

Statement of Intent by the Plymouth CAST Multi-Academy Trust

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 each 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 Plymouth CAST Multi-Academy Trust will seek to have a culture of

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

The Plymouth CAST Board 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 academies 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 Plymouth CAST Board and trustees recognise they have a duty of care and a duty to act.

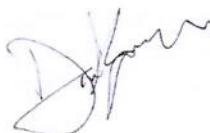
The Plymouth CAST Board have taken reasonable and proper steps to protect all pupils from harm or abuse by:

- Having adequate and proper safeguarding policies and systems in place, including appropriate vetting procedures for those who work with children and vulnerable adults including CAST Board members, Local Governing Body members and Central CAST staff who visit and support staff working in academies.
- 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 every 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 Department for Education policies and Local Safeguarding Board policies and procedures.
- Ensuring the information about serious incidents is reported as soon as possible.
- Plymouth CAST is associated with the Local Safeguarding Children Board of the seven Local Authorities in which it operates through its' academies. Any issues related to safeguarding children will be discussed at these boards as required.
- The Plymouth CAST Board has ultimate responsibility for Safeguarding issues. Operationally, this responsibility is delegated to the Audit and Risk Management Committee to lead on policy issues in relation to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk across Plymouth CAST.
- Within each academy across Plymouth CAST there are Designated Safeguarding Leads 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 partnership 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 including volunteers) 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 thereby supporting the child's development in ways which will foster security, confidence and independence.
- Ensure the integration of a child protection curriculum within the existing curriculum, allowing for continuity and progression through all the Key Stages in all academies.
- Clear and accessible complaints through the Plymouth CAST's "Making a Disclosure in the Public Interest Whistleblowing Policy and Procedures"
- Good supervision of staff/volunteers
- Regular audits by the Safeguarding Governor reporting to the Local Governing Body to ensure compliance in addition to a "Risk Management Return" to the Plymouth CAST Board.




Signed:
Chair of Plymouth CAST Board



Signed:
Chair of Audit and Risk Management Committee

Date: 1st September 2017
Review date: June 2018

The Local Governing Body of Our Lady's School confirms that it adheres to the Statement of Intent for Safeguarding within the Plymouth CAST Multi-Academy Trust.



Signed: M. Coe
Chair of Local Governing Body



Signed:
Safeguarding Governor

Date: 27.9.17