



# Child Protection and Safeguarding

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## Policy #45: Child Protection and Safeguarding

Last review: September 2023

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HoD = Head of Department

HoY = Head of Year

SLT = Senior Leadership Team

SEN = Special Educational Needs

CPO = Child Protection Officer

EWO = Education Welfare Officer

DSL = Designated Safeguarding Lead

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## Important contacts

ROLE/ORGANISATION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Laura Sanford	<a href="mailto:laura.sanford@woodsidehighschool.co.uk">laura.sanford@woodsidehighschool.co.uk</a>
Child Protection Officer/Deputy DSL	Holly Peter	<a href="mailto:holly.peter@woodsidehighschool.co.uk">holly.peter@woodsidehighschool.co.uk</a>
Social Worker in School (SWIS)	Judith Johnson	<a href="mailto:judith.johnson@woodsidehighschool.co.uk">judith.johnson@woodsidehighschool.co.uk</a>
SEMH Lead	Tami St George Hedley	<a href="mailto:tami.st.george-hedley@woodsidehighschool.co.uk">tami.st.george-hedley@woodsidehighschool.co.uk</a>
Designated Teacher for LAC	Laura Sanford	<a href="mailto:laura.sanford@woodsidehighschool.co.uk">laura.sanford@woodsidehighschool.co.uk</a>
Education Welfare Officer	Parul Monnan	<a href="mailto:parul.monnan@woodsidehighschool.co.uk">parul.monnan@woodsidehighschool.co.uk</a>
Chair of Governors	Alice Crawley	<a href="mailto:acrawley@mulberryschoolstrust.org">acrawley@mulberryschoolstrust.org</a>
Link Governor for Safeguarding	Sue Higgins	<a href="mailto:sue.higgins@woodsidehighschool.co.uk">sue.higgins@woodsidehighschool.co.uk</a>
Local Authority/ National Contacts		
Director of Children Services for Haringey Council	Ann Graham	<a href="mailto:Ann.Graham@haringey.gov.uk">Ann.Graham@haringey.gov.uk</a>
Chief Operating Officer, Haringey & Islington CCG	Tony Hoolaghan	

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Detective Superintendent Enfield and Haringey	Caroline Haines	
Channel helpline		020 7340 7264
Local authority designated officer (LADO)	Finola Owens	LADO Manager Finola Owens LADO@haringey.gov.uk 02084892968/1186
Haringey Council's Children's Services  Please only use the out of hours number if you are calling outside of normal working hours. Your call will be logged and the operator will take brief details. An out of hours social worker will ring you back.		8th floor, River Park House, 225, High Road, London N22 8HQ <a href="https://haringeyscp.org.uk/">https://haringeyscp.org.uk/</a> 020 8489 3145
Making a MASH referral		During your phone call (above) if you are a professional working with children you may be asked to complete a MASH referral form within 24 hours. This should be emailed securely to  mashreferral@Haringey.gcsx.gov.uk
If you have any concerns about Mulberry Academy Woodside's Safeguarding Provision:		
NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0800 028 0285</li> <li>• help@nspcc.org.uk</li> </ul>	
Ofsted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call Ofsted's whistleblowing hotline on 0300 1233155 (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday)</li> </ul>	

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- Email [whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk)
- Write to: WBHL, Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD

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## 1. Introduction and Ethos

### The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect the safety, welfare and well-being of the students on roll at our school
- To set out the school's overarching principles, approaches and systems to child protection and safeguarding across all aspects of school life.
- To ensure staff are aware of their statutory safeguarding duties and responsibilities
- To ensure staff are well-equipped and confident to recognise and report child protection concerns
- To promote an open and listening culture where everyone can voice concerns in the knowledge they will be believed, helped and supported.

### Our core safeguarding principles are:

- **Promotion:** making sure students, parents, carers, staff and all adults that come into contact with children know the systems and the support in place to keep children safe and there is a culture of vigilance permeating across the school.
  - **Prevention:** positive, supportive, vigilant, open and safe culture. Well taught curriculum that includes relationships and online safety, pastoral opportunities for children and safer recruitment procedures.
  - **Protection:** following the agreed procedures, ensuring all staff are trained and supported to recognise and respond appropriately and sensitively to safeguarding concerns.
  - **Support:** for all students, parents and staff, and where appropriate specific interventions that are required for those who may be at risk of harm.
  - **Working with parents and other agencies:** to ensure timely, appropriate communications and actions are undertaken when safeguarding concerns arise.
- 
- Mulberry Academy Woodside recognises our statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and all those directly connected (staff, volunteers, governors, leaders, parents, families and learners) are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children and have an essential role to play in making this community safe and secure.
  - Staff and other adults working with children at Mulberry Academy Woodside are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.
  - Mulberry Academy Woodside believes that the best interests of children always come first. All children (defined as those up to the age of 18) have a right to be heard and to have their wishes and feelings taken into account and all children regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection.

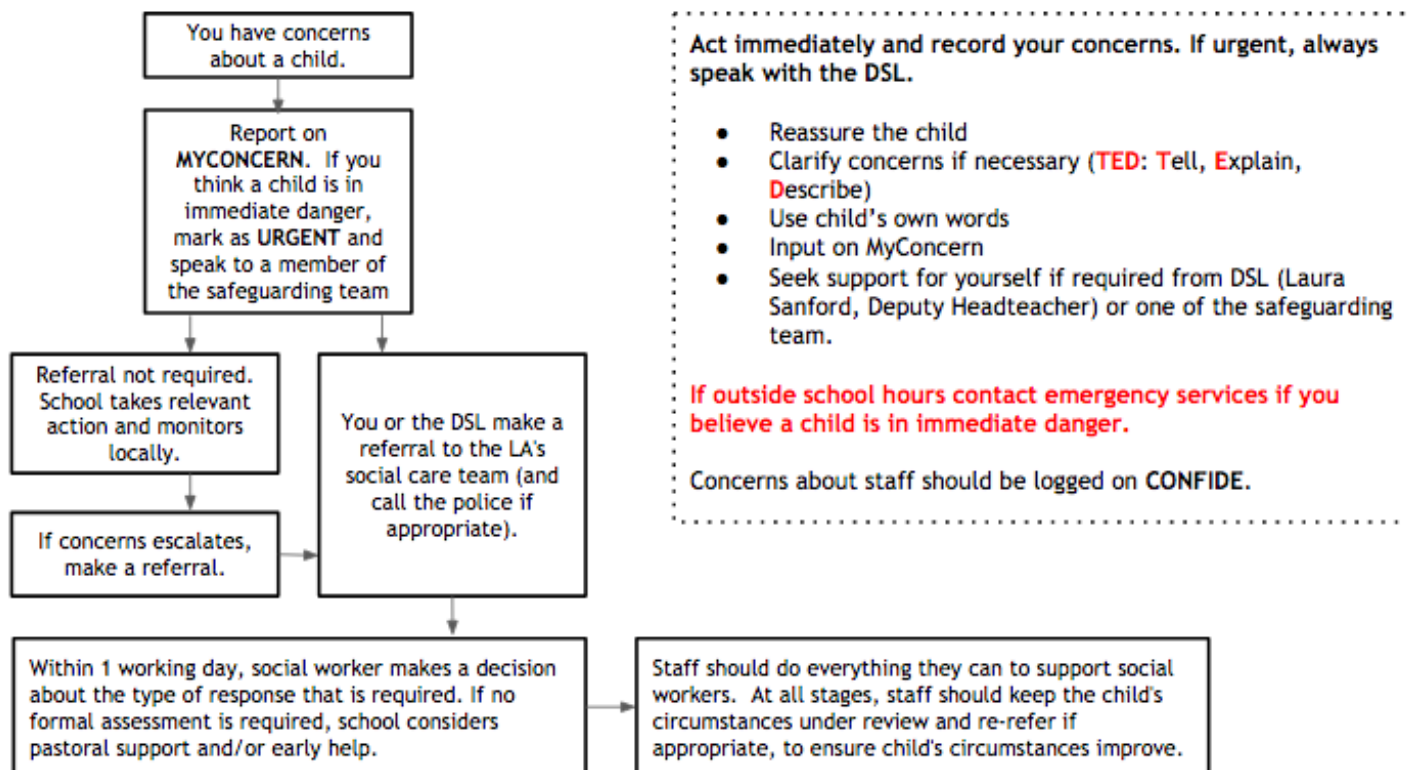


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- Mulberry Academy Woodside recognises the importance of safeguarding and the promotion of children’s welfare at all times. Safeguarding is embedded in all the school’s processes and procedures and at the heart of our school to provide an ethos and environment that will help children to be safe and feel safe. In our school children are respected and encouraged to talk openly. All our staff understand safe professional practice and adhere to our safeguarding policies.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside expects that if any member of our community has a safeguarding concern about any child or adult, they should act immediately. This includes out of hours when the DSL may not be available to speak to, in which case a direct referral should be made to the police or social services - see contact details at the start of this policy.
- This policy is implemented in accordance with our compliance with the statutory guidance from the Department for Education, ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ 2023 (KCSIE) which requires individual schools and colleges to have an effective child protection policy.
- The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff, including governors, temporary or third-party agency staff and volunteers and are consistent with those outlined within KCSIE 2023.

## 2. What to do if you have a safeguarding concern at Mulberry Academy Woodside

School Staff should follow the process below:



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**At all stages, the child's circumstances will be kept under review**

**The DSL/Staff will request further support if required to ensure the child's safety is paramount**

Parents, carers and students can report concerns by speaking to any member of staff or by emailing [myconcern@woodsidehighschool.co.uk](mailto:myconcern@woodsidehighschool.co.uk). This email goes directly to the safeguarding team.

**Act immediately and record your concerns. If urgent, always speak with a DSL.**

- Reassure the child
- Clarify concerns if necessary (**TED: Tell, Explain, Describe**)
- Use child's own words
- Input on MyConcern
- Seek support for yourself if required from DSL (Laura Sanford, Deputy Headteacher) or one of the deputies.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead**

- Consider whether the child is at immediate risk of harm e.g. unsafe to go home
- Refer to other agencies as appropriate e.g. Internal or community services, early help open access, LADO, Police or Request for Support for integrated children's services
- If unsure then consult with Area Education Safeguarding Advisor (Sharon Ackbersingh) or Local Authority Social Worker at the Haringey's Safeguarding Team.

**If you are unhappy with the response**

**Staff:**

- Follow local escalation procedures
- Follow Whistleblowing procedures

**Students, Parents and Carers:**

- Follow school complaints procedures

**At all stages, the child's circumstances will be kept under review**

**The DSL/Staff will request further support if required to ensure the child's safety is paramount**

### 3. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2023\)](#) and [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#) - last updated December 2021), and the [Governance Handbook](#). We comply with this guidance and the arrangements agreed and published by our 3 local safeguarding partners.

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

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- Ofsted: Education Inspection Framework' 2019 (revised June 2021)
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families 2000)
- Advice Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children in schools and colleges (July 2021)
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) statutory guidance (June 2019, last updated July 2022)
- Part 3 of the schedule to the [Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#), which places a duty on academies and independent schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of students at the school
- The Children Act 1989 (and [2004 amendment](#)), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children
- Section 5B(11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the [Serious Crime Act 2015](#), which places a statutory duty on teachers to report to the police where they discover that female genital mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18
- [Statutory guidance on FGM](#), which sets out responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM
- [The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974](#), which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children
- Schedule 4 of the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#), which defines what 'regulated activity' is in relation to children
- [Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty](#), which explains schools' duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism
- [Staffing and employment advice for schools: Departmental advice for school leaders, governing bodies, academy trusts and local authorities](#), 2018.

#### 4. Human Rights, Equalities and Public Sector Equality Duty

Woodside is aware of its obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA), Equality Act 2010 (including its Public Sector Equality Duty) and the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Haringey, Enfield and other local authorities that pupils may reside in.

We recognise that, under the HRA, it is unlawful for schools and colleges to act in a way that is incompatible with the Convention. The specific convention rights applying to schools and colleges are:

- Article 3: the right to freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment (an absolute right)
- Article 8: the right to respect for private and family life (a qualified right) includes a duty to protect individuals' physical and psychological integrity
- Article 14: requires that all of the rights and freedoms set out in the Act must be protected and applied without discrimination, and
- Protocol 1, Article 2: protects the right to education.

We recognise being subjected to harassment, violence and or abuse, including that of a sexual nature, may breach any or all of these rights, depending on the nature of the conduct and the circumstances.

We will adhere to the Equality Act, will not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, or sexual orientation (protected characteristics).

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We will pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation (and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act), to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not. The duty applies to all protected characteristics and means that whenever significant decisions are being made or policies developed, we will give specific consideration to the equality implications of these such as, for example, the need to eliminate unlawful behaviours that relate to them such as sexual violence and sexual harassment, misogyny/misandry and racism.

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

We give special consideration to children who:

- Have special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities (see section 9)
- Are young carers
- May experience discrimination due to their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identification or sexuality
- Have English as an additional language
- Are known to be living in difficult situations - for example, temporary accommodation or where there are issues such as substance abuse or domestic violence
- Are at risk of FGM, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, or radicalisation
- Are asylum seekers
- Are at risk due to either their own or a family member's mental health needs
- Are looked after or previously looked after (see section 11)

## 5. Definitions of Safeguarding

**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.

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:

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- Ann Graham - Director of Children Services for Haringey Council
- Tony Hoolaghan - Chief Operating Officer, Haringey & Islington
- Caroline Haines - Detective Superintendent Enfield and Haringey

## 6. Related Safeguarding Policies

This policy is one of an integrated suite of policies, reflecting the whole school approach to safeguarding. It should be read and actioned in conjunction with the policies as listed below:

- Anti-Bullying
- Attendance
- Behaviour for Learning
- Complaints
- Equality Duty
- Health and safety
- [IT Acceptable Use Policy](#)
- Online safety
- Privacy notices
- Sex and Relationship Education
- SEND Report
- Self Harm
- Staff Code of Conduct
- [Whistle Blowing](#)

## 7. Informing staff and others of safeguarding policy

- All staff (including temporary staff and volunteers) will be provided with a copy of this policy. They will be asked to say they have read and understood its contents, are familiar with the school systems and will adhere to them. This will be sent in an inset day policy follow up email to all staff and can also be found on the staff drive.
- Visitors to the school site will be given a leaflet detailing our safeguarding arrangements, which also covers fire safety, first aid and health & safety. Visitors will be asked to sign to say they have read, understood and will adhere to these arrangements.
- Parents and carers can obtain a copy of the school Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy from the school website together with other related policies. Additionally, these and other policies are available from the school office on request.
- Students will be made aware of the school's systems in age-appropriate ways through displays around the school site, verbally and via the school website. The DSL will ensure students have understood and are aware that they can raise concerns at any time, they will be listened to, taken seriously and their wishes respected (where possible), given the necessary support and kept informed of actions being taken. They will be reminded that they can speak to all staff or email [myconcern@woodsidehighschool.co.uk](mailto:myconcern@woodsidehighschool.co.uk)

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## 8. 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.

### 8.1 The Governing Body

- The Governing Body takes responsibility for strategic leadership that is a 'whole school approach' for the school's safeguarding arrangements and that these will comply with their duties under legislation and have full regard to KCSIE 2023. This includes ensuring the school's policies, procedures and training are effective and comply with the law at all times.
- The Governing body will ensure the school's systems enable pupils to report what is happening to them.
- The Governing body will ensure the appointed DSL is a senior member of staff. The role of the DSL (and deputies) set out in KCSIE Annex C will be made explicit in the postholder's job description.
- The school has a nominated governor for safeguarding. The nominated governor(s) will support the Designated Safeguarding Lead and have oversight in ensuring that the school has an effective policy which interlinks with other related policies; that locally agreed procedures are in place and being followed; and that the policies are reviewed at least annually and when required. The school's nominated governor is Sue Higgins.
- All governors will undertake safeguarding training and additional training on specific issues, such as online safety and Prevent. This will be part of an ongoing and regular programme of training to build knowledge and understanding of safeguarding across all members of the Governing Body.
- The governing body will take an active role in monitoring safeguarding arrangements and providing support to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with Part 2 KCSIE 2023. This will include visits to school, regular contact with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other staff working to protect children and reviewing information provided to them concerning pupils' welfare and safety, including for online safety. Governors will also seek the views of pupils and parents/carers as part of their monitoring arrangements to check on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.
- The governing body and leadership team recognizes the significant level of responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead role. They will ensure the post holders (and any deputies) are given the additional time, funding, training, resources and support needed to carry out the role effectively. They will also ensure there is adequate cover if the Designated Safeguarding Lead is absent.
- 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 4).

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

### 8.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher will ensure that the suite of policies and procedures relating to safeguarding and child protection adopted by the school's Governing Body are understood and followed by all staff.

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

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- Ensuring that the DSL and deputies have 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 update this 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)

### 8.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL is a member of the senior leadership team. Our DSL is Laura Sanford, Deputy Head Teacher. The DSL takes lead responsibility for child protection and wider safeguarding.

The DSLs have overall responsibility for the day-to-day oversight of safeguarding and child protection systems in school. Whilst the activities of the DSLs may be delegated to the deputy, the ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSLs and this responsibility will not be delegated. This is in line with the full job description set out in KCSIE Annex C

During term time, the DSL will be available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Please contact reception to locate the DSL. The DSL liaises with the headteacher to inform them of issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations. This includes the requirement for children to have an Appropriate Adult.

When the DSL is absent, the deputy Holly Peter, the Child Protection Officer, will act as cover (for example, during out-of-hours/out-of-term activities).

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

- Provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters
- Take part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings and/or support other staff to do so
- Contribute to the assessment of children
- Refer suspected cases, as appropriate, to the relevant body (local authority children's social care, Channel programme, Disclosure and Barring Service, and/or police), and support staff who make such referrals directly

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

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

### 8.4 All Staff

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

All members of staff have a responsibility to:

- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn.
- Be aware it can happen here and safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Build trusted relationships with children and young people that facilitates communication.
- Actively promote welfare and safeguarding, including online safety, of students.
- Know what to do if a child tells them that he or she is being abused or neglected and understand the impact abuse and neglect can have upon a child.

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- Understand the difficulties that children may have in approaching staff about their circumstances and consider how to build trusted relationships which facilitate communication.
- Be aware of indicators of abuse and neglect and understand that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of the school, inside and outside of home and online.
- To exercise professional curiosity and knowing what to look for is vital for the early identification of abuse and neglect to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection.
- Reassure a child that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe; never give the child the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting any form of abuse and/or neglect; and never make a child feel ashamed for making a report.
- Be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or being threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. This should not prevent staff from having a professional curiosity and speaking to the DSL if they have concerns about a child.
- Understand the early help process and their role in it.
- Understand the school's safeguarding policies and systems.
- Undertake regular and appropriate training which is regularly updated.
- Be aware of the process of making referrals to children's social care and statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989.
- Be able to identify and act upon indicators that children are, or at risk of developing mental health issues.
- Know how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality and the importance of recording and information sharing.
- Understand the wider definitions of child-on-child abuse and be aware of specific issues such as cyberbullying, sexual violence, sexual harassment and exploitation as set out in KCSIE Part 1 and Annex B.
- Be aware of the indicators of abuse and neglect so that they can identify cases of children who may need help or protection
- Be aware of the school's child-on-child abuse policy, anti-bullying strategy and the role they play in preventing and responding to child-on-child abuse.

## 8.5 Children and Young People

Children and young people have a right to:

- Feel safe, be listened to, know their concerns will be taken seriously, and have their wishes and feelings taken into account.
- Contribute to the development of school safeguarding policies.
- Receive help from a trusted adult.
- Learn how to keep themselves safe, including online.



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## 8.6 Parents and Carers

Parents and carers have a responsibility to:

- Understand and adhere to the relevant school policies and procedures.
- Talk to their children about safeguarding issues and support the school in their safeguarding approaches.
- Identify behaviours which could indicate that their child is at risk of harm including online and seek help and support from the school or other agencies. Attend workshops where appropriate.
- Speak to school staff if they have any concerns about the welfare, well-being and safety of their children.

## 9. 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)”.

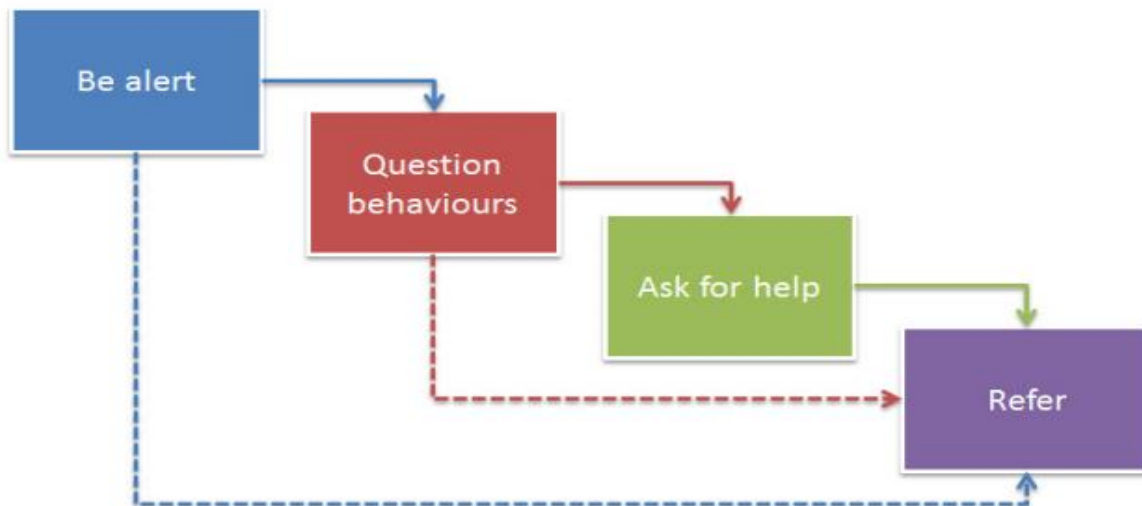
- All staff understand that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of the school, inside and outside of home and online.
- Harm can also include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside recognises that when assessing whether a child may be suffering actual or potential harm there are four categories of abuse:
  - Physical abuse
  - Sexual abuse
  - Emotional abuse
  - Neglect

The school recognises that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events and cannot be covered by one definition or one label alone. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

For further information see Appendix 1 of this policy

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- All members of staff are expected to be aware of and follow this approach if they are concerned about a child (taken from 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused' DfE 2015)



- All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and/or alcohol misuse, deliberately missing education, serious violence (including that linked to county lines), radicalisation and consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos can be signs that children are at risk. A wider range of specific issues includes (but not limited to):
  - Child abduction and community safety incidents
  - Children with family members in prison
  - Children Missing Education (CME)
  - Child missing from home or care
  - Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
  - Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
  - County Lines
  - Cybercrime
  - Domestic abuse
  - Faith based abuse
  - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
  - Forced marriage
  - Gangs and youth violence
  - Gender based abuse and violence against women and girls
  - Homelessness
  - Honour based abuse (so called)
  - Mental health
  - Modern slavery & the National Referral Mechanism
  - Online safety
  - Child on child abuse (including cyberbullying, racial, prejudicial and discriminatory bullying)
  - Preventing radicalisation and extremism
  - Relationship abuse
  - Serious Violence
  - Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
  - Upskirting
  - Youth produced sexual imagery, nudes/semi-nudes ("Sexting")

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Additional information on these specific issues is given in the sections below and also set out in KCSIE Part 1 and Annex B

- Members of staff are aware that concerns may arise in many different contexts and can vary greatly in terms of their nature and seriousness. The indicators of child abuse and neglect can vary from child to child. Children develop and mature at different rates, so what appears to be worrying behaviour for a younger child might be normal for an older child.
- All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual abuse (including harassment and exploitation), domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse), criminal exploitation, serious youth violence, county lines, and radicalisation.
- All staff should be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Children are at risk of abuse and other risks online as well as face to face. In many cases abuse and other risks will take place concurrently both online and offline. Children can also abuse other children online, this can take the form of abusive, harassing, and misogynistic/misandrist messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who do not want to receive such content.
- It is important to recognise that indicators of abuse and neglect do not automatically mean a child is being abused; however all concerns should be taken seriously and explored by the DSL on a case by case basis.
- Parental behaviours' may also indicate child abuse or neglect, so staff should also be alert to parent-child interactions or concerning parental behaviours; this could include parents who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol or if there is a sudden change in their mental health.
- Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside school and/or can occur between children offsite. Children can be at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.
- By understanding the indicators of abuse and neglect, we can respond to problems as early as possible and provide the right support and services for the child and their family.
- **In all cases, if staff are unsure, they should always speak to one of the designated safeguarding leads or deputy.**

## Taking Action

Woodside adheres to the Haringey Safeguarding Children multi-agency partnership procedures (Haringey LA). The full Haringey LA procedures and additional guidance relating to specific safeguarding issues can be found on their website: <https://haringeyscp.org.uk/>

Staff (volunteers, governors, contractors, agency and supply staff and visitors) must follow the school procedures set out in this and the following sections should they identify or have a worry about a child protection issue. The actions staff and other adults should take if there are any safeguarding concerns about a student are listed below. This will be covered in staff training, including new staff induction. Visitors will be provided with an information sheet on arrival, summarising the school systems and how they should pass on any child protection concerns. If anyone is unsure about reporting concerns, they must speak to the DSL and they can also refer to the DfE publication 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' (March 2015).

All staff are made aware of the process for making requests for support referrals for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments.

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We recognise that some children have additional or complex needs and may require access to intensive or specialist services to support them.

## 9.1 Action if a child is in immediate danger or suffering harm or likely to suffer harm (Figure 1, page 6)

- As soon as a member of staff or an adult working in the school becomes aware that a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm, or in immediate danger they must let the DSL know immediately. The member of staff must make a record of what the child (ideally contemporaneously) is telling them/has told them on **MyConcern** as soon as possible and mark it as **URGENT**.
- The DSL, along with the relevant Deputy DSLs will review the case and decide on the next steps. If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, a request for support should be made immediately to Integrated Children's Services (Haringey's Safeguarding Team) and/or the police in line with Haringey LA procedures.
- If the DSL or deputy DSL is not available, for example out of school hours, then any staff member or other adult can make a referral. The contact numbers for the MASH team are listed on Page 4 of this policy. During this call you should seek the advice about notifying parents, remembering that in some situations this could be unsafe or cause the child more harm. During your phone call if you are a professional working with children you may be asked to complete a **MASH referral form** within 24 hours. This should be emailed securely to [mashreferral@Haringey.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:mashreferral@Haringey.gcsx.gov.uk).
- Any member of staff/adult making a direct referral to the MASH team must inform the DSL as soon as possible, verbally and provide a written record of the concerns and actions taken on MyConcern.

## 9.2 Action if a concern about a child is not in immediate danger or risk

- Staff must be vigilant at all times. In doing this staff may well notice safeguarding concerns that do not place a child at immediate risk of harm. Staff must be mindful that no concern is too small not to share and that they are vital in helping the DSL to build a picture of the child's well-being, welfare, mental health and safety and take the necessary action. Examples of concerns could be a child looking unkempt, saying or making a comment that arouses your suspicions or a change in character/behaviour.
- Staff must follow school procedures (figure 1, page 6) and record the concern on MyConcern. The DSL will ensure that there is continuous monitoring of the MyConcern throughout the day so no concerns are missed and any necessary actions are taken. The member of staff should not hesitate in also discussing their concern with the DSL or deputy DSL. The DSL will review this information, with any other safeguarding concerns they have on record, and take any necessary actions.

## Early help

The school safeguarding team will work with social care, the police, health services and other services to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Staff are trained to be alert to the potential for early help, identify children that may benefit from early help and raise their concerns with the DSL.

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.

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Early help can be requested by completing a MASH referral form which will be sent and logged by the safeguarding team.

## 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.

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

The LSCB escalation policy will be followed in cases where the DSL believes the child to need more support than is being offered:

<https://haringeyscp.org.uk/p/guidance-and-legislation/escalation-and-resolution-policy>

## 9.3 If a child makes a disclosure to you

Staff should follow this approach:

- Listen to what the child has to say. Allow them time to talk freely and do not ask leading questions. Reassure the child that they are doing the right thing in telling you. Let them know they are being taken seriously and that nothing they say is or will cause a problem. Do not tell them they should have told you sooner.
- Stay calm and do not show that you are shocked or upset. Do not in any circumstance promise to keep what they have told you a secret. Explain you will have to pass this information on and what will happen next.
- If possible, make a handwritten record as the child speaks. If this is not possible, make a handwritten record as soon as possible afterwards. This must be transferred on to MyConcern
- Speak to a DSL or deputy DSL immediately if the child is in **immediate risk** or **has been harmed** as noted above.
- Under no circumstances should the staff member undertake any investigation into the concern.
- Any allegations about staff must be reported directly to the headteacher, or in their absence, a deputy headteacher, unless the allegation is against the headteacher in which case the chair of governors should be informed.

## 10. Notifying parents and carers

Parents/carers will be informed of child protection concerns unless there is a valid reason not to do so, for example, if to do so would put a child at risk of harm or would undermine a criminal investigation. Such discussions will be undertaken by one of the DSL or deputy DSL, although this may be delegated to another member of staff who is part of the safeguarding team, and maybe already working in with the family. The DSL will normally do this in the event of a suspicion or disclosure.

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

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The DSL will liaise with Haringey safeguarding team, before making a decision not to inform parents/carers of a child protection concern.

In the event of a request for support to the Haringey's Safeguarding Team being necessary, parents/carers will be informed and consent to this will be sought by the DSL in line with guidance provided by Haringey LA.

Parents/carers will normally be notified in the case of allegations of abuse made against other pupils, unless it is unsafe to do so. The same applies to the person(s) the allegation is made against if they are a child.

## 11. Confidentiality

We recognise that all matters relating to Child Protection are confidential.

Child protection information will be stored and handled in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 which is the UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children. The school may legitimately share information without consent where: it is not possible to gain consent; it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent; and, if to gain consent would place a child at risk. Child protection records are normally exempt from the disclosure provisions of the data protection act, which means that children and parents/carers do not have an automatic right to see them. If any member of staff receives a request from a student or parents/carers to see child protection records, they will refer the request to the designated safeguarding lead, deputy designated safeguarding lead, child protection officer or headteacher.

The school will:

- Ensure confidentiality protocols are adhered to and information is shared appropriately. If in any doubt about confidentiality, staff will seek advice from the designated child protection leads or children's social care as required.
- Ensure that the headteacher or designated child protection leads will only disclose any information about a student to other members of staff on a 'need to know' basis, including domestic violence notifications.
- Make all staff aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information using school procedures (where appropriate with other agencies) in order to safeguard children.
- Ensure staff are clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets. Ensure that statutory guidance on recording allegations against adults are followed - (see Appendix 4 - Allegations of abuse against staff)
- Share the government's [information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#) . This includes 7 'golden rules' for sharing information, and will support staff who have to make decisions about sharing information
- Make all staff aware that if they are in any doubt about sharing information, they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputies)
- Ensure confidentiality is also addressed in this policy with respect to record-keeping in section 14, and allegations of abuse against staff in appendix 3

## 12. Record-keeping

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

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All safeguarding concerns, discussions, decisions made and the reasons for those decisions, must be recorded using our online referral system MyConcern. If you are in any doubt about whether to record something, do it anyway.

Non-confidential records will be easily 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 children will be retained for a reasonable period of time after they have left the school. Records are archived and kept in storage and an electronic copy is kept of all safeguarding files, available through MyConcern.

If a child for whom the school has, or has had, safeguarding concerns moves to another school, the DSL will ensure that their child protection file is forwarded promptly and securely, and separately from the main 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 child.

In addition:

- Appendix 3 sets out our policy on record-keeping specifically with respect to recruitment and pre-employment checks
- Appendix 4 sets out our policy on record-keeping with respect to allegations of abuse made against staff

### 13. Multi-Agency Working

- Mulberry Academy Woodside recognises and is committed to its responsibility to work within the Haringey LA multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The leadership team, DSLs and DDSL will work to establish strong and co-operative local relationships with professionals in the safeguarding partnership and other agencies and sources of support in line with statutory guidance.
- The school recognises the importance of multi-agency and partnership working and is committed to working alongside all agencies to provide a coordinated response to promote children's welfare and protect them from harm. This includes contributing to Haringey LA processes as required. Such as, participation in relevant safeguarding multi-agency plans and meetings, including Child Protection Conferences, Core Groups, Strategy Meetings, Child in Need meetings or other early help multi-agency meetings.

### 14. Staff Induction, Awareness and Training

- All members of staff have been provided with a copy of part one of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2023) which covers safeguarding information for all staff.
  - School leaders, including the DSLs will read the entire document.
  - School leaders and all members of staff who work directly with children will also be expected to read Annex B within KCSIE 2023.  
All members of staff have signed to confirm that they have read and understood KCSIE Part One (or Annex A) and Annex B
- All staff are expected to be aware of systems within their school which support safeguarding. This will be explained to them as part of staff induction and updated on a regular basis to ensure they are fully aware of current practice. This includes:
  - safeguarding and child protection policy, which should amongst other things also include the policy and procedures to deal with child on child abuse;

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- behaviour policy (which should include measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
  - safeguarding response to children who go missing from education
  - staff code of conduct, which includes low-level concerns, allegations against staff and whistle-blowing.
  - role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies).
  - The school aims to keep the profile and importance of safeguarding high. All staff members (including agency and third-party staff) will receive appropriate child protection training to ensure they are aware of a range of safeguarding issues. Basic child protection training will take place annually including online safety training.
- In addition, a range of other specific safeguarding issues have been prioritised by leaders as most pertinent to the school. This includes training in Prevent, mental health, child on child abuse, online safety, domestic violence, self harm, anxiety, gang and youth violence. All staff will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates via staff bulletins, assemblies, staff meetings and pastoral meetings, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.
  - The DSL will ensure that all new staff and volunteers (including agency and third-party staff) receive child protection training including in online safety, behaviour management and the staff code of conduct to ensure they are aware of the school internal safeguarding processes as part of their induction.
  - All staff members (including volunteers, agency and third-party staff) will be made aware of the school expectations regarding safe and professional practice via the staff code of conduct.
  - Staff will be encouraged to contribute to and shape school safeguarding arrangements and child protection policies: this will be achieved via input from knowledgeable and experienced staff, inviting input at staff meetings, input from lessons learned activities.
  - The DSL and Headteacher will provide regular reports to the governing body detailing safeguarding training undertaken by all staff and will maintain an up to date register of who has been trained.
  - Although the school has a nominated lead(s) for the governing body (Sue Higgins), all members of the governing body will access appropriate safeguarding training which covers their specific strategic responsibilities on a regular basis.

## 15. Safer Working Practice

- All members of staff are required to work within our clear guidelines on safer working practice as outlined in the code of conduct.
- Staff will be made aware of the school behaviour management and use of reasonable force policies, and any use of reasonable force must be in line with agreed policy and procedures and national guidance. Any use of reasonable force must be followed up by completion of a use of reasonable force form and passed to the Headteacher.
- All staff will be made aware of the professional risks associated with the use of social media and electronic communication (such as email, mobile phones, texting, social networking). Staff will adhere to relevant school policies including staff code of conduct.



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## 16. Staff Supervision and Support

- Any member of staff affected by issues arising from concerns for children's welfare or safety can seek support from the DSL or the school counsellor.
- The induction process will include familiarisation with child protection responsibilities and procedures to be followed if members of staff have any concerns about a child's safety or welfare.
- The school will provide appropriate supervision and support for all members of staff to ensure that:
  - All staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
  - All staff are supported by the DSL in their safeguarding role.
  - All members of staff have regular reviews of their own practice to ensure they improve over time.
- The DSL will also put staff in touch with outside agencies for professional support if they so wish. Staff can also approach organisations such as their Union, the Education Support Partnership or other similar organisations directly.

## 17. Online safety filtering and monitoring systems

- It is recognised by Mulberry Academy Woodside that the use of technology presents challenges and risks to children and adults both inside and outside of school. As a school we will empower, protect and educate the community in their use of technology and establish mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any incident where appropriate. The school sees technology and its use permeating all aspects of school. Our integrated approach to online safety is set out in detail in:
  - The online safety policy
  - Mobile phone and social media policy
  - Use of images policy
  - Remote learning policy and
  - Threaded through other policies, including policies for the curriculum, subject teaching, behaviour, child on child abuse and RSHE.
  - Role and responsibilities of the DSL
  - Parental engagement policy
- The school identifies that the breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk as set out in KCSIE:
  - **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example, pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views;
  - **contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example, commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults; and
  - **conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.
  - **commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams. If you feel your pupils, students or staff are at risk, please report it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group.

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- The DSL has overall responsibility for online safeguarding within the school but will liaise as necessary with other members of staff. All school devices are monitored 24/7, 365 days a year by Impero and Smoothwall. Smoothwall is fully integrated into MyConcern to alert the safeguarding team of any concerns.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside uses a wide range of technology. This includes computers, laptops, tablets and other digital devices, the internet and email systems. All School owned devices and systems will be used in accordance with our acceptable use policies and with appropriate safety and security measures in place.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside recognises the specific risks that can be posed by mobile technology, including mobile phones and cameras. In accordance with KCSIE 2023 the school has appropriate policies in place that are shared and understood by all members of the community.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside will do all we reasonably can to limit children's exposure to online risks through our school IT systems and will ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside acknowledges that whilst filtering and monitoring is an important part of school online safety responsibilities, it is only one part of our approach to online safety.
  - Students will use appropriate search tools, apps and online resources as identified following an informed risk assessment.
  - Students' internet use will be supervised by staff according to their age and ability.
  - Students will be directed to use age appropriate online resources and tools by staff.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside will ensure a comprehensive whole school curriculum response is in place to enable all students to learn about and manage online risks effectively as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside will build a partnership approach to online safety and will support parents/carers to become aware and alert by:
  - Providing information on our school website and through existing communication channels such as social media and newsletters
  - Offering specific online safety events for parents and carers
  - Highlighting online safety at parent and carers events.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside will ensure that online safety training for all staff is integrated, aligned and considered as part of our overarching safeguarding approach.
- The DSL will respond to online safety concerns in line with the child protection and other associated policies such as Behaviour for Learning.
  - Internal sanctions and/or support will be implemented as appropriate.
  - Where necessary, concerns will be escalated and reported to relevant partner agencies in line with local policies and procedures.

## 18. Remote Learning

- Mulberry Academy Woodside will ensure any remote sharing of information, communication and use of online learning tools and systems will be in line with privacy and data protection requirements.
- All communication with students and parents/carers will take place using school provided or approved communication channels; for example, school provided email accounts and phone numbers and/or agreed systems e.g. Google Classroom. Any pre-existing relationships or situations which mean this cannot be complied with will be discussed with the DSL.

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- Staff and students will engage with remote teaching and learning in line with existing behaviour principles as set out in our school staff code of conduct. When delivering remote learning, staff will follow our policy and guidance for remote learning.
- Staff and students will be encouraged to report issues experienced at home and concerns will be responded to in line with our child protection and other relevant policies; this can be done via MyConcern and for students, parents and carers [myconcern@woodsidehighschool.co.uk](mailto:myconcern@woodsidehighschool.co.uk)
- Parents/carers will be made aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access. Parents /carers will be informed who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online and who they contact in case they need help and/or support. (eg tutor, teaching assistant, SENDCo).
- Parents/carers will be encouraged to ensure children are appropriately supervised online and that appropriate parental controls are implemented at home.

## 19. Safeguarding Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

- Mulberry Academy Woodside acknowledges that children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or certain medical or physical health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges both online and offline. These children may have an impaired capacity to resist or avoid abuse both offline and online and face additional barriers in recognising abuse and neglect. These can include:
  - assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's condition without further exploration
  - these children being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children
  - the potential for children with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs, and
  - communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges.
  - cognitive understanding - being unable to understand the difference between fact and fiction in online content and then repeating the content/behaviours in schools or colleges or the consequences of doing so.
- Members of staff are encouraged to be aware that children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by safeguarding concerns, such as bullying and exploitation.
- Children with communication difficulties will be supported to ensure that their voice is heard and acted upon.
- All members of staff will be encouraged to appropriately explore possible indicators of abuse such as behaviour/mood change or injuries and not to assume that they are related to the child's disability and be aware that children with SEN and disabilities may not always outwardly display indicators of abuse. To address these additional challenges, our school will always consider extra pastoral support for children with SEN and disabilities. Details of support and provision can be found in the school's SEND policy and annual report.
- The DSL (or deputy) will work closely with the SENDCo, Ada Gokay to share information and plan support and monitor as required.
- We offer extra pastoral support for students with SEN and disabilities, for example:
  - Mentoring
  - Small group intervention in the wellbeing room

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- One to one support in the classroom

## 20. Mental health and children requiring mental health support

- All staff will be made 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. Staff are made aware of how children's experiences can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education. Staff will be given regular training in mental health issues and how to recognise when a child's mental health may be at risk.
- The school has appointed a lead for mental health, Tami Pamela St. George Hedley, who has been/is being trained to have the knowledge and skills to promote and lead on wellbeing and mental health across the school.
- Staff are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. Staff are expected to be vigilant at all times and if they have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken by speaking to the DSL or a deputy and reporting it on MyConcern.
- The school is proactive in promoting the mental health and well-being of pupils. This includes raising awareness during tutorials, assemblies and RSHE lessons.
- The school has in place a range of ways to support children's mental health both within and beyond the school. To support children's mental health the school has training for staff, mental health first aiders, mental health and wellbeing lead, wellbeing room and Open Door school counsellors.
- The school also makes use of a range of resources produced by Public Health England to promote positive health, wellbeing and resilience among children. This includes its guidance Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing.

## 21. 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

## 22. Looked-after and previously looked-after children

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

- Appropriate staff have relevant information about children's looked after legal status, contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility, and care arrangements
- The DSL has details of children's social workers and relevant virtual school heads

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

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

As part of their role, the designated teacher will:

- Work closely with the DSL to ensure that any safeguarding concerns regarding looked-after and previously looked-after children are quickly and effectively responded to
- Work with virtual school heads to promote the educational achievement of looked-after and previously looked-after children, including discussing how student pupil premium funding can be best used to ensure each child's wellbeing and progress. This includes (from June 2021) a non-statutory responsibility for the strategic oversight of the educational attendance, attainment, and progress of children with a social worker

### 23. Children that go missing from education (CME)

- Persistent absence or children that go missing from education can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding issues. This might include abuse or neglect, such as sexual abuse or exploitation or student criminal exploitation, or issues such as mental health problems, substance abuse, radicalisation, FGM or forced marriage.
- The school has in place robust systems for recording and monitoring daily attendance and punctuality of pupils. This includes 'first day' calls, follow up calls, letters home and home visits.
- The school recognises the importance of keeping in touch with parents and carers to promote and ensure the welfare, well-being and safety of pupils. The school will hold more than one emergency number for each child to ensure that a parent/carer can be contacted urgently or for the DSL to check on the well-being of a pupil.
- The school is aware of its duty to report any missing children to the local authority. Full details of these systems for monitoring and supporting children with poor attendance and how the school follows statutory advice in removing pupils from the school roll can be found in the school's attendance policy.

### 24. Child-on-Child Abuse

- All members of staff at Mulberry Academy Woodside recognise that children can abuse their peers. This can happen both in and out of school and online. We believe that no form of abuse can be tolerated. All victims will be taken seriously, offered reassurance and appropriate support, regardless of when and/or where the abuse has taken place and assured that they are not creating a problem. Staff must be mindful that their response could impact on another child coming forward in future.
- All staff should understand the following aspects of child on child abuse and be clear about the school's approach:
  - that even if there are no reports in their schools it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported. As such it is important if staff have **any** concerns regarding child on child abuse they should speak to their designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) and report on MyConcern.
  - the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviour between peers, many of which are listed below, that are actually abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing

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sexual harassment as “just banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys” can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

- that some child on child abuse issues may be affected by gender, age, ability and culture of those involved.
- that children may not find it easy to tell staff and a reminder that children can show signs in ways they hope adults will notice and react.
- In line with KCSIE 2023 the school recognises that child on child abuse is likely to include, but may not be limited to:
  - sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names
  - sexual “jokes” or taunting
  - physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone’s clothes. Schools and colleges should be considering when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence - it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim.
  - displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature
  - upskirting (this is a criminal offence), and
  - online sexual harassment. This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. It may include:
    - consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos. Taking and sharing nude photographs of those aged under 18 is a criminal offence. UKCIS Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people provides detailed advice for schools and colleges
      - sharing of unwanted explicit content
      - sexualised online bullying
      - unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media
      - sexual exploitation; coercion and threats, and
      - coercing others into sharing images of themselves or performing acts they’re not comfortable with online.
- Paragraph 35 fully details the types and forms of child-on-child abuse can take that staff should be aware of and can be found in Appendix of this policy.
- When responding to concerns relating to child on child sexual violence or harassment, school will follow guidance outlined in KCSIE 2023 [Part 5](#).
- The school recognises consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery) as a safeguarding issue; all concerns must be reported to and dealt with by the DSL (or deputy). The school will follow DfE Searching Screening and Confiscation Advice and UKCIS Education Group Sharing nudes and semi-nudes advice for education settings.
- If staff are made aware of an incident involving youth produced sexual imagery, staff must report it to the DSL immediately and report on MyConcern. Any imagery involving a child is a concern and must be reported.

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#### Staff must not:

- View, download or share the imagery, or ask a student to share or download it. If it has already viewed the imagery by accident, it must reported 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

Staff should explain that you need to report the incident, and reassure the student(s) that they will receive support and help from the DSL. Further guidance is in the Appendix.

The school has in place a detailed policy and procedures in place for responding to and dealing with incidents of child on child abuse set out in the appendix of this policy. This includes the school's response to any report of child on child abuse, including:

- providing pastoral support, mentors, trusted adults and/or counselling
- working with parents/carers,
- carrying out rigorous risk assessments which are regularly reviewed
- working with outside agencies to educate and inform
- in cases of sexual assault, informing the police and/or Haringey's Safeguarding Team.

## 25. Students who are lesbian, gay, bi, or trans (LGBT)

- A child or a young person within the school may be LGBT. We acknowledge that this in itself is not an inherent risk factor for harm. However, we recognise that children who are LGBT can be targeted by other children. In some cases, a child who is perceived by other children to be LGBT (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as children who identify as LGBT.
- Risks can be compounded where children who are LGBT lack a trusted adult with whom they can be open. It is therefore vital that staff endeavour to reduce the additional barriers faced, and provide a safe space for them to speak out or share their concerns with members of staff.
- LGBT inclusion is part of the school's Relationships Education, Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education curriculum and further advice and guidance for staff can be found in the appendix 5.

## 26. Gangs, County Lines, Serious violence, Crime and Exploitation

Mulberry Academy Woodside recognises the impact of gangs, county lines, serious violence, crime and sexual exploitation. It is recognised that the initial response to child victims is important and that staff will take any allegation seriously and work in ways that support children and keep them safe.

All staff have been trained and recognise the need to be vigilant for the signs that may include, but not exclusively (see further information in Appendix 2):

- unexplained gifts/new possessions - these can indicate children have been approached by/involved with individuals associated with criminal networks/gangs.

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- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late
- children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education
- change in friendships/relationships with others/groups
- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being
- significant decline in performance
- signs of self-harm/significant change in wellbeing
- signs of assault/unexplained injuries.

## 27. Female Genital Mutilation

The Department for Education's 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 2.

**Any teacher** who discovers (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a **student under 18** must immediately report this to the police, personally. This is a statutory duty, and teachers will face disciplinary sanctions for failing to meet it.

Unless they have been specifically told not to disclose by the police, 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 must speak to the DSL, make a referral on MyConcern and follow our local safeguarding procedures (see figure 1)

## 28. Preventing Radicalisation

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Schools have a duty to prevent pupils from being drawn into terrorism. Appendix sets more details for staff on preventing radicalisation.

- The DSL will undertake Prevent awareness training and make sure that staff are appropriately trained to equip them to identify and protect any pupils at risk of radicalisation.
- The DSL (and any deputies) are aware of local procedures for making a Prevent and Channel referral which is seen as part of the school's wider safeguarding obligations.
- The DSL will ensure a detailed Prevent risk assessment is undertaken and reviewed at least annually. This includes the risks posed by pupils' access to the internet and social media and the school's mitigating actions, such as monitoring and filtering internet use.



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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](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gov.uk). Note that this is not for use in emergency situations.

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

- Think someone is in immediate danger
- Think someone may be planning to travel to join an extremist group
- See or hear something that may be terrorist-related

## 29. Use of reasonable force

- The school has in place a policy for the use of reasonable force which enables and supports staff to make appropriate physical contact and use reasonable force to safeguard children. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'..
- The policy follows DfE guidance in the set of reasonable force, and includes the school's:
  - response to risks presented by incidents involving children with additional vulnerability - SEND, mental health or with medical conditions,
  - duties under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to making reasonable adjustments, non-discrimination and their Public Sector Equality Duty
  - positive and proactive behaviour support to reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviour and the need to use reasonable force.

## 30. Curriculum and Staying Safe - Opportunities to Teach Safeguarding

- We recognise that schools play an essential role in helping children to understand and identify the parameters of what is appropriate child and adult behaviour; what is 'safe'; to recognise when they and others close to them are not safe; and how to seek advice and support when they are concerned. This is a crucial part of preventative education.
- We have put in place a whole school approach to helping pupils understand how to keep themselves safe. This aims to prepare students for life in modern Britain and creates a culture of zero tolerance for sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphobic and sexual violence/harassment.
- The school's approach to teaching students about safeguarding, including online safety, is part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. The detail of this is set out in detail in the policy/policies for Curriculum/RSE/PSHE/online safety. The school makes use of published guidance to develop and deliver this provision, including for RSE, PSHE, and teaching online safety.
- Our curriculum provides opportunities for increasing self-awareness, self-esteem, social and emotional understanding, assertiveness and decision making so that learners have a range of age appropriate contacts and strategies to ensure their own protection and that of others.
- The school recognises that one size does not fit all and takes a personalised and contextualised approach for more vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some SEND children, so they know how to assess risk and adopt safe practices.
- The school has implemented the mandatory DfE Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex and Health Education curriculum. The school is embedding this into all aspects of the curriculum to ensure equality, age-

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appropriate and full experiences for all pupils. Further details are given in our RSHE curriculum policies. The curriculum is fully audited to ensure that all the RSHE curriculum spans across departments and is also mapped to include tutorial time, assemblies, workshops and work with outside, specialist agencies.

- Our school systems support children to talk about their concerns and worries with confidence in the knowledge they will be listened to and heard, and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.

### 31. Alternative provision

- In exceptional circumstances, the school sometimes places pupils in alternative provision either on a full or part time basis. The school recognises the additional vulnerabilities of these pupils and that the responsibility for their safeguarding remains with the school. The school has put in place checks to ensure the provider meets the needs of each pupil and there is regular communication on their welfare, well-being and safety. We ensure that: all AP providers are Ofsted registered; students are visited on a regular basis and are seen in person; attendance is collected by the attendance team.
- This also applies to children who cannot attend school for health reasons, and will be considered on a case by case basis.

### 32. Elective home education

- If a parent or carer wishes to educate their child at home the school will provide advice and support to aid them in their decision making; this is to help parents and carers make the right decision in the best interests of their child.
- This will include discussion with parents (and other professionals), awareness of additional needs of child with SEND and/or social workers, transition support, and informing the LA (*requirement to notify LA on removal from roll*).

### 33. Private fostering and host families

- Private fostering is defined as when someone who is not a parent or a 'close relative' (eg. great aunt, cousin, mum's friend or a neighbour) is looking after a child or young person under the age of 16 (under 18 if they are disabled) for 28 days or more in their own home. A relative is defined in the Children Act 1989 as a grandparent, uncle or aunt (whether by full-blood, half-blood or by marriage or civil partnership), sibling or step-parent. The school is aware of its duty to report to LA of any such arrangements the school learns about.
- If the school makes arrangements for pupils to have learning experiences where, for short periods, the children may be provided with care and accommodation by a host family to whom they are not related. for example, as part of a foreign exchange visit or sports tour. This is often described as 'homestay' arrangements. The school will follow the guidance set out in Annex E of KCSIE.

### 34. Safer Recruitment

- Mulberry Academy Woodside is committed to ensuring that they develop a safe culture and that all steps are taken to recruit staff and volunteers, this includes agency staff, contractors and third party staff) who are safe to work with our learners and staff.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside will follow the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 (Section 3 'Safer Recruitment') and from The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

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- The governing body and leadership team are responsible for ensuring that the school follows safe recruitment processes outlined within guidance.
- The school maintains an accurate Single Central Record (SCR) in line with statutory guidance.
- The governing body will ensure that at least one of the persons who conducts an interview has completed safer recruitment training.
- Mulberry Academy Woodside is committed to supporting the statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the application of the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 and related obligations under the Childcare Act 2006 in schools.
- We expect all staff to disclose any reason that may affect their suitability to work with children including convictions, cautions, court orders, cautions, reprimands and warnings. Any staff member failing to make accurate declarations or misrepresenting themselves in any way will be subject to the school's disciplinary policy.
- We will ensure that all staff and volunteers have read the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct and understand that their behaviour and practice must be in line with it.
- The full policy is provided in Appendix 3

## 35. Concerns and allegations against members of staff and adults in the school

- Mulberry Academy Woodside recognises that it is possible for any member of staff or adult working on behalf of the school, including volunteers, governors, contractors, agency and third party staff (including supply teachers), visitors and contractors, to behave in a way that:
  - indicates they have harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
  - means they have 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; or
  - behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.
- All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns on CONFIDE about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school safeguarding regime. The leadership team takes all concerns or allegations received seriously. If a member of staff, volunteer or other adult is concerned at the lack of response or feels their concerns will not be taken seriously then they should consider Whistle blowing - see section below.
- Allegations should be referred immediately to the Headteacher who will contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to agree further action to be taken in respect of the child and staff member. This should be done by raising the concern on CONFIDE.
- In the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Headteacher, staff are advised that allegations should be reported to the chair of governors who will contact the LADO.
- The school's procedures are consistent with local safeguarding procedures and practice guidance. In line with KCSIE 2023, we have procedures in place that covers:
  - Allegations that may meet the harms threshold
  - Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold

### 35.1 Duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service

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- Mulberry Academy Woodside has a legal requirement to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) where they remove an individual from regulated activity (or would have removed an individual had they not left), and they believe the individual has:
  - engaged in relevant conduct in relation to children and/or adults,
  - satisfied the harm test in relation to children and/or vulnerable adults; or
  - been cautioned or convicted of a relevant (automatic barring either with or without the right to make representations) offence.
- Referrals will be made as soon as possible, when an individual has been removed from regulated activity. This could include when an individual is suspended, redeployed into work in an activity that is not regulated, dismissed or resigned. The school will provide the DBS with full information.
- When an allegation is made, an investigation will be carried out to gather evidence to establish if it has foundation, and the school will ensure they have sufficient information to meet the referral duty criteria in the DBS referral guidance.
- The DBS will consider whether to bar the person. If these circumstances arise in relation to a member of staff at our school, a referral will be made as soon as possible after the resignation or removal of the individual in accordance with advice from the LADO and/or Schools Personnel Service.

### 35. 2 Duty to consider referral to the Teaching Regulation Agency

- If the school or teacher's employer, including an agency, dismisses or ceases to use the services of a teacher because of serious misconduct, or might have dismissed them or ceased to use their services had they not left first, consideration will be given to referring the case to the Secretary of State, as required by sections 141D and 141E of the Education Act 2002.
- The Secretary of State may investigate the case, and if s/he finds there is a case to answer, must then decide whether to make a prohibition order in respect of the person.

### 36. Whistle blowing

- All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice or other wrong-doing and be secure that such concerns will always be taken seriously by the leadership team. Wrong-doing covered by this 'public interest disclosure' includes:
  - someone's health and safety is in danger;
  - damage to the environment
  - a criminal offence (eg fraud)
  - not obeying the law;
  - covering up wrong-doing
  - misusing public funds
  - actions that negatively affect the welfare of children
- All members of staff are made aware of the school Whistleblowing procedure. It is a disciplinary offence not to report concerns about the conduct of a colleague that could place a child at risk. If an allegation is shown to be deliberately invented or malicious, the school will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual who made it as per the behaviour policy

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- The DfE provides advice to staff who feel they need to raise concerns: Whistleblowing procedure for maintained schools [Whistleblowing procedure for maintained schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) and Whistleblowing [Whistleblowing for employees - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk).
- Staff should raise concerns with:
  - Line Manager
  - Specified person (or governor) in school such as the headteacher or DSL
  - Local Authority
  - Union or Professional Association
- Staff can also access the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline if they do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 (8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday to Friday) or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

### 37. The use of premises by other organisations

- Where services or activities are provided under the direct supervision/management of staff the school arrangements for child protection will apply.
- Where services or activities are provided separately by another body using the school premises, the Headteacher and governing body will:
  - seek written assurance that the organisation concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place with regard to safeguarding children and child protection, and that relevant safeguarding checks have been made in respect of staff and volunteers.
  - put in place arrangements for the organisation to liaise with the school on safeguarding matters
  - include safeguarding requirements in any transfer of control agreement (i.e. lease or hire agreement), as a condition of use and occupation of the premises; and that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement. If this assurance is not achieved, an application to use premises will be refused.

**These arrangements apply regardless of whether or not the children who attend any of these services or activities are children on the school roll**

### 38. Site security and arrangements for visitors

- All members of staff have a responsibility for maintaining awareness of buildings and grounds security and for reporting concerns that may come to light. Any individual who is not known or identifiable on site should be challenged for clarification and reassurance.
- Appropriate checks will be undertaken in respect of visitors and volunteers coming into school as outlined within paragraphs 281-286 of KCSIE 2023. Visitors will be expected to sign in and out via the office visitors log and to display a visitor's badge whilst on site. Visitors will be provided with a leaflet outlining the school's safeguarding and child protection arrangements. All visitors are expected to follow these school arrangements..
- The headteacher will use their professional judgement to decide on access arrangements and if a visitor should be supervised and/or escorted.
- The school will give careful consideration to the suitability of any external organisations who may provide information, resources & speakers to pupils. The arrangements for the individuals providing these services on

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the school's premises may include an assessment of their education value, the age appropriateness of what is going to be delivered and whether relevant checks will be required (eg for multiple sessions).

- The school will not accept the behaviour of any individual (parent or other) that threatens school security or leads others (child or adult) to feel unsafe. Such behaviour will be treated as a serious concern and may result in a decision to refuse access for that individual to the school site.

### 39. Complaints

- The school has a Complaints Procedure available to parents, learners and members of staff and visitors who wish to report concerns. This can be found on the school website.
- All reported concerns will be taken seriously and considered within the relevant and appropriate process. Anything that constitutes an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer will be dealt with under the specific Procedures for Managing Allegations against Staff - Appendix 4.

### 40. Policy Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed at least annually. The policy will be revised following any national or local policy updates, any local child protection concerns and/or any changes to our procedures. Staff will be informed of any changes made.
- The safeguarding team meets at least weekly to review all safeguarding cases and check on the actions taken and what further actions are needed. This includes students with early help and child protection plans.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher will provide regular reporting on safeguarding activity and systems to the governing body. The governing body will not receive details of individual children's situations or identifying features of families as part of their oversight responsibility.
- The governing body understands its responsibilities and duties as set out in KCSIE 2023 to ensure the effectiveness of the school's safeguarding arrangements, including those for online safety. In addition to the regular reports you safeguarding provided by the DSL, governors will take a proactive varied approach to checking the school's safeguarding arrangements. This will include: meetings with the DSL, visits to school, ascertaining the views of staff, pupils and parents through discussions and surveys, use of an audit tool, asking all governors to ask a safeguarding question during meetings with leaders/staff on other aspects of school life (such as subject meetings or SENCo meeting), termly checks of the SCR, review of school data and use of an external consultant.

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## Appendix 1: Categories & Indicators of Abuse and Neglect

All school and college staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events and cannot be covered by one definition or one label alone. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

**26. Abuse:** a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

**27. Physical abuse:** a form of abuse which 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.

**28. Emotional abuse:** the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It 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. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature 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 from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

**29. Sexual abuse:** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving 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. They may also include 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. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education and all staff should be aware of it and of their school or college's policy and procedures for dealing with it.

**30. Neglect:** 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, for example, 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 caregivers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

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## Appendix 2: Specific safeguarding issues (KCSIE Annex B)

This text is taken from Annex B of KCSIE which contains further important additional information about specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues.

### Child abduction and community safety incidents

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers. Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation. As children get older and are granted more independence (for example, as they start walking to school on their own) it is important they are given practical advice on how to keep themselves safe. Many schools provide outdoor-safety lessons run by teachers or by local police staff. It is important that lessons focus on building children's confidence and abilities rather than simply warning them about all strangers.

### Children and the court system

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two age appropriate guides to support children 5-11-year olds and 12-17 year olds. The guides explain each step of the process, support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained. Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children. The Ministry of Justice has launched an online child arrangements information tool with clear and concise information on the dispute resolution service. This may be useful for some parents and carers.

### Children missing from education

All staff should be aware that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and can also be a sign of child criminal exploitation including involvement in county lines. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation, 'honour'-based abuse or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future. Staff should be aware of their school's or college's unauthorised absence and children missing from education procedures.

### Children with family members in prison

Approximately 200,000 children in England and Wales have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. The National Information Centre on Children of Offenders, NICCO provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

### Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

We know that different forms of harm often overlap, and that perpetrators may subject children and young people to multiple forms of abuse, such as criminal exploitation (including county lines) and sexual exploitation. In some cases the exploitation or abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants (for example, money, gifts or affection), and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage, such as increased status, of



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the perpetrator or facilitator. Children can be exploited by adult males or females, as individuals or in groups. They may also be exploited by other children, who themselves may be experiencing exploitation - where this is the case, it is important that the child perpetrator is also recognised as a victim. Whilst the age of the child may be a contributing factor for an imbalance of power, there are a range of other factors that could make a child more vulnerable to exploitation, including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, learning difficulties, communication ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. Some of the following can be indicators of both child criminal and sexual exploitation where children:

- appear with unexplained gifts, money or new possessions;
- associate with other children involved in exploitation;
- suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- misuse drugs and alcohol;
- go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

Children who have been exploited will need additional support to help maintain them in education. CSE can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

Some additional specific indicators that may be present in CSE are children who:

- have older boyfriends or girlfriends; and
- suffer from sexually transmitted infections, display sexual behaviours beyond expected sexual development or become pregnant.

Further information on signs of a child's involvement in sexual exploitation is available in Home Office guidance: [Child sexual exploitation: guide for practitioners](#)

## County lines

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". This activity can happen locally as well as across the UK - no specified distance of travel is required. Children and vulnerable adults are exploited to move, store and sell drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims.

Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools (mainstream and special), further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, children's homes and care homes. Children are also increasingly being targeted and recruited online using social media. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs can manufacture drug debts which need to be worked off or threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

A number of the indicators for CSE and CCE as detailed above may be applicable to where children are involved in county lines. Some additional specific indicators that may be present where a child is criminally exploited through involvement in county lines are children who:

- go missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their home;
- have been the victim or perpetrator of serious violence (e.g. knife crime);

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- are involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs;
- are exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging’, where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection;
- are found in accommodation that they have no connection with, often called a ‘traphouse or cuckooing’ or hotel room where there is drug activity;
- owe a ‘debt bond’ to their exploiters;
- have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing.

Further information on the signs of a child’s involvement in county lines is available in guidance published by the Home Office.

### Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including: sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs.

Further information on the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery, the support available to victims and how to refer them to the NRM is available in the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance. Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

### Cybercrime

Cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either ‘cyber-enabled’ (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or ‘cyber dependent’ (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer). Cyber-dependent crimes include;

- unauthorised access to computers (illegal ‘hacking’), for example accessing a school’s computer network to look for test paper answers or change grades awarded;
- denial of Service (Dos or DDoS) attacks or ‘booting’. These are attempts to make a computer, network or website unavailable by overwhelming it with internet traffic from multiple sources; and,
  - making, supplying or obtaining malware (malicious software) such as viruses, spyware, ransomware, botnets and Remote Access Trojans with the intent to commit further offence, including those above.

Children with particular skill and interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime.

If there are concerns about a child in this area, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy), should consider referring into the **Cyber Choices** programme. This is a nationwide police programme supported by the Home Office and led by the National Crime Agency, working with regional and local policing. It aims to intervene where young people are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests.

Note that **Cyber Choices** does not currently cover ‘cyber-enabled’ crime such as fraud, purchasing of illegal drugs on-line and child sexual abuse and exploitation, nor other areas of concern such as on-line bullying or general on-line safety.

Additional advice can be found at: Cyber Choices, ‘NPCC- When to call the Police’ and National Cyber Security Centre - NCSC.GOV.UK

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## Domestic abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. The statutory definition of domestic abuse, based on the previous cross-government definition, ensures that different types of relationships are captured, including ex-partners and family members. The definition captures a range of different abusive behaviours, including physical, emotional and economic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour. Both the person who is carrying out the behaviour and the person to whom the behaviour is directed towards must be aged 16 or over and they must be “personally connected” (as defined in section 2 of the 2021 Act).

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, socio-economic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home. The government will issue statutory guidance to provide further information for those working with domestic abuse victims and perpetrators, including the impact on children.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result. Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of child on child abuse is sometimes referred to as ‘teenage relationship abuse’. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of ‘domestic abuse’ (if one or both parties are under 16). However, as with any child under 18, where there are concerns about safety or welfare, child safeguarding procedures should be followed and both young victims and young perpetrators should be offered support. The Act’s provisions, including the new definition, will be commenced over the coming months.

**Operation Encompass** Operation Encompass operates in all police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the police will inform the key adult (usually the designated safeguarding lead) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child’s circumstances and can enable immediate support to be put in place, according to the child’s needs. Operation Encompass does not replace statutory safeguarding procedures. Where appropriate, the police and/or schools should make a referral to children’s social care if they are concerned about a child’s welfare. More information about the scheme and how schools can become involved is available on the Operation Encompass website.

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline** Refuge runs the National Domestic Abuse Helpline, which can be called free of charge and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247. Its website provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. It also has a form through which a safe time from the team for a call can be booked. Additional advice on identifying children who are affected by domestic abuse and how they can be helped is available at:

- NSPCC- UK domestic-abuse Signs Symptoms Effects Refuge what is domestic violence/effects of domestic violence on children.
- Safe lives: young people and domestic abuse.
- Domestic abuse: specialist sources of support - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))(includes information for adult victims, young people facing abuse in their own relationships and parents experiencing child to parent violence/abuse)

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- Home : Operation Encompass (includes information for schools on the impact of domestic abuse on children)

## Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Whilst referrals and/or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, and in accordance with local procedures, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a new legal duty on English councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to meaningful help including an assessment of their needs and circumstances, the development of a personalised housing plan, and work to help them retain their accommodation or find a new place to live. The following factsheets usefully summarise the new duties: Homeless Reduction Act Factsheets. The new duties shift focus to early intervention and encourage those at risk to seek support as soon as possible, before they are facing a homelessness crisis.

In most cases school and college staff will be considering homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it should also be recognised in some cases 16 and 17 year olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Children's social care will be the lead agency for these children and the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child's circumstances. The Department and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have published joint statutory guidance on the provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless and/or require accommodation: [here](#).

## So-called 'honour'-based abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)

So-called 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving 'honour' often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA.

**Actions** If staff have a concern regarding a child who might be at risk of HBA or who has suffered from HBA, they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). As appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) will activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children's social care. Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty placed on [teachers128](#) that requires a different approach (see following section).

## FGM

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

## FGM mandatory reporting duty for teachers

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Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon **teachers**, along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases may face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should **not** be examining pupils or students, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies. Information on when and how to make a report can be found at: [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information](#).

Teachers **must** personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has good reason not to, they should still consider and discuss any such case with the school’s or college’s designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) and involve children’s social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers should follow local safeguarding procedures. The following is a useful summary of the FGM mandatory reporting duty: FGM Fact Sheet. Further information can be found in the Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation and the FGM resource pack particularly section 13.

### Forced marriage

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. 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. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some perpetrators use perceived cultural practices as a way to coerce a person into marriage. Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

The Forced Marriage Unit has published statutory guidance and Multi-agency guidelines, pages 32-36 of which focus on the role of schools and colleges. School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email [fmufcdo.gov.uk](mailto:fmufcdo.gov.uk).

### Preventing radicalisation

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a schools’ or colleges’ safeguarding approach.

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

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

**Terrorism** is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat **must** be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing apolitical, religious or ideological cause.

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child’s

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vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home).

However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) making a Prevent referral.

The school's or college's designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral. drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.

### The Prevent duty

All schools and colleges are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". 134 This duty is known as the Prevent duty. The Prevent duty should be seen as part of schools' and colleges' wider safeguarding obligations. Designated safeguarding leads and other senior leaders in schools should familiarise themselves with the revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, especially paragraphs 57-76, which are specifically concerned with schools (and also covers childcare). Designated safeguarding leads and other senior leaders in colleges should familiarise themselves with the Prevent duty guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales. The guidance is set out in terms of four general themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training, and IT policies.

### Channel

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from the school or college may be asked to attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. The designated safeguarding lead should consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving. For example, information that would allow the new school or college to continue supporting victims of abuse or those who are currently receiving support through the 'Channel' programme and have that support in place for when the child arrives. Statutory guidance on Channel is available at: Channel guidance.

### Additional support

The Department has published further advice for schools on the Prevent duty. The advice is intended to complement the Prevent guidance and signposts to other sources of advice and support. The Home Office has developed three e-learning modules:

- Prevent awareness e-learning offers an introduction to the Prevent duty.
- Prevent referrals e-learning supports staff to make Prevent referrals that are **robust, informed** and with **good intention**.
- Channel awareness e-learning is aimed at staff who may be asked to contribute to or sit on a multi-agency Channel panel.

Educate Against Hate, is a government website designed to support school teachers and leaders to help them safeguard their students from radicalisation and extremism. The platform provides free information and resources to help school staff identify and address the risks, as well as build resilience to radicalisation.

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For advice specific to further education, the Education and Training Foundation (ETF) hosts the Prevent for FE and Training. This hosts a range of free, sector specific resources to support further education settings comply with the Prevent duty. This includes the Prevent Awareness e-learning, which offers an introduction to the duty, and the Prevent Referral e-learning, which is designed to support staff to make robust, informed and proportionate referrals.

The ETF Online Learning environment provides online training modules for practitioners, leaders and managers, support staff and governors/Board members outlining their roles and responsibilities under the duty.

### **Child on child/ child on child abuse**

Children can abuse other children (often referred to as child on child abuse) and it can take many forms. It can happen both inside and outside of school/college and online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of child on child abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports. This can include (but is not limited to): bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); abuse within intimate partner relationships; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexual violence and sexual harassment; consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos; 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; upskirting and initiation/hazing type violence and rituals. Addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

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

#### **Context**

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex from primary to secondary stage and into colleges. It can also occur online. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

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 or college. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.

It is essential that all victims 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.

Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and 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;
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and

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- 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.

## What is sexual violence and sexual harassment?

### Sexual violence

It is important that school and college staff are aware of sexual violence and the fact children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way and that it can happen both inside and outside of school/college. When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual violence offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003/135 as described below:

**Rape:** A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

**Assault by Penetration:** A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

**Sexual Assault:** A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (Schools should be aware that sexual assault covers a very wide range of behaviour so a single act of kissing someone without consent, or touching someone's bottom/breasts/genitalia without consent, can still constitute sexual assault.)

**Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent:** A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally causes another person (B) to engage in an activity, the activity is sexual, B does not consent to engaging in the activity, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (This could include forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.)

**What is consent?** Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g. to vaginal but not anal sex or penetration with conditions, such as wearing a condom. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs. Someone consents to vaginal, anal or oral penetration only if s/he agrees by choice to that penetration and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice. Further information about consent can be found here: Rape Crisis England & Wales - Sexual consent

- the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity;
- the age of consent is 16;
- sexual intercourse without consent is rape.

### Sexual harassment

When referring to sexual harassment we mean 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline and both inside and outside of school/college. When we reference sexual harassment, we do so in the context of child on child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexual harassment can include:

- sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names;
- sexual "jokes" or taunting;



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- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone's clothes (schools and colleges should be considering when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence - it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim) and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature; and
- online sexual harassment. This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. It may include:
  - consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos. UKCIS Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: As set out in advice for education settings working with children and young people (which provides detailed advice for schools and colleges) taking and sharing nude photographs of U18s is a criminal offence;
  - sharing of unwanted explicit content;
  - upskirting (is a criminal offence);
  - sexualised online bullying
  - unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media;
  - sexual exploitation; coercion and threats.

## Upskirting

The Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, which is commonly known as the Upskirting Act, came into force on 12 April 2019. 'Upskirting' is where someone takes a picture under a person's clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission and or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any sex, can be a victim.

## The response to a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment

The initial response to a report from a child is incredibly important. How the school or college responds to a report can encourage or undermine the confidence of future victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment to report or come forward. Schools and colleges not recognising, acknowledging or understanding the scale of harassment and abuse and/or downplaying of some behaviours can actually lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour. It is essential that all victims 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.

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## Appendix 3: Safer recruitment and DBS checks - policy and procedures

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

When appointing new staff, we will:

- Verify their identity
- Obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate, including barred list information for those who will be engaging in regulated activity (see definition below). We will