



## **Policy for Child Protection to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children**

Written by	The Designated Safeguarding Lead in conjunction with the Principal's Review Committee
Ratified by Trustees	
Date for Review	September 2022
Signed - Chair of Trustees	(Sue Trentini)
Signed - Chief Executive Officer	(Lee Hessey)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Academies within the Forge Trust recognise their responsibilities for safeguarding children and protecting them from harm.

This Child Protection Policy will be reviewed by the Trustees.

Date of last review: September 2021

Date of next review: September 2022

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
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The Forge Trust Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs S Bowler	01623 460274
LA Child Protection Contact/LADO	Eva Callaghan or covering LADO	0115 8041272
MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub)		0300 500 80 90
Emergency Duty Team	Outside of office hours	0300 456 4546

## 2. LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY GUIDANCE

This policy is based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2021\)](#) and [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#), and the [Governance Handbook](#). We comply with this guidance and the arrangements agreed and published by our 3 local safeguarding partners.

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

[The School Staffing \(England\) Regulations 2009](#), which set out what must be recorded on the single central record and the requirement for at least one person conducting an interview to be trained in safer recruitment techniques

Part 3 of the schedule to the [Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#), which places a duty on academies and independent schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school

[The Children Act 1989](#) (and [2004 amendment](#)), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children

Section 5B(11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the [Serious Crime Act 2015](#), which places a statutory duty on teachers to report to the police where they discover that female genital mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18

[Statutory guidance on FGM](#), which sets out responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM

[The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974](#), which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children

Schedule 4 of the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#), which defines what 'regulated activity' is in relation to children

[Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty](#), which explains schools' duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism

The [Childcare \(Disqualification\) and Childcare \(Early Years Provision Free of Charge\) \(Extended Entitlement\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018](#) (referred to in this policy as the "2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations") and [Childcare Act 2006](#), which set out who is disqualified from working with children

This policy also meets requirements relating to safeguarding and welfare in the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#)

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### 3. THE FORGE TRUST

Our policy applies to all staff, Trustees and volunteers working in the Forge Trust and takes into account statutory guidance provided by the Department for Education and local guidance issued by the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

We will ensure that all parents/carers are made aware of our responsibilities with regard to child protection procedures and how we will safeguard and promote the welfare of their children through the publication of this Forge Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

These duties and responsibilities, as set out within the Education Act 2002 sec 175 and 157, DfE Statutory Guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 and HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 are incorporated into this policy.

### 4. CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff, volunteers and Trustees and are consistent with those of Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP).

#### **Safeguarding children is defined as:**

The actions we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm are everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play

#### **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** means:

Protecting children from maltreatment

Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development

Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

**Child protection** is part of this definition and refers to activities undertaken to prevent children suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm.

**Abuse** is a form of maltreatment of a child and may involve inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Appendix 1 explains the different types of abuse.

**Neglect** is a form of abuse and is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Appendix 1 defines neglect in more detail.

**Sharing of nudes and semi-nudes** (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery) is where children share nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams.

**Children** includes everyone under the age of 18.

The following 3 **safeguarding partners** are identified in Keeping Children Safe in Education (and defined in the Children Act 2004, as amended by chapter 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017). They will make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs:

The local authority (LA)

A clinical commissioning group for an area within the LA

The chief officer of police for a police area in the LA area

## 5. EQUALITY STATEMENT

Some children have an increased risk of abuse, and additional barriers can exist for some children with respect to recognising or disclosing it. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children's diverse circumstances. We ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

We give special consideration to children who:

Have special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities or health conditions

Are young carers

May experience discrimination due to their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identification or sexuality

Have English as an additional language

Are known to be living in difficult situations – for example, temporary accommodation or where there are issues such as substance abuse or domestic violence

Are at risk of FGM, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, or radicalisation

Are asylum seekers

Are at risk due to either their own or a family member's mental health needs

Are looked after or previously looked after

Are missing from education

Whose parent/carer has expressed an intention to remove them from school to be home educated

## 6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Safeguarding and child protection is **everyone's** responsibility. This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and governors in the school and is consistent with the procedures of the 3 safeguarding partners. Our policy and procedures also apply to extended school and off-site activities.

### 6.1 ALL STAFF

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone in our Trust who comes into contact with children and their families have a role to play in safeguarding children. All staff in our academy consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of children.

All staff within our academy are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help to children to prevent concerns from escalating. All staff contribute to providing a safe environment in which children can learn.

All our staff are aware of the early help process and understand their role in this. This includes being able to identify emerging problems to recognise children who may benefit from early help. Staff know in the first instance to discuss their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and understand they may be required to support other agencies and professionals in assessments for early help.

All staff will read and understand part 1 and annex B of the Department for Education's statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), and review this guidance at least annually.

All staff will sign a declaration at the beginning of each academic year to say that they have reviewed the guidance.

All staff will be aware of:

Our systems which support safeguarding, including this child protection and safeguarding policy, the staff Code of Conduct, the role and identity of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies, the behaviour policy, the online safety policy and the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education

The early help process (sometimes known as the common assessment framework) and their role in it, including identifying emerging problems, liaising with the DSL, and sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment

The process for making referrals to local authority children's social care and for statutory assessments that may follow a referral, including the role they might be expected to play

What to do if they identify a safeguarding issue or a child tells them they are being abused or neglected, including specific issues such as FGM, and how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality while liaising with relevant professionals

The signs of different types of abuse and neglect, as well as specific safeguarding issues, such as peer-on-peer abuse, child sexual exploitation (CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), indicators of being at risk from or involved with serious violent crime, FGM and radicalisation

The importance of reassuring victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe

Section 16 and appendix 4 of this policy outline in more detail how staff are supported to do this.

## **6.2 THE ROLE OF THE SENIOR AND DEPUTY FORGE TRUST SAFEGUARDING LEADS**

The Forge Trust DSL is Mrs Joanne Knapp. The Forge Trust Deputy lead is Mrs Sally Bowler. The DSL takes lead responsibility for child protection and wider safeguarding across the Trust. Mrs Joanne Knapp can be contacted on (01636 680142) or at [j.knapp@theforgetrust.co.uk](mailto:j.knapp@theforgetrust.co.uk). Mrs Sally Bowler can be contacted on (01623 460274) or at [s.bowler@westparkacademy.co.uk](mailto:s.bowler@westparkacademy.co.uk)

The Trust lead and Deputy will

- Audit provision for Safeguarding using The Forge Trust Safeguarding Audit Document. Review this annually.
- Carry out monitoring visits of safeguarding provision in academies in the Trust.
- Identify trends in Safeguarding issues within the trust and plan training accordingly.
- Monitor the statutory training for staff and safeguarding Leads within the academies.
- Be available to support and give advice to Safeguarding Leads when required

## **THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL)**

The individual Academy DSL is a member of the senior leadership team.

The West Park Academy Lead DSL is Mr Mark Nunn. The DSL takes lead responsibility for child protection and wider safeguarding in the school. During term time, the DSL will be available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Mr Mark Nunn can be contacted on (01623 460274) or at [m.nunn@westparkacademy.co.uk](mailto:m.nunn@westparkacademy.co.uk) if the DSL is absent, the deputies – Mr Chris Baker, Mrs Sally Bowler and Mrs Bannister – will act as cover. A DSL/deputy will always be on call during out-of-hours/out-of-term activities.

The DSL will be given the time, funding, training, resources and support to:

Provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters

Take part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings and/or support other staff to do so

Contribute to the assessment of children

Refer suspected cases, as appropriate, to the relevant body (local authority children's social care, Channel programme, Disclosure and Barring Service, and/or police), and support staff who make such referrals directly.

The DSL will also keep the headteacher informed of any issues and liaise with local authority case managers and designated officers for child protection concerns as appropriate.

The full responsibilities of the DSL and deputies are set out in their job description.

## **6.3 THE TRUSTEE BOARD**

The Trustee Board will:

Facilitate a whole-school approach to safeguarding, ensuring that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development

Evaluate and approve this policy at each review, ensuring it complies with the law, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation

Appoint a link trustee to monitor the effectiveness of this policy in conjunction with the full trustee board. This is always a different person from the DSL

The chair of trustees will act as the 'case manager' in the event that an allegation of abuse is made against the headteacher, where appropriate (see appendix 3).

All trustees will read Keeping Children Safe in Education in its entirety.

Section 15 of this policy has information on how trustees are supported to fulfil their role.

## **6.4 THE PRINCIPAL**

The Principal is responsible for the implementation of this policy, including:

Ensuring that staff (including temporary staff) and volunteers:

- Are informed of our systems which support safeguarding, including this policy, as part of their induction
- Understand and follow the procedures included in this policy, particularly those concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect

Communicating this policy to parents/carers when their child joins the school and via the school website

Ensuring that the DSL has appropriate time, funding, training and resources, and that there is always adequate cover if the DSL is absent

Ensuring that all staff undertake appropriate safeguarding and child protection training, and updating the content of the training regularly

Acting as the 'case manager' in the event of an allegation of abuse made against another member of staff or volunteer, where appropriate (see appendix 3)

Ensuring the relevant staffing ratios are met, where applicable

Making sure each child in the Early Years Foundation Stage is assigned a key person

## **7. CONFIDENTIALITY**

Where there is a child protection concern it will be passed immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or to children's social care. When a child is in immediate danger children's social care/the police will be contacted.

Timely information sharing is essential to effective safeguarding

Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare, and protect the safety, of children

The Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe

If staff need to share 'special category personal data', the DPA 2018 contains 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' as a processing condition that allows practitioners to share information without consent if it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent, or if to gain consent would place a child at risk

Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse, as this may not be in the child's best interests

The government's [information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#) includes 7 'golden rules' for sharing information, and will support staff who have to make decisions about sharing information

If staff are in any doubt about sharing information, they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy)

Confidentiality is also addressed in this policy with respect to record-keeping and allegations of abuse against staff in appendix 3

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We acknowledge further guidance can be found by visiting Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp>

## **8. RECOGNISING ABUSE AND TAKING ACTION**

Staff, volunteers and Trustees must follow the procedures set out below in the event of a safeguarding issue.

Please note – in this and subsequent sections, you should take any references to the DSL to mean "the DSL (or deputy DSL)".

### **8.1 IF A CHILD IS SUFFERING OR LIKELY TO SUFFER HARM, OR IN IMMEDIATE DANGER**

Our staff recognise the difference between concerns about a child and a child in immediate danger.

If staff have concerns about a child they will need to decide what action to take.

A discussion should take place with the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead to agree a course of action.

If a child is in immediate danger or risk of harm a referral will be made immediately to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and/or the police immediately by the member of staff if required, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead being informed of the referral.

**Staff should never attempt to carry out an investigation of suspected child abuse by interviewing the child or any others involved. The only people who should investigate child abuse and harm are Social Care, Police or the NSPCC.**

## **IDENTIFYING CONCERNS**

All members of staff, volunteers and Trustees will know how to identify pupils who may be being harmed and then how to respond to a pupil who discloses abuse, or where others raise concerns about them. Our staff will be familiar with procedures to be followed.

Staff understand that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition, and that in most cases multiple issues will overlap with each other.

Staff who regularly come into contact with children are aware of the DfE guidance [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused](#)

Some of the following signs might be indicators of abuse or neglect:

- Children whose behaviour changes – they may become aggressive, challenging, disruptive, withdrawn or clingy, or they might have difficulty sleeping or start wetting the bed;
- Children with clothes which are ill-fitting and/or dirty;
- Children with consistently poor hygiene;
- Children who make strong efforts to avoid specific family members or friends, without an obvious reason;
- Children who don't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities;
- Children who are having problems at academy, for example, a sudden lack of concentration and learning or they appear to be tired and hungry;
- Children who talk about being left home alone, with inappropriate carers or with strangers;
- Children who reach developmental milestones, such as learning to speak or walk, late, with no medical reason;
- Children who are regularly missing from academy or education;
- Children who are reluctant to go home after academy;
- Children with poor academy attendance and punctuality, or who are consistently late being picked up;
- Parents who are dismissive and non-responsive to practitioners' concerns;
- Parents who collect their children from academy when drunk, or under the influence of drugs;
- Children who drink alcohol regularly from an early age;
- Children who are concerned for younger siblings without explaining why;
- Children who talk about running away; and
- Children who shy away from being touched or flinch at sudden movements.

## **8.2 IF A CHILD MAKES A DISCLOSURE TO YOU**

If a child discloses a safeguarding issue to you, you should:

Listen to and believe them. Allow them time to talk freely and do not ask leading questions

Stay calm and do not show that you are shocked or upset

Tell the child they have done the right thing in telling you. Do not tell them they should have told you sooner

Explain what will happen next and that you will have to pass this information on. Do not promise to keep it a secret

Write up your conversation as soon as possible in the child's own words. Stick to the facts, and do not put your own judgement on it

Sign and date the write-up and pass it on to the DSL. Alternatively, if appropriate, make a referral to children's social care and/or the police directly, and tell the DSL as soon as possible that you have done so. Aside from these people, do not disclose the information to anyone else unless told to do so by a relevant authority involved in the safeguarding process

### **8.3 IF YOU DISCOVER THAT FGM HAS TAKEN PLACE OR A PUPIL IS AT RISK OF FGM**

Keeping Children Safe in Education explains that FGM comprises "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs".

FGM is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting, harmful consequences. It is also known as 'female genital cutting', 'circumcision' or 'initiation'.

Possible indicators that a pupil has already been subjected to FGM, and factors that suggest a pupil may be at risk, are set out in appendix 4 of this policy.

**Any teacher** who either:

- Is informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her; or
- Observes physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out on a girl under 18 and they have no reason to believe that the act was necessary for the girl's physical or mental health or for purposes connected with labour or birth

Must immediately report this to the police, personally. This is a mandatory statutory duty, and teachers will face disciplinary sanctions for failing to meet it.

Unless they have been specifically told not to disclose, they should also discuss the case with the DSL and involve children's social care as appropriate.

**Any other member of staff** who discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a **pupil under 18** must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures.

The duty for teachers mentioned above does not apply in cases where a pupil is *at risk* of FGM or FGM is suspected but is not known to have been carried out. Staff should not examine pupils.

**Any member of staff** who suspects a pupil is *at risk* of FGM or suspects that FGM has been carried out must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures.

### **8.4 IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD (AS OPPOSED TO BELIEVING A CHILD IS SUFFERING OR LIKELY TO SUFFER FROM HARM, OR IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER)**

Figure 1 below, illustrates the procedure to follow if you have any concerns about a child's welfare. Where possible, speak to the DSL first to agree a course of action.

If in exceptional circumstances the DSL is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Speak to a member of the senior leadership team and/or take advice from local authority children's social care. You can also seek advice at any time from the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. Share details of any actions you take with the DSL as soon as practically possible. Make a referral to local authority children's social care directly, if appropriate (see 'Referral' below). Share any action taken with the DSL as soon as possible.

#### **EARLY HELP**

If early help is appropriate, the DSL will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead practitioner.

The DSL will keep the case under constant review and the school will consider a referral to local authority children's social care if the situation does not seem to be improving. Timelines of interventions will be monitored and reviewed.

## **REFERRAL**

If it is appropriate to refer the case to local authority children's social care or the police, the DSL will make the referral or support you to do so.

If you make a referral directly, you must tell the DSL as soon as possible.

The local authority will make a decision within 1 working day of a referral about what course of action to take and will let the person who made the referral know the outcome. The DSL or person who made the referral must follow up with the local authority if this information is not made available, and ensure outcomes are properly recorded.

If the child's situation does not seem to be improving after the referral, the DSL or person who made the referral must follow local escalation procedures to ensure their concerns have been addressed and that the child's situation improves.

**We will apply the NSCP escalation procedures if there are any concerns about the actions or inaction of social care staff or staff from other agencies.**

## **8.5 IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT EXTREMISM**

If a child is not suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or in immediate danger, where possible speak to the DSL first to agree a course of action.

