

Whistleblowing Policy

Name of School	St Edward's Catholic Primary School
Policy review Date	September 2024
Date of next Review	September 2025
Who reviewed this policy?	Assistant head teacher Ms Samaira Naz



Whistleblowing Policy for St Edward's Catholic Primary School

- 1.0 In line with the London Safeguarding Children Board and the London Child Protection Procedures, St Edward's operates a whistle blowing policy.
- 2.0 The purpose of this document is to assist all staff to whistleblow if they have concerns about any adult in the school setting, whether paid or voluntary
- 3.0 This policy reflects the requirements of
 - 3.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
 - 3.2 Keeping children safe in education (September 2023)
- 4.0 This policy and the following procedures apply to all paid staff, volunteers and governors working with or in St Edward's
- 5.0 This document applies to processes that must be followed in the following circumstances
 - 5.1 Concerns about the suitability of a member of staff (paid or voluntary) working with children
See SECTION A
 - 5.2 Concerns about the conduct of staff and their suitability of working within the local authority
See SECTION B
- 6.0 If you are the subject of an allegation or whistleblow use SECTION B.
- 7.0 To assist in determining which section, the following can be used as a guide. Whistleblowing is separate from LADO because only some whistleblows go to the LADO. A whistleblow could be made because of:
 - 7.1 Allegations of harm or possible harm to a child from a staff member or volunteer in the school
→SECTION A
 - 7.2 Financial irregularity →SECTION B
 - 7.3 Adult bullying (not involving children) →SECTION B
 - 7.4 Cheating/changing assessment and exam results→SECTION B
 - 7.5 Health & safety concerns →SECTION B, but consider SECTION A because of the impact of this on the possible safety of the child
 - 7.6 Policies and procedures not being followed →SECTION B, unless it concerns safeguarding and child protection issues in which case the staff member is expected to make their own referral.
- 8.0 APPENDIX 1
Newham Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) referral form

Section A: Child Protection Whistle Blowing

- 9.0 All staff should be aware of this policy and feel confident to voice concerns about the attitudes or actions of colleagues; this includes contact and actions using mobile phones, internet, email and chat.
- 10.0 If a member of staff believes a colleague has:
 - 10.1 Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
 - 10.2 Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;

'Following Christ we reach our goals'

- 10.3 Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they are unsuitable to work with children;

Please speak to your Head teacher immediately – Mr P Underwood

The Headteacher will report to the LADO on the same working day.

- 11.0 If a member of staff is worried about the conduct of the Headteacher, or they believe that a reported allegation or concern is not being dealt with properly they should report the matter, on the same working day, to the Newham Local Authority, Designated Officer (LADO) Nick Pratt 0203 373 3803, and to the Chair of Governors – Junior Stewart
- 12.0 For confidential advice on how to raise a concern about malpractice at work; visit 'Public Concern at Work' www.pcaw.co.uk

Section B: All Staff Whistle Blowing Policy

13.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 14.0 Employees are often the first to realise that there may be something seriously wrong within the school. However, they may not express their concerns because they feel that to speak up would be disloyal to their colleagues or to the school. They may also fear harassment or victimisation. In these circumstances it may be easier to ignore the concern rather than report something which after all, may just be a suspicion of malpractice.
- 15.0 St Edward's is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability. In line with that commitment we expect and encourage employees, and others whom we deal with, who have concerns about any aspect of the school's work to come forward and voice those concerns. It is recognised that most cases will have to proceed on a confidential basis (i.e. between the employee voicing the concern and the person to whom the concern is voiced).
- 16.0 This policy document makes it clear that you can do so without fear of victimisation, reprisal, subsequent discrimination or disadvantage. This Whistle Blowing/Confidential Reporting policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise concerns within St Edward's rather than overlooking a problem or 'blowing the whistle' outside, in line with the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (Whistle Blowing).

17.0 AIMS AND SCOPE

- 18.0 This section of the whistle blowing policy applies to all employees at St Edward's (permanent, temporary, casual.), contractors and those in partnership roles working for the school on school premises, for example volunteers, agency staff, builders, etc.
- 19.0 This whistle blowing policy does not apply to pupils/students. Where applicable, employees are responsible for making pupils/students aware of the existence of the schools complaints procedure and other appropriate reporting procedures.
- 20.0 The procedure is designed to enable employees to notify the Headteacher/Chair of Governors of any reasonable suspicion of illegal or improper conduct (see 62.0 for examples).
- 21.0 It is a procedure in which the Headteacher/Chair of Governors will be expected to act swiftly and constructively in the investigation of any concerns in accordance with the school's disciplinary procedure.
- 22.0 Concern about a colleague's professional capability should not be dealt with using this procedure.
- 23.0 Where the concerns are about child protection or safeguarding children or young people, the School's Child Protection Policy must be followed.

