

Safeguarding Statement of Intent

The Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT) has a clear vision which is helping every child achieve their God-given potential. Fundamental to this is that children within our care are safe and happy. Our Trust is committed to ensuring that we promote the highest standards of welfare, both physical and emotional for children at all of the DCAT academies. We will aim to do this by:

- Creating a culture of safe recruitment by adopting a procedure of robust interviewing, screening and checks to deter or identify people who may pose a risk to children
- Having in place clear and understood systems and processes which safeguard children
- Providing high quality and up-to-date training for staff, governors and Trustees
- Ensuring children feel empowered to recognise concerns and speak out if they are worried
- Ensuring that we work alongside our professional partners to achieve the best outcomes for all of our children
- Working in an open and honest way with our parents/carers

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Each Academy has a robust safeguarding and child protection policy which is fully aligned with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and local guidance from East Sussex, West Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Authorities. All policies are available on each of the Academy's individual website. The Trust has systems in place to check that each policy is up-to-date, fit for purpose and displayed clearly on their website.

To ensure that the academy policy is followed:

- Every member of staff across the Trust is required to read and sign that they have understood and will follow Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1
- Every local governor and Trustee is required to read and sign that they have understood Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1 and Part 2
- Every academy undertakes annual high-quality safeguarding and child protection training
- Annual high-quality safeguarding and child protection training is provided for all Trustees, local governors and Trust centre-based staff
- Local governors in the academies check the single central register three times a year

- Trustees check the centre team single central register annually
- Safeguarding is covered at ELT, Local Governing Body and Board meetings
- The lead DSL in each academy reports 3 times a year to the local governing body and this is monitored by the Trust
- The lead DSL for the Trust (Chief Executive) writes an annual Safeguarding report which is reviewed by Trustees
- Safeguarding is reviewed during peer reviews conducted by DSLs, academy headteachers and Trust leaders
- All Trust schools will be asked to undertake an annual safeguarding review to evidence full safeguarding compliance. The Trust's Head of Operations and Governance is tasked with supporting each academy maintain compliance with the required regular updating of evidence. The Head of Operations and Governance reports to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Further information regarding the Trust's safeguarding practices can be found in section 5.5 of the Trust handbook.