If in exceptional circumstances the DSL is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Speak to a member of the senior leadership team and/or seek advice from local authority children's social care. Make a referral to local authority children's social care directly, if appropriate (see 'Referral' above). Inform the DSL or deputy as soon as practically possible after the referral.

Where there is a concern, the DSL will consider the level of risk and decide which agency to make a referral to. This could include [Channel](#), the government's programme for identifying and supporting individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, or the local authority children's social care team.

The Department for Education also has a dedicated telephone helpline, 020 7340 7264, which school staff and governors can call to raise concerns about extremism with respect to a pupil. You can also email [counter.extremism@education.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gov.uk). Note that this is not for use in emergency situations.

In an emergency, call 999 or the confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 if you:

Think someone is in immediate danger

Think someone may be planning to travel to join an extremist group

See or hear something that may be terrorist-related

## **8.6 IF YOU HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH CONCERN**

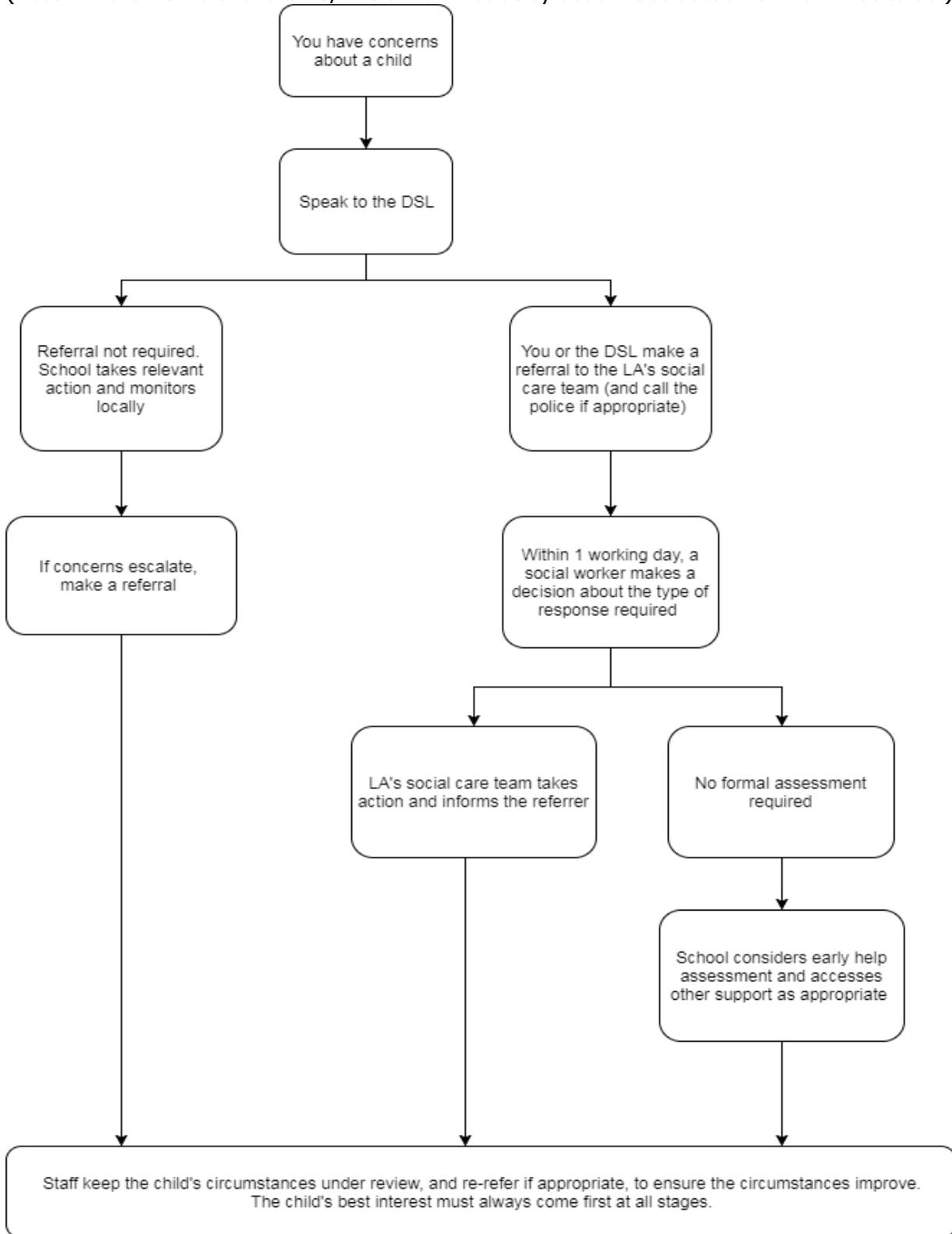
Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Staff however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education

If you have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, take immediate action. If you have a mental health concern that is **not** also a safeguarding concern, speak to the DSL to agree a course of action.

**Figure 1: procedure if you have concerns about a child's welfare (as opposed to believing a child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or in immediate danger)**

(Note – if the DSL is unavailable, this should not delay action. See section 8.4 for what to do.)



## **8.7 CONCERNS ABOUT A STAFF MEMBER, SUPPLY TEACHER, VOLUNTEER OR CONTRACTOR**

If you have concerns about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor), or an allegation is made about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor) posing a risk of harm to children, speak to the principal as soon as possible. If the concerns/allegations are about the principal/ member of the Forge Trust leadership team, speak to the chair of trustees. (Mrs Sue Trentini)

The principal/chair of trustees will then follow the procedures set out in appendix 3, if appropriate. Where you believe there is a conflict of interest in reporting a concern or allegation about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor) to the headteacher, report it directly to the local authority designated officer (LADO).

## **8.8 ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE MADE AGAINST OTHER PUPILS**

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”, as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for pupils.

We also recognise the gendered nature of peer-on-peer abuse. However, all peer-on-peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under our school’s behaviour policy, but this child protection and safeguarding policy will apply to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. This might include where the alleged behaviour:

Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence

Could put pupils in the school at risk

Is violent

Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol

Involves sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment, such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, upskirting or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos (including the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes)

See appendix 4 for more information about peer-on-peer abuse.

## **8.9 PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE**

If a pupil makes an allegation of abuse against another pupil:

You must record the allegation and tell the DSL, but do not investigate it

The DSL will contact the local authority children’s social care team and follow its advice, as well as the police if the allegation involves a potential criminal offence

The DSL will put a risk assessment and support plan into place for all children involved (including the victim(s), the child(ren) against whom the allegation has been made and any others affected) with a named person they can talk to if needed

The DSL will contact the children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), if appropriate

## **8.10 ACTION FOLLOWING A REPORT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND/OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Following an incident, we will consider

- The wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed. This is especially important in the context of sexual violence and sexual harassment;
- The nature of the alleged incident(s), including: whether a crime may have been committed and consideration of harmful sexual behaviour;
- The ages of the children involved;
- The developmental stages of the children involved;
- Any power imbalance between the children. For example, is the alleged perpetrator significantly older, more mature or more confident? Does the victim have a disability or learning difficulty?
- If the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse;
- Are there ongoing risks to the victim, other children, adult students or school or college staff; and other related issues and wider context?

## **8.11 FOLLOW UP ACTIONS**

### **Children sharing a classroom:**

Whilst the school or college establishes the facts of the case and starts the process of liaising with children's social care and the police:

- The perpetrator will be removed from any classes they share with the victim.
- We will consider how best to keep the victim and alleged perpetrator a reasonable distance apart on school or college premises and on transport to and from the school or college.

These actions are in the best interests of both children and should not be perceived to be a judgment on the guilt of the alleged perpetrator.

## **8.12 OPTIONS TO MANAGE THE REPORT**

### **Manage internally**

1. In some cases of sexual harassment, for example, one-off incidents, we may decide that the children concerned are not in need of early help or statutory intervention and that it would be appropriate to handle the incident internally, perhaps through utilising the behaviour and bullying policies and by providing pastoral support.

This decision will be made based on the principle that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable and will not be tolerated. All decisions, and discussions around making these decisions will be recorded and stored on CPOMS by the Safeguarding Lead and/or Principal.

2. In line with 1 above, we may decide that the children involved do not require statutory interventions but may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Providing early help is more effective in promoting

the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help can be particularly useful to address non-violent harmful sexual behaviour and may prevent escalation of sexual violence.

3. Where a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm, or is in immediate danger, we will make a referral to the MASH following locally agreed protocols.

Where statutory assessments are appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy will be working alongside, and cooperating with, the relevant lead social worker. Collaborative working will help ensure the best possible package of coordinated support is implemented for the victim and, where appropriate, the alleged perpetrator and any other children that require support.

### **8.13 REPORTING TO THE POLICE**

Any report to the police will generally be made through the MASH as above. The designated safeguarding lead (and their deputies) will follow local processes for referrals.

### **8.14 CREATING A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT IN SCHOOL AND MINIMISING THE RISK OF PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE**

We recognise the importance of taking proactive action to minimise the risk of peer-on-peer abuse, and of creating a supportive environment where victims feel confident in reporting incidents.

To achieve this, we will:

Challenge any form of derogatory or sexualised language or inappropriate behaviour between peers, including requesting or sending sexual images

Be vigilant to issues that particularly affect different genders – for example, sexualised or aggressive touching or grabbing towards female pupils, and initiation or hazing type violence with respect to boys

Ensure our curriculum helps to educate pupils about appropriate behaviour and consent

Ensure pupils are able to easily and confidently report abuse using our reporting systems

Ensure staff reassure victims that they are being taken seriously

Ensure staff are trained to understand:

- How to recognise the indicators and signs of peer-on-peer abuse, and know how to identify it and respond to reports
- That even if there are no reports of peer-on-peer abuse in school, it does not mean it is not happening – staff should maintain an attitude of “it could happen here”
- That if they have any concerns about a child’s welfare, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told, and that victims may not always make a direct report. For example:
  - Children can show signs or act in ways they hope adults will notice and react to
  - A friend may make a report
  - A member of staff may overhear a conversation
  - A child’s behaviour might indicate that something is wrong
- That certain children may face additional barriers to telling someone because of their vulnerability, disability, gender, ethnicity and/or sexual orientation
- That a pupil harming a peer could be a sign that the child is being abused themselves, and that this would fall under the scope of this policy

- The important role they have to play in preventing peer-on-peer abuse and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it
- That they should speak to the DSL if they have any concerns

### **8.15 SHARING OF NUDES AND SEMI-NUDES ('SEXTING')**

This approach is based on [guidance from the UK Council for Internet Safety](#) for [all staff](#) and for [DSLs and senior leaders](#).

#### **Your responsibilities when responding to an incident**

If you are made aware of an incident involving the consensual or non-consensual sharing of nude or semi-nude images/videos (also known as 'sexting' or 'youth produced sexual imagery'), you must report it to the DSL immediately.

You must **not**:

**View**, copy, print, share, store or save the imagery yourself, or ask a pupil to share or download it (if you have already viewed the imagery by accident, you must report this to the DSL)

Delete the imagery or ask the pupil to delete it

Ask the pupil(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery (this is the DSL's responsibility)

Share information about the incident with other members of staff, the pupil(s) it involves or their, or other, parents and/or carers

Say or do anything to blame or shame any young people involved

You should explain that you need to report the incident and reassure the pupil(s) that they will receive support and help from the DSL.

#### **Initial review meeting**

Following a report of an incident, the DSL will hold an initial review meeting with appropriate school staff – this may include the staff member who reported the incident and the safeguarding or leadership team that deals with safeguarding concerns. This meeting will consider the initial evidence and aim to determine:

Whether there is an immediate risk to pupil(s)

If a referral needs to be made to the police and/or children's social care

If it is necessary to view the image(s) in order to safeguard the young person (in most cases, images or videos should not be viewed)

What further information is required to decide on the best response

Whether the image(s) has been shared widely and via what services and/or platforms (this may be unknown)

Whether immediate action should be taken to delete or remove images or videos from devices or online services

Any relevant facts about the pupils involved which would influence risk assessment

If there is a need to contact another school, college, setting or individual

Whether to contact parents or carers of the pupils involved (in most cases parents/carers should be involved)

The DSL will make an immediate referral to police and/or children's social care if:  
The incident involves an adult

There is reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed, or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example owing to special educational needs)

What the DSL knows about the images or videos suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the young person's developmental stage, or are violent

The imagery involves sexual acts and any pupil in the images or videos is under 13

The DSL has reason to believe a pupil is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes (for example, the young person is presenting as suicidal or self-harming)

If none of the above apply then the DSL, in consultation with the headteacher and other members of staff as appropriate, may decide to respond to the incident without involving the police or children's social care. The decision will be made and recorded in line with the procedures set out in this policy.

### **Further review by the DSL**

If at the initial review stage a decision has been made not to refer to police and/or children's social care, the DSL will conduct a further review to establish the facts and assess the risks.

They will hold interviews with the pupils involved (if appropriate).

If at any point in the process there is a concern that a pupil has been harmed or is at risk of harm, a referral will be made to children's social care and/or the police immediately.

### **Informing parents/carers**

The DSL will inform parents/carers at an early stage and keep them involved in the process, unless there is a good reason to believe that involving them would put the pupil at risk of harm.

### **Referring to the police**

If it is necessary to refer an incident to the police, this will be done through the local neighbourhood police by dialling 101].

### **Recording incidents**

All incidents of sharing of nudes and semi-nudes, and the decisions made in responding to them, will be recorded. The record-keeping arrangements set out in section 14 of this policy also apply to recording these incidents.

### **Curriculum coverage**

Pupils are taught about the issues surrounding the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes as part of our relationships and sex education and computing programmes. Teaching covers the following in relation to the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes:

What it is

How it is most likely to be encountered

The consequences of requesting, forwarding or providing such images, including when it is and is not abusive and when it may be deemed as online sexual harassment

Issues of legality

The risk of damage to people's feelings and reputation

Pupils also learn the strategies and skills needed to manage:  
Specific requests or pressure to provide (or forward) such images

The receipt of such images

This policy on the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes is also shared with pupils so they are aware of the processes the school will follow in the event of an incident.

### **8.16 REPORTING SYSTEMS FOR OUR PUPILS**

Where there is a safeguarding concern, we will take the child's wishes and feelings into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide.

We recognise the importance of ensuring pupils feel safe and comfortable to come forward and report any concerns and/or allegations.

To achieve this, we will:

Put systems in place for pupils to confidently report abuse

Ensure our reporting systems are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for pupils

Make it clear to pupils that their concerns will be taken seriously, and that they can safely express their views and give feedback

## **9. ONLINE SAFETY AND THE USE OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGY**

KCSIE says that your policies on online safety and the use of mobile and smart technology should be reflected in our child protection and safeguarding policy.

We recognise the importance of safeguarding children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material, and we understand that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues.

To address this, our academy aims to:

Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors

Protect and educate the whole school community in its safe and responsible use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones')

Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for the whole school community

Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incidents or concerns, where appropriate

### **The 4 key categories of risk**

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

**Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism

**Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes

**Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and

**Commerce** – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams

**To meet our aims and address the risks above we will:**

Educate pupils about online safety as part of our curriculum. For example:

- The safe use of social media, the internet and technology
- Keeping personal information private
- How to recognise unacceptable behaviour online
- How to report any incidents of cyber-bullying, ensuring pupils are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than a victim

Train staff, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation. All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year

Educate parents/carers about online safety via our website, communications sent directly to them and during parents' evenings. We will also share clear procedures with them so they know how to raise concerns about online safety

Make sure staff are aware of any restrictions placed on them with regards to the use of their mobile phone and cameras, for example that:

- Staff are allowed to bring their personal phones to school for their own use, but will limit such use to non-contact time when pupils are not present
- Staff will not take pictures or recordings of pupils on their personal phones or cameras

Make all pupils, parents/carers, staff, volunteers and governors aware that they are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the internet in school, use of the school's ICT systems and use of their mobile and smart technology

Explain the sanctions we will use if a pupil is in breach of our policies on the acceptable use of the internet and mobile phones

Make sure all staff, pupils and parents/carers are aware that staff have the power to search pupils' phones, as set out in the [DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#)

Put in place robust filtering and monitoring systems to limit children's exposure to the 4 key categories of risk (described above) from the school's IT systems

Carry out an annual review of our approach to online safety, supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks faced by our school community

Thinkuknow is the National Crime Agency/CEOPs education programme with age specific resources  
UK Safer Internet Centre developed guidance and resources that can help with the teaching of the online safety component of the Computing Curriculum.