24.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

25.0 Headteacher/Chair of Governors

- 25.1 The Headteacher, or where the complaint is about the Headteacher, the Chair of Governors, is expected to act swiftly and constructively in the investigation of any concerns in accordance with the school's disciplinary procedure.
- 25.2 Where concerns are raised with outside agencies the Headteacher/Chair of governors must fully cooperate with any resulting investigation(s).

- 25.3 The Headteacher/Chair of Governors will make every effort to meet any request of anonymity where possible.
- 25.4 The Headteacher/Chair of Governors, where possible, should inform the complainant of the outcome of the investigation.

26.0 Employees

- 26.1 All employees are expected to bring to the attention of the Headteacher/Chair of Governors any serious impropriety or breach of procedure.
- 26.2 All employees who report concerns under the whistle blowing procedure must be prepared to justify and support their claim in writing.
- 26.3 If another member of staff (other than the Headteacher/Chair of Governors) is approached by a colleague on a matter of concern as defined in this document, he/she should be advised to take the matter to the Headteacher/Chair of Governors.
- 26.4 Employees must act in the public interest and must have reasonable grounds for believing the information to be accurate

27.0 **LEGAL**

- 28.0 Employees and workers who make a 'protected disclosure' are protected from being treated badly or being dismissed. If they are, they can claim unfair dismissal when the reason for the 'whistleblowing' meets any of the 'qualifying disclosures' criteria. They include when someone reports:
 - 28.1 Child protection issues
 - 28.2 That someone's health and safety is in danger
 - 28.3 Damage to the environment
 - 28.4 A criminal offence
 - 28.5 That the company/school isn't obeying the law i.e. not have the right insurance etc.
 - 28.6 That someone's covering up a wrongdoing
- 29.0 The Headteacher/Chair of Governors should ensure that, where this procedure has been used in the public interest, employees are not subjected to harassment and/or victimisation for doing so.
- 30.0 The key piece of 'whistleblowing' legislation is the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. Other Acts and Statutory Instruments which govern the topic are:
 - 30.1 Police Reform Act 2002 Section 37
 - 30.2 Employment Rights Act 1996 Section 103A
 - 30.3 Employment Rights Act 1996 Sections 43A to 43L
 - 30.4 Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/3242) Regulation 14
 - 30.5 Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998
 - 30.6 Public Interest Disclosure (Compensation) Order 1999 (SI 1999/1548)
 - 30.7 Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) Order 1999 (SI 1999/1549)
 - 30.8 Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) (Amendment) Order 2003 (SI 2003/1993)
 - 30.9 Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) (Amendment) Order 2004 (SI 2004/3265)
 - 30.10 Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons)(Amendment) Order 2005 (SI 2005/2464)
 - 30.11 The Employment Tribunals (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/131)
 - 30.12 Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 - will make a number of changes to 'whistleblowing' protection
- 31.0 This policy has also been developed in line with the London Safeguarding Children Board and the London Child Protection Procedures.

PROCEDURE

32.0 Key Principles

- 33.0 This procedure is not designed to replace or be used as an alternative to the schools' grievance procedure, which should be used where an employee is only aggrieved about his/her own situation. Employees who are worried about wrong doing at work do not necessarily have a personal grievance.
- 34.0 Employees must act in the public interest and must have reasonable grounds for believing the information to be accurate
- 35.0 No employee who uses this procedure in the public interest will be penalised for doing so. The school will not tolerate harassment and/or victimisation of any employee raising concerns.
- 36.0 An employee who is not sure whether the conduct he/she is concerned about does constitute illegal or improper conduct or is unsure about how to proceed can contact the Headteacher/Chair of Governors or Public Concern at Work (www.pcaw.co.uk) for advice.

37.0 Safeguards

- 38.0 The school is committed to good practice and high standards and wants to be supportive of employees
- 39.0 The school recognises that the decision to report a concern can be a difficult one to make. If you have a reasonable belief that what you are saying is true, you will have nothing to fear.
- 40.0 The school will not tolerate any harassment or victimisation (including informal pressures) upon you as a result of making a disclosure in accordance with this policy and will take appropriate action to protect you when you raise a concern in the public interest. The school in the event of reprisals or victimisation against you because you have acted in accordance with this policy, will consider and may take disciplinary action against the employee responsible for such victimisation and/or reprisal.
- 41.0 In some circumstances it is recognised that a person making information known about their colleagues may find it difficult to return to his/her normal job. The school has a duty of care to provide a safe working environment and treat its employees with respect. If this is not possible in the employee's normal job because of the situation surrounding the disclosure of confidential information, the school will seek to redeploy the individual, taking account of their generic and specialist skills, abilities and experience.

