



Trust Approach to Safeguarding

2023 to 2024

Our Approach to Safeguarding:

DSAMAT has a clear **mission** at its core, ensuring that all pupils are enabled to flourish, rooted in God's Love - academically, socially, spiritually, physically and mentally.

We have a clear **vision** about creating successful schools for the benefit of their communities. We expect any academy in the Trust to continuously improve. All academies provide rich and diverse curriculums which evolve to meet the needs of their children and local communities, as well as delivering educational excellence to enable them to flourish in later life.

The way we work and deliver against our mission is critical to our Trust. We have shared, agreed **values** of Hope; Nurture; Equality; Respect; Collaboration.

The Trust's vision is underpinned by a Christian values framework which is adopted by all Academies. It provides clear expectations for all DSAMAT employees on how the Trust wishes its values to impact on all areas of academy life. This draws on, and is informed by, the National Church of England Vision for Education and the Diocesan Board of Education Vision

The DSAMAT approach to Safeguarding is integral to mission and we expect all adults within our community to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils. This is underpinned by our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy which has been adopted by all schools within our Trust.

Key contacts:

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| Trust Safeguarding Strategy Lead | Natalie Dalvarez |
| Safeguarding Consultant | Lizzie Jeanes |
| Safeguarding Link Directors | Audit and Risk Committee |
| Trust SCR Lead | Emma Loftus |
| Caldecote CE Academy | DSL - Lesley Hulbert DDSL – Sarah Campbell SCR Manager – Liz Chase Link Governor – Vaughn Johnson |
| Churchfield CE Academy | DSL – Nadia Low Ten Que DDSL – Jodie Stalley and Sarah Brand SCR Manager – Helen Chuck Link Governor – Nicole Gallagher Russell |
| Kensworth CE Academy | DSL – Sarah Cowell DDSL - Danielle Giddings, Gilly Riach and Vicky Morrall (Autumn term) SCR Manager – Sarah Rooney Link Governor – Charlotte Durrant |



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| Manshead CE Academy | DSL – Gail Dumpleton DDSL – Andy McBurnie, Stuart Moore, Jo Lynam, Karen Wright SCR Manager – Bernie Hillman Link Governor – Laura Redrup |
| Northill CE Academy | DSL – Maria Soulsby DDSL – tbc SCR Manager – Jane Hewlett Link Governor – Sandra Munday |
| Ravensden CE Primary Academy | DSL: Anna Healey DDSL: Wendie Nokes & Anna Spyropoulos SCR Manager – Sally Gloyn Link Governor – Taffy Booth |
| Roxton CE Academy | DSL – Jo Hearn DDSL – Anna Spyropoulos SCR Manager – Gillian Nunn Link Governor - Jenny Murdoch |
| St James CE Academy | DSL – Sarah Morton DDSL – Ian Leach, Alison Barden & Simi Rai SCR Manager –Julie Garstang Link Governor – Claire Hope-Arnold |
| Studham CE Village Academy | DSL – Sarah Dryden DDSL - Sarah MacKenzie-Skea SCR Manager – Julia Oldham Link Governor – Caren Doodson |
| Thomas Whitehead CE Academy | DSL - Della Mitra DDSL - Helen Long, Natasha Chiswell and Katie Glastonbury SCR Manager – Karen Pearce Link Governor – Caroline Chandler |
| Totternhoe CE Academy | DSL – Laura Jesson DDSL – Gemma Needham, Rebecca Waters, Alison O'Neill, Laura Fox and Keeley Hobbs SCR Manager – Gemma Needham Link Governor - Debbie Mitchelmore |
| Ursula Taylor CE Academy | DSL – Vicki Morrall DDSL – Kate Hall, Jacob Matthews, Hannah Lee SCR Manager – Debbie Daley Link Governor – Dale Ashpole |
| Wenlock CE Academy | DSL – Olivia Burke DDSL – Vana Konstantinidou, Matt Hudson, Rachel Anderson and Gemma Waversek SCR Manager – Natalie Barford Link Governor – Stuart Moore |



Key support and supervision for our Safeguarding teams across the Trust:

Safeguarding conversations for DSLs

- Informal development conversation at individual school level, hosted by Safeguarding consultant
- Offering supervision to DSL
- Take place monthly (excluding August)
- School DSL and LJ are present (Headteachers optional invite)
- Meeting followed up with notes sent from Safeguarding Consultant
- Strategic Lead alerted to key concerns by the Safeguarding Consultant

