Junior School Great Sankey Primary School Meadowside Community Primary and Nursery School Padgate Academy Penketh High School Penketh South Primary School Priestley College Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School
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2		
3		

CONTENTS

	Section	Page Number
1	Overview	3
2	Child Protection Statement	3
3	Our Ethos	4
4	Further Details	5

APPENDICES

Appendix 1
Appendix 2
Appendix 3

1. OVERVIEW

Each school and academy with TCAT Multi-Academy Trust maintains a local policy regarding Safeguarding and Child Protection. This outlines how each school and academy meet their responsibilities towards safeguarding at a local level. This is reviewed annually by the Local Governing Body.

This document provides the Safeguarding Policy Statement for the whole Trust and is the policy against which each local school and academy are delivering. This Policy statement is also reviewed annually by the Trust Board.

Each school and academy have a link governor from the Local Governing Body who oversees the Safeguarding work of the school alongside the DSL. In addition, The Trust Board member Susan Richardson has responsibility for Safeguarding. The Strategic Lead for Safeguarding Tracey Hatton reports on all matters relating to Safeguarding to the Quality and Standards Committee of the Board.

Our Core Safeguarding Principles:

- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- the responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance
- we are committed to teaching children how to stay safe and to give them the skills to make the decisions to do so
- safer children make more successful learners
- representatives of the whole-school community of pupils, parents, staff and governors will be involved in policy development and review
- all children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection
- all staff have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm
- pupils and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support

2. CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and

neglect and follow local procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

3. OUR ETHOS

The child's welfare is of paramount importance. TCAT schools and academies will establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children at our schools and academies will be able to talk freely to any member of staff in their school if they are worried or concerned about something.

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. We recognise that staff across our Trust and at our schools and academies play a particularly important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from escalating. **All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.** When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members must always act in the **best interests** of the child.

All staff and regular visitors to our schools will, through training and induction, know how to recognise indicators of concern, how to respond to a disclosure from a child and how to record and report this information. We will not make promises to any child and we will not keep secrets. Every child will know what the adult will have to do with any information they have chosen to disclose

The curriculum in each school will provide activities and opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to identify risks and stay safe. This will also be extended to include material that will encourage our children to develop essential life skills.

Teaching pupils about how to stay safe and behave online, including identifying risks and how and when to seek support is crucial.

At all times, our schools and academies will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and Warrington Safeguarding Partnership Multi Agency Working arrangements.

As part of our responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, our schools and academies will provide a co-ordinated offer of Early Help when additional needs of children are identified. These may include if a child:

- is disabled and has specific additional needs
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan)

- is a young carer
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including:
 - gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
 - is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
 - is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
 - is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
- has returned home to their family from care
- is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- is a privately fostered child.

TCAT schools and academies are committed to collaboration to help to Safeguard children and young people to the best of our ability. The TCAT Safeguarding Hub has the remit to facilitate collaboration, training, support and supervision for the staff who work directly within Safeguarding in our schools and academies. The work of the TCAT schools and academies will be further supported by a Lead Practitioner Safeguarding. TCAT schools and academies are committed to working with the Education Safeguarding Team for the Local Authority and the Warrington Safeguarding Partnership allowing scrutiny of our response to Safeguarding concerns.

4. FURTHER DETAILS

For further details, please see the Safeguarding Policy documents held by each school in our Trust. This includes

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Local Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures
- Recognising Abuse and Acting
- Equality Statement
- Safeguarding pupils with SEND
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Pupils and those with Social Workers
- Managing allegations against staff
- Managing allegations between pupils
- Training of staff
- Advice on Safeguarding matters most significant in the school's context.