Building a stronger community together, united by our love of God

All Saints' Trust (AST) Culture of Safeguarding – Statement of Intent

The Catholic Church in England and Wales is striving towards a culture of Safeguarding where all are safe from harm and abuse and where every person is encouraged and enabled to enjoy the fullness of life in Jesus Christ through the prayerful, caring, nurturing, supportive and protective endeavors of the Catholic community, both individually and collectively.

Living a Culture of Safeguarding as defined by the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission the Trust will seek to have a culture of:

- Openness & Transparency
- Love & Respect
- Responsibility & Accountability
- Compassion & Support
- Justice & Integrity
- Honesty & Humility
- Questioning & Challenging
- Learning & Changing

The Board and Trustees have a responsibility to ensure that:

- They are adequately informed about Safeguarding matters in order to make informed decisions.
- Policies and procedures are in place across the AST schools and meet the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) Guidance which has been circulated to all members of staff and Local Governing Bodies of each school. All staff sign to confirm that they have read and understood KCSIE and their schools Safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Policies and procedures are implemented and monitored.
- Adequate Safeguarding resources are available at Local Governing Body level to ensure safe processes and the minimisation of risk.
- The Board and Trustees recognise they have a duty of care and a duty to act.

The Board and Trustees have taken reasonable and proper steps to protect vulnerable pupils from harm or abuse by:

- Having adequate and proper Safeguarding policies and systems in place, including appropriate vetting procedures for those who work with children and vulnerable adults including Board members and Trustees themselves.
- Safe recruitment/selection practice is in place at each school within the AST (including but not only rigorous checking of applications, references and enhanced DBS checks). At least one member of the interview panel will have undertaken the Safer Recruitment in Education training.
- Ensuring allegations of abuse or concerns are dealt with seriously and responsibly in line with DfE policies and Local Safeguarding policies and procedures
- Ensuring the information about serious incidents is reported as soon as possible.
- The AST is associated with the Local Safeguarding Partners of each Local Authority in which it operates through its schools. Any issues related to Safeguarding children will be discussed with these partners as required.
- The Board of the AST has ultimate responsibility for Safeguarding issues. Operationally, this responsibility is delegated to the Trust Board to lead on policy issues

in relation to the Safeguarding of children and adults at risk across the AST. Within each school across the AST there are Designated Safeguarding Leads/Child Protection Officers who lead on Child Protection issues within their relevant location. They are clear about their role, have sufficient time and receive relevant support, and training, to undertake their roles which includes close contact with all Local Safeguarding Partners.

- Good induction programmes and on-going training/updates and CPD for staff (and others) in minimum standards in child protection are provided by each school.
- Listening to concerns of children and their families with an open mind and promotion of a policy/culture of Safeguarding children.
- Clear and accessible complaints through the AST policy and whistle-blowing procedures.
- Regular audits by Safeguarding Governors reported to Local Governing Body to ensure compliance in addition to the Safeguarding Audit to the Trust Board.

The Board and Trustees have taken a strategic approach to safeguarding:

The AST has adopted the single -school silo model, which is a flat governance model with no single DSL leading safeguarding in the Trust (as highlighted by the Confederation of School Trusts). However, all the DSL's in the AST meet regularly and each school submits a Safeguarding Compliance document to the Board. Consequently, all schools in the AST have their own individual safeguarding policies and procedures (please contact schools directly).

Signed
Chair of All Saints' Trust

Date:
Review date:

The Local Governing Body of_____confirm that it adheres to the Statement of Intent for Safeguarding within the All Saints' Trust.

Signed:
Chair of Local Governing Body

Signed:
Safeguarding Governor

Date:

Wisdom & Knowledge – Hope & Aspiration – Solidarity – Dignity & Respect – Rights & Responsibility – A Positive, Open & Honest Culture