SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust

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Blessed Edward Bamber
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Version Control

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2.1	CEO	Sept 23	Updated links
3.1	CEO	Sept 24	1 - Add in new definition of safeguarding 4 – update links for legislation
4.1	CEO	Sept 25	Updated links Added contact details for Trust DSL.

This is a Trust-Wide Policy which applies to all academies within the Trust

Genesis 28:15

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go

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1. Introduction

The Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust (BEBCMAT) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people across the Trust. This policy provides the overarching ethos for safeguarding and child protection within all schools in BEBCMAT. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment and adhere to these standards.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge;
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online;
- Preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Note: 'children' includes everyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. All individuals who come into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals must ensure that, at all times, they should act in the best interests of the child or young person.

Each school within the Trust has a separate Safeguarding and Child Protection policy which can be found on the individual school's website. This will meet local arrangements and will be specific to each school, whilst also fulfilling the overarching Trust's safeguarding guidance contained in this policy.

2. Scope

All staff working with our children and young people, in any capacity, are expected to comply with this overarching ethos and to have regard to the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures within each school. This includes all directors, governors, employees, including casual and agency staff, self-employed or contractual workers, volunteers and any other students or trainees.

3. Equality Statement

This policy applies fairly to all employees irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage, and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion, belief, sex or sexual orientation in accordance with the Equality Act, 2010.

4. Policy and Procedures

All BEBCMAT policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding children will be up to date and in line with DfE statutory guidance including:

- HM Government Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel (PMAP) guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Prevent duty guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Alternative provision - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Policies are accessible to staff via the schools' websites, staff areas of the schools' IT network, the Trust website or shared documentation area.

There are a range of policies and procedures at each school/academy to manage the different aspects of safeguarding. These include:

Child Protection and Safeguarding policy
Anti-bullying policy
Safe Use of ICT policies
Relationships, Sex and Health Education policy
Behaviour policy
Safer Recruitment policy
Educational Visits policy
Staff code of conduct

This statement should also be read in conjunction with the Trust's Whistleblowing policy.

5. Safeguarding Statement

We are committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the children and young people entrusted to our care at all times. All staff are trained to the required level as required by KCSiE 2025.

By law, individual schools/academies are deemed to be 'relevant partners' of their local authority and as such are under a duty to cooperate in that local authority's Local Safeguarding Partnership arrangements. The Blessed Edward Bamber CMAT ensures compliance at a local level and also assumes a strategic responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice is of the highest quality.

There are comprehensive safeguarding and child protection procedures in place at each school/academy which are available to download from their individual websites and from the school/academy on request.

Across the Trust, in order to protect our children and young people, we adhere to the following principles:

- **Establishing a Culture:**
  All schools/academies will create an atmosphere where children and young people can feel secure, valued and listened to. All schools/academies will adopt the Trust's ethos of a shared responsibility towards safeguarding practice. This ethos should be evident throughout the school and be clearly visible to pupils, staff, parents and visitors. We will work closely with parents and carers to ensure timely and appropriate support.

- **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy:**
  Each school/academy is responsible for compliance with its Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership procedures. Each school/academy will set out its statutory duties and its procedures for adults to raise concerns. This is personalised and relevant to each unique setting. The Child Protection and Safeguarding policy for each school is published on the school website and will be reviewed at least annually. Each policy will cover all aspects of child abuse and neglect and include issues of female genital mutilation, Prevent, child sexual exploitation, sexual violence and sexual harassment, County

lines, gangs, child-on-child abuse, child criminal exploitation, mental health, serious violence and online safety. This list is not exhaustive and reflects the requirements of KCSiE.

- **Continuous Professional Development:**
  All staff, including support staff, directors and members of the local governing bodies, must read the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education and reflect on it to demonstrate the move from compliance to impact. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at each school/academy must keep an up-to-date record of safeguarding training for each member of staff. In addition to induction training and annual training, all staff receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via emails, bulletins and staff meetings), as required, to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children and young people effectively.

  All staff should be aware of their local early help process and understand their role in it. All staff should be aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and what role they may need to play in any statutory assessments under the Children Act, 1989. All staff should know what to do if a child tells them they are being abused, exploited or neglected. Staff should know how to manage the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality. Staff should be knowledgeable in how to spot early signs and symptoms of abuse.

  Local governing bodies and the Board of Directors are regularly updated about safeguarding, child protection and anti-bullying policies and records.

- **Safer Recruitment Practices:**
  The headteacher must know that all adults present in the school have been suitably vetted to be safe to work with children and young people. All relevant staff will have up to date current safer recruitment training. BEBCMAT meets statutory requirements in relation to the government Disclosure and Barring Service – all staff and volunteers who work with children undergo an enhanced DBS check.

