



# GMAT POLICIES

Safeguarding Statement of Intent  
2023/2024

Greater Manchester Academies Trust

## Greater Manchester Academies Trust Statement of Intent

The Trust Safeguarding Statement of Intent can be found on the GMAT website and in appendix A of GMAT's Safeguarding Policy.

Our overriding mantra is:

**'Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility. We expect all staff, governors/trustees and volunteers to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.'**

All children and young people linked with GMAT, wherever they are, whoever they are with, whatever they are doing, have the right to protection from neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse, extremism and radicalisation.

We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. All staff, in every school, are trained in Child Protection, and pupils are made aware of the adults they can talk to if they have any concerns. Staff are trained to look out for signs of physical/emotional harm or neglect and are required to report these to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We actively support the government's Prevent agenda to counter radicalisation and extremism.

Our trust is committed to working in partnership with services and outside agencies and it is our responsibility to report concerns to safeguard pupils.

The Safeguarding policy is agreed by all schools and can be found in the policies section of each school website.

1. GMAT provides high quality educational provision for children and young people on roll at:
  - Manchester Communication Academy
  - Manchester Communication Primary Academy
2. The GMAT Trustee Board of Directors understands the safeguarding responsibilities placed upon the Trust as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 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 Central Service and Executive Team.
5. 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.

6. 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, which is underpinned by the challenge and support provided by local governance and the more detailed reports received at this layer.
7. The executive lead for safeguarding across the Trust is the Executive Principal. Safeguarding is an area of focus in half termly supervision sessions between the Executive Principal 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. In addition, the Trust Safeguarding Lead will regularly peer review safeguarding case studies with DSL's
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 trauma informed practice.
11. There is a school improvement plan in place for each academy, which provides clear expectations of training. This is delivered through face-to-face sessions on school INSET and/or twilight sessions, with updates shared in weekly bulletins and staff weekly CPD.
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 Trust Board
13. Behaviour and wellbeing is reported on separately to local governors, to ensure a holistic view of safeguarding and welfare is presented.
14. On the basis of this work, GMAT confirms it has considered its position in regard to safeguarding children and has assurance that it is meeting requirements and is following good practice.