## **10. NOTIFYING PARENTS OR CARERS**

Where appropriate, we will discuss any concerns about a child with the child's parents or carers. The DSL will normally do this in the event of a suspicion or disclosure.

Other staff will only talk to parents or carers about any such concerns following consultation with the DSL.

If we believe that notifying the parents or carers would increase the risk to the child, we will discuss this with the local authority children's social care team before doing so.

In the case of allegations of abuse made against other children, we will normally notify the parents or carers of all the children involved.

## **11. PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, DISABILITIES OR HEALTH ISSUES**

We recognise that pupils with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities or certain health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group, including:

Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's condition without further exploration

Pupils being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other pupils

The potential for pupils with SEN, disabilities or certain health conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs

Communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges

## **12. PUPILS WITH A SOCIAL WORKER**

Pupils may need a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs. We recognise that a child's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm as well as potentially creating barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health.

The DSL and all members of staff will work with and support social workers to help protect vulnerable children.

Where we are aware that a pupil has a social worker, the DSL will always consider this fact to ensure any decisions are made in the best interests of the pupil's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. For example, it will inform decisions about:

Responding to unauthorised absence or missing education where there are known safeguarding risks

The provision of pastoral and/or academic support

### **13. LOOKED-AFTER AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED-AFTER CHILDREN**

We will ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep looked-after children and previously looked-after children safe. In particular, we will ensure that:

Appropriate staff have relevant information about children's' looked after legal status, contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility, and care arrangements

The DSL has details of children's social workers and relevant virtual school heads

We have appointed a designated teacher, Mrs Joanne Knapp, who is responsible for promoting the educational achievement of looked-after children and previously looked-after children in line with [statutory guidance](#).

The designated teacher is appropriately trained and has the relevant qualifications and experience to perform the role.

As part of their role, the designated teacher will:

Work closely with the DSL to ensure that any safeguarding concerns regarding looked-after and previously looked-after children are quickly and effectively responded to

Work with virtual school heads to promote the educational achievement of looked-after and previously looked-after children, including discussing how pupil premium plus funding can be best used to support looked-after children and meet the needs identified in their personal education plans

### **14. COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS ABOUT SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING POLICIES**

#### **14.1 COMPLAINTS AGAINST STAFF**

Complaints against staff that are likely to require a child protection investigation will be handled in accordance with our procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against staff (see appendix 3).

#### **14.2 WHISTLE-BLOWING**

Separate to the obligations under this policy, all employees have a duty to report concerns about the safety and welfare of pupils/students. Concerns about any of the following should be reported to the academy's Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection (DSL):

- physical abuse of a pupil/student
- sexual abuse of a pupil/student
- emotional abuse of a pupil/student
- neglect of a pupil/student
- an intimate or improper relationship between an adult and a pupil/student

The reason for the concern may be the actions of a colleague (including a more senior colleague), a trustee member, another pupil/student or someone outside the trust. Whatever the reason, concerns must be reported. Failure to report a Child Protection related allegation will be in itself, a disciplinary matter.

## 15. RECORD-KEEPING

We will hold records in line with our records retention schedule.

All safeguarding concerns, discussions, decisions made and the reasons for those decisions, must be recorded in writing. If you are in any doubt about whether to record something, discuss it with the DSL.

Records will include:

A clear and comprehensive summary of the concern

Details of how the concern was followed up and resolved

A note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome

Concerns and referrals will be kept in a separate child protection file for each child.

Any non-confidential records will be readily accessible and available. Confidential information and records will be held securely and only available to those who have a right or professional need to see them.

Safeguarding records which contain information about allegations of sexual abuse will be retained for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), for the term of the inquiry.

If a child for whom the school has, or has had, safeguarding concerns moves to another school, the DSL will ensure that their child protection file is forwarded promptly and securely, and separately from the main pupil file. In addition, if the concerns are significant or complex, and/or social services are involved, the DSL will speak to the DSL of the receiving school and provide information to enable them to have time to make any necessary preparations to ensure the safety of the child.

### 15.1 CPOMs

All academies in our Trust Use the CPOMS electronic recording system.

Any concerns about a child will be recorded in writing within 24 hours. All records will provide a factual and evidence-based account and there will be accurate recording of any actions. Concerns will be recorded using the online record keeping system CPOMS which is put in place asap when an academy joins the trust (if not in place already). On induction, staff will be trained on how to use this system and record concerns accurately. Academies that do not yet have CPOMS in place should use the templates in the appendices to record concerns. Where an opinion or professional judgement is recorded this should be clearly stated as such.

**At no time should an individual teacher/member of staff or academy be asked to or consider taking photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person, this type of behaviour could lead to the staff member being taken into managing allegations procedures. The body map below or the body map on CPOMS should be used in accordance with recording guidance.**

**Any concerns should be reported and recorded without delay to the appropriate safeguarding services, e.g. MASH or the child's social worker if already an open case to social care.**

## 15.2 WHY RECORDING IS IMPORTANT

Our staff will be encouraged to understand why it is important that recording is comprehensive and accurate and what the messages are from serious case reviews are in terms of recording and sharing information. It is often when a chronology of information is pieced together that the level of concern escalates or the whole or wider picture becomes known.

We acknowledge without information being recorded it can be lost. This could be crucial information, the importance of which is not always necessarily apparent at the time. On occasions, this information could be crucial evidence to safeguard a child or be evidence in future criminal prosecutions.

A chronology will be recorded on CPOMS prior to the commencement of a Child Protection (CP), Child in Need (CiN) or Confidential file. Staff, particularly pastoral staff, will record any minor concerns on CPOMS and will take responsibility for alerting the Designated Safeguarding Lead should the number of concerns rise or, in their professional judgement, become significant.

The establishment of a 'CP, CiN or Confidential' file, which is separate from the child's main academy file, is an important principle in terms of storing and collating information about children which relates to either a child protection or safeguarding concern or an accumulation of concerns about a child's welfare which are outside of the usual range of concerns which relate to ordinary life events. It should be borne in mind that what constitutes a 'concern' for one child may not be a 'concern' for another and the particular child's circumstances and needs will differ i.e. a child subject to a child protection plan, looked after child, CiN may be looked at differently to a child recently bereaved, parental health issues, etc. Professional judgement will therefore be an important factor when making this decision and will need clear links between pastoral staff and Designated Safeguarding Leads in academy (named designated person).

At the point at which a Child Protection (CP), Child in Need (CiN) or Confidential file is commenced then the CPOMS chronology can be printed and placed in the confidential file. At this point a written (key points) chronology will also be started in the concern file. The more detailed chronology on CPOMS will be printed off termly and placed in the concern file.

When a confidential file is commenced, then the main pupil file should have a red sticker in the top right hand corner to denote a separate file exists.

Files will be available for external scrutiny for example by a regulatory agency or because of a serious case review or audit.

An electronic CPOM's 'child protection' or 'confidential' file should be commenced in the event of:

- A referral to MASH/Children's Social Care
- A number of minor concerns on the child's main academy file
- Any child open to social care

The academy will keep electronic records of concerns about children even where there is no need to refer the matter to MASH/Children's Social Care (or similar) immediately on CPOMS. These are only accessed by staff authorised to do so which is decided by the academy Safeguarding Lead. Records will be kept up to date and reviewed regularly by the Designated Safeguarding Lead to evidence and support actions taken by staff in discharging their safeguarding arrangements. Original notes will be retained (but clearly identified as such) as this is a contemporaneous account; they may be important in any criminal proceedings arising from current or historical allegations of abuse or neglect.

The 'confidential' file can be active or closed in terms of monitoring

Where children leave the academy, we will ensure their confidential/child protection file is transferred to the new academy or college as soon as possible (this should be within five days). This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. It would be good practice, wherever possible, for the file to be hand-delivered to the receiving designated safeguarding lead with a discussion taking place. There should be a smooth and safe transition for the child.

Those academies and colleges that use electronic case record management systems should continue to have good dialogue between the Snr Designated Safeguarding Leads to ensure children subject to child protection and safeguarding concerns are well supported. and any transition arrangements or change of academy and or education provision should be seamless.

### **15.3 RECORDING PRACTICE**

Timely and accurate recording will take place when there are any issues regarding a child. A recording of each and every episode/incident/concern/activity regarding that child, including telephone calls to other professionals, needs to be recorded on CPOMS and printed off timely and kept within the confidential file for that child. This will include any contact from other agencies who may wish to discuss concerns relating to a child. Actions will be agreed, and roles and responsibility of each agency will be clarified, and outcomes recorded.

The written chronology will be brief and log activity; the full recording will be on the record of concern. (Template in appendices)

More detailed recording on the record of concern will be recorded electronically on CPOMS and include an analysis, taking account of the holistic needs of the child, and any historical information held on the child's file. Support and advice will be sought from social care, or early help whenever necessary. In this way a picture can emerge, and this will assist in promoting an evidence-based assessment and determining any action(s) that needs to be taken.

This may include no further action, whether an EHAF should be undertaken, or whether a referral should be made to MASH/Children's Social Care in line with the NCC Pathway to Provision Version 9.1 document.

Such robust practice across child protection and in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children will assist the academy in the early identification of any concerns which may prevent future harm.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will have a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm (through the concern file and through an ongoing dialogue with pastoral staff). They will ensure that we contribute to assessments of need and support multi-agency plans for those children.

In addition:

Appendix 2 sets out our policy on record-keeping specifically with respect to recruitment and pre-appointment checks

Appendix 3 sets out our policy on record-keeping with respect to allegations of abuse made against staff

## **16 EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE – OPPORTUNITIES TO TEACH SAFEGUARDING**

As a school we will to teach children in an age-appropriate way about youth produced imagery, on-line risks associated with social networking to prevent harm by providing them with the skills, attributes and knowledge to help them navigate risks.

This approach to tackling sensitive issues promotes a whole school approach to safeguarding giving children the space to explore key issues and the confidence to seek the support of adults should they encounter problems. This issue will be taught as part of a wider RSE programme, as RSE is mandatory in all schools.

RSE is taught in a cross-curricular approach, alongside the science curriculum, PSHE, ICT, RE, assemblies, school values and golden threads.

Relationship education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions;
- Recognising and assessing potential risks;
- Assertiveness;
- Seeking help and support when required;
- Informed decision-making;
- Self-respect and empathy for others;
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle;
- Managing conflict;
- Discussion and group work.

In Forge Trust schools, we follow the Christopher Winter Project scheme of work (Teaching SRE with Confidence in Primary Schools), which has been awarded the Pamela Sheridan Award for Excellence in recognition of their pioneering professional development programme in RSE. It has also been awarded the quality mark by the PSHE Association.

Across the Trust, we teach children in an age-appropriate way about online safety. This includes youth produced imagery to prevent harm by providing them with the skills, attributes and knowledge to help them navigate risks.

This approach to tackling sensitive issues promotes a whole academy approach to safeguarding giving children the space to explore key issues and the confidence to seek the support of adults should they encounter problems.

This issue will be taught as part of a wider PSHE, RSE programme and through IT curriculum work to underpin a specific message such as 'sexting'.

The work that we do therefore will include issues such as:

- communication
- understanding healthy relationships, including trust
- understanding and respecting the concept of genuine consent
- understanding our rights (especially our collective right to *be* safe and to *feel* safe)
- recognising abusive and coercive language and behaviours

Children and parents are made aware of on-line safety in order to minimise the safeguarding risks technology can pose and where they can seek advice, help and support.

### **Helplines and reporting**

- Children can talk to a ChildLine counsellor 24 hours a day about anything that is worrying them by ringing 0800 11 11 or in an online chat at <http://www.childline.org.uk/Talk/Chat/Pages/OnlineChat.aspx>.
- If parents or carers are concerned that their child is being contacted by adults as a result of having shared sexual imagery they should report to NCA-CEOP at [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)
- ChildLine and the Internet Watch Foundation have partnered to help children get sexual or naked images removed from the internet. A young person can get their photo removed by talking to a ChildLine counsellor. More information is available at <http://www.childline.org.uk/explore/onlinesafety/pages/sexting.aspx>
- If parents and carers are concerned about their child, they can contact the NSPCC Helpline by ringing 0808 800 5000, by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk), or by texting 88858. They can also ring the Online Safety Helpline by ringing 0808 800 5002.

### **Advice and information for parents**

- The NSPCC has information and advice about sexting available on its website: [NSPCC Sexting](#)
- The National Crime Agency/CEOP has produced a film resource for parents and carers to help them prevent their children coming to harm through sharing sexual imagery: [THINKUKNOW Nude-selfies-a-parents-guide](#)

- Childnet have information and advice about sexting available on its website: <http://www.childnet.com/young-people/secondary/hot-topics/sexting>
- Parent Info (<http://parentinfo.org/>) provides information and advice to parents from expert organisations on topics ranging from sex and relationships, mental health and online safety including sexting.

### **Resources parents could highlight to their children**

- There is information on the ChildLine website for young people about sexting: [Childline information for young people](#)
- The Safer Internet Centre has produced resources called '[Childnet So you got naked online](#) which helps young people to handle incidents of sexting.
- The NSPCC adults helpline: 0808 800 5002 The NSPCC has partnered with O2 to offer direct support to parents and other adults on issues relating to online safety.

### **COVID 19**

In the event of a further lockdown, or individual children being quarantined, each academy will adopt their remote learning policy. At the West Park Academy, the following plans are in place;

- We expect that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day KS 1 3-4 hours, KS 2 4-5 hours.
- Children will access online remote education via Microsoft Teams (Year 1 to Year 6), Tapestry (Foundation 1 and 2), Class Dojo (Foundation 1 and 2)

### **We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:**

Our remote learning strategy contains 3 different approaches:

- Recorded teaching – Our core strategy is to provide recorded teaching for the children to access. For each subject (English, Maths, Reading/Phonics, Spelling and one of Science/History/Geography etc), teachers will provide a recorded video providing information and explaining the task. To ensure that the recordings are similar to teaching inputs in school, teachers will ask questions and ask children to pause the video to consider their ideas. Often, teachers will use a Powerpoint or Smart Notebook presentation and record themselves speaking over the top of this. Once again, teachers will ask children to pause the video to allow time to think.
- Live lessons – Due to the need for many children to share devices at home, we limit our use of live lessons as it can be difficult for children to access. However, in the event of a year group isolating, live lessons may be used instead of recorded lessons due to the fact that staff will be available to deliver live lessons and it is unlikely that devices will need to be shared at home.
- Printed work packs – These are used as a last resort as we feel that it is much more difficult to 'teach' using these packs and work can become a series of tasks. However, we will take into account all individual circumstances and will provide paper-based work packs if we are satisfied that the child's learning will not be

affected.

In the event of children having difficulties accessing online learning at home, we will take the following steps:

- If the issue relates to a lack of devices at home, school has a substantial number of devices that it is able to deliver to a child's home. To request a device, parents simply need to call the school office on 01623 460274. School will ensure that a device is delivered on the same day as the request. A teacher from the child's year group will make contact with the parents to ensure that you know how to use the device and what the expectations are for submission of work.
- If devices are available at home but this issue pertains to internet access, parents can contact school and ask for Mrs Sally Bowler (Child and Family Liason) who will look to resolve this issue by supporting parents with data packages. If it is not possible to do this, paper-based learning will be provided until connectivity can be resolved.
- In terms of work submission, we offer a range of different methods to ensure that all children can receive feedback on their work. The main expectation for children in Year 1 to Year 6 is that they submit their work through Microsoft Teams or by answering quizzes posted by the teacher. If students have difficulty with this method, we ensure that all children have a lined and squared work books that they can use. If the child uses the work books, parents can take a picture of the child's work and submit (if they find this easier than submitting Word documents) or they can request that staff members collect the books. If staff members have to collect the books, feedback may be delayed. If work is submitted online, children will receive feedback on the same day as submission if they submit work before 5pm. In Foundation 2, children are only expected to complete work in books and parents submit photographs of the work. It is also often appropriate in Foundation 2 for parents to take photographs of children completing an activity and submitting this is evidence.

