



## **Annual Safeguarding Statement of Assurance**

### **Academic Year 2025 – 2026**

1. Hollingworth Learning Trust provides high quality educational provision for children and young people on roll at:
  - Hollingworth Academy, Milnrow
  - Newhouse Academy, Heywood
  - Heap Bridge Village Primary School, Heywood
2. The Hollingworth Learning Trust MAT Board of Directors understands the safeguarding responsibilities placed upon the Trust as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 and considers them of vital importance.
3. The organisation continues to meet its statutory requirements in relation to the Disclosure and Barring scheme. Trust policy ensures all employees and volunteers (which includes all governance boards within the Trust) 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.
4. Audits of the Single Central Record are undertaken termly by the academies Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead. An annual audit of the SCR is completed by the Trust Central Service Team. All academies receive feedback with areas for action.
5. Safeguarding policies are up to date. Policies are reviewed at least annually by Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads and updated in response to national guidance and routinely shared with the Trust board.
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.

7. The named executive leader responsible for safeguarding across the Trust is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Senior staff support is an important function of the role, and safeguarding is an area of focus in monthly supervision sessions between the CEO and all Headteachers, - case discussions take place routinely on a demands-led basis.
8. In addition, each academy has a named and suitably trained Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (s).
9. Safeguarding quality assurance visits are undertaken by the Trust Safeguarding Advisor to each academy, evidence within the s.175 audit has been reviewed, a safeguarding checklist completed and a report regarding strengths, areas for development, current trends and training has been produced. These visits ensure that the Trust is assured that the academies are fully compliant in all areas of safeguarding and address any shortcomings where these are identified. The Trust is committed to ensuring good practice in enabling and maintaining a strong safeguarding culture across all academies.
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, Prevent and child on child abuse etc.). This is delivered by the Designated Safeguarding Lead in each academy, and all Designated Safeguarding Leads attend training delivered by Rochdale Safeguarding Children Partnership Board.
11. Strong safeguarding practices are embedded in recruitment. All appointments are consistent with safer recruitment, and all key staff and senior leaders involved in the recruitment process undertake safer recruitment training every 3 years.
12. Each academy has a named link governor for safeguarding. Local Governing Bodies (LGB) review safeguarding at least once a year through their LGB meetings.
13. All academies use CPOMS for efficient, effective recording and monitoring of actions taken to safeguard children.

14. All referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) have been dealt with promptly and transparently, with the numbers of referrals reported to the Directors on a term-by-term basis.
15. At the time of writing one Hollingworth Learning Trust academy has been inspected by Ofsted throughout this reporting period, and safeguarding was found to be effective, with no recommendations for improvement made.
16. Based on this work, Hollingworth Learning Trust confirms it has considered its position regarding safeguarding children and has assurance that it is meeting requirements and is following good practice.

Links to our academies safeguarding information:

- Heap Bridge Village Primary School:  
<https://heapbridge.co.uk/safeguarding-and-send/safeguarding-and-child-protection>
- Hollingworth Academy:  
<https://hollingworthacademy.co.uk/safeguarding/policies-and-information>
- Newhouse Academy:  
<https://newhouseacademy.co.uk/safeguarding/>