

## Safeguarding Advice for CofE Schools

### Introduction

Coventry Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) supports Church schools within the Diocese to offer an inclusive holistic educational experience for children of no faith, other faiths and Christian faith. Church schools are inspected both by OFSTED and SIAMS. OFSTED carry out a thorough safeguarding inspection which is common to all state funded schools. SIAMS inspections look at the Christian foundation of the school paying particular attention to ethos, culture, values and collective worship. Children should leave a Church school with confidence and a strong sense of self-worth.

### Safeguarding in CofE Schools

All CofE schools are expected to maintain the highest standards in safeguarding policy and practice. All Diocesan schools regardless of their status (VC, VA, Academy) come under the statutory safeguarding oversight of their Local Authority (LA). LAs maintain statutory responsibility for ensuring the protection of the children within their area.

Where there is concern for the safety of a child or when a 'disclosure' has been made, Diocesan schools must follow their own statutory policies and procedures and contact their **Local Authority Designated Officer** (LADO), social services and the police as necessary. If there is a suggestion that the concern may involve a person connected to the Church, the **Diocesan Director of Education** (DDE), as the DBE Designated Safeguarding Lead, should also be notified. The DDE will then make a referral to the **Diocesan Safeguarding Officer** (DSO) who will work in partnership with the LADO when necessary.

All schools must appoint a **Designated Safeguarding Lead** (DSL) who will receive child protection training every 2 years. All schools must maintain a Single Central Record (SCR) of staff, volunteers, governors, and trustees/directors (for academies). All schools must implement safer recruitment procedures as set out in the latest guidance: [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

### Lettings of CofE Buildings

Separate guidance for safeguarding when letting CofE school buildings can be found on our [website](#).

## **Parish and Diocesan Visitors in Schools**

Clergy, parish representatives, Diocesan visitors and DBE staff or Board Members should be treated in safeguarding terms as visitors to the school regardless of whether they hold an up to date DBS certificate by virtue of their office. They should not be left unaccompanied to move around the school or work unsupervised with groups of children. If the parish is regularly operating an in school activity which requires the activity leaders to work without supervision with children, the school should carry out their own safeguarding checks and add the leaders to the single central register. All safeguarding concerns should be reported to the school DSL and to the DDE if they involve the behaviour of the parish and diocesan visitors.

## **Foundation Governors, Academy Directors and Academy Members**

The DBE requires Parochial Church Councils to carry out safer recruitment processes for the nomination of Foundation Governors. The DBE appoints, or provides consent to appoint, having been assured that these processes have been satisfactorily carried out. The school or academy trust is responsible for ensuring that DBS checks are carried out, names are entered onto the single central register and safeguarding training is completed.

A similar process is carried out by the DBE for the appointment of academy Directors and Members.

If the DBE is made aware of any safeguarding concerns arising from the parish about these individuals this information will be shared with the DSL in the school/trust. The DBE expects the school/trust to notify the DDE of any in school concerns about those whom the DBE has appointed to a governance role. The DDE will notify the DSO. Neither the DBE, DSO, or the DSL in the school/trust should rely on the other making appropriate reports to the LA or police. If any of the safeguarding leads feel this is required they should report. It is better to have 3 referrals than none.

## **Safeguarding in the DBE**

The Church of England's Safeguarding policy has been adopted by Coventry DBE. This can be found on the [Church of England website](#). All trustees and officers are expected to undertake safeguarding training as set out in the DBE Safeguarding Protocol. This can be found on our [website](#). DBS checks are carried out where required by law. The Clerk to the Board will keep records of training for DBE Members and staff and training should be updated every 3 years.