**Further information is available in our Remote Education Policy September 2021**

## **16. TRAINING**

### **16.1 ALL STAFF**

All staff members will undertake safeguarding and child protection training at induction, including on whistle-blowing procedures and online safety, to ensure they understand the school's safeguarding systems and their responsibilities, and can identify signs of possible abuse or neglect. This training will be regularly updated and will:

Be integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole-school safeguarding approach and wider staff training, and curriculum planning

Be in line with advice from the 3 safeguarding partners

Have regard to the Teachers' Standards to support the expectation that all teachers:

- Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe environment
- Have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils

All staff will have training on the government's anti-radicalisation strategy, Prevent, to enable them to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

Staff will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including on online safety, as required but at least annually ( through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

Contractors who are provided through a private finance initiative (PFI) or similar contract will also receive safeguarding training.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training, if applicable.

## **16.2 THE DSL AND DEPUTIES**

The DSL and deputies will undertake child protection and safeguarding training at least every 2 years.

In addition, they will update their knowledge and skills at regular intervals and at least annually (for example, through e-bulletins, meeting other DSLs, or taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments).

They will also undertake Prevent awareness training.

## **16.3 TRUSTEES**

All trustees receive training about safeguarding, to make sure they have the knowledge and information needed to perform their functions and understand their responsibilities.

As the chair of trustees may be required to act as the 'case manager' in the event that an allegation of abuse is made against the principal, they receive training in managing allegations for this purpose.

## **16.4 RECRUITMENT – INTERVIEW PANELS**

At least one person conducting any interview for any post at the school will have undertaken safer recruitment training. This will cover, as a minimum, the contents of Keeping Children Safe in Education, and will be in line with local safeguarding procedures.

See appendix 2 of this policy for more information about our safer recruitment procedures.

## **16.5 STAFF WHO HAVE CONTACT WITH PUPILS AND FAMILIES**

All staff who have contact with children and families will have supervisions which will provide them with support, coaching and training, promote the interests of children and allow for confidential discussions of sensitive issues.

## **17. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

This policy will be reviewed **annually** by Mrs Joanne Knapp. At every review, it will be approved by the full trustee board.

## **18. LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES**

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

Behaviour

Complaints

Health and safety

Acceptable Use Policy

Equality

Relationships and sex education

First aid

Curriculum

Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children

Privacy notices

Accessibility Plan

Anti-Bullying

Attendance Policy

Equality

Central Record of Recruitment and Vetting Checks

Complaints' Procedure Statement

Cyber-bullying

E-Safety Policy

Freedom of Information

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Guidance

Radicalisation – Prevent Duty- (School's should have a Prevent Action Plan)

Home-school Agreement Document

Knife Crime Policy

Peer on Peer Abuse- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges, and response to 'upskirting'

Physical intervention/positive handling

Register of Pupil Attendance

School Access Policy

Special Educational Needs

CRB - Use of Reasonable Force Policy/ Guidance

Staff Behaviour (Code of Conduct policy)

Staff Discipline Conduct and Grievance (procedures for addressing)

**These appendices are based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education.**

## **APPENDIX 1: TYPES OF ABUSE**

**Abuse**, including neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap.

**Physical abuse** may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Emotional abuse may involve:

Conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person

Not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate

Age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction

Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another

Serious bullying (including cyber-bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children

**Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve:

Physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing

Non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet)

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)

Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger

Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)

Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

## **APPENDIX 2: SAFER RECRUITMENT AND DBS CHECKS – POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

### **Recruitment and selection process**

The recruitment steps outlined below are based on part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

To make sure we recruit suitable people, we will ensure that those involved in the recruitment and employment of staff to work with children have received appropriate safer recruitment training. We have put the following steps in place during our recruitment and selection process to ensure we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

#### **Advertising**

When advertising roles, we will make clear:

Our school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

That safeguarding checks will be undertaken

The safeguarding requirements and responsibilities of the role, such as the extent to which the role will involve contact with children

Whether or not the role is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020. If the role is exempt, certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected', so they do not need to be disclosed, and if they are disclosed, we cannot take them into account

#### **Application forms**

Our application forms will:

Include a statement saying that it is an offence to apply for the role if an applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children (where the role involves this type of regulated activity)

Include a copy of, or link to, our child protection and safeguarding policy and our policy on the employment of ex-offenders

#### **Shortlisting**

Our shortlisting process will involve at least 2 people and will:

Consider any inconsistencies and look for gaps in employment and reasons given for them

Explore all potential concerns

Once we have shortlisted candidates, we will ask shortlisted candidates to:

Complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or any information that would make them unsuitable to work with children, so that they have the opportunity to share relevant information and discuss it at interview stage. The information we will ask for includes:

- If they have a criminal history
- Whether they are included on the barred list
- Whether they are prohibited from teaching
- Information about any criminal offences committed in any country in line with the law as applicable in England and Wales
- Any relevant overseas information

Sign a declaration confirming the information they have provided is true

### **Seeking references and checking employment history**

We will obtain references before interview. Any concerns raised will be explored further with referees and taken up with the candidate at interview.

When seeking references we will:

Not accept open references

Liaise directly with referees and verify any information contained within references with the referees

Ensure any references are from the candidate's current employer and completed by a senior person. Where the referee is school based, we will ask for the reference to be confirmed by the headteacher/principal as accurate in respect to disciplinary investigations

Obtain verification of the candidate's most recent relevant period of employment if they are not currently employed

Secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the candidate worked with children if they are not currently working with children

Compare the information on the application form with that in the reference and take up any inconsistencies with the candidate

Resolve any concerns before any appointment is confirmed

### **Interview and selection**

When interviewing candidates, we will:

Probe any gaps in employment, or where the candidate has changed employment or location frequently, and ask candidates to explain this

Explore any potential areas of concern to determine the candidate's suitability to work with children

Record all information considered and decisions made

### **Pre-appointment vetting checks**

We will record all information on the checks carried out in the school's single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals' personnel files. We follow requirements and best practice in retaining copies of these checks, as set out below.

### **New staff**

All offers of appointment will be conditional until satisfactory completion of the necessary pre-employment checks. When appointing new staff, we will:

Verify their identity

Obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS certificate, including barred list information for those who will be engaging in regulated activity (see definition below). We will obtain the certificate before, or as soon as practicable after, appointment, including when using the DBS update service. We will not keep a copy of the certificate for longer than 6 months, but when the copy is

destroyed we may still keep a record of the fact that vetting took place, the result of the check and recruitment decision taken

Obtain a separate barred list check if they will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available

Verify their mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities

Verify their right to work in the UK. We will keep a copy of this verification for the duration of the member of staff's employment and for 2 years afterwards

Verify their professional qualifications, as appropriate

Ensure they are not subject to a prohibition order if they are employed to be a teacher

Carry out further additional checks, as appropriate, on candidates who have lived or worked outside of the UK. Where available, these will include:

- For all staff, including teaching positions: [criminal records checks for overseas applicants](#)
- For teaching positions: obtaining a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority in the country where the applicant has worked

Check that candidates taking up a management position\* are not subject to a prohibition from management (section 128) direction made by the secretary of state

\* Management positions are most likely to include, but are not limited to, headteachers, principals and deputy/assistant headteachers.

We will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we take a decision that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment on the individual's personnel file. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought.

**Regulated activity** means a person who will be:

Responsible, on a regular basis in a school or college, for teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children; or

Carrying out paid, or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school or college where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children; or

Engaging in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once and regardless of whether they are supervised or not

### **Existing staff**

In certain circumstances we will carry out all the relevant checks on existing staff as if the individual was a new member of staff. These circumstances are when:

There are concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with children; or

An individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is; or

There has been a break in service of 12 weeks or more

We will refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult where:

We believe the individual has engaged in [relevant conduct](#); or

We believe the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant (automatic barring either with or without the right to make representations) offence, under the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 \(Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions\) Regulations 2009](#);

or

We believe the 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e. they may harm a child or vulnerable adult or put them at risk of harm); and

The individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left

### **Agency and third-party staff**

We will obtain written notification from any agency or third-party organisation that it has carried out the necessary safer recruitment checks that we would otherwise perform. We will also check that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

### **Contractors**

We will ensure that any contractor, or any employee of the contractor, who is to work at the school has had the appropriate level of DBS check (this includes contractors who are provided through a PFI or similar contract). This will be:

An enhanced DBS check with barred list information for contractors engaging in regulated activity

An enhanced DBS check, not including barred list information, for all other contractors who are not in regulated activity but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children

We will obtain the DBS check for self-employed contractors.

We will not keep copies of such checks for longer than 6 months.

Contractors who have not had any checks will not be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity under any circumstances.

We will check the identity of all contractors and their staff on arrival at the school.

For self-employed contractors such as music teachers or sports coaches, we will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we decide that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought.

### **Trainee/student teachers**

Where applicants for initial teacher training are salaried by us, we will ensure that all necessary checks are carried out.

Where trainee teachers are fee-funded, we will obtain written confirmation from the training provider that necessary checks have been carried out and that the trainee has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children.

In both cases, this includes checks to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006.

## **Volunteers**

We will:

Never leave an unchecked volunteer unsupervised or allow them to work in regulated activity

Obtain an enhanced DBS check with barred list information for all volunteers who are new to working in regulated activity

Carry out a risk assessment when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check without barred list information for any volunteers not engaging in regulated activity. We will retain a record of this risk assessment

Ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we decide that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought

All trustees will have an enhanced DBS check without barred list information.

They will have an enhanced DBS check with barred list information if working in regulated activity.

The chair of the board will have their DBS check countersigned by the secretary of state.

All proprietors, trustees, local governors and members will also have the following checks:

A section 128 check (to check prohibition on participation in management under [section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008](#)). [Section 128 checks are only required for local governors if they have retained or been delegated any management responsibilities.]

Identity

Right to work in the UK

Other checks deemed necessary if they have lived or worked outside the UK

The chair of the trust will have their DBS check countersigned by the secretary of state.

All trustees will also have the following checks:

Identity

Right to work in the UK

Other checks deemed necessary if they have lived or worked outside the UK

## **Staff working in alternative provision settings**

Where we place a pupil with an alternative provision provider, we obtain written confirmation from the provider that they have carried out the appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working there that we would otherwise perform.

## **Adults who supervise pupils on work experience**

When organising work experience, we will ensure that policies and procedures are in place to protect children from harm.

We will also consider whether it is necessary for barred list checks to be carried out on the individuals who supervise a pupil under 16 on work experience. This will depend on the specific circumstances of the work experience, including the nature of the supervision, the frequency of the activity being supervised, and whether the work is regulated activity.

### **Pupils staying with host families**

Where the school makes arrangements for pupils to be provided with care and accommodation by a host family to which they are not related (for example, during a foreign exchange visit), we will request enhanced DBS checks with barred list information on those people.

Where the school is organising such hosting arrangements overseas and host families cannot be checked in the same way, we will work with our partner schools abroad to ensure that similar assurances are undertaken prior to the visit.

## **APPENDIX 3: ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE MADE AGAINST STAFF**

### **Section 1: allegations that may meet the harms threshold**

This section is based on 'Section 1: Allegations that may meet the harms threshold' in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

This section applies to all cases in which it is alleged that a current member of staff, including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor, has:

Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child, and/or

Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, and/or

Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children, and/or

Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children – this includes behaviour taking place both inside and outside of school

We will deal with any allegation of abuse quickly, in a fair and consistent way that provides effective child protection while also supporting the individual who is the subject of the allegation.

A 'case manager' will lead any investigation. This will be the headteacher, or the chair of governors the headteacher is the subject of the allegation. The case manager will be identified at the earliest opportunity.

Our procedures for dealing with allegations will be applied with common sense and judgement.

### **Suspension of the accused until the case is resolved**

Suspension of the accused will not be the default position and will only be considered in cases where there is reason to suspect that a child or other children is/are at risk of harm, or the case is so serious that there might be grounds for dismissal. In such cases, we will only suspend an individual if we have considered all other options available and there is no reasonable alternative.

Based on an assessment of risk, we will consider alternatives such as:

Redeployment within the school so that the individual does not have direct contact with the child or children concerned

Providing an assistant to be present when the individual has contact with children

Redeploying the individual to alternative work in the school so that they do not have unsupervised access to children

Moving the child or children to classes where they will not come into contact with the individual, making it clear that this is not a punishment and parents/carers have been consulted

Temporarily redeploying the individual to another role in a different location, for example to an alternative school or other work for the academy trust

If in doubt, the case manager will seek views from the school's personnel adviser and the designated officer at the local authority, as well as the police and children's social care where they have been involved.

### **Definitions for outcomes of allegation investigations**

**Substantiated:** there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation

**Malicious:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive, or to cause harm to the subject of the allegation

**False:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation

**Unsubstantiated:** there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation (this does not imply guilt or innocence)

**Unfounded:** to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made

### **Procedure for dealing with allegations**

In the event of an allegation that meets the criteria above, the case manager will take the following steps:

Conduct basic enquiries in line with local procedures to establish the facts to help determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation before carrying on with the steps below

Discuss the allegation with the designated officer at the local authority. This is to consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action, including whether further enquiries are necessary to enable a decision on how to proceed, and whether it is necessary to involve the police and/or children's social care services. (The case manager may, on occasion, consider it necessary to involve the police *before* consulting the designated officer – for example, if the accused individual is deemed to be an immediate risk to children or there is evidence of a possible criminal offence. In such cases, the case manager will notify the designated officer as soon as practicably possible after contacting the police)

Inform the accused individual of the concerns or allegations and likely course of action as soon as possible after speaking to the designated officer (and the police or children's social care services, where necessary). Where the police and/or children's social care services are involved, the case manager will only share such information with the individual as has been agreed with those agencies

Where appropriate (in the circumstances described above), carefully consider whether suspension of the individual from contact with children at the school is justified or whether alternative arrangements such as those outlined above can be put in place. Advice will be sought from the designated officer, police and/or children's social care services, as appropriate

Where the case manager is concerned about the welfare of other children in the community or the individual's family, they will discuss these concerns with the DSL and make a risk assessment of the situation. If necessary, the DSL may make a referral to children's social care

**If immediate suspension is considered necessary**, agree and record the rationale for this with the designated officer. The record will include information about the alternatives to suspension that have been considered, and why they were rejected. Written confirmation of the suspension will be provided to the individual facing the allegation or concern within 1 working day, and the individual will be given a named contact at the school and their contact details

**If it is decided that no further action is to be taken** in regard to the subject of the allegation or concern, record this decision and the justification for it and agree with the designated officer what information should be put in writing to the individual and by whom, as well as what action should follow both in respect of the individual and those who made the initial allegation

**If it is decided that further action is needed**, take steps as agreed with the designated officer to initiate the appropriate action in school and/or liaise with the police and/or children's social care services as appropriate

Provide effective support for the individual facing the allegation or concern, including appointing a named representative to keep them informed of the progress of the case and considering what other support is appropriate.

Inform the parents or carers of the child/children involved about the allegation as soon as possible if they do not already know (following agreement with children's social care services and/or the police, if applicable). The case manager will also inform the parents or carers of the requirement to maintain confidentiality about any allegations made against teachers (where this applies) while investigations are ongoing. Any parent or carer who wishes to have the confidentiality restrictions removed in respect of a teacher will be advised to seek legal advice

Keep the parents or carers of the child/children involved informed of the progress of the case (only in relation to their child – no information will be shared regarding the staff member)

Make a referral to the DBS where it is thought that the individual facing the allegation or concern has engaged in conduct that harmed or is likely to harm a child, or if the individual otherwise poses a risk of harm to a child

We will inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working, or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere), and any action taken in respect of the allegations. This notification will be made as soon as reasonably possible and always within 14 days of the allegations being made.