42.0 Confidentiality

- 43.0 All concerns will be treated in confidence and every effort will be made not to reveal your identity if you so wish. At the appropriate time, however, you may need to come forward as a witness.

44.0 Anonymous Allegations

- 45.0 This policy encourages you to put your name to your allegation whenever possible. Concerns expressed anonymously are much less powerful; if made, anonymously, the concern will be considered at the discretion of the school.

- 46.0 In exercising this discretion the factors to be taken into account would include:

- 46.1 The seriousness of the issues raised
- 46.2 The credibility of the concern; and
- 46.3 The likelihood of confirming the allegation from attributable sources

47.0 Untrue Allegations

- 48.0 If you make an allegation in the public interest, but it is not confirmed by the investigation, no action will be taken against you. If, however, you make an allegation that is made frivolously, maliciously or for personal gain, disciplinary action may be taken against you.

49.0 Mechanism for Raising Concerns

- 50.0 Where the issue concerns your Headteacher or, having made your report, you believe he/she has failed to take appropriate action, you should bring it to the attention of the Chair of Governors.
- 51.0 Employees who feel unable to follow this route, for whatever reason, have the option of contacting one of the names listed in section 6 (Useful Contacts)



- 52.0 Depending on the nature of the concern the complainant will be asked to justify and support their claim. Normally the complainant will be asked to do this in writing. It will, therefore, be helpful to note down any facts and dates as they happen.
- 53.0 Financial regulations require any employee who suspects fraud, corruption or other financial irregularity to ensure this is reported to the schools' internal auditor for possible investigation. Normally you must first report any suspicion of such irregularities to the Headteacher who in turn will report it to the Internal Audit and Corporate Risk Manager.
- 54.0 Employees who want to use the procedure but feel uneasy about it may wish to consult their trade union initially and bring a colleague or trade union representative along to any discussions, so long as the third party is independent of the issue.
- 55.0 Where anonymity is requested efforts will be made to meet the request where appropriate but that might not always be possible.
- 56.0 The earlier and more open the expression of concern the easier it will be to take appropriate action.
- 57.0 Each case will be investigated thoroughly with the aim of informing the complainant of the outcome of any investigation as quickly as possible.
- 58.0 Examples of Illegal and/or Improper Conduct**
- 58.1 Fraudulent or improper use of the school's money or assets
 - 58.2 Dangerous practices at work
 - 58.3 Corruptly receiving any gift or advantage
 - 58.4 Allowing private interests to override the interests of the school

This policy is in line with the school's Trust policy – Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust [Whistle Blowing Policy \(olog.org.uk\)](http://www.olog.org.uk)

'Following Christ we reach our goals'

59.0 USEFUL CONTACTS:

- 59.1 Triage Team – Tel: 02033734600
- 59.2 LADO, Nick Pratt - Tel: 02033733803
- 59.3 Education HR
T: 020 8249 6900 (Option 3 for HR)
E: schoolsHR@npw.uk.com
- 59.4 Schools' Health & Safety Team
T: 020 8249 6900 (Option 5 for School Support)

- 60.0 Trade Unions
NASUWT – advice@mail.nasuwt.org.uk
NEU – tel:0044 2084771234
VOICE – contact@voicetheunion.org.uk
NAHT – info@naht.org.uk 0300 30 30 333
UNISON – 020 3373 0296 & 6354 & 7502

GMB – 020 8202 8272 www.gmblondon.org.uk

ASCL – 0116 2991122 info@ascl.org.uk
ATL – 020 7930 6441

61.0 Or other agencies:

- 61.1 Health & Safety Executive – Tel: 020 7717 6000 / 020 7556 2100
- 61.2 The Environment Investigation Agency – Tel: 020 7490 7040
- 61.3 Financial Services Authority – Tel: 0845 606 13234 / 020 7676 1099
- 61.4 HM Treasury – Tel: 020 72703000 / 020 7270 5000
- 61.5 Director General – Serious Fraud Office – Tel: 020 7239 7272
- 61.6 Inland Revenue – Tel: 020 7605 9800 / 020 8370 7300 / 020 8522 5700 / 020 8509 4700
- 61.7 Customs and Excise – Tel: 020 7620 1313 / 0800 595 000
- 61.8 National Audit Office – Tel: 020 7790 7000
- 61.9 District Audit Service – Tel: 020 7233 6400
- 61.10 Audit Commission – Tel : 020 7828 1212
- 61.11 Data Protection Commissioner – Tel: 01625 545 700

