

# The St. Bart's Academy Trust

## Safeguarding Statement of Intent



### Trust Vision

We have a **Passion** for releasing potential in all our children and staff through the **Encouragement** and development of **Ambition**, aspiration and excellence in all aspects of our work. Our commitment is to place children at the centre of everything we do. Working in **Collaboration**, we strive to provide the highest quality of educational experiences and outcomes for young people in an inclusive environment. Through the **Enjoyment** of learning, we live life together in all its fullness through **PEACE**.

We believe this vision empowers children with the skills to make a positive impact on the future of the communities they serve.

Our Trust Christian ethos is also captured by the **PEACE** values and all schools work in close partnership (whether C of E or community) to ensure that all children, adults and the communities they serve flourish just as Jesus encouraged us to do in John 10:10 –

***“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”***

### Culture of Safeguarding

Everyone working across St Bart's Multi-Academy Trust is wholly committed to ensuring that all children and adults are cared for in a safe and secure environment. To fulfil this commitment, comprehensive safeguarding and child protection systems are in place in line with the DfE statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.

### Trust Board responsibilities

The St Bart's Board of Trustees understands its statutory duties as outlined in the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the Prevent Duty for Schools (2015) and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.

The Board of Trustees for St Bart's Multi-Academy Trust has ultimate responsibility for Safeguarding issues. The Trust has appointed a Trust Safeguarding Lead, Kim Webb, who is available at all times to support the Academy teams with Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and procedures.

### Designated Safeguarding Leads

Operationally, the responsibility for safeguarding is delegated to the Principals and Designated Safeguarding Leads who ensure the day-to-day care and safety of pupils and manage child protection issues within their relevant Academy. Currently, every Academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead and a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead who share lead responsibility with Principals for safeguarding and child protection within their own Academy. They are clear about their role, have sufficient time and receive relevant support, and training, to undertake their responsibilities, which includes close contact with outside agencies including social services, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and relevant health care organisations.

### Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures

The Trust ensures all Academy policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding children are up to date and in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023. Policies and procedures are reviewed and revised by

Academy Principals, Designated Safeguarding Leads and Local Governing Committees on a regular basis (at least annually).

Policies are accessible to all staff and parents through the individual Academy websites. Contextualised safeguarding information is available on each Academy's website. This includes, for example, the names of the Designated Safeguarding Leads and their deputies and how to raise a safeguarding concern. Academies use CPOMS to record concerns, information and actions towards keeping pupils safe.

## **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and employment checks**

St Bart's Multi-Academy Trust meets statutory requirements in relation to Disclosure & Barring Service as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023. All staff, members, Trustees, Governors and volunteers who meet the 'regulated activity test' are required to undergo an enhanced DBS and online check prior to employment or engagement. Each Academy's Single Central Record (SCR) details safer recruitment checks and DBS information.

## **Safer recruitment practices**

The Trust is committed to creating a culture of safe recruitment and, as part of this, adopts consistent recruitment procedures across all its Academies that help deter, reject or identify people who might present a risk to children. The Trust and its Academies act reasonably in making decisions about the suitability of any prospective member of staff based on relevant checks and evidence, including criminal record checks, enhanced DBS checks, barred list checks, online and prohibition checks, together with references and interview information.

When a third-party organisation (or individual) is using the school's premises the usual safeguarding policies and procedures should be followed and appropriate referrals to external agencies made. Allegations from these organisations must be referred to the LA LADO.

## **Filtering and Monitoring**

Each academy has a filtering and monitoring system that is monitored by the academy DSL. This system monitors the use of one to one iPads to ensure that our pupils are able to search safely when they are in school. It is the responsibility of the Academy's DSL to regularly check and monitor the filtering system.

## **Professional development and training**

All eligible staff, Governors, Trustees and volunteers are required to undertake relevant safeguarding training (core and specific) and this is regularly reviewed by each Academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure it is up to date. Training plans ensure everyone has the knowledge and skills required to carry out their role and responsibilities safely and with confidence. Across the Trust and its Academies all staff are consistently reminded of the systems, policies and procedures used to support child protection and safeguarding. These are also explained as part of staff induction and reviewed with all staff at the start of every academic year.

There is a Trust DSL Network, facilitated by the Trust Safeguarding Lead and made up of one DSL representative from each Academy, which meets regularly (at least termly) to talk through new initiatives, training opportunities, local issues and the wider perspectives involving child protection.

## **Curriculum**

Every Academy makes age appropriate provision for teaching children about how to keep themselves safe, including online, and enjoy healthy lifestyles, as part of each Academy's personalised approach to delivery of the PSHE and Computing curriculums.

## Monitoring

Safeguarding and Child Protection is reviewed annually in each Academy by the Trust Safeguarding Lead; audits and reviews are undertaken to ensure that safeguarding systems and processes are working. These include: the monitoring of each Academy's Single Central Record, the monitoring of Safeguarding Policies and Procedures including, an audit of 'CPOMS records and the effectiveness of report writing, website compliance checks and learning walks as well as the monitoring of training for all employees and volunteers, guidance and support. A full written summary of the findings and actions that need attention is produced which is shared with the Trust Central Leadership Team and each Local Governing Committee.

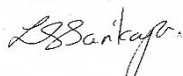
Any areas of need are followed up with each Academy with actions revisited to ensure compliance.

The Trust Safeguarding Lead has implemented a safeguarding monitoring timetable for each Academy to make sure that key safeguarding practices are in place. This strategy confirms consistency, communication and continuous development.

Each Academy has a named linked Governor for safeguarding. The nominated Governor reviews safeguarding procedures across their Academy at least termly and reports back to the Local Governing Committee.

The Single Central Record is audited, on at least three occasions during an academic year by either a member of the Trust SLT, the Trust Safeguarding Lead or the nominated Safeguarding Governor / Chair of Governors. Principals maintain responsibility for ensuring that all appropriate checks are completed and that the Single Central Record is accurate and up to date.

The Trust Safeguarding Lead and School Improvement Officers are responsible for supporting Principals to fulfil their statutory duties and hold them to account.



**Lisa Sarikaya**  
Chief Executive Officer  
SBMAT Board of Trustees Chief Executive Officer

September 2023