

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust's first priority is the welfare of our children. We are committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the children entrusted to our care at all times.

In September 2019, the DfE published revised 'Keeping Children Safe in Education – statutory guidance for schools and colleges'. This guidance contains information on what schools, including academies, should do and sets out the legal duties which they must comply with.

In law, individual academies are deemed to be 'relevant partners' of their local authority and as such are under a duty to co-operate in that local authority's Local Safeguarding Children's Board arrangements. St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust ensures not only compliance at the local level but also assumes a strategic responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice is of high quality.

The Trust has established a Leader of Safeguarding within the Executive team and a Safeguarding Lead Trust Board Director from the Trust Board to share good practice and develop the strategic Safeguarding policies and procedures of the Trust.

We have comprehensive Safeguarding Procedures in place at each of our Academies which are available to download from the websites and from the individual academies on request.

We know that some children may be the victims of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse and all our staff receive regular training on how to recognise the signs of abuse and, by virtue of their day-to-day contact and knowledge of the children, are well placed to identify such abuse and offer support to those children.

In order to protect our children, we:

- Create an atmosphere where all our children can feel secure, valued and listened to
- Are able to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse
- Are able to respond quickly and effectively to cases of suspected abuse
- Monitor and support children at risk
- Use the curriculum to raise children's awareness, build confidence and skills
- Work closely with parent/carers and support external agencies
- Ensure that all adults within our school who have access to children have been checked as to their suitability via an Enhanced DBS check and other pre-employment vetting checks
- Provide regular training and updates to our staff on a range of safeguarding issues

We will endeavour to support each child by :

- Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness whilst not condoning aggression or bullying
- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school
- Liaising and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of children
- Notifying Children's Services via the approved mechanisms as soon as there is a significant concern

- Providing continuing support to a child about whom there have been concerns who leaves the school by ensuring that appropriate information is forwarded under confidential cover to the child's new school.

Anyone who is concerned about the safety or well-being of any child within the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust should in the first instance contact the relevant Academy and ask to speak to the Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding.