



Annual Safeguarding Statement of Assurance Academic Year 2020 – 2021

1. Orchard Community Trust provides high quality educational provision for children and young people on roll at:
 - Abbey Hulton
 - Etruscan
 - Forest Park
 - Kemball
 - Oakhill
 - St Marks
 - Watermill
2. The day to day safeguarding arrangements in the Trust are delegated to each school and their Local Governing Board, with the Board of Trustees having oversight via reports, policies and link visits to schools/Chair's reviews of the compliance, quality and issues in each school.
3. The SEL will produce an annual report on safeguarding for the Trust Board in the Summer Term of each year.
4. Safeguarding data is presented to the Trust Board by the SEL at each OCT Curriculum, Standards and Quality Committee, which meets 6 times per year.
5. The Orchard Community Trust's Board of Trustees understands the safeguarding responsibilities placed upon the Trust as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 and considers them of vital importance.
6. The organisation meets its statutory requirements in relation to the Disclosure and Barring Scheme. Trust policy ensures all employees and volunteers who work with children and young adults have had appropriate check and that these are recorded – along with other relevant information – on the Single Central Record of each school.
7. Safeguarding policies are up to date and robust. Policies are reviewed regularly (at least annually) and updated in response to national guidance and guidance from local safeguarding children boards.
8. Each academy has a named Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Each Designated Safeguarding Lead and safeguarding team-if required, are to be offered half-termly supervision from an external social work consultant, commissioned by the Trust.
9. All staff have undertaken and are up to date with safeguarding training, both core and on specific subjects or themes (such as child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation etc.). There is a plan in place in each school which provides clear expectations of training. This is delivered through face to face sessions on school INSET and/or twilight sessions, with updates shared at regular whole-school workforce briefing sessions.
10. Children and young people are supported to self-safeguard through each school's personalised approach to delivery of the PSHE curriculum.

11. Annual safeguarding audits are undertaken in each school by an external auditor commissioned by the Trust. Reports are produced and submitted to appropriate local governing board meetings and to the Trust's Curriculum, Quality and Standards Committee. All 7 schools have had a review in the Autumn Term of 2021 and were judged to have a strong safeguarding culture in place, with safeguarding being effective.
12. The Trust has a named e-safety lead (can be the same person as overall safeguarding lead) for each school and facilitates half-termly safeguarding lead network meetings to share best practice and to ensure peer support and development is in place. In 2021-22, all e-safety leads will be offered the opportunity to undertake accredit CEOP training to further their skills development.
13. Each school has a named link Governor for safeguarding. Local Governing Boards review safeguarding across their school at least 3 times a year through the business meetings cycle for local governance and Chairs of Governors attend school each term to check the SCR.
14. There is a Board Trustee who is the named lead for safeguarding. The Board reviews safeguarding across the organisation 3 times a year through the work of the Trust Board Curriculum, Standards and Quality Committee.
15. Behaviour and wellbeing is reported on separately to local governing boards, to ensure a holistic view of safeguarding and welfare is presented. Reports are submitted to local Governors at least 3 times per year as part of the Headteacher's termly report to Governors.
16. The Trust Executive Lead for safeguarding is the Senior Executive Leader.
17. The OCT Governance and Compliance Officer checks school-based and the MAT websites each term for compliance related to safeguarding policies.
18. The OCT Governance and Compliance Officer ensures, through liaison with the Chair of each meeting, that safeguarding is included, where appropriate, on the agenda for Trust Board, Trust Board Committee and LGB meetings.
19. The Trust's Lead for School Improvement shares best practice from the reviews across the Trust and also follows up on recommendation in each school during her visits to school as per the annual cycle in the MAT's school improvement strategy.
20. Orchard Community Trust has in place a network of safeguarding leads from each school which meet each term to discuss policy and practice. A Headteacher and the Chair of the Trust board attends these meetings. The SEL attends by invitation.

Rob Johnstone-Orchard Community Trust-Senior Executive Leader-December 2021