



Plymouth CAST Multi Academy Trust

Trust Safeguarding Statement

September 2024

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Introduction

1.1. This Trust-wide approach applies to all staff, including the Board of Trustees, paid staff, volunteers, agency staff, students or anyone working for and on behalf of Plymouth CAST Multi Academy Trust. This should be read in conjunction with the academy specific policies published by individual academies.

1.2. Plymouth CAST and the Local CAST Boards (LCBs) of all academies take seriously their responsibilities under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to work together with other agencies to ensure effective arrangements within our Academies to identify, assess and support those children and young people who are suffering harm.

Plymouth CAST and the Local CAST Boards (LCBs) of all academies recognise their moral and statutory responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. They endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected, valued, listened to, and in which their self-confidence grows. They are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow Trust/school procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. Child protection forms part of the school's safeguarding responsibilities. The Trust Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, personalised to every school, underpins and guides procedures and protocols to ensure its pupils and staff are safe.

1.3. This document sets out overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection for staff, governors, volunteers, visitors and parents. The Trust fully recognises the contribution it can make to protecting children from harm and to support and promote the welfare of all children who are registered pupils in our academies.

1.4. This should be read in conjunction with each Academy's policies and Safeguarding documents.

2. Legal Framework

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by:

- The Children's Act 1989
- The Education Act 2002
- The Children's Act 2004
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE September 2024)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- Guidance for Safer Working Practice

3. Responsibilities

Trustees:

All Trustees need to understand their safeguarding duties and should be kept up to date with legislation and regulation.

The Trust Board has a legal responsibility to make sure that the Academies have effective safeguarding policies and procedures in place, and monitors the implementation of these policies regularly. The Trust Board will do this by:

- Identifying a named Safeguarding lead from the Board of Trustees
- Ensuring that the named Safeguarding Lead for the Board of Directors undertakes all required Safeguarding and Child Protection training.
- Ensuring that Directors receive appropriate Safeguarding and Child Protection Training at the point of induction.
- Commissioning through the Senior Executive Leadership Team regular Safeguarding Reviews of our schools, including regular self/ peer-reviews, a Trust-led external review at least every three years, and reactive reviews as need dictates.
- Receiving regular reports from the CEO/Director of Education on safeguarding to the Plymouth CAST Board
- Delegating operational responsibilities to LCBs as defined below and in the Scheme of Delegation, and Schedule of Accountability.
- Receiving and approving the Trust Safeguarding Policy and Statement once per year.

Governors:

- The LCB of each school must appoint a named *Safeguarding Governor* who has lead responsibility for overseeing and monitoring all safeguarding issues in each school.
- The LCB will ensure that the named governor for Safeguarding & Child Protection undertakes all required training.
- The LCB will ensure that all governors receive appropriate Safeguarding and Child Protection training at the point of induction
- The LCB must receive at least annually a Safeguarding Report, prepared by the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

4. Named Staff and Contacts

Trust Designated Safeguarding Lead: Kevin Butlin: kevin.butlin@plymouthcast.org.uk

Trust Lead Safeguarding Director: Polly Montague : polly.montague@plymouthcast.com

5. Circulation

- This Statement will be published on the Trust's website and included in the Trust's Policy Monitoring Schedule.
- This will be available to every Member, Trustee/Director, Governor and Senior Employee through the Trust's website and intranet.
- The Trustees are responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of this statement.

Adoption

This has been adopted by the Trustees of Plymouth CAST Multi Academy Trust