

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Date for Renewal/Updates/Review	September 2022
Named Person Responsible for Monitoring	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Agreed by Governing Body	September 2021

Table of Content

Important Contacts.....	3
1. Aims	3
2. Legislation and Statutory Guidance	4
3. Definitions.....	4
4. Equality Statement.....	5
5. Roles and Responsibilities.....	5
6. Confidentiality.....	7
7. Recognising Abuse and Taking Action	8
8. Online Safety and The Use of Mobile Technology	16
9. Notifying Parents or Carers.....	17
10. Students with Special Educational Needs, Disabilities or Health Issues.....	18
11. Students with A Social Worker	18
12. Looked-After and Previously Looked-After Children	18
13. Complaints and Concerns About School Safeguarding Policies	19
14. Record-keeping.....	19
15. Training.....	20
16. Links with Other Policies	21
Appendix 1: Types of Abuse	22
Appendix 2: Safer Recruitment and DBS Checks - Policy and Procedures.....	24
Appendix 3: Allegations of Abuse Made Against Staff	29
Appendix 4: Specific Safeguarding Issues.....	37

Important Contacts

ROLE/ORGANISATION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS SCHOOL NUMBER 01494 815211
Designated Safeguarding Lead - DSL	Miss E Gurney	egurney@swr.school
Deputy DSL	Mrs S Hilton	shilton@swr.school
Deputy DSL	Mrs N Renyard	nrenyard@swr.school
Deputy DSL	Mrs E Wolfenden	ewolfenden@swr.school
Deputy DSL	Mrs H Dell Holidays only	hdell@swr.school
Local Authority Designated Officer -LADO		01296 382070
Chair of Governors	Mr K Deane	clerk@swr.school
Safeguarding Governor	Mr P Fleming	pfleming@swr.school
Channel Helpline		0207 3407264
First Response Team including Early Help, Channel		01296 383962 Out of Hours 0800 9997677

1. Aims

At Sir William Ramsay School, we are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, ensuring that the highest priority is given to following guidance and regulations to safeguard all our students.

Governors' Vision of Safeguarding Is:

- Which is centred on the needs of the child.
- Where a child can flourish at Sir William Ramsay School, safe from fear, exploitation or oppression.
- Which involves the participation of the whole school community.
- That learns from incidents and does not seek to blame, unnecessarily.
- Where everyone is confident and prepared to deal with the safety of the child.

The School Aims to Ensure That:

- Appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare.
- All staff are aware of their statutory responsibilities with respect to safeguarding.
- Staff are properly training in recognising and reporting safeguarding issues.

The policy recognises the importance of considering wider environmental factors in a child's life that may be a threat to their safety and/or welfare. This is known as Contextual Safeguarding.

2. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)
- [Governance Handbook](#)
- We comply with this guidance and the arrangements agreed and published by [Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership](#)
- We follow the National Police Chiefs Council guidance on '[When to Call the Police](#)'.
- [The Designated Teacher for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children 2018](#)
- [Statutory Guidance on FGM](#)

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- Part 3 of the schedule to the Education [Independent School Standards](#) Regulations 2014
- [The Children Act 1989](#) (and 2004 amendment)
- Section 5B(11) of the [Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003](#), as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015
- Section 128 of the [Education and Skills Act 2008](#)
- [The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974](#)
- Schedule 4 of the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)
- Statutory guidance on the [Prevent Duty](#), which explains schools' duties under the [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#)

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

3. Definitions

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

4. 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 students' diverse circumstances. We ensure that all students have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

We give special consideration to students who:

- Have special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities or health conditions (section 10).
- Are young carers.
- May experience discrimination due to their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identification or sexuality.
- Have English as an additional language (EAL).
- Are known to be living in difficult situations – for example, temporary accommodation or where there are issues such as substance abuse or domestic abuse.
- 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 (see section 12).
- Are missing from education.
- Whose parent/carer has expressed an intention to remove them from school to be home educated.

5. 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.

5.1 All Staff

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 \(2021\)](#) 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 for Learning Policy, Acceptable Use Policy and the safeguarding response to students 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 the 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 student 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 15 and [appendix 4](#) of this policy outline in more detail how staff are supported to do this.

5.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL is a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Our DSL is Miss E Gurney, Assistant Headteacher. 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. Out of hours, the DSL can be contacted via email.

When the DSL is absent, the deputies, Mrs S Hilton, Mrs N Renyard and Mrs E Wolfenden will act as cover. During holiday periods, Mrs H Dell will act as cover.

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

- Provide advice and support to other staff on student 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 students.
- 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.

5.3 The Governing Board

The Governing 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 safeguarding governor to monitor the effectiveness of this policy in conjunction with the full governing board. This is always a different person from the DSL.

The Chair of Governors 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 Governors will read [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2021\)](#) in its entirety.

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

5.4 The Headteacher

The Headteacher 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](#)).

6. Confidentiality

The school's Data Protection Policy covers the processes and principles for sharing information both internally and externally.

We note that:

- 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 and this is confirmed in [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#).
- 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 student that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse, as this may not be in the student'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 DSL.
- Confidentiality is also addressed in this policy with respect to record-keeping in section 14 and allegations of abuse against staff in [appendix 3](#).

7. Recognising Abuse and Taking Action

Staff, Volunteers and Governors 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'.

Students are taught about safeguarding, including online, through various teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. Students are taught to recognise when they are at risk and how to get help when they need it.

7.1 If A Student Is 'Suffering' or 'Likely to Suffer Harm' or in 'Immediate Danger'

Tell the DSL (see section 5.2) immediately. If the DSL is not available, then see the Headteacher or another member of the Senior Leadership Team.

In exceptional cases where you are not able to see a member of school staff, make a referral to Children's Social Care and/or the Police **immediately** if you believe a student is suffering or likely to suffer from harm or is in immediate danger. **Anyone can make a referral.**

7.2 If A Student Makes a Disclosure to You

If a student 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 student 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 student's own words. Stick to the facts and do not put your own judgement on it.

- Your conversation should be written into [MyConcern](#) and pass it on to the DSL. Alternatively, in exceptional circumstances, make a referral to Children’s Social Care and/or the Police directly (see 7.1) 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.

7.3 If You Discover That FGM Has Taken Place or A Student 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 student has already been subjected to FGM, and factors that suggest a student 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 by the Police 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 **student 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 student is *at risk* of FGM or FGM is suspected but is not known to have been carried out. Staff should not examine students.

Any member of staff who suspects a student is *at risk* of FGM or suspects that FGM has been carried out or discovers that a student **aged 18 or over** appears to have been a victim of FGM must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures.

7.4 If You Have Concerns About a Student (as opposed to believing a student is suffering or likely to suffer from harm or is in immediate danger)

[Figure 1](#) below, before section 7.7, illustrates the procedure to follow if you have any concerns about a student’s welfare.

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 the Headteacher or 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 (see section 7.1), 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 student'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 student's situation improves.

7.5 If You Have Concerns About Extremism

If a student 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 the Headteacher or 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 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 student. You can also email 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

7.6 If You Have a Mental Health Including Suicide Concern

All staff are aware that 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.

School staff are not expected or trained to diagnose mental health conditions or issues but may notice behaviours that may be of concern that suggest a student may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

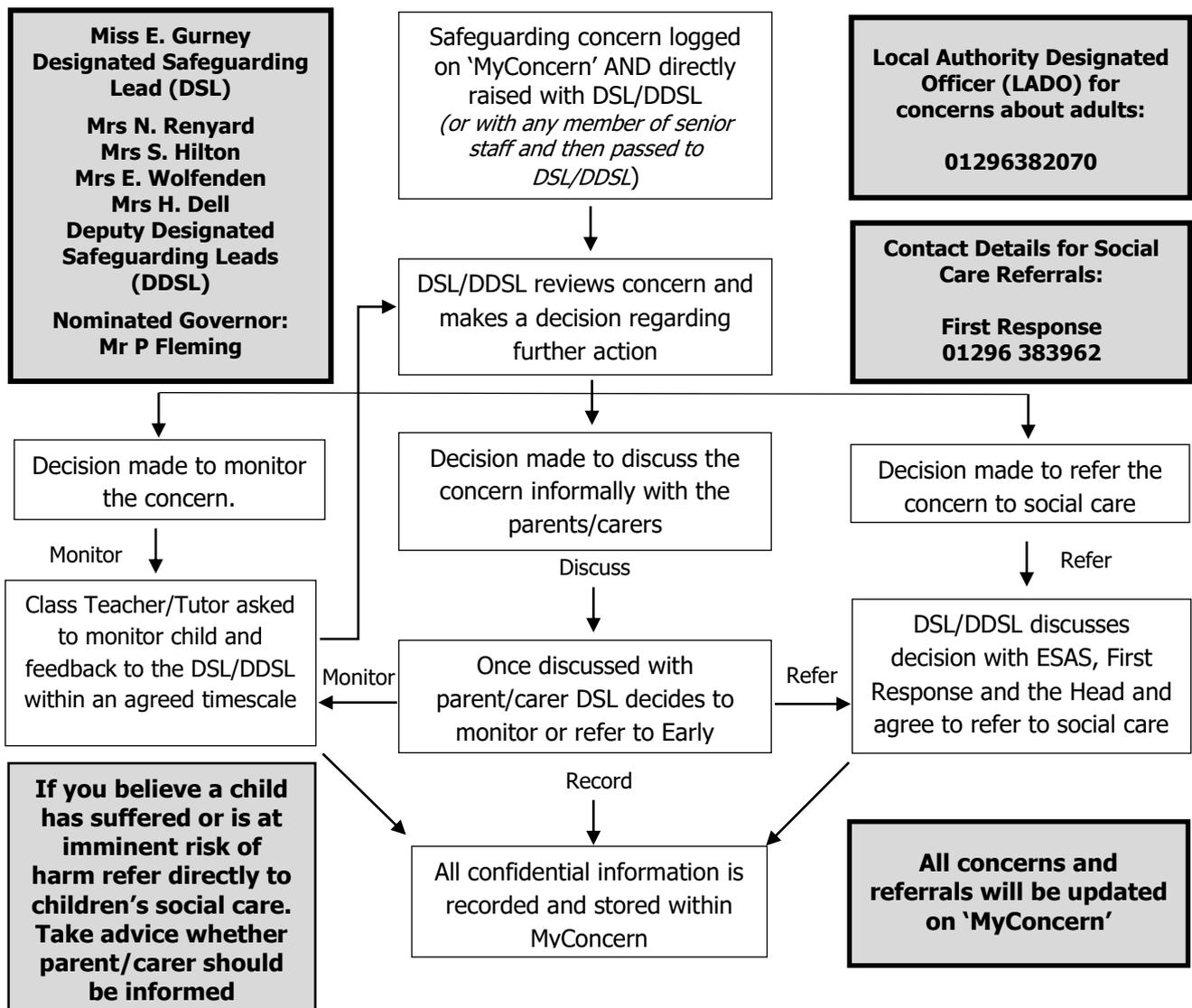
If you have a mental health concern about a student that is also a safeguarding concern, take immediate action by following the steps in section 7.4.

If you believe that a student is an imminent risk of suicide, then follow the steps in section 7.2.

If you have a mental health concern that is **not** also a safeguarding concern, speak to the DSL to agree a course of action. The DSL will then follow the school's Mental Health Protocol which includes actions for students who express or act on suicidal tendencies.

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)

NB – if the DSL is unavailable, this should not delay action. See section 7.4 for what to do.



7.7 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 students, speak to the Headteacher as soon as possible. If the concerns/allegations are about the Headteacher, speak to the Chair of Governors.

The Headteacher/Chair of Governors 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 LADO.

7.8 Allegations of Abuse Made Against Other Students

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 students.

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 students hurting other students 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 students in the school at risk.
- Is violent.
- Involves students 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.

Procedures For Dealing with Allegations of Peer-On-Peer Abuse

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

- For bullying related allegations, you must record into the prejudice and bullying related log. This will then be recorded into SIMS by the Support and Intervention Team.
- For physical assault related allegations, you must record into SIMS.
- For all other peer on peer abuse related allegations, you must record the allegation into MyConcern and tell the DSL but do not investigate it. It must be recorded in MyConcern for the victim and alleged perpetrator.
- 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.

- 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.
- The allegation will be recorded on the school's Bullying and Prejudice Related log where appropriate.

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 students, and initiation or hazing type violence with respect to boys.
- Ensure our curriculum helps to educate students about appropriate behaviour and consent.
- Ensure students are able to easily and confidently report abuse using our reporting systems (as described in section 7.10 below).
- 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 student'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 students may face additional barriers to telling someone because of their vulnerability, disability, gender, ethnicity and/or sexual orientation.
 - That a student harming a peer could be a sign that the student 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 student may be at risk from it.
 - That they should speak to the DSL if they have any concerns.

7.9 Sharing of Nudes and Semi-Nudes ('Sexting')

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 student 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 student to delete it
- Ask the student(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 student(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 student(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 student(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 students 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 students 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 student in the images or videos is under 13.
- The DSL has reason to believe a student 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 students involved (if appropriate).

If at any point in the process there is a concern that a student 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 student at risk of harm.

Referring to the Police

If it is necessary to refer an incident to the Police, this will be done through 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

Students are taught about the issues surrounding the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes as part of our Relationships and Sex Education programme. 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
- Students 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 students so they are aware of the processes the school will follow in the event of an incident.

7.10 Reporting Systems for Our Students

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

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

To achieve this, we will:

- Put systems in place for students to confidently report abuse; posters of the DSL and deputies are highly visible around the school; the DSL and deputies are visible around the school and in assemblies.
- Ensure our reporting systems are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for students.
- Make it clear to students that their concerns will be taken seriously, and that they can safely express their views and give feedback.

8. Online Safety and The Use of Mobile Technology

We recognise the importance of safeguarding students 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 school aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of students, 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.
- **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 students 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 students 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 students are not present.
 - Staff will not take pictures or recordings of students on their personal phones or cameras.
- Make all students, 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 student is in breach of our policies on the acceptable use of the internet and mobile phones.
- Make sure all staff, students and parents/carers are aware that staff have the power to search students' 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.

9. Notifying Parents or Carers

Where appropriate, we will discuss any concerns about a student with the student'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 students, we will normally notify the parents or carers of all the students involved.

10. Students with Special Educational Needs, Disabilities or Health Issues

We recognise that students 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.
- Students being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other students.
- The potential for students 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.

We offer extra pastoral support for these students. This includes access to the SEND team and the school First Aider.

11. Students with A Social Worker

Students 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 student has a Social Worker, the DSL will always consider this fact to ensure any decisions are made in the best interests of the student'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.

12. 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 student's looked after legal status, contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility, and care arrangements.
- The DSL has details of students' Social Workers and relevant virtual school heads.

We have appointed a designated teacher, Miss E Gurney, 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:

- 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 student premium plus funding can be best used to support looked-after children and meet the needs identified in their personal education plans.

13. Complaints and Concerns About School Safeguarding Policies

13.1 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](#)).

13.2 Other Complaints

Complaints against staff that are not likely to require a child protection investigation will be handed in accordance with our Compliments, Complaints and Resolution Policy.

13.3 Whistleblowing

The school's [Whistleblowing Policy](#) covers concerns regarding the way the school safeguards students – including poor or unsafe practice, or potential failures.

14. 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 MyConcern. 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 MyConcern for each student.

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 relating to individual students will be retained for a reasonable period of time after they have left the school.

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 student 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 student 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 student.

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.

15. Training

15.1 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 students

All staff will have training on the government's anti-radicalisation strategy, Prevent, to enable them to identify students 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 (for example, 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.

15.2 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, webinars, meeting other DSLs, or taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments).

They will also undertake Prevent awareness training.

15.3 Governors

All governors receive training about safeguarding on induction with annual refresher, to make sure they have the knowledge and information needed to perform their functions and understand their responsibilities.

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

15.4 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. Links with Other Policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- [Behaviour for Learning](#)
- [SEND](#)
- Staff Code of Conduct
- [Compliments, Complaints and Resolution](#)
- [Health and Safety](#)
- [Attendance](#)
- [Online Safety](#)
- [Equality](#)
- [Relationships and Sex Education](#)
- First Aid
- [Designated Teacher for Looked-After and Previously Looked-After Children](#)
- [Privacy Notices](#)
- [Whistleblowing](#)
- [Anti-Bullying](#)
- [Use of Reasonable Force](#)
- [Search and Confiscation](#)
- [Data Protection](#)

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 request 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.
 - 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.

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;
- Carrying out paid or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school or college where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children;
- 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;
- An individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is;
- 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;
- 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;

- 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);
- 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.

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.

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.

Governors

All governors 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);
- 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 student 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 Students 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 student 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.

Students Staying with Host Families

Where the school makes arrangements for students 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 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;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children;
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children (for example domestic abuse of a partner) – this includes behaviour taking place both inside and outside of school (transfer of risk).

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 where 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 student or other students 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 student or students concerned.
- Providing an assistant to be present when the individual has contact with students.
- Redeploying the individual to alternative work in the school so that they do not have unsupervised access to students.
- Moving the student or students 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.

If in doubt, the Case Manager will seek views from the school's HR adviser and the LADO, 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 LADO. 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 LAD – 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 LADO 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 LADO (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 students 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 LADO, 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. 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 LADO 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 LADO 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. Further support through the school's Employee Assistance Programme will be offered. An occupational health referral may be made.
- Inform the parents or carers of the student/students 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 student/students 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.

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 Headteacher 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. We 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.

Specific Actions

Action Following a Criminal Investigation or Prosecution

The Case Manager will discuss with the LADO 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 student 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 student/students 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 LADO 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 student 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

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 student, 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 students.

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 LADO.

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

- Being overly friendly with students.
- Having favourites.
- Taking photographs of students on their mobile phone.
- Engaging with a student 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.
- Staff should be encouraged and feel confident to self-refer, where, for example, they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.
- 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 Headteacher will use the information collected to categorise the type of behaviour and determine any further action, in line with the school's Code of Conduct.

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 LADO at the Local Authority and is found to be substantiated;
- 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

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 monitor attendance carefully and address poor or irregular attendance without delay. We will always follow up with parents/carers when students are not at school. This means we need to have a least two up to date contacts numbers for parents/carers.

We will follow our procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with students 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 student 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 student'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 student 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 student 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. The definition of domestic abuse applies to children if they see or hear or experience the effects of the abuse; and they are related to the abusive person.

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 the 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.

The DSL will provide support according to the student'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 will be aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity (where appropriate and in accordance with local procedures).

Where a student has been harmed or is at risk of harm, the DSL will also make a referral to Children's Social Care.

Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a Local Authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

A close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.

Parents and private foster carers both have a legal duty to inform the relevant Local Authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is due to start; not to do so is a criminal offence.

Whilst most privately fostered children are appropriately supported and looked after, they are a potentially vulnerable group who should be monitored by the Local Authority, particularly when the child has come from another country. In some cases, privately fostered children are affected by abuse and neglect or be involved in trafficking, child sexual exploitation or modern-day slavery.

Schools have a mandatory duty to report to the Local Authority where they are aware or suspect that a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement. Although schools have a duty to inform the Local Authority, there is no duty for anyone, including the Private Foster Carer or Social Workers to inform the school. However, it should be clear to the school who has parental responsibility.

School staff should notify the DSL when they become aware of private fostering arrangements. The DSL will speak to the family of the student involved to check that they are aware of their duty to inform the LA. The school itself has a duty to inform the Local Authority of the private fostering arrangements.

On admission to the school, we will take steps to verify the relationship of the adults to the student who is being registered.

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 student 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 students 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 student is at risk of FGM.

Indicators that FGM has already occurred include:

- A child confiding in a professional that FGM has taken place.
- A mother/family member disclosing that FGM has been carried out.
- A family/child already being known to social services in relation to other safeguarding issues.
- A girl:
 - Having difficulty walking, sitting/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/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 child 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 the 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 student is being forced into marriage, they will speak to the student about their concerns in a secure and private place. They will then report this to the DSL.

The DSL will:

- Speak to the student about the concerns in a secure and private place.
- Activate the local safeguarding procedures and refer the case to the LADO.
- Seek advice from the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151 or fm@fco.gov.uk.
- Refer the student 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;
 - 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 students at risk.

We will assess the risk of students 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 students 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 alerted to changes in students' behaviour.

The government website [Educate Against Hate](#) and charity [NSPCC](#) say that signs that a child 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 student, 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).
- 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).
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers.
- 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 student 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 student 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 student 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.

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 at Reception and wear a visitor's badge.

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;
- 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.

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 students or staff.

Non-Collection of Students

If a student is not collected at the end of the session/day, we will contact the parent/carer and keep the student in school until collected or an alternative way home has been agreed.

Missing Students

Our procedures are designed to ensure that a missing student is found and returned to effective supervision as soon as possible. If a student goes missing, we will follow our missing student procedure.