If the school is made aware that the secretary of state has made an interim prohibition order in respect of an individual, we will immediately suspend that individual from teaching, pending the findings of the investigation by the Teaching Regulation Agency.

Where the police are involved, wherever possible the school will ask the police at the start of the investigation to obtain consent from the individuals involved to share their statements and evidence for use in the school's disciplinary process, should this be required at a later point.

#### **Additional considerations for supply teachers and all contracted staff**

If there are concerns or an allegation is made against someone not directly employed by the school, such as a supply teacher or contracted staff member provided by an agency, we will take the actions below in addition to our standard procedures.

We will not decide to stop using an individual due to safeguarding concerns without finding out the facts and liaising with our LADO to determine a suitable outcome

The governing board will discuss with the agency whether it is appropriate to suspend the individual, or redeploy them to another part of the school, while the school carries out the investigation

We will involve the agency fully, but the school will take the lead in collecting the necessary information and providing it to the LADO as required

We will address issues such as information sharing, to ensure any previous concerns or allegations known to the agency are taken into account (we will do this, for example, as part of the allegations management meeting or by liaising directly with the agency where necessary)

When using an agency, we will inform them of our process for managing allegations, and keep them updated about our policies as necessary, and will invite the agency's HR manager or equivalent to meetings as appropriate.

### **Timescales**

We will deal with all allegations as quickly and effectively as possible and will endeavour to comply with the following timescales, where reasonably practicable:

Any cases where it is clear immediately that the allegation is unsubstantiated or malicious should be resolved within 1 week

If the nature of an allegation does not require formal disciplinary action, appropriate action should be taken within 3 working days

If a disciplinary hearing is required and can be held without further investigation, this should be held within 15 working days

However, these are objectives only and where they are not met, we will endeavour to take the required action as soon as possible thereafter.

### **Specific actions**

#### **Action following a criminal investigation or prosecution**

The case manager will discuss with the local authority's designated officer whether any further action, including disciplinary action, is appropriate and, if so, how to proceed, taking into account information provided by the police and/or children's social care services.

#### **Conclusion of a case where the allegation is substantiated**

If the allegation is substantiated and the individual is dismissed or the school ceases to use their services, or the individual resigns or otherwise ceases to provide their services, the school will make a referral to the DBS for consideration of whether inclusion on the barred lists is required. If the individual concerned is a member of teaching staff, the school will consider whether to refer the matter to the Teaching Regulation Agency to consider prohibiting the individual from teaching.

#### **Individuals returning to work after suspension**

If it is decided on the conclusion of a case that an individual who has been suspended can return to work, the case manager will consider how best to facilitate this.

The case manager will also consider how best to manage the individual's contact with the child or children who made the allegation, if they are still attending the school.

#### **Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious reports**

If a report is:

Determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the DSL will consider the appropriate next steps. If they consider that the child and/or person who made the allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate

Shown to be deliberately invented, or malicious, the school will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual(s) who made it

#### **Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious allegations**

If an allegation is:

Determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the LADO and case manager will consider the appropriate next steps. If they consider that the child and/or person who made the

allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate

Shown to be deliberately invented, or malicious, the school will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual(s) who made it

### **Confidentiality and information sharing**

The school will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity while an allegation is being investigated or considered.

The case manager will take advice from the LADO, police and children's social care services, as appropriate, to agree:

- Who needs to know about the allegation and what information can be shared
- How to manage speculation, leaks and gossip, including how to make parents or carers of a child/children involved aware of their obligations with respect to confidentiality
- What, if any, information can be reasonably given to the wider community to reduce speculation
- How to manage press interest if, and when, it arises

### **Record-keeping**

The case manager will maintain clear records about any case where the allegation or concern meets the criteria above and store them on the individual's confidential personnel file for the duration of the case.

The records of any allegation that, following an investigation, is found to be malicious or false will be deleted from the individual's personnel file (unless the individual consents for the records to be retained on the file).

For all other allegations (which are not found to be malicious or false), the following information will be kept on the file of the individual concerned:

- A clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation
- Details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved
- Notes of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome
- A declaration on whether the information will be referred to in any future reference

In these cases, the school will provide a copy to the individual, in agreement with children's social care or the police as appropriate.

Where records contain information about allegations of sexual abuse, we will preserve these for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), for the term of the inquiry. We will retain all other records at least until the individual has reached normal pension age, or for 10 years from the date of the allegation if that is longer.

### **References**

When providing employer references, we will:

Not refer to any allegation that has been found to be false, unfounded, unsubstantiated or malicious, or any repeated allegations which have all been found to be false, unfounded, unsubstantiated or malicious

Include substantiated allegations, provided that the information is factual and does not include opinions

### **Learning lessons**

After any cases where the allegations are *substantiated*, the case manager will review the circumstances of the case with the local authority's designated officer to determine whether there are any improvements that we can make to the school's procedures or practice to help prevent similar events in the future.

This will include consideration of (as applicable):

- Issues arising from the decision to suspend the member of staff
- The duration of the suspension
- Whether or not the suspension was justified
- The use of suspension when the individual is subsequently reinstated. We will consider how future investigations of a similar nature could be carried out without suspending the individual

For all other cases, the case manager will consider the facts and determine whether any improvements can be made.

### **Non-recent allegations**

Abuse can be reported, no matter how long ago it happened.

We will report any non-recent allegations made by a child to the LADO in line with our local authority's procedures for dealing with non-recent allegations.

Where an adult makes an allegation to the school that they were abused as a child, we will advise the individual to report the allegation to the police.

### **Section 2: concerns that do not meet the harm threshold**

The section is based on 'Section 2: Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold' in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

This section applies to all concerns (including allegations) about members of staff, including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors, which do not meet the harm threshold set out in section 1 above.

Concerns may arise through, for example:

Suspicion

Complaint

Disclosure made by a child, parent or other adult within or outside the school

Pre-employment vetting checks

We recognise the importance of responding to and dealing with any concerns in a timely manner to safeguard the welfare of children.

### **Definition of low-level concerns**

The term 'low-level' concern is any concern – no matter how small – that an adult working in or on behalf of the school may have acted in a way that:

Is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work,  
**and**

Does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the designated officer at the local authority

Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:

Being overly friendly with children

Having favourites

Taking photographs of children on their mobile phone

Engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door

Using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language

### **Sharing low-level concerns**

We recognise the importance of creating a culture of openness, trust and transparency to encourage all staff to share low-level concerns so that they can be addressed appropriately.

We will create this culture by:

Ensuring staff are clear about what appropriate behaviour is, and are confident in distinguishing expected and appropriate behaviour from concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour, in themselves and others

Empowering staff to share any low-level concerns as per section 7.7 of this policy

Empowering staff to self-refer

Addressing unprofessional behaviour and supporting the individual to correct it at an early stage

Providing a responsive, sensitive and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised

Helping to identify any weakness in the school's safeguarding system

### **Responding to low-level concerns**

If the concern is raised via a third party, the headteacher will collect evidence where necessary by speaking:

Directly to the person who raised the concern, unless it has been raised anonymously

To the individual involved and any witnesses

The principal will use the information collected to categorise the type of behaviour and determine any further action, in line with the academy's staff code of conduct.

[Keeping Children Safe in Education also links to this report for more information [Developing and implementing a low-level concerns policy: A guide for organisations which work with children](#)

## **Record keeping**

All low-level concerns will be recorded in writing. In addition to details of the concern raised, records will include the context in which the concern arose, any action taken and the rationale for decisions and action taken.

Records will be:

Kept confidential, held securely and comply with the DPA 2018 and UK GDPR

Reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified. Where a pattern of such behaviour is identified, we will decide on a course of action, either through our disciplinary procedures or, where a pattern of behaviour moves from a concern to meeting the harms threshold as described in section 1 of this appendix, we will refer it to the designated officer at the local authority

Retained at least until the individual leaves employment at the school

Where a low-level concern relates to a supply teacher or contractor, we will notify the individual's employer, so any potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

## **References**

We will not include low-level concerns in references unless:

The concern (or group of concerns) has met the threshold for referral to the designated officer at the local authority and is found to be substantiated; and/or

The concern (or group of concerns) relates to issues which would ordinarily be included in a reference, such as misconduct or poor performance

## **APPENDIX 4: SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES**

This appendix is mostly based on the advice in Keeping Children Safe in Education, in particular annex B – you'll need to adapt it to reflect your context and any locally agreed procedures.

Annex B also includes information on further issues to be aware of, including child abduction and community safety incidents, children's involvement in the court system, children with family members in prison, county lines, modern slavery and cybercrime. If you wish to cover these in the policy, consider including:

### **Children missing from education**

A child going missing from education, particularly repeatedly, can be a warning sign of a range of safeguarding issues. This might include abuse or neglect, such as sexual abuse or exploitation or child criminal exploitation, or issues such as mental health problems, substance abuse, radicalisation, FGM or forced marriage.

There are many circumstances where a child may become missing from education, but some children are particularly at risk. These include children who:

- Are at risk of harm or neglect
- Are at risk of forced marriage or FGM
- Come from Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller families
- Come from the families of service personnel
- Go missing or run away from home or care
- Are supervised by the youth justice system
- Cease to attend a school
- Come from new migrant families

We will follow our procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of going missing in future. This includes informing the local authority if a child leaves the school without a new school being named, and adhering to requirements with respect to sharing information with the local authority, when applicable, when removing a child's name from the admission register at non-standard transition points.

Staff will be trained in signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns which may be related to being missing, such as travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.

If a staff member suspects that a child is suffering from harm or neglect, we will follow local child protection procedures, including with respect to making reasonable enquiries. We will make an immediate referral to the local authority children's social care team, and the police, if the child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or in immediate danger.

### **Child criminal exploitation**

Child criminal exploitation (CCE) is a form of abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into criminal activity, in

exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator, and/or through violence or the threat of violence.

The abuse can be perpetrated by males or females, and children or adults. It can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse.

The victim can be exploited even when the activity appears to be consensual. It does not always involve physical contact and can happen online. For example, young people may be forced to work in cannabis factories, coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (county lines), forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

Indicators of CCE can include a child:

Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions

Associating with other young people involved in exploitation

Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing

Misusing drugs and alcohol

Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late

Regularly missing school or education

Not taking part in education

If a member of staff suspects CCE, they will discuss this with the DSL. The DSL will trigger the local safeguarding procedures, including a referral to the local authority's children's social care team and the police, if appropriate.

### **Child sexual exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. It may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

The abuse can be perpetrated by males or females, and children or adults. It can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse.

The victim can be exploited even when the activity appears to be consensual. Children or young people who are being sexually exploited may not understand that they are being abused. They often trust their abuser and may be tricked into believing they are in a loving, consensual relationship.

CSE can include both physical contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity. It can also happen online. For example, young people may be persuaded or forced to share sexually explicit images of themselves, have sexual conversations by text, or take part in sexual activities using a webcam. CSE may also occur without the victim's immediate knowledge, for example through others copying videos or images.

In addition to the CCE indicators above, indicators of CSE can include a child:

Having an older boyfriend or girlfriend

Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant

If a member of staff suspects CSE, they will discuss this with the DSL. The DSL will trigger the local safeguarding procedures, including a referral to the local authority's children's social care team and the police, if appropriate.

### **Domestic abuse**

Children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse and/or violence at home where it occurs between family members. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexuality or background, and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home.

Older children may also experience domestic abuse and/or violence in their own personal relationships.

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long-lasting emotional and psychological impact on children.

If police are called to an incident of domestic abuse and any children in the household have experienced the incident, the police will inform the key adult in school (usually the designated safeguarding lead) before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This is the procedure where police forces are part of [Operation Encompass](#).

The DSL will provide support according to the child's needs and update records about their circumstances.

### **Homelessness**

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare.

The DSL and deputies will be aware of contact details and referral routes in to the local housing authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity (where appropriate and in accordance with local procedures).

Where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm, the DSL will also make a referral to children's social care.

### **So-called 'honour-based' abuse (including FGM and forced marriage)**

So-called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including FGM, forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing.

Abuse committed in this context often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators.

All forms of HBA are abuse and will be handled and escalated as such. All staff will be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA or already having suffered it. If staff have a concern, they will speak to the DSL, who will activate local safeguarding procedures.

### **FGM**

The DSL will make sure that staff have access to appropriate training to equip them to be alert to children affected by FGM or at risk of FGM.

Section 7.3 of this policy sets out the procedures to be followed if a staff member discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out or suspects that a pupil is at risk of FGM.

Indicators that FGM has already occurred include:

A pupil confiding in a professional that FGM has taken place

A mother/family member disclosing that FGM has been carried out

A family/pupil already being known to social services in relation to other safeguarding issues

A girl:

- Having difficulty walking, sitting or standing, or looking uncomfortable
- Finding it hard to sit still for long periods of time (where this was not a problem previously)
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating
- Having frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems
- Avoiding physical exercise or missing PE
- Being repeatedly absent from school, or absent for a prolonged period
- Demonstrating increased emotional and psychological needs – for example, withdrawal or depression, or significant change in behaviour
- Being reluctant to undergo any medical examinations
- Asking for help, but not being explicit about the problem
- Talking about pain or discomfort between her legs

Potential signs that a pupil may be at risk of FGM include:

The girl's family having a history of practising FGM (this is the biggest risk factor to consider)

FGM being known to be practised in the girl's community or country of origin

A parent or family member expressing concern that FGM may be carried out

A family not engaging with professionals (health, education or other) or already being known to social care in relation to other safeguarding issues

A girl:

- Having a mother, older sibling or cousin who has undergone FGM
- Having limited level of integration within UK society
- Confiding to a professional that she is to have a "special procedure" or to attend a special occasion to "become a woman"
- Talking about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent, or parents/carers stating that they or a relative will take the girl out of the country for a prolonged period
- Requesting help from a teacher or another adult because she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk of FGM

- Talking about FGM in conversation – for example, a girl may tell other children about it (although it is important to take into account the context of the discussion)
- Being unexpectedly absent from school
- Having sections missing from her 'red book' (child health record) and/or attending a travel clinic or equivalent for vaccinations/anti-malarial medication

The above indicators and risk factors are not intended to be exhaustive.

### **Forced marriage**

Forcing a person into marriage is a crime. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats, or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological.

Staff will receive training around forced marriage and the presenting symptoms. We are aware of the 'one chance' rule, i.e. we may only have one chance to speak to the potential victim and only one chance to save them.

If a member of staff suspects that a pupil is being forced into marriage, they will speak to the pupil about their concerns in a secure and private place. They will then report this to the DSL.

The DSL will:

Speak to the pupil about the concerns in a secure and private place

Activate the local safeguarding procedures and refer the case to the local authority's designated officer

Seek advice from the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151 or [fm@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fm@fco.gov.uk)

Refer the pupil to an education welfare officer, pastoral tutor, learning mentor, or school counsellor, as appropriate

### **Preventing radicalisation**

**Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups

**Extremism** is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces

**Terrorism** is an action that:

- Endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people;
- Causes serious damage to property; or
- Seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system

The use or threat of terrorism must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. Schools have a duty to prevent children from being drawn into terrorism. The DSL will undertake Prevent awareness training and make sure that staff have access to appropriate training to equip them to identify children at risk.

We will assess the risk of children in our school being drawn into terrorism. This assessment will be based on an understanding of the potential risk in our local area, in collaboration with our local safeguarding partners and local police force.

We will ensure that suitable internet filtering is in place, and equip our pupils to stay safe online at school and at home.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Radicalisation can occur quickly or over a long period.

Staff will be alert to changes in pupils' behaviour.

The government website [Educate Against Hate](#) and charity [NSPCC](#) say that signs that a pupil is being radicalised can include:

- Refusal to engage with, or becoming abusive to, peers who are different from themselves

- Becoming susceptible to conspiracy theories and feelings of persecution

- Changes in friendship groups and appearance

- Rejecting activities they used to enjoy

- Converting to a new religion

- Isolating themselves from family and friends

- Talking as if from a scripted speech

- An unwillingness or inability to discuss their views

- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others

- Increased levels of anger

- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet use

- Expressions of sympathy for extremist ideologies and groups, or justification of their actions

- Accessing extremist material online, including on Facebook or Twitter

- Possessing extremist literature

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and joining, or seeking to join, extremist organisations

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of bullying or discrimination. It is important to note that these signs can also be part of normal teenage behaviour – staff should have confidence in their instincts and seek advice if something feels wrong.

