



September 2024

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Last Reviewed	17/10/2024
Next Review	16/10/2026
TCAT Lead	VB/TH/RL

SERVE CHALLENGE EMPOWER

Document Control

Version	Date	Action
1	15/9/2024	Revised statement approved by Trust Board
2	02/05/2025	Chair of Safeguarding Panel updated, and new policy format adopted

This policy is a Trust-wide policy and applies without exception to all staff, students, trustees and governors who attend or work at all academies in the Trust or in the central Trust structure.

Executive Summary

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Overview

Each academy in TCAT Multi-Academy Trust maintains a local policy regarding Safeguarding and Child Protection. This outlines how each school and academy meet their responsibilities towards safeguarding at a local level. This is reviewed annually by the Local Governing Body.

This document provides the Safeguarding Policy Statement for the whole Trust and is the policy against which each local school and academy are delivering. This Policy statement is also reviewed bi-annually by the Trust's Safeguarding Panel part of the Quality and Standards Committee of the Trust Board.

Each academy has a link governor from the Local Governing Body who oversees the Safeguarding work of the school alongside the DSL. In addition, the Chair of The Trust Board Safeguarding Panel has responsibility for Safeguarding. Currently this is Phil McEwan. The Strategic Lead for Safeguarding Tracey Hatton and Rebecca Leatherbarrow Safeguarding Lead Practitioner report on all matters relating to Safeguarding to the Safeguarding Panel group from the Quality and Standards Committee of the Board. The Safeguarding panel meets three times per year.

Our Core Safeguarding Principles:

- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- the responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people is of paramount importance
- the responsibility to prevent the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- we are committed to teaching children and young people how to stay safe and to give them the skills to make the decisions to do so
- safer children and young people make more successful learners
- representatives of the whole-school community of pupils, students, parents, staff and governors will be involved in policy development and review
- all children and young people regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion, or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection
- all staff have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child or young person is at risk of harm
- pupils, students and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support

Child Protection Statement

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils and students. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children and young people are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow local procedures to ensure that children and young people receive effective support, protection and justice.

The Policy and practice of all TCAT academies will be in line with the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance.

Our Ethos

The child or young person's welfare is of paramount importance. TCAT academies will establish and maintain an ethos where pupils and students feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children and young people at our academies will be able to talk freely to any member of staff in their academy if they are worried or concerned about something.

Everyone who comes into contact with children, young people and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children and young people. We recognise that staff across our Trust and at our academies play a particularly important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children and young people to prevent concerns from escalating. **All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.** When concerned about the welfare of a child or young person, staff members must always act in the **best interests** of the child or young person.

All staff and regular visitors to our schools will, through training and induction, know how to recognise indicators of concern, how to respond to a disclosure from a child or young person and how to record and report this information. We will not make promises to any child or young person and we will not keep secrets. Every child and young person will know what the adult will have to do with any information they have chosen to disclose

The curriculum in each school will provide activities and opportunities for children and young people to develop the skills they need to identify risks and stay safe. This will also be extended to include material that will encourage our children and young people to develop essential life skills.

Teaching pupils and students about how to stay safe and behave online, including identifying risks and how and when to seek support is crucial.

At all times, our academies will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and Warrington Safeguarding Partnership Multi Agency Working arrangements.

As part of our responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, our academies will contribute in a co-ordinated offer of Early Help when additional needs of children are identified. These may include if a child:

- is disabled and has specific additional needs
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan)
- is a young carer

- has experienced multiple suspensions and or is at risk of being permanently excluded
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including:
 - gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
 - is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
 - is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
 - is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
 - engaging in sexual violence or sexual harassment of peers
 - perpetrating child on child abuse
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
- has returned home to their family from care
- is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- is a privately fostered child.

TCAT academies are committed to collaboration to help to Safeguard children and young people to the best of our ability. The TCAT Safeguarding Hub has the remit to facilitate collaboration, training, support and supervision for the staff who work directly within Safeguarding in all academies. The work of the TCAT schools and academies will be further supported by a Lead Practitioner Safeguarding. TCAT academies are committed to working with the Education Safeguarding Team for the Local Authority and the Warrington Safeguarding Partnership allowing scrutiny of our Safeguarding practices.

Further Details

For further details, please see the Safeguarding Policy documents held by each school in our Trust.

This includes

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Local Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures
- Recognising Abuse and Acting
- Equality Statement
- Safeguarding pupils with SEND
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Pupils and those with Social Workers
- Managing allegations against staff
- Managing allegations between pupils
- Training of staff
- Advice on Safeguarding matters most significant in the school's context.