EMBARK FEDERATION

Annual Safeguarding Statement of Assurance

Academic Year 2025-2026

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility; we are committed to ensuring an effective culture of safeguarding across our Trust.

Safe environment – Safe children and families – Safe workforce

1. Embark Federation provides high-quality educational provision for children and young people on roll at all our schools.

2. Embark Federation Board of Trustees understands the safeguarding responsibilities placed upon the Trust as outlined in the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education and considers them of vital importance.

3. Embark Federation Board of Trustees keeps abreast with the annual changes in Keeping Children Safe in Education and new requirements to ensure safeguarding compliances and good practices are met across the family of schools.

4. All schools have received a safeguarding review undertaken by the Embark Federation Safeguarding Lead. The findings are used to develop the overarching safeguarding strategy.

5. The Trust receives an annual report every Autumn Term that summarises the findings of the school's annual audit and safeguarding statistics for each school.

6. Safeguarding policies are up to date. Policies are reviewed regularly by Headteachers and the Trust Central Team (at least annually) and updated in response to national guidance and model documents issued by Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

7. All schools have a named link governor for safeguarding. Local Governing Teams review a school s175 safeguarding audit completed annually by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and this activity is supported by a tri termly safeguarding governor report.

8. Attendance, behaviour, health and well-being is reported separately and is an integral part of a school's approach to the holistic care of its children and young people. This is actively promoted through a safeguarding curriculum.

9. Each school has a named Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Each Designated Safeguarding Lead is offered half-termly support and supervision meetings from the Embark Federation Safeguarding Lead. This is optional, though all DSLs engage in this process openly. This is trauma-informed led and is improving standards and performance by learning from others.

10. Each school has developed an Early Help Offer. This has enabled schools to intervene early and before concerns escalate. There is an opportunity for Family Liaison Workers to attend termly support and supervision meetings from the Embark Federation Safeguarding Lead. This is optional, though engagement in this process is popular and empowering.

11. All schools are using a Single Central Record online tracker. This ensures compliance with the statutory requirements on recruitment, appointments, vetting and barring. All schools have systems in place for managing allegations including low-level concerns and this is reported to governors.

12. All schools are using My Concern, a reporting and recording safeguarding software system. The Designated Safeguarding Lead in each academy undertakes an annual My Concern health check. This has ensured the timely and effective triage of concerns, and records are consistent and of good quality.

13. Regular questionnaires and surveys are undertaken by all schools to determine parents and young peoples' experiences of safeguarding. These are used to ensure young people feel safe and free from harm.

14. All schools undertake annual safeguarding training, including a safeguarding induction of all new staff. All DSLs attend training delivered by an accredited and approved safeguarding training provider. All staff have received additional safeguarding training and briefings on specific safeguarding issues as part of a continuous programme of staff development and training.

15. On the basis of this work, Embark Federation confirms it has considered its position in regard to safeguarding children and young people and has the assurance that it is meeting requirements and is following good practices.