- 62.0 For confidential advice on how to raise a concern about malpractice at work; visit 'Public Concern at Work' www.pcaw.co.uk

63.0 Related Documents

- 63.1 The School's Disciplinary Procedure
- 63.2 The School's Grievance Procedure
- 63.3 The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for Schools

LADO REFERRAL



Allegations against adults who work with children



This form is to be used in cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children (either paid / unpaid/self-employed) has

- **behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child**
 - **possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child**
 - **behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he poses a risk to children.**
- If the allegation meets any of the above criteria, the employer should report it to the LADO **within 1 working day**. Referrals should not be delayed to obtain further information
 - For services regulated/inspected by **OFSTED**, the provider should notify them of the allegation.
 - Please complete this form and send it to the Children's Planning and Review Team
CPRT.LADO@newham.gov.uk
 - If you wish to have a consultation before making a referral please contact the Children's Planning and Reviewing Team on 0203 373 4107 and ask to speak to the duty Chair or LADO.

If immediate action is required to protect a child, please discuss this with the LADO. Outside of 9am-5pm, contact the Emergency Duty Team (Tel. 0208 430 2000) or local Police (Met switchboard – 101 or in an emergency 999)

SUBJECT OF ALLEGATION:

First Name:		Surname:	
D.O.B:			
Gender:			
Ethnicity:			
Disability:			
Job Title/Role:			
Type of Employment:			
Employing Organisation/ Resource Name:			
Employing Organisation/ Resource Address:			
Employment Sector:			
Other Roles:			
Home Address:			

'Following Christ we reach our goals'

DETAILS OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN THE SUBJECT'S HOUSEHOLD:

Please note - if the allegation is against a foster carer, all children in the placement will need to be considered, including the foster carer's children.

Name: D.O.B: CareFirst number (if known):
Name: D.O.B: CareFirst number (if known):
Name: D.O.B: CareFirst number (if known):

DETAILS OF CHILD/REN CONCERNED:

Name: D.O.B: Home Address: Ethnicity: Disability: CareFirst number (if known): Is child known to Newham CYPS? Is the child known to another LA? If so, which? Please give a brief summary of reason/s: Is the case currently open? Allocated social worker and contact details: If child/ren has an allocated social worker please copy this referral to them.
Name: D.O.B: Home Address: Ethnicity: Disability: CareFirst number (if known): Is child known to Newham CYPS?

Is the child known to another LA? If so, which?

Please give a brief summary of reason/s:

Is the case currently open?

Allocated social worker and contact details:

If child/ren has an allocated social worker please copy this referral to them.

Name:

D.O.B:

Home Address:

Ethnicity:

Disability:

CareFirst number (if known):

Is child known to Newham CYPS?

Is the child known to another LA? If so, which?

Please give a brief summary of reason/s:

Is the case currently open?

Allocated social worker and contact details:

If child/ren has an allocated social worker please copy this referral to them.

Referrals will be shared with family and should not be made without a parent's knowledge/agreement unless this would jeopardise the child/ren's safety.

The child/ren know/s about the referral: If no, state reason:

The parent knows about the referral: If no, state reason:

The carer (if applicable) knows about the referral: If no, state reason:

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF ALLEGATION:

Category of Abuse (if relevant):

ACTION TAKEN BY EMPLOYING ORGANISATION/RESOURCE:

HISTORY OF CONCERNS/PREVIOUS ALLEGATIONS & OUTCOMES:

'Following Christ we reach our goals'



PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF SIGNIFICANT PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED WITH THE ADULT AND CHILD/REN:

This should include the Senior Manager and HR advisor for the employing organisation and the child's social worker if there is one. For foster carers, include the supervising social worker/fostering agency manager

Name:

Designation:

Work address:

Contact Number/email:

Name:

Designation:

Work address:

Contact Number/email:

Name:

Designation:

Work address:

Contact Number/email:

Name:

Designation:

Work address:

Contact Number/email:

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

FORM COMPLETED BY:

Name:

Job Title/Role:

Employing organisation: and sector:

Contact details:

Date:

'Following Christ we reach our goals'