If staff are concerned about a pupil, they will follow our procedures set out in section 7.5 of this policy, including discussing their concerns with the DSL.

Staff should **always** take action if they are worried.

### **Peer-on-peer abuse**

Peer-on-peer abuse is when children abuse other children. This type of abuse can take place inside and outside of school and online.

Peer-on-peer abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- Bullying (including cyber-bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)

- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers

Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse)

Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)

Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse

Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party

Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)

Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm

Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)

Where children abuse their peers online, this can take the form of, for example, abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages; the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups; and the sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content.

If staff have any concerns about peer-on-peer abuse, or a child makes a report to them, they will follow the procedures set out in section 7 of this policy, as appropriate. In particular, section 7.8 and 7.9 set out more detail about our school's approach to this type of abuse.

### **Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools**

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur:

Between 2 children of any age and sex

Through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children

Online and face to face (both physically and verbally)

Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same school.

If a victim reports an incident, it is essential that staff make sure they are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows that girls, children with SEN and/or disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) children are at greater risk.

Staff should be aware of the importance of:

Challenging inappropriate behaviours

Making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up

Challenging physical behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them

If staff have any concerns about sexual violence or sexual harassment, or a child makes a report to them, they will follow the procedures set out in section 7 of this policy, as appropriate. In particular, section 7.8 and 7.9 set out more detail about our school's approach to this type of abuse.

### **Serious violence**

Indicators which may signal that a child is at risk from, or involved with, serious violent crime may include:

Increased absence from school

Change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups

Significant decline in performance

Signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing

Signs of assault or unexplained injuries

Unexplained gifts or new possessions (this could indicate that the child has been approached by, or is involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation (see above))

Risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence include:

Being male

Having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school

Having experienced child maltreatment

Having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery

Staff will be aware of these indicators and risk factors. If a member of staff has a concern about a pupil being involved in, or at risk of, serious violence, they will report this to the DSL.

### **Checking the identity and suitability of visitors**

All visitors will be required to verify their identity to the satisfaction of staff and

If the visitor is unknown to the setting, we will check their credentials and reason for visiting before allowing them to enter the setting. Visitors should be ready to produce identification. Visitors are expected to sign in on the SIGN IN APP and wear a red visitor's lanyard. These visitors will be accompanied at all times.

Visitors to the school who are visiting for a professional purpose, such as educational psychologists and school improvement officers, will be asked to show photo ID and:

Will be asked to show their DBS certificate, which will be checked alongside their photo ID;  
or

The organisation sending the professional, such as the LA or educational psychology service, will provide prior written confirmation that an appropriate level of DBS check has been carried out

These visitors will be given a green lanyard and may be unaccompanied.

All other visitors, including visiting speakers, will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times. We will not invite into the school any speaker who is known to disseminate extremist views, and will carry out appropriate checks to ensure that any individual or organisation using school facilities is not seeking to disseminate extremist views or radicalise pupils or staff.

### **Non-collection of children**

If a child is not collected at the end of the session/day, we will:

- Call the people on the contact list
- Put the child into after school club
- If not collected/ no contact can be made- the police will be called.

### **Missing pupils**

Our procedures are designed to ensure that a missing child is found and returned to effective supervision as soon as possible. If a child goes missing, see flow chart.

## Appendix

### Name of Academy/Academy Child Protection/ Safeguarding Flow Chart 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused, at risk of harm or neglect'

#### Member of staff, volunteer has concerns about a child's welfare

- Be alert to signs of abuse and question unusual behaviour

#### Where a child or young person discloses abuse or neglect

- Listen to what they say, keep calm, reassure they are right to tell and you will take action to help keep them safe. **DO NOT DELAY take any immediate necessary action to protect the child**
- Inform them you need to share the information and what you are going to do next
- Do not promise confidentiality, you will need to share/ report the information onwards
- Do not question further, or inform the alleged abuser

#### Discuss concerns with the Snr Designated/ Named Safeguarding Lead

- The Safeguarding Lead will consider further actions including consultation with Children's Social Care/ MASH if a new concern)
- Concerns and discussion, decisions and reasons for decision should be recorded in writing and a 'confidential concerns' or 'child protection' file should be opened, stored in line with the academy child protection policy

**Still have concerns? Refer to MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) Social Care**  
Have child/ families personal details to hand and be clear about concern/ allegations

**Safeguarding concern resolved/no longer held**  
Support has been agreed, record decision, any follow up actions

**Children's Social Care**  
**During Office Hour, Monday to Friday**  
**Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**  
Tel:- 0300 500 80 90 If the child is at immediate risk dial 101 and ask for assistance Record all decisions and actions, working to agreed outcomes and within timescales. Escalate any emerging threats/concerns by adopting Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board procedures – [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb)

**Out of hours**  
**Contact:-**  
**Emergency Duty Team (5.00pm – 8.30m)**  
**Tel: 0300 456 4546**

**Unmet needs identified**  
Decide what actions are needed to support the

**Consult with child young person, family and relevant agencies:**  
Agree support, refer to NCC LA guidance 'Pathway to Provision' Version 8

**Contacts: For any allegations/concerns regarding an adult who works with (in either paid/ voluntarily) employment with children contact the LA Designated Officer (LADO)**  
Tel:- 0115 8041272.

**Cheryl Stollery – LA Safeguarding Children in Education Officer Tel:- 0115 8041047**

**This flow chart is intended as a brief guide. Please refer to our Child Protection Policy**





<b>Name:</b>		
<b>DOB:</b>		<b>Form:</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Information/Details of concerns or contact</b>	<b>Print Name and Signature</b>



**Logging concerns/information  
shared by others (If CPOMS is not in place)**  
(Appendix 5)

<b>Name Of Child:</b>			
<b>Class:</b>		<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	
<b>Name and role of caller/provider of information:</b>			
<b>Name of member of staff receiving the information:</b>			
<b>Information Received:</b>			
<b>Actions/recommendations for academy</b>			
<b>Outcome</b>			
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Your Role:</b>	

## Meeting Record

(Academy  
Logo)

Date –

Name of Child-

People present at meeting –

Title/Type of meeting –

### Main points discussed in the meeting

### Action plan

Date/time of next meeting -

Signed -

<b>Details of person reporting the safeguarding concern:</b>			
Name of person who is reporting the safeguarding concern:	Job title:		
Address	Organisation:		
Postcode:	Telephone (including mobiles)		
Fax:	Email:		
Are the child's parent(s) / carer(s) aware that you are reporting your concern?	YES	NO	(delete as appropriate)
Has the child's parent(s) / carer(s) consent been obtained?	YES	NO	(delete as appropriate)
Has consent been given for information sharing?	YES	NO	(delete as appropriate)
If not, please explain why:			
Is this form a follow-up to a telephone referral?	YES	NO	(delete as appropriate)
<b>Details about the concern:</b> Please explain the concern you have about the child/ren. Please explain how you think the concern meets the threshold for Children's Social Care; consider the child's needs, parent / carer's capacity, social and environmental factors (See guidelines in the 'Pathway to Provision' handbook). What are the arrangements to keep the child/ren safe? Where is/are the child/ren at present?			
Are you aware of any risks to children's social care staff visiting the child/ren at home?			
Date and time of report:			

**Name of child/ren and details of their family and significant others**(add extra pages if required)

<b>Child/ren who you are concerned about:</b>	
Name:	Name:
Known as:	Known as:
Address:	Address:
Postcode:	Postcode:
Gender:	Gender:
Date of Birth:	Date of Birth:
Disability:	Disability:
Religion:	Religion:
Ethnicity	Ethnicity
Communication needs (including language) and access needs:	
Any information regarding legal status / immigration status:	
<b>Details of parents, carers, or other adults living in the child's household or in close contact with the family</b>	
Name:	Known as:
Address:	Date of Birth:
Postcode:	Gender:
Telephone number:	Email address:

Ethnicity:	Relationship with child/ren:
Parental responsibility?	Religion:
Communication needs (including language) and access needs:	
Any information regarding legal status / immigration status:	
Name:	Known as:
Address:	Date of Birth:
Postcode:	Gender:
Telephone number:	Email address:
Ethnicity:	Relationship with child/ren:
Parental responsibility?	Religion:
Communication needs (including language) and access needs:	
Any information regarding legal status / immigration status:	

<b>Additional information – if known</b>	
<b>Professionals who are already involved with the child/ren</b>	
Name:	Title:
Organisation:	Telephone:
Address:	Email:

Postcode:	Name of the child the professional is working with:
Name:	Title:
Organisation:	Telephone:
Address:	Email:
Postcode:	Name of the child the professional is working with:
Has a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) been undertaken with the family? If so, please send a copy with this form.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Health – details of child’s doctor</b>	
NHS Number/s:	Role of referrer from Health:
Patient Name:	Doctor’s name:
Address:	Postcode:
	Telephone:
<b>Education – details of child’s nursery/academy/college</b>	
Nursery/academy/college name:	
Address:	Telephone:
	Designated teacher:
	Additional contact:
<b>Police - details of police involvement</b>	
Investigating officer:	
Station:	Location of incident:

	Type of incident:
Incident reference number or crime number:	
<b>Alleged perpetrator / person of concern</b>	
Name:	Known as:
Address:	Date of Birth:
Postcode:	Gender:
Ethnicity:	Relationship with child/ren:
Parental responsibility?	Religion:
<b>Has a referral been made about the alleged perpetrator before?</b>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Current location of alleged perpetrator / person of concern:	

As the person reporting this safeguarding concern, I confirm that the information I have provided is accurate, to the best of my knowledge.	
Signed:	Name: Date:
<b>Please specify who should receive feedback about the outcome of this concern:</b>	
Name:	Designation:
Address:	Secure email address:
Post Code:	

## Appendix 8– Body map templates

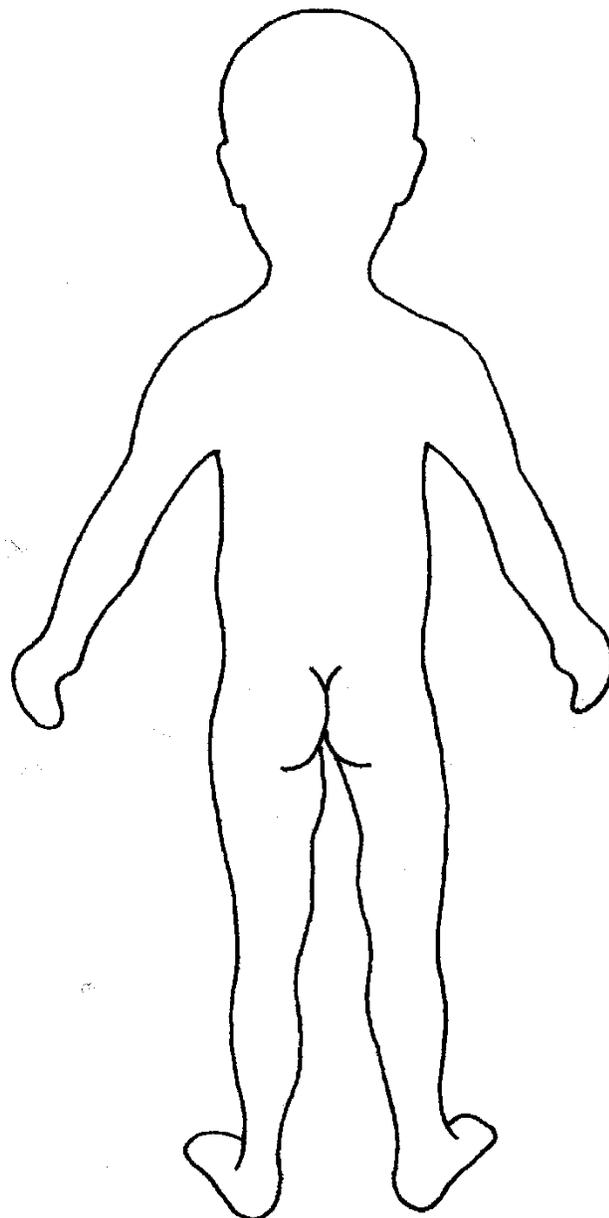
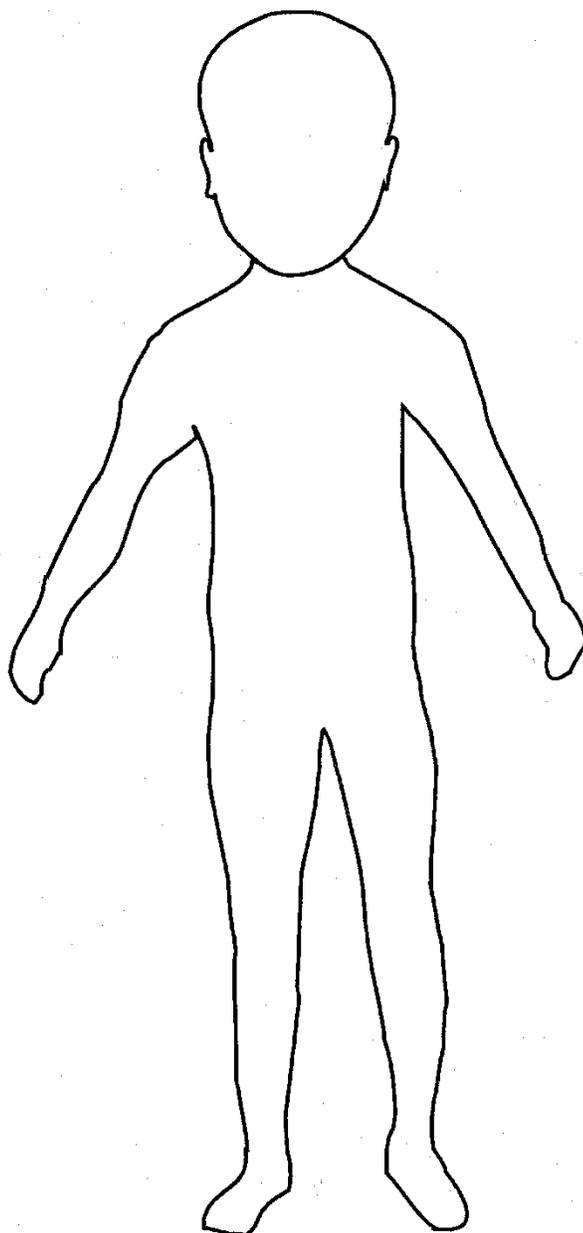
# BODYMAP

(This must be completed at time of observation)

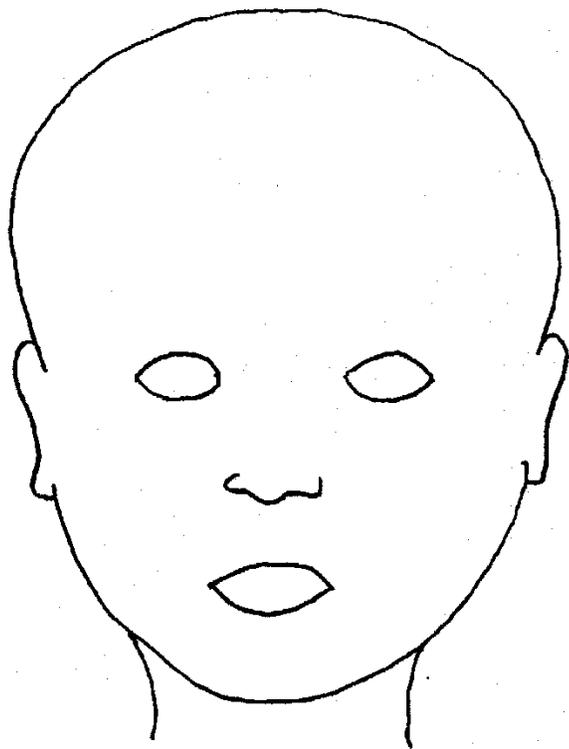
Names for Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Worker: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

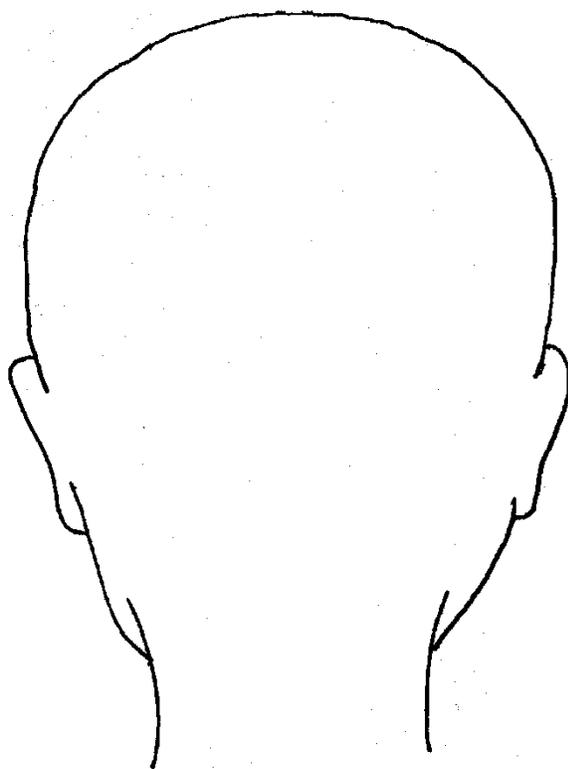
Date and time of observation: \_\_\_\_\_



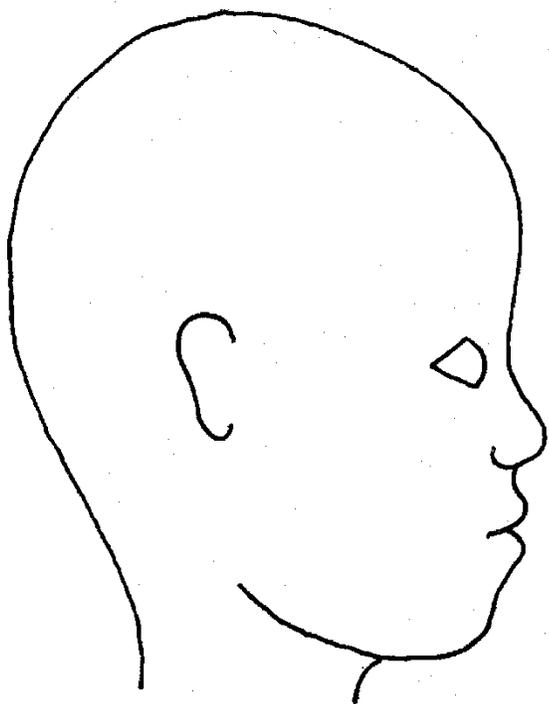
Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of observation: \_\_\_\_\_



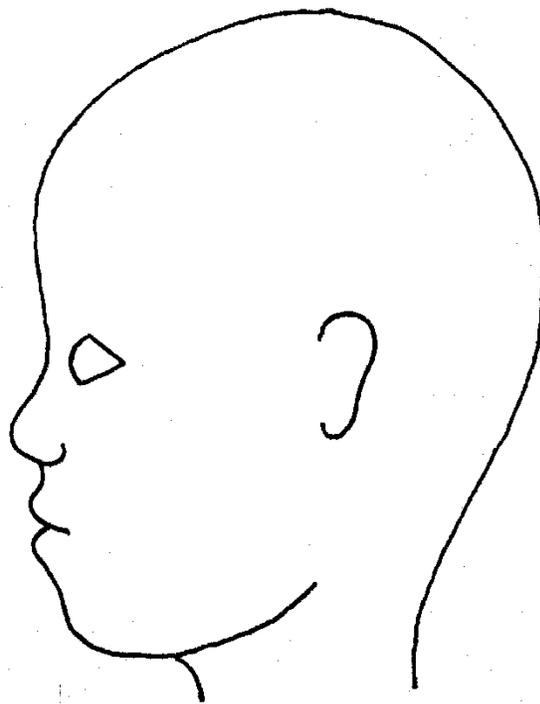
**FRONT**



**BACK**

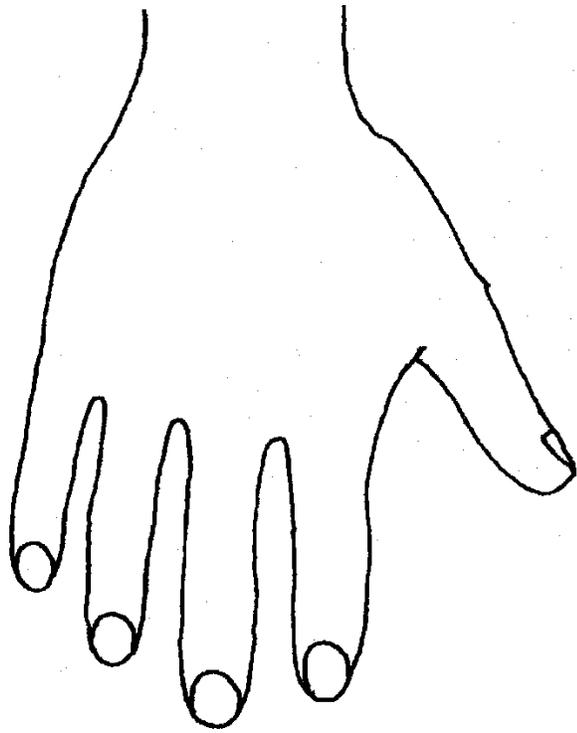


**RIGHT**

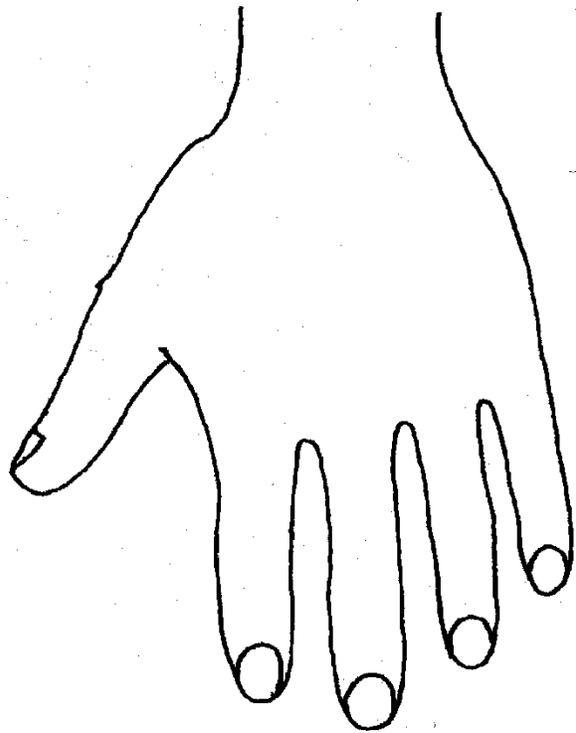


**LEFT**

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of observation: \_\_\_\_\_



R



L

**BACK**



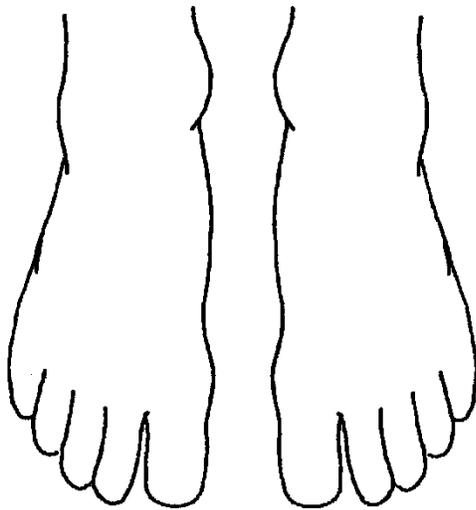
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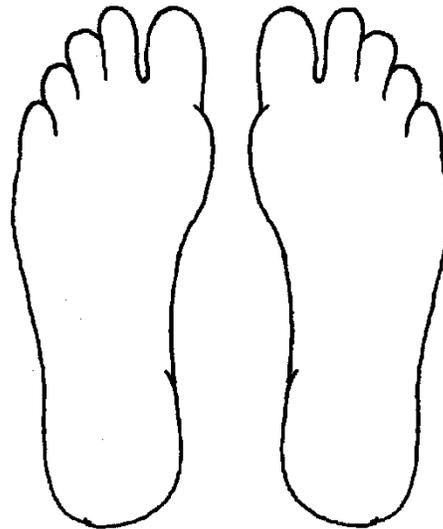
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**PALM**

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of observation: \_\_\_\_\_



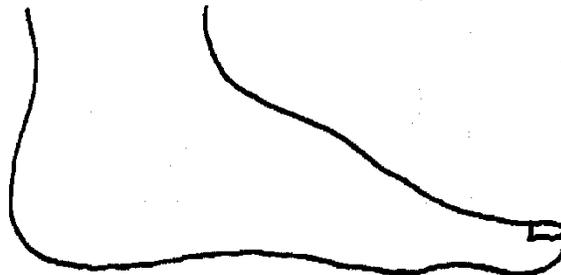
R TOP L



R BOTTOM L



R



L

INNER



R



L

OUTER

Printed Name and  
Signature of worker:

.....

Date:

Time:

.....

Role of Worker

.....

Other information:

.....

## Agency report to Initial / Review Child Protection Conferences (Appendix 9)

<b>Name of Agency</b>		<b>Date of Conference</b>	
<b>Your Name</b>		<b>Job Title</b>	

**Confidentiality statement:**

*The contents of this report are confidential and provided for the purpose of the above meeting only. Any wider dissemination of the information contained within the report will be agreed at the conference. Copies of the report must not be taken away from the conference without the permission of the author/organisation*

*The report should be discussed with the child, if appropriate and the family prior to the conference unless there are specified reasons for not doing so.*

Child(ren) subject of conference								
Name of child	DOB	NHS No.	Ethnic Origin	Disability	1 <sup>st</sup> Language	Religion	Address	Academy/ Nursery/ Children's Centre

Name of Parents/Carers/Significant Others								
Name and relationship to child	DOB	Ethnic Origin	Disability	1 <sup>st</sup> Language	Religion	Address	Parental Responsibility	

<p><b>1. Reason for, and Summary of Agency involvement:</b></p>
<p><b>2. Please comment on Child(ren)'s developmental needs / Parenting Capacity / Family &amp; Environmental factors.</b></p>
<p><b>3. What are the protective factors in relation to the child?</b></p>
<p><b>4. Views, wishes and feelings of the child</b> <i>(from observation of child if child is unable to communicate verbally)</i></p>
<p><b>5. Views of parents/carers</b> <i>(about current situation/concerns)</i></p>
<p><b>6. Analysis of risk and any impact on the child/ren</b>  <i>What is your view about the identified risk bearing in mind the threshold criteria for a child protection plan?</i></p>

**Signed:**

**Date:**

## Appendix 10

### Auditing of Pupil Records

The Named Trustee for child protection and safeguarding, on behalf of the Trustee body, has confirmed that the academy's record keeping in relation to children of concern is appropriate, by conducting an audit of a sample of pupil files every year.

#### **Auditing your academy's record keeping.**

#### **Good record keeping is not bureaucracy it is safeguarding!**

**Background:** Recent serious case reviews and domestic homicide reviews in Nottinghamshire have repeatedly identified poor record keeping by academies as a problem. Trustees need to be confident that academies keep careful records in relation to children of concern. One way to do this is for academy to conduct an audit of a sample of pupil files each year. The audit could be undertaken by the Principal, deputy Principal, designated safeguarding lead or their deputy, lead governor for safeguarding or any combination of these people.

**Purpose:** The aim of such an audit is to learn how effective academy record keeping is in relation to children of concern – potentially the most vulnerable pupils in the academy. Lessons from the audit can then be fed back to all staff to improve future practice.

**Sample:** Clearly the more files that you examine, the fuller the picture you will have of processes in your academy. However, this needs to be balanced against the time demands of an audit. In smaller primary academies looking at one file from each year group might give sufficient information, while in larger primary academies two from each year group might seem more appropriate. In a secondary academy the audit may need to look at as many as three or four files from each year group. It is also reasonable to take a proportionate approach; if audits regularly show widespread good practice then fewer files may need to be examined in future. If, however, the audit reveals poor practice this will indicate the need not only for training and guidance but also more careful monitoring of this issue.

**Confidentiality:** Material in pupil files is often of a very sensitive nature and the highest standards of confidentiality are required by anyone reading these files.

## Checklist:

To guide an audit of 'concern files' this checklist will help to identify key issues.

	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Follow up action/further information</b>
Does the child's main pupil record have a clear marker on it to indicate that a concern file is also held? (We recommend that a clear red C is written on the top right hand corner of the main file. This alerts any member of staff to the existence of a separate concern file.)		
Was all confidential information transferred from the main pupil file to the concern file when it was opened? (Check there are no confidential documents still sitting in the main file.)		
Does the concern file have an up-to-date and accurate 'Front Sheet' giving basic factual information about the child and family?		
Does the file have a brief running chronology of events/concerns? This chronology would normally be begun in the child's main pupil file and then transferred when the threshold for concern is reached and a 'concern file' is opened.		
Is every entry in the file timed, dated and have the name and signature of the person who wrote the entry?		
Have staff made use of the 'logging a concern' template or a similar academy template to help them record issues?		
Where applicable, have any original contemporaneous notes been kept, in addition to later more formal records.		
Have telephone calls and discussions with other agencies (police, health, social care) been recorded and is it clear from these notes what action is to be taken and by whom?		
Is there evidence that the academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead has reviewed the file and discussed the child with relevant staff?		
Is there evidence that academy staff have weighed up the information they have about a child of concern, discussed it appropriately		

<p>with others and then taken appropriate action such as sharing information with another agency, completing an EHAF or referral to another agency. Have these actions been followed through?</p>		
<p>If meetings relating to the child and their family have been called did academy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) send a report if requested</li> <li>ii) send a representative</li> <li>iii) receive minutes of the meeting</li> <li>iv) complete any actions they were assigned by the meeting</li> <li>v) ensure that other key people in academy were aware of any important issues.</li> </ul>		
<p>If injuries to the child have been noted by academy, did staff use the body map recording form and were the records clear?</p>		
<p>Moving between academies can be a time of risk as children may be leaving a academy where they and their family are known well, to attend one where they may not be known. It would be wise to include in the audit a consideration of a child who has 'moved in' recently and one who has 'moved out'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) If the pupil concerned has transferred in from another academy is there evidence that the designated safeguarding leads from this academy and previous academy discussed the pupil at transfer and that a note was made of that discussion.</li> <li>ii) For a pupil of concern who moved out recently did the designated safeguarding lead make contact with the new designated safeguarding lead at the new academy? Is there a note to that effect? Was the pupil's concern file delivered to the new academy? Is there evidence that the file was received?</li> </ul>		

## Learning from the audit

An audit such as this is not intended to be a 'box ticking exercise'. The purpose is to understand how well staff fulfil their duties in relation to safeguarding in terms of how well records are maintained. Following the audit there should be a discussion about any strengths and weaknesses identified. The intention is not to criticise any individual member of staff but to see what lessons the academy community, as a whole, needs to learn. The lessons from the audit can be fed back to all staff using the academy's normal staff training or briefing routes.

