OLAAS Safeguarding Statement

"Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child centred."

Our Lady and All Saints Multi-Academy Company (OLAAS) Directors have overall strategic leadership responsibility for the MAC schools' safeguarding arrangements and will ensure that they comply with their duties under relevant legislation. The Board of Directors delegates the responsibility for ensuring safeguarding compliance to the Local Governing Board of each individual MAC school who will ensure that the policies, procedures and training in their schools are effective and comply with the Law at all times. Head Teachers will ensure that the policies and procedures adopted by their Local Governing Board (particularly those concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect), are understood, and followed by all staff.

The Board of Directors has a lead Director who takes responsibility for overall safeguarding within OLAAS. Each school has a lead Governor who takes overall responsibility for the individual school's safeguarding. OLAAS keeps a central log of names and ensures that training is up to date for these members.

The OLAAS Board of Directors and Local Governing Board members will ensure that all Directors and Governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training will equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place within OLAAS and in schools are effective and are being adhered to. OLAAS will also ensure there is effective support for the delivery of a robust whole school approach to safeguarding. A central record is held detailing this training for all staff. Their training will be regularly updated.

Each school within OLAAS has a whole school approach to safeguarding and maintains a local policy and set of procedures for safeguarding and protecting children that, in line with best practice, takes into account contextual arrangements and issues which may impact on the safety and welfare of our young people. These policies and procedures, which are a child centred approach to safeguarding, outline how each school delivers safeguarding at a local level, as advised by the local authority safeguarding advisors and partners.

Local policies and procedures are made available on each respective school website and reflect the relevant Local Safeguarding Partnership's advice and guidance. Hard copies of the documents are also made available, on request, from each school. Parents and carers will also be informed of the policy and the local school procedure when their children join the school with updates being provided through school newsletters and other briefings.

The OLAAS Child Protection Policy Statement is provided to all staff at their Induction, alongside our Staff Code of Conduct; and all staff are appraised with the most recent version of 'Keeping Children in Safe in Education (KCSIE)' and other relevant documents and training as outlined in our OLAAS Staff Induction. Staff also receive regular updates and training during their employment in line with statutory guidance.

1. The aim of the OLAAS' Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Statement is to ensure that every child who is a registered pupil at our schools is safe and protected from harm. This means we will always work to:
    - Protect children in our schools from maltreatment.
    - Prevent impairment of children's mental or physical health or development.
    - Ensure that children at our schools grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
    - Take action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
    - Educate our young people to empower them to identify, respond to and report risk.
2. Each school will maintain their own specific and contextual policy and procedures which will give direction to staff, volunteers, visitors and parents about expected legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
3. These school procedures will reference this policy and the guidance provided by the relevant local authority safeguarding advisors and safeguarding partners in the geographical area the school is located in.
4. Each school will maintain and implement a Safer Recruitment procedure for the appointment of new staff in accordance with the statutory guidance in Part 3 of KCSIE.
5. OLAAS will also provide a Whistleblowing Policy and guidance should any safeguarding concerns arise related to practice within school.

The child's welfare is of paramount importance. We will establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children will be encouraged to be able to talk feely to any member of staff at our schools if they are worried or have concerns about something.

Everyone who comes in contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. We recognise that staff and volunteers who are in positions of trust in schools play a particularly important role as they can 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 and protection is concerned. All staff members must always act in the best interests of the child's welfare.

All staff, Directors, Local Governing Board members, volunteers and visitors will, through information giving, 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 on 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.

Throughout the curriculum we will provide activities and opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to identify risks and stay safe. They will also be extended to include material that will encourage our children to develop essential life skills.

We will work in partnership to establish and maintain effective working relationship with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies, as advised in the most recent versions of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) and such DfE guidance as 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'.

Some children have an increased risk of abuse, and additional barriers can exist for some children with respect to recognising or disclosing it. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children's diverse circumstances. We ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

OLAAS and the schools recognise that some children have an increased risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation and ensure that extra vigilance is applied to these children.