Safeguarding meetings for school professionals

- Best practice and updates, hosted by the Safeguarding Consultant
- Take place half termly – all DSLs in attendance and Headteachers are optional invite

Safeguarding meetings for Link Governors

- Termly meetings to share news, updates and best practice, hosted by Trust Governance Manager with standing invite to Safeguarding Consultant

Safeguarding meetings for SCR Managers

- Termly meetings to share news, updates and best practice, hosted by Trust People Manager with standing invite to SCR online portal team account manager

Key monitoring of our Safeguarding practices across the Trust:

Annual Safeguarding Health check

- Annual review of policy and practice at school level led by Safeguarding Consultant; Link Governor invited but not expected to attend, DSL and school staff to support as required
- Report sent to DSL and HT for initial checks
- Once initial checks have taken place, the Safeguarding Consultant forwards the report to the Headteacher and DSL, and copies in the Strategic Lead
- Headteacher to share with Safeguarding Link Governor and Chair of Governors (and may also choose to circulate to wider Board at next LGB meeting)
- DSL leads on the Action plan from health check and shares updates with Safeguarding Link Governor
- Strategic Lead to update the Board of Directors via ARC with a written summary of the activity, learning and recommendations per term



Safeguarding Local Authority Annual Audit

- Internal review of local process and practice, lead by the DSL, in line with LA guidance to ensure local responsibilities are met
- Document completed annually in line with LA submission dates
- School to send copy of audit to their CoG, Safeguarding Link Governor, Safeguarding Consultant and Strategic Lead
- Strategic Lead to update the Board of Directors via ARC with a written summary of the activity, learning and recommendations per term

SCR Reviews

- All Trust schools use an online template for SCRs, provided by a national organisation. This ensures that the framework is always correct and meets emerging expectations. This is the only method of an SCR used for DSAMAT schools.
- SCR Managers are responsible for the day to day update of their school's SCR, with Headteachers responsible for the overall accuracy of this information
- Headteachers, or in larger schools this may be delegated to another senior leader, are required to check their SCR at least each half term and where significant changes have been made due to staff movement. This needs to be evidenced through the SCR portal via My Account/SCR Sign-off Auditing Settings/View Audit Log
- The Central HR team will review the SCR and a sample of corresponding HR files at least annually as part of the Trust Assurance programme
- Written reports of these annual reviews will be shared with the school safeguarding team, the Safeguarding Consultant and the strategic lead
- Strategic Lead to update the Board of Directors via ARC with a written summary of the activity, learning and recommendations per term
- Link Governors must not to review the SCR directly, but ensure checks are completed and follow up actions addressed (see link governor guidance)

Governance scrutiny and triangulation:

Safeguarding Link Governor Scrutiny

- Ensure compliance calendar is being followed and that checks are completed – follow up on key actions (what will be done, by whom, when?)
- Review Safeguarding headline data from DSL each term; ensure school is routinely attending the professional meetings and completing audits
- Capture conversations with DSL using the governor visit template
- Ensure Safeguarding is reported on at each Local Governing Board meeting
- Identify key areas of concern and strength to the Trust central team via LGB meetings, attendance at Link Governors meeting and through written communications as required



- Remain up to date with key information and best practice in Safeguarding, championing the right of the school community to be safe and to flourish
- Review guidance for all Safeguarding Link Governors published on GovernorHub

Local Governing Board scrutiny

- Ensure that there is a named link governor for Safeguarding who has, as a minimum, completed online training via NGA Learning Link Safeguarding: How to fulfil the governance role
- Ensure Safeguarding is a core item on every LGB meeting and that key actions identified in compliance checks are followed up
- Safeguarding Link Governor to provide a verbal update to their LGB as part of each governing body meeting following their regular discussion with the DSL and completion of the governor visit template
- Safeguarding Link Governor verbal updates should triangulate back to the Safeguarding section of the termly Leadership Report

Trust Executive Team

- High level review of Safeguarding processes and practice across the Trust identifying key areas of concern and development; including Safeguarding Consultant and Safeguarding Strategy Lead
- Meetings to take place half termly and follow on from the DSL network meetings
- Recommendations, risks and actions should be highlighted in Safeguarding Leadership report to ARC

Board Scrutiny

- Safeguarding strategy and practice to be presented to the Audit and Risk (ARC) committee by the Strategic Lead
- Safeguarding strategy and practice to be on the agenda at each full Board meeting, led by the Chair of ARC