  The Trust ensures that there is an updated Single Central Record (SCR) of all Trust staff and Directors. Each school maintains its own updated SCR, which is regularly reviewed and audited.
  All staff have a responsibility to ensure that both their own conduct and that of others is safe. If staff have any concerns about the conduct of others, they must report this immediately to the Headteacher (or the CEO of the Trust if it is regarding the Headteacher) through the Trust's Whistleblowing policy.

  The expectations of all staff on site are shared both during the recruitment and selection process and through a thorough induction, which occurs prior to commencing the role and also for those members of staff who have been on a long-term absence on their return to work. The staff code of conduct, Safeguarding policy and Behaviour policy must be read by all staff annually.

- **Safe Grounds and Perimeters:**
  Schools/academies are encouraged to aim for a limited number of entry and exit to the site and these should be supervised at peak times. Traffic and road safety of pupils is paramount and vehicles and pupils should be carefully managed, particularly at the start and end of the school day. The school perimeters have appropriate fencing which is kept in good order. The use of CCTV cameras is in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). All visitors must be identified and recorded. Visitors that do not have DBS clearance are supervised at all times. All staff are accountable for ensuring that wherever young people are, they are safe. This means that they are responsible for reporting any health and safety concerns regarding classrooms or shared spaces to the relevant person.

- **Understanding the Community:**
  All schools/academies must consider the risks to children and young people from the school community and the wider local community. Any prevailing local contextual risks or issues are assessed, and all made aware of these.

- **Internet Safety:**
  All schools/academies must have regard for online safety. Social media and online safety feature strongly in sexual exploitation and grooming, radicalisation and financial scams and schools/academies must have measures in place to mitigate these risks. Appropriate filtering and monitoring systems must be in place at each school to prevent pupils accessing inappropriate materials.

- **Assessing and Managing Risk:**
  All schools undertake an annual assessment of risk. Consideration is given to local, national and international risks and determining the most frequent and serious risks across the school. Risk assessments are completed as necessary. Critical incident planning is robust and is regularly practiced. This includes practising lock-down and fire evacuation procedures.

  Risk assessments are completed on any places where children or young people are taken to be educated off-site or for residential trips or visits, work experience or alternative provision. Any trips or visits are appropriately risk assessed using the Evolve system.

  All staff must operate within the health and safety regulations for the school or setting, including fore regulations, building regulations and procedures for legionella or asbestos. The Headteacher of each site is responsible for the letting or transfer of control to other agencies for use of the premises.

- **Curriculum:**
  The curriculum in each school/academy links closely with risk assessment procedures and helps pupils to recognise, understand and develop resilience to the risks around them. This is generally taught through the PSHE curriculum, supplemented by focus days or assemblies etc. Across the Trust, through a wide-ranging curriculum including PSHE, RSHE and SMSC; pupils are given many opportunities to learn about diversity, including faith, democracy, law and British values.

  Through this curriculum offer, children and young people explore their understanding of life and their own experiences, such as health, nutrition, positive relationships and keeping themselves safe. The personal development curriculum at each school in the Trust covers all aspects of safety and wellbeing relating to children and young people. It is there to support them in managing current and future risks and develop the ability to manage difficult situations. It should also help children and young people to understand, in an age-appropriate way, concepts such as consent. The curriculum, and delivery of it, is also designed to give pupils a voice and opportunities to discuss and talk.
  The RSHE curriculum in each school/academy reflects current best practice. Lessons are taught at an age and need appropriate level and include opportunities to discuss feelings and emotions. Signposts to additional support are highlighted if required.

- **Developing Partnerships:**
  Partnership working is important in developing positive professional relationships with partners such as other schools, local authorities, health, social care and the police. DSLs attend forums and strategy meetings with external agencies to better understand risk and safeguarding in the local area.

- **Transition Planning:**
  The Trust is committed to ensuring that at any transition points, such as nursery to Reception, KS2 to Y7 or Y11 into 6th form, or from mainstream to special settings or alternative provision, information

is maintained and transferred effectively. Leaders ensure that there is timely sharing of information, and that all information is share in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations. Leaders ensure that any child protection files are transferred to the new setting within 5 days of the child starting at that setting, and must be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:**
  Monitoring and evaluation is carried out regularly by internal and external advisors. This ensures that all schools/academies are compliant and up-to-date in their policies and procedures relating to safeguarding. Furthermore, that each school has truly embedded an effective culture and ethos of safeguarding across all its areas of focus. Any serious incident is subject to a thorough review with the CEO, to include lessons learnt.

Anyone who is concerned about the safety or wellbeing of any child within The Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust should in the first instance contact the relevant school/ academy and ask to speak to the DSL or Headteacher.

6. Trust contacts for safeguarding:

Amanda Stringer Trust DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)	ast@bebcmat.co.uk
Helen O'Neill CEO	hon@bebcmat.co.uk
Sandra Witton Safeguarding Director	admin@bebcmat.co.uk
Liz Kelly Chair of Directors	admin@bebcmat.co.uk