



St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust- Child Protection Procedure 2018-19

This procedural document is designed to clearly identify the role of the role the St Thomas Aquinas CMAT in relation to individual Academy Child Protection Policy.

Each individual Academy within the CMAT will publish their Child Protection Policy on their Academy website. This published policy must be signed, dated and include a review date.

Each individual Academy within the CMAT is responsible for ensuring their policy is 'fit for purpose', takes fully into account the requirements of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2015/ update 2018a) and any subsequent updates to this document. Each individual Academy is responsible for ensuring that they follow their Child Protection Policy and that appropriate training for all staff and governors is in place.

Each individual Academy policy must set out how the school and the local governing body discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at the school.

Each individual Academy should ensure that they follow the 2018 guidance re information sharing and keeping children safe:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721581/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf

In addition to the above each individual Academy within the CMAT must:

- Complete the annual safeguarding audit required by their local authority. They must submit this to their LA and in addition they must share this document with their nominated trust contact (in most cases this will be one of the Directors of Performance for the CMAT)
- Inform the CEO a matter of urgency when any Headteacher/DSL within the CMAT makes a referral to their Designated Officer. Should the referral relate to the CEO the Chair of the Board of Governors for the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust should be informed
- Share with the nominated Director of Performance/ Trust CEO the same anonymised information which would be shared with Local Governing Bodies. This information would be likely to include the number of children currently subject to a Child Support Plan and number of referrals to social services. It should not be possible to identify individual children from this information
- Individual Academies must continue to seek advice from their local authority safeguarding children board, in accordance with their Child Protection Policy

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Further to this:

- Staff who work centrally for the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust must act in accordance with, and adhere to, the individual Academy child protection policy for the schools they are working with
- Staff who work centrally for the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust will complete appropriate professional development related to Child Protection to ensure that they understand Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part 1). The evidence of this will be centrally recorded by the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust Operations Director
- Staff who work centrally for the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust will always follow the principles of the Children's Act (1989)- 'the welfare of the child is paramount'
- The St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust CEO, Executive Team and Governing Body will actively seek out opportunities to further support schools in their work safeguarding children. This could include the commissioning of external support or audit, where appropriate

At all points all staff are expected to follow the core principals of whistle blowing: <https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing>, which must be detailed within each individual Academy's Child Protection Policy.