The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust

Statement of Intent

Culture of Safeguarding

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 endeavours 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.
- Adequate policies and procedures are in place across the Trust schools and meet the Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance September 2016 which has been circulated to all members of staff and Local Governing Bodies of each academy.
- 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 academy within the Trust (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 Board policies and procedures
- Ensuring the information about serious incidents is reported as soon as possible.
- DOWAT is associated with the Local Safeguarding Children Board of each Local Authority in which it operates through its academies. Any issues related to safeguarding children will be discussed at these boards as required.
- The Board of DOWAT has ultimate responsibility for Safeguarding issues. Operationally, this responsibility is delegated to the Risk Management Committee to lead on policy issues in

relation to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk across DOWAT. Within each academy across the Trust there are 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 outside agencies including social services, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and relevant health care organisations.

- Good induction programmes and on-going training/updates and CPD for staff (and others) in minimum standards in child protection are provided by each academy.
- Listening to concerns of children and their parents with an open mind and promotion of a policy/culture of safeguarding children.
- Clear and accessible complaints through the Trusts policy and whistle–blowing procedures.
- Good supervision of staff/volunteers.
- Regular audits by Safeguarding Governor reported to Local Governing Body to ensure compliance in addition to Risk Management Return to Trust.
- Introduction of online Risk Management system across the Trust Board from April 2017 for consistent reporting and accountability across Trust.

Signed:
Chair of DOWAT

Signed:
Chair of Risk Management Committee

Date: March 17.
Review date:

The Local Governing Body of _____ confirm that it adheres to the Statement of Intent for Safeguarding within The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust.

Signed:
Chair of Local Governing Body

Signed:
Safeguarding Governor

Date: