

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust (OLoL CMAT) Safeguarding Statement

Utilising KCSIE¹ and relevant government documentation.

Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Statement:

We are a partnership of Catholic schools.

Our aim is to provide the very best Catholic education for all in our community and so improve life chances through spiritual, academic and social development.

By placing the person and teachings of Jesus Christ at the centre of all that we do, we will:

- Follow the example of Our Lady of Lourdes by nurturing everyone in a spirit of compassion, service and healing
- Work together so that we can all achieve our full potential, deepen our faith and realise our God-given talents
- Make the world a better place, especially for the most vulnerable in our society, by doing **'little things with great love'** St Thérèse of Lisieux

We believe everyone has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

Title of policy:	CMAT Safeguarding Statement 2026		
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Proverbs 31:8–9

"Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

¹ [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education)

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust (OLoL CMAT) is the proprietor as defined in *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026*. The Trust Board and Local Governing Bodies recognise and fulfil their responsibilities under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010 (including the Public Sector Equality Duty), and local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Informed by both these statutory duties and the Catholic values that underpin the mission of the Trust, OLoL CMAT is committed to ensuring that safeguarding is embedded across all aspects of its work. The Trust not only ensures compliance with safeguarding requirements at academy level but also exercises strategic oversight to assure itself that safeguarding arrangements are effective, robust and focused on promoting the welfare and protecting the safety of every child and young person in its care.

Local authorities retain overarching statutory responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their area. However, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every individual who comes into contact with children and families has a vital role to play in protecting children from harm and promoting their wellbeing.

To fulfil this responsibility effectively, all staff and volunteers adopt a child-centred approach, ensuring that the best interests of the child remain at the heart of all decisions, actions and interventions.

The Trust recognises that no single professional can have a complete understanding of a child's circumstances. Effective safeguarding therefore depends upon timely information sharing, professional curiosity, strong partnerships with families and agencies, and prompt action when concerns arise. All adults working within the Trust are expected to identify concerns, share information appropriately, and contribute to securing the right help at the right time.

These principles are reflected throughout the Trust's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and underpin the culture of vigilance, accountability and care that exists across all academies.

Safeguarding extends beyond child protection and includes a broad range of measures designed to promote children's safety, health and wellbeing. This includes safer recruitment and robust vetting procedures, health and safety responsibilities, first aid and medical needs provision, site security, online safety, behaviour and attendance, mental health and wellbeing, and the prevention of substance misuse. The Trust also recognises that safeguarding risks may vary according to local context and community needs. Each academy therefore considers contextual safeguarding risks relevant to its setting and reflects these within its local safeguarding arrangements and procedures.

The Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust is wholly committed to ensuring that all children and young people are cared for in a safe, nurturing and secure environment in our academies.

To fulfil this commitment, OLoL CMAT have robust systems in place for:

- Policy and procedures
- Safe recruitment of staff and volunteers
- CMAT responsibilities
- Training

Policy and Compliance

- Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (2026–26) is aligned with KCSIE and is updated annually.
- Local Contextual Safeguarding risks are assessed and mitigated for each academy.
- OLoL CMAT follow statutory local multi-agency arrangements and referral pathways.
- Safer recruitment and whistleblowing procedures are in place and monitored.

- All staff working directly with children must read and understand **Part One** of KCSIE and complete annual compliance Flick training.

CMAT responsibilities:

The Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust is committed to the following core safeguarding principles:

- A designated safeguarding lead and safeguarding governor are in place.
- Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare is the Trust's highest priority.
- The Trust fulfils all statutory safeguarding responsibilities.
- All children have an equal right to protection, regardless of background or characteristics.
- Children who feel safe are better able to learn.
- The Trust promotes a culture of listening to and respecting children's views and wishes.
- All staff, volunteers, governors and directors share responsibility for safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.
- Staff adopt an "it could happen here" approach and always act in the child's best interests.
- Everyone has a duty to act on any concern or disclosure that a child may be at risk of harm.
- Effective arrangements are in place for multi-agency working and information sharing.
- Clear procedures exist for reporting concerns or allegations against adults working with children.
- Child-on-child abuse, including sexual violence and harassment, is addressed promptly and effectively.
- Appropriate action is taken to safeguard children who go missing from education.
- Appropriate support is provided to pupils and staff involved in child protection matters.
- Safeguarding policies are reviewed annually, or sooner if required by incidents, legislation or guidance.

OLoL CMAT will:

- Monitor the quality of safeguarding practices across all CMAT academies and evaluate their impact on outcomes for children.
- Receive termly safeguarding reports from the trust Safeguarding Lead.
- Collaborate with Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) to ensure the performance of vulnerable children is effectively monitored, and that appropriate early help, intervention, or statutory support is provided to children.
- Produce an annual Safeguarding Action Plan as part of the Trust's strategic business planning process, identifying priorities, key actions, and metrics for improvement.
- Commission external safeguarding audits and reviews where appropriate, to provide independent challenge and ensure academies comply with all statutory safeguarding responsibilities, as outlined in *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026* and related guidance.

Safeguarding policy is determined at national and local authority level. It is the statutory responsibility of each academy to implement national guidance and local safeguarding procedures, including those set out by their Local Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The OLoL CMAT is committed to ensuring full compliance with statutory safeguarding expectations. Failure to implement appropriate safeguarding arrangements carries significant risk to children's welfare and to the Trust's reputation, accountability, and governance standards.

Each school maintains its own safeguarding team and contextual safeguarding plans in partnership with their Local Authority.

Safe recruitment of staff and volunteers:

Safer recruitment is an important part of safeguarding children and is the first step in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in education.

OLoL CMAT recognises the importance of a culture of safe recruitment and has adopted robust recruitment and vetting procedures designed to deter, reject and identify individuals who may be unsuitable to work with children and young people. This includes rigorous pre-employment checks, verification of identity, qualifications and employment history, enhanced DBS and barred list checks where required, and ongoing monitoring to ensure the suitability of all staff, volunteers and others working within the Trust.

Through these measures, the Trust seeks to create and maintain a safe environment in which children can learn and thrive.

Accountability and Oversight

The following CMAT roles ensure strategic oversight and operational safeguarding excellence:

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