

Annual Safeguarding Statement of Assurance

Academic Year 2021 – 2022

1. Nexus Multi Academy Trust provides high quality educational provision for children and young people on roll at:
 - Abbey Special Academy, Rotherham;
 - Bader Special Academy, Doncaster
 - Becton Hospital Academy, Sheffield;
 - Craggs Primary Academy, Rotherham;
 - Coppice Special Academy, Doncaster
 - Heatherwood Special Academy, Doncaster
 - Hilltop Special Academy, Rotherham;
 - Kelford Special Academy, Rotherham;
 - North Ridge Special Academy, Doncaster;
 - Pennine View Special Academy, Doncaster.
2. The Nexus MAT Board of Directors understands the safeguarding responsibilities placed upon the Trust as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 and considers them of vital importance.
3. 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 checks and that these are recorded – along with other relevant information – on the Single Central Record of each academy.
4. Audits of the Single Central Record are undertaken twice a year by the Trust's HR Consultant. All 10 academies received an audit report with areas for action.
5. The Trust's Lead Executive Headteacher commissioned an external consultant to review schools' S.175 self-assessments.
6. Safeguarding policies are up to date. Policies are reviewed regularly by Headteachers and the Trust executive team (at least annually) and updated in response to national guidance and model documents issued by Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.
7. There is a Board Director who is the named lead for safeguarding. The Board receives reports on safeguarding across the organisation at least 3 times a year

through the work of the Standards Committee, which is underpinned by the challenge and support provided by local governance and the more detailed reports received at this layer.

8. The executive lead for safeguarding across the Trust is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Safeguarding is an area of focus in monthly supervision sessions between the CEO and all Headteachers, and case discussions take place routinely on a demands-led basis.
9. Each academy has a named Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Each Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is offered half termly supervision from an external social work consultant, commissioned by the Trust. This is optional, though all DSLs engage in this process openly.
10. 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, online safety etc). This is delivered by the DSL in each school, and all DSLs attend training delivered by their Local Safeguarding Children Partnership. In some cases, external experts are brought in to schools to deliver specific workshops on specialist subject areas, such as attachment disorder, trauma informed practice.
11. There is a school improvement plan in place for each academy, which provides clear expectations of training, linked to the section 175 audit. 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.
12. Each academy has a named link governor for safeguarding. Local Governing Bodies review safeguarding across their academy at least 3 times a year through the business meetings cycle for local governance. The reports submitted to local governance are then amalgamated into a Trust-level report for the Standards Committee.
13. Behaviour and wellbeing is reporting on separately to local governors, to ensure a holistic view of safeguarding and welfare is presented.
14. On 20 October 2021 and 22 June 2022 the Named Director for Safeguarding met with local governance Chairs to discuss safeguarding oversight in the schools.

15. On the basis of this work, Nexus Multi Academy Trust confirms it has considered its position in regard to safeguarding children and has assurance that it is meeting requirements and is following good practice.

Name:	Peter Castleton
Designated:	Named Director – Safeguarding
Date:	20 July 2022