

WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY

Managing allegations against staff and volunteers

The Saints Federation aims to provide a safe and supportive environment which secures the wellbeing and very best outcomes for the children. The federation recognises that sometimes the behaviour of adults may lead to an allegation of abuse being made.

Allegations sometimes arise from a differing understanding of the same event, but when they occur they are distressing and difficult for all concerned. The partnership recognises that many allegations are genuine and there are some adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children. The Saints Federation will take all possible steps to safeguard our children and to ensure that the adults in the partnership are safe to work with children. The partnership will always ensure that the procedures outlined in Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board Protocol: Allegations Against Persons who Work with Children and Part 4 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', DfE (2020) are adhered to and will seek appropriate advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The LADO can be contacted on 01603 223473.

If an allegation is made or information is received about an adult who works in the partnership schools which indicates that they may be unsuitable to work with children, the member of staff receiving the information should inform the Executive Headteacher immediately. Should an allegation be made against the Executive Headteacher, this will be reported to the Chair of Governors. In the event that neither the Executive Headteacher nor Chair of Governors is not contactable on that day, the information must be passed to and dealt with by either the member of staff acting as Executive Headteacher or the Vice Chair of Governors.

The Executive Headteacher or Chair of Governors will seek advice from the LADO within one working day. No member of staff or the governing body will undertake further investigations before receiving advice from the LADO.

Any member of staff or volunteer who does not feel confident to raise their concerns with the Executive Headteacher or Chair of Governors should contact the LADO directly on 01603 223473.

The School has a legal duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left. The DBS will consider whether to bar the person. If these circumstances arise in relation to a member of staff at our school, a referral will be made as soon as possible after the resignation or removal of the individual in accordance with advice from the LADO and/or HR.

Relevant Policies

Safeguarding policy is applicable to all policies in the federation.

Statutory Framework

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children DfE (2018)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE (2020)
- Norfolk Children Safeguarding Board
- The Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015
- 'Prevent Duty Guidance: for England & Wales', HM Government (2015) 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools', DfE (2019)

Last Review: September 2021

Next Review: September 2022