



**Our Lady and All Saints**  
Catholic Multi Academy Company  
Strong in Faith

# Safeguarding Statement 2025/26

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| <b>Ratified by:</b>   | Board of Directors          |
| <b>Date ratified:</b> | 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 |
| <b>Date issued:</b>   | 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026    |
| <b>Review date:</b>   | Autumn 2026                 |

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should ensure that their approach is child-centred, meaning that they consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

### **Governance and Leadership**

The Our Lady and All Saints Multi-Academy Company (OLAAS) Board of Directors has overall strategic responsibility for safeguarding and child protection across all MAC schools and will ensure compliance with statutory duties under relevant safeguarding legislation and guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025).

The Board of Directors delegates responsibility for monitoring and assuring safeguarding compliance to the Local Governing Board of each individual MAC school. Local Governing Boards will ensure that policies, procedures and training are effective, implemented consistently and remain compliant with the law.

Headteachers are responsible for ensuring that safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures adopted by the Local Governing Board—particularly those relating to the identification, recording and referral of concerns about abuse and neglect—are understood by all staff and applied consistently in practice.

The OLAAS Board of Directors has a named safeguarding lead Director with responsibility for safeguarding oversight across the MAC. Each school has a named safeguarding governor with responsibility for safeguarding at local level. OLAAS maintains a central record of these roles and ensures that required safeguarding training is completed and kept up to date.

### **Training and Oversight**

The OLAAS Board of Directors and all Local Governing Board members will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, at induction. This training will equip those in governance roles with the knowledge required to provide effective strategic challenge, assuring themselves that safeguarding arrangements are effective and compliant with statutory guidance.

All staff, volunteers and Directors receive safeguarding and child protection training at induction and regular updates thereafter, including training on Keeping Children Safe in Education and other relevant statutory guidance. OLAAS maintains a central record detailing safeguarding training for all staff.

### **Whole-School Approach to Safeguarding**

Each school within OLAAS adopts a whole-school approach to safeguarding, underpinned by a strong safeguarding culture in which the welfare of the child is paramount. Each school maintains its own safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures that are contextual, responsive to local risks, and reflect the specific needs of its pupils and community.

Local policies and procedures reflect the advice and guidance of the relevant Local Safeguarding Partnership and are reviewed regularly. These policies are published on individual school websites and are available in hard copy upon request. Parents and carers are informed of the safeguarding policy and procedures when their child joins the

school, with updates communicated through school newsletters and other formal communications.

### **Safeguarding Responsibilities of Staff**

The OLAAS Child Protection Policy Statement is provided to all staff at induction, alongside the Staff Code of Conduct. All staff are required to read and understand Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025) and to act in accordance with statutory guidance at all times.

All staff, Directors, Local Governing Board members, volunteers and visitors are made aware of:

- the indicators of abuse, neglect and exploitation
- how to respond appropriately to disclosures
- how to record, report and escalate safeguarding concerns

Staff will not promise confidentiality to any child. Children will be informed what action will be taken following a disclosure, in a way that is appropriate to their age and understanding.

Staff are expected to maintain an attitude of “it could happen here” and to act at all times in the best interests of the child.

### **Safer Recruitment and Allegations Management**

Each school implements safer recruitment practices in line with Part Three of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025) to ensure that all appointments are made following appropriate checks and scrutiny.

OLAAS maintains a Whistleblowing Policy to support staff in reporting concerns about unsafe or inappropriate practice. In addition, low-level concerns about staff, volunteers or other adults working within schools are recorded and managed in a consistent and proportionate way to promote a culture of openness and professional accountability.

### **Online Safety**

OLAAS recognises that safeguarding includes protecting children from harm in online environments. In line with KCSIE 2025, schools address online safety risks across the categories of:

- content
- contact
- conduct
- commerce

This includes risks associated with exposure to harmful or inappropriate material, online grooming, bullying, financial exploitation, misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy theories and the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI).

Each school ensures appropriate filtering and monitoring systems, staff training and curriculum provision are in place to identify, prevent and respond to online safeguarding concerns.

### **Attendance and Alternative Provision**

OLAAS recognises that children who are missing from, or persistently absent from,

education may be at increased risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation or harm. Schools will follow statutory attendance guidance and work with local authority partners where absence is linked to safeguarding concerns.

Where pupils attend alternative provision or off-site education, the placing school and OLAAS remain responsible for the safeguarding of those pupils. Schools will obtain written assurance that appropriate safeguarding checks are in place and will monitor the ongoing safety, quality and suitability of the provision.

### **Supporting and Protecting All Children**

The welfare of the child is paramount. OLAAS schools promote an environment in which pupils feel safe, listened to and supported and are encouraged to speak to any trusted adult if they are worried or concerned.

We recognise that some children may face additional barriers to recognising or disclosing abuse, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), children in care or kinship care, and those experiencing mental health difficulties or exploitation. OLAAS is committed to anti-discriminatory practice, equality of opportunity and providing appropriate support to meet individual needs.

### **Partnership Working**

OLAAS and its schools work in partnership with parents, carers and external agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025) and Working Together to Safeguard Children.

### **Statement of Commitment**

The OLAAS Board of Directors, Local Governing Boards and all staff are committed to ensuring that every child in our schools is safe, protected from harm and supported to achieve the best possible outcomes.