

# Healing Multi-Academy Trust



## Whistleblowing Policy

Reviewer	HR Manager / External HR Provider
Date adopted by MAT Trustees	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
Review Date	Spring Term 2019
Review Frequency	2 Years, (Equal Opportunities every 4 years and published annually (statutory))
Consultations/Training	Trustees, LGBs Teaching & Support Staff Unions

## Whistleblowing Policy

### **About this policy**

- 1.1 We are committed to conducting our business with honesty and integrity and we expect all staff to maintain high standards. Any suspected wrongdoing should be reported as soon as possible.
- 1.2 This policy covers all employees, officers, consultants, contractors, volunteers, casual workers and agency workers, members, trustees, governors etc. (Please see section 1.1 of the Staff Handbook)

### **2 What is whistleblowing?**

- 2.1 Whistleblowing is the reporting of suspected wrongdoing or dangers in relation to our activities. This includes bribery, facilitation of tax evasion, fraud or other criminal activity, miscarriages of justice, safeguarding, health and safety risks, damage to the environment and any breach of legal or professional obligations.

### **3 How to raise a concern**

- 3.1 We hope that in many cases you will be able to raise any concerns with your line manager/ Chair of Governors, Trust Board. However, where you prefer not to raise it with your line manager for any reason, you should contact the Whistleblowing Officer or the Principal/ Headteacher. Contact details are at the end of this policy. **For all safeguarding concerns, you should contact the school's DSL.** If you are concerned about contacting your DSL or are concerned about how child protection issues are being handled in your own or another organisation, please contact the NSPCC whistleblowing advice line on 0800 0280285.
- 3.2 A meeting will be arranged with you as soon as possible to discuss your concern. You may bring a colleague or union representative to any meetings under this policy. Your companion must respect the confidentiality of your disclosure and any subsequent investigation.

### **4 Confidentiality**

- 4.1 All staff should feel able to voice whistleblowing concerns openly under this policy. Completely anonymous disclosures are difficult to investigate. If you want to raise your concern confidentially, every effort will be made to keep your identity anonymous and only reveal it where necessary to those involved in investigating your concern.

## **5 External disclosures**

- 5.1 The aim of this policy is to provide an internal mechanism for reporting, investigating and remedying any wrongdoing in the workplace. In most cases you should not find it necessary to alert anyone externally. If however, you are concerned about contacting your DSL or are concerned about how child protection issues are being handled in your own or other organisation, please call the NSPCC whistleblowing advice line on 0800 0280285
- 5.2 The law recognises that in some circumstances it may be appropriate for you to report your concerns to an external body such as a regulator. We strongly encourage you to seek advice before reporting a concern to anyone external. Public Concern at Work operates a confidential helpline. Their contact details are at the end of this policy.

## **6 Protection and support for whistleblowers**

- 6.1 Openness is encouraged and whistleblowers who raise genuine concerns under this policy, will be supported, even if they turn out to be mistaken.
- 6.2 Whistleblowers must not suffer any detrimental treatment as a result of raising a genuine concern. If you believe that you have suffered any such treatment, you should inform the Whistleblowing Officer or the line manager/ Principal/ Headteacher immediately.
- 6.3 Staff must not threaten or retaliate against whistleblowers in any way. If you are involved in such conduct you may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 6.4 However, if a whistleblower has made false allegations maliciously, the whistleblower may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 6.5 Public Concern at Work operates a confidential helpline tel.020 3117 2520