**Induction of Staff - Checklist for Safeguarding**

**Name of Employee:** .....

**Name of Academy:** ..... **Post:** .....

**Start Date of Employment:** ...../...../20....

**Name of line manager responsible for induction:** .....

**Name of Principal / Head of Academy:** .....

*This safeguarding checklist should be used to supplement the general arrangements academies have in place for the induction of all academy employees, volunteers and all trustees.*

Induction of Staff – Checklist for Safeguarding	Date	Check
1. Employee informed that the senior designated safeguarding lead in academy is.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Inform staff of the procedure in academy for reporting safeguarding concerns, including the procedure if the Principal and designated safeguarding lead are absent. Staff member to be given a copy of the academy safeguarding handbook and Prevent Duty Handbook.		<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Advised of and discuss the following <b>academy</b> policies, covering the agreed procedures and expectations of staff under each one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employee Code of Conduct (including the mandatory duty for reporting Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the Prevent Duty</li> <li>- Whistleblowing and Confidential Reporting Policy</li> <li>- Anti-bullying</li> <li>- Anti-racism</li> <li>- Homophobic and Transphobic</li> <li>- Physical intervention</li> <li>- Academy IT Policy, Internet safety (including Academy Media and Internet Usage Policy)</li> <li>- Child protection policy including appendix templates</li> <li>- Allegations of abuse made against teachers and other staff – academy/LA policies Included in the Academy Disciplinary Procedure)</li> <li>- Guidance on Visitors, to academies</li> <li>- Any other relevant policy as determined by the Trustees Principal, Trustee Body or DfE:</li> </ul>		<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Advised of and discuss all <b>statutory</b> guidance for academies and the responsibility of staff within them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (latest edition) (Senior designated lead officer will ensure all <b>staff read and are provided with a copy of at least part one</b> of latest edition "Keeping Children Safe in Education)</li> <li>- Working Together to Safeguard Children (latest edition)</li> <li>- Dealing with Allegations of Abuse made against Teachers and other Staff. (Part 4 of the latest edition of KCSiE)</li> <li>- DBS process</li> </ul>		<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>- Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2009 – explanation of ongoing responsibility to self-report to principal where circumstances change, including “by association”.</p>		
<p>5. Advised and discussed the Nottinghamshire/Nottingham City/Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Boards’ Safeguarding Children’s Procedures and how they can be accessed at <a href="http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb">www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb</a></p>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>6. Advised of and discuss the relevant paragraphs regarding safeguarding under the teacher standards (if appropriate). (See part 2 of the standards, 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point)</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>7. Arranged safeguarding training as detailed in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) and the latest NSCB Training programme found at <a href="http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb">www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb</a></p> <p>a) To Include Whole Academy Safeguarding training for all academy staff and for any governor responsible for leading on safeguarding</p> <p>b) Prevent Duty training for all academy staff (on-line 20 minutes <a href="https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen2.html">https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen2.html</a>)</p> <p>c) Specific training for Designated Person for Safeguarding</p> <p>d) Recruitment and Selection training for staff, as required. (At least one member of any interview panel should have received appropriate training on safer recruitment).</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>8. a) For Teachers – Explanation of the statutory induction and appraisal process/ link with pay</p> <p>b) For Support Staff – Explanation of the probation arrangements for new employees and the support and supervision / appraisal arrangements.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Date Checklist fully completed</b>  Principal / line manager’s signature: ..... Date: .....  Employee’s signature: ..... Date: .....</p>		



# Safeguarding knowledge and compliance (Induction) Appendix 12

Please complete this audit as honestly as possible.

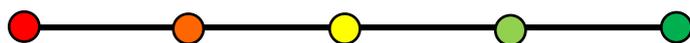
This will help to present a true reflection of your current knowledge and areas for development. Please return your completed audit to The Safeguarding Lead

Name	Role in school	Date
Have you read part 1 of the Department for Education's 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'? Please tick: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
List the name(s) of your designated safeguarding lead(s):		

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Not sure	Agree	Strongly agree
1. I believe child abuse could happen to children who attend our school	<input type="radio"/>				
2. I am able to confidently recognise the behavioural and physical signs of abuse	<input type="radio"/>				
3. I know what to do if a child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm	<input type="radio"/>				
4. I know the correct procedures for reporting concerns about a child	<input type="radio"/>				
5. I would always report a concern, no matter how small	<input type="radio"/>				
6. I would feel confident to pursue a referral if no action was taken and the child's situation didn't improve	<input type="radio"/>				

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**7.** I know what our school policies say about safeguarding and child protection



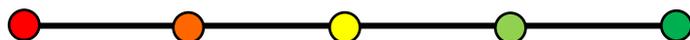
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**8.** I have an awareness of all the different types of specific safeguarding issues (there are over 20)



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**9.** I am confident that I know the differences between 'safe' and 'unsafe' staff conduct



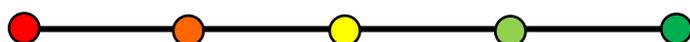
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**10.** I understand the policy and procedure for whistleblowing



---

**11.** I know the key legislation and guidance that underpins safeguarding and child protection



---

**12.** I am aware of serious case reviews and the lessons that can be learnt from these



---

**13.** I am confident that I know how to deal with a disclosure, including the types of questions I can ask



---

**14.** I know where to record and what details to include when recording a concern

---



# Appendix 13

## SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS TRAFFIC LIGHT TOOL



### Behaviours: age 5 to 9

All green, amber and red behaviours require some form of attention and response. It is the level of intervention that will vary.

#### What is a green behaviour?

Green behaviours reflect safe and healthy sexual development. They are:

- displayed between children or young people of similar age or developmental ability
- reflective of natural curiosity, experimentation, consensual activities and positive choices

#### What can you do?

Green behaviours provide opportunities to give positive feedback and additional information.

#### Green behaviours

- feeling and touching own genitals
- curiosity about other children's genitals
- curiosity about sex and relationships, e.g. differences between boys and girls, how sex happens, where babies come from, same-sex relationships
- sense of privacy about bodies
- telling stories or asking questions using swear and slang words for parts of the body

#### What is an amber behaviour?

Amber behaviours have the potential to be outside of safe and healthy behaviour. They may be:

- of potential concern due to age, or developmental differences
- of potential concern due to activity type, frequency, duration or context in which they occur

#### What can you do?

Amber behaviours signal the need to take notice and gather information to assess the appropriate action.

#### Amber behaviours

- questions about sexual activity which persist or are repeated frequently, despite an answer having been given
- sexual bullying face to face or through texts or online messaging
- engaging in mutual masturbation
- persistent sexual images and ideas in talk, play and art
- use of adult slang language to discuss sex

#### What is a red behaviour?

Red behaviours are outside of safe and healthy behaviour. They may be:

- excessive, secretive, compulsive, coercive, degrading or threatening
- involving significant age, developmental, or power differences
- of concern due to the activity type, frequency, duration or the context in which they occur

#### What can you do?

Red behaviours indicate a need for immediate intervention and action.

#### Red behaviours

- frequent masturbation in front of others
- sexual behaviour engaging significantly younger or less able children
- forcing other children to take part in sexual activities
- simulation of oral or penetrative sex
- sourcing pornographic material online

## Behaviours: age 9 to 13

All green, amber and red behaviours require some form of attention and response. It is the level of intervention that will vary.

### What is a green behaviour?

Green behaviours reflect safe and healthy sexual development. They are:

- displayed between children or young people of similar age or developmental ability
- reflective of natural curiosity, experimentation, consensual activities and positive choices

### What can you do?

Green behaviours provide opportunities to give positive feedback and additional information.

### Green behaviours

- solitary masturbation
- use of sexual language including swear and slang words
- having girl/boyfriends who are of the same, opposite or any gender
- interest in popular culture, e.g. fashion, music, media, online games, chatting online
- need for privacy
- consensual kissing, hugging, holding hands with peers

### What is an amber behaviour?

Amber behaviours have the potential to be outside of safe and healthy behaviour. They may be:

- of potential concern due to age, or developmental differences
- of potential concern due to activity type, frequency, duration or context in which they occur

### What can you do?

Amber behaviours signal the need to take notice and gather information to assess the appropriate action.

### Amber behaviours

- uncharacteristic and risk-related behaviour, e.g. sudden and/or provocative changes in dress, withdrawal from friends, mixing with new or older people, having more or less money than usual, going missing
- verbal, physical or cyber/virtual sexual bullying involving sexual aggression
- LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) targeted bullying
- exhibitionism, e.g. flashing or mooning
- giving out contact details online
- viewing pornographic material
- worrying about being pregnant or having STIs

### What is a red behaviour?

Red behaviours are outside of safe and healthy behaviour. They may be:

- excessive, secretive, compulsive, coercive, degrading or threatening
- involving significant age, developmental, or power differences
- of concern due to the activity type, frequency, duration or the context in which they occur

### What can you do?

Red behaviours indicate a need for immediate intervention and action.

### Red behaviours

- exposing genitals or masturbating in public
- distributing naked or sexually provocative images of self or others
- sexually explicit talk with younger children
- sexual harassment
- arranging to meet with an online acquaintance in secret
- genital injury to self or others
- forcing other children of same age, younger or less able to take part in sexual activities
- sexual activity e.g. oral sex or intercourse
- presence of sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- evidence of pregnancy

# Appendix 14 – Child Missing in Education (CME) Flow Chart.

## GUIDANCE FOR HEAD TEACHERS AND BUSINESS MANAGERS WHERE CHILDREN ARE AT RISK OF MISSING EDUCATION

Child / young person is on roll but not attending	Child moving out of county	Family indicate they are moving abroad	School Allocations Intake or In-year admissions rounds
School/Academy to attempt to make contact with parent/carers no later than <b>day 3</b> , best practice <b>day 1</b> . Follow your internal school attendance procedures.	Request from the family their <b>new address</b> and details of new School/Academy. If obtained please share with: <a href="mailto:admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk">admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk</a>	School must request and record details of the new <b>family address</b> and <b>school</b> . You can't remove from roll without this. If obtained please share with: <a href="mailto:admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk">admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.languageshop.org/">http://www.languageshop.org/</a> (translation support)	If allocated and there is not an acceptance/agreed start date best practice is for school to make attempts to engage (telephone, text, e-mail, welcome letter, home visit (where appropriate)).
<b>Days 0-10</b> , School/Academy should continue to make efforts to engage the family; recording their contact: telephone conversations, texts, e-mails, letters, home visits. Liaising with professionals who may be involved. School/Academy should consider what action to take if attendance is 10% unauthorised.	Hopefully the new school will make contact with you, if not, make contact with them to confirm on roll.	If school does not receive the above a referral should be made to: <b>Children Missing Officer (CMO)</b>	If a child/young person has been allocated a place at your school/academy and they do not arrive you must inform the <b>CMO</b> within <b>10 days</b> evidencing efforts to engage.
<b>Whereabouts confirmed to be known</b> but not attending education or engaging with School/Academy.	If without a new school within <b>10 days</b> , a referral should be made to: <b>Children Missing Officer (CMO)</b> providing the families new address, contact details and a summary of efforts made by school to engage the family.	<b>Looked After Children (LAC)</b>	If an application to transfer school during the year (outside of the normal intake process), the leaving school should keep them on roll until it has been confirmed by the new school that they have arrived and have been taken on roll.
Child and family meet the threshold for Early Help through the Family Service (level 3 Pathway to Provision). Make a referral to the <b>Early Help Unit</b> via an EHAF <u>evidencing</u> the actions you have taken.	<b>Child is of statutory school age but not applied or on roll of a School/Academy</b>	If a LAC is moving placement and no longer attending, school should liaise with the Virtual School and the child's Social Worker. <b>DO NOT</b> remove from roll.	Places must be taken up by the start of the next half term after the place has been allocated. For places allocated in the summer term 2018, the place must be taken up before the end of the summer term. <i>For children admitted through first admissions round please refer to your summer born guidance.</i> A child should be placed <b>on roll</b> at the point of acceptance by parent or arriving on the first day.
<b>Whereabouts unknown</b> evidencing reasonable efforts to locate/make contact with the family.	Referral is made to: <b>Children Missing Officer (CMO)</b> No later than day 10 when there is no explanation for absence and above checks have been completed. Details of how to refer are		

Absence meets the threshold for <b>enforcement</b> action as outlined in the Nottinghamshire Code of Conduct, make a referral to the <b>Early Help Unit</b> via an EHAF <b>Child stays on roll.</b>	on page 2, please clearly state any safeguarding concerns you may have. <b>DO NOT</b> remove from your roll until CMO has completed initial checks and confirmed that they can be removed.	Direct referral to: <b>Children Missing Education (CMO)</b> Providing child's name / DOB / address and details of parent / carers.	<b>Independent / Residential Schools</b> The same procedures should be followed as those in School's / Academies	<b>If allocated children do not arrive PLEASE FOLLOW UP. DO NOT ASSUME they will have gone elsewhere or remained at their previous School/Academy!!</b>
<b>Parent/Carers indicate they wish to Home Educate (EHE)</b>	<b>Child permanently excluded</b>	LA to be notified on the day of exclusion via e-mail.	<b>Gypsy/Roma/Traveller</b> If a Traveller family indicate they are to travel for work purposes School/Academy should request details of where they will be travelling and when they aim to return. If they do not return within 4 weeks of the expected return date please follow attendance procedures.	<b>Own admission authorities</b> must inform the admissions team of any <b>enquiry/application</b> and outcome. This helps identify any vulnerable child requiring a place and avoids a child being out of education for an undue length of time. All academies must notify the local authority via <a href="mailto:admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk">admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk</a> <b>within five days</b> of adding a pupil's name to the admission register.
Request must be made in writing, following a conversation between school and parent/carer's, with a copy of the letter placed in the pupil file and a copy of the letter forwarded securely to <b>EHE</b> .	The LA will respond and continue to work with you through the process.	<b>DO NOT</b> remove from your roll until advised.		<b>Family indicate they are returning home for family, cultural or health reasons</b>
School/Academy to return the EHE 1A and 1B forms to the EHE Administrator.	<b>Truancy</b> – School/Academy to inform parent/carers that their child/young person is not in school. School/Academy risk assess before considering a Police response. (prior checks to be completed and evidenced upon calling the police, unless immediate risk evident). Please be mindful of missing and hidden missing where young people's whereabouts are not known to parent/carers. This can be discussed with the CMO.			School/Academy need to consider the circumstances of the absence in deciding which code to use. Parents should provide school with a return date. If the family do not return on this date attendance procedures should be followed.
Remove the learner from your roll. <b>DO NOT</b> remove from your roll if stated without confirmation from the LA. School file to be sent to <b>EHE</b> at County Hall via secure mail.				
<b>Child not in full receipt of education (25hrs)</b>				
Information should be shared with the <b>Fair Access Team</b> . Levels of provision will be closely monitored and scrutinised.				

**SAFEGUARDING** - Every child should be accounted for, their whereabouts should be known or a referral made to the appropriate service. Please be mindful that the **MASH** is for level 4 safeguarding concerns with children believed to be **at risk of or actual harm**. The Early Help Unit will support with early intervention/attendance. It is important that concerns are risk assessed by school. All referrals should indicate the level of concern and previous actions taken. A referral made to the correct service will help for support to be in place in a timely fashion. If unsure please seek guidance prior to referring.

**Useful links:** <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schoolsportal/local-authority/attendance> (Nottinghamshire Schools Portal)  
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/pathway-to-provision> (P2P)  
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/109754/factsheet-summer-born-final-2.pdf> (Summer Born)  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/550416/Children\\_Missing\\_Education\\_-\\_statutory\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550416/Children_Missing_Education_-_statutory_guidance.pdf) (CME)  
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/pathway-to-provision/early-help-assessment-form> (EHAF)

### GUIDANCE FOR REMOVING A CHILD FROM THE SCHOOL ROLL

**PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE A CHILD FROM YOUR ROLL UNLESS YOU HAVE RECORDED AND SHARED THE FOLLOWING WITH THE LA:**

- the full name of the pupil,
- the full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil normally resides,
- at least one telephone number of the parent,
- the pupil's future address and destination school, if applicable, and
- **the ground in regulation 8 under which the pupil's name is to be removed from the admission register (see Annex A).** This will need to be clearly recorded when updating your systems as you will need to inform the LA.

All other deletions breach statutory guidance

should be followed.

### Health Related Education

If a child has been out of school for 15 days or more due to illness please liaise with the School Nurse and then a referral can be made to:  
Health Related Education Team (please contact the Health Related Education Team to discuss a request for their involvement)