



WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Whistle blowing is the mechanism by which adults can voice their concerns, made in good faith, without fear of repercussion. It applies when the complainant has no vested interest but rather is an observer. It is not the same as making a complaint.

Statement of Intent

Thomas's Academy is committed to open and honest communication between all members of the community. To that end we nurture a culture in which employees, parents and volunteers feel safe to raise, without fear of reprisal, a concern they may have about misconduct or malpractice. The well-being and safety of the children is our prime concern; it must take priority over any loyalty towards work colleagues.

All concerns raised in accordance with this Policy will be promptly investigated and appropriate action will be taken.

AIMS

- To assist staff to acknowledge their individual responsibilities to bring matters of concern to the attention of senior management and/or relevant external agencies, particularly where the welfare of children may be at risk
- To enable and encourage individuals to raise genuine and legitimate concerns.
- To support staff to take an active role in the elimination of poor or insufficient practices, malpractice or wrongdoing.
- To ensure any concerns raised are investigated appropriately and confidentially.
- To ensure protection to those making the complaint against any form of retaliation or victimisation.

This policy covers concerns that fall outside the scope of our Complaints Policy, Grievance Procedure and Disciplinary and Dismissal Procedure.

PROCEDURES

Having observed something that gives cause for serious concern (this may be to do with child safeguarding or welfare, health and safety, financial malpractice, illegality...), the following action should be taken:

- Report your concern to the Executive Head. If your concern is about the Executive Head, report to the Governors.
- If you are worried about how to raise a concern, you should seek independent advice though e.g. your union, early years advisor, professional body or call the Public Concern at Work advice line on 020 7404 6609.
- Record what you witnessed in writing including where possible any background, names, other witnesses, dates, times and places as well as the nature of your concern. If for any reason you do not wish to put your concern in writing, the person to whom you report will make a written record and ask you to sign to confirm its accuracy. Keep a copy of the written record.
- Do not:
 - investigate the matter yourself
 - tell those you suspect to be involved
 - accuse or approach individuals
 - tell anyone other than the Executive Head or Governor
- You will receive a written acknowledgement of your concern within one week of its receipt.
- The Executive Head or Governor will investigate your concern. You will be informed of what action is being taken within two weeks of the original report. You will be kept informed of the progress of the investigation and of its outcome.
- If you are not satisfied with the outcome you should take your concern to Ofsted. They can be contacted:
 - through a dedicated whistleblowing hotline – 0300 123 3155 (Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 6.00pm)
 - by email to the whistleblowing team – whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk
 - by post – WBHL, Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD

NB If your concern is about an immediate or current risk to a child, you must follow the procedure laid out in our Safeguarding Policy.

If the Executive Head is not available, then your concern should be reported to the Associate Head

Confidentiality

If a concern is raised anonymously it is very difficult to investigate.

The Executive Head and Governors will respect and protect a person's identity when a concern is raised. However in certain circumstances identities will have to be revealed to the person complained against and the complainant may be asked to provide written evidence in support of the complaint

If a person's identity is to be disclosed, he or she will be informed before the disclosure and given reasons why this was necessary.

Ref: The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998

See also: [Complaints Policy](#), [Safeguarding Children Policy](#)

This policy will be reviewed annually		
Last Reviewed: June 2021	By:	Miles Chester
Next review: June 2023	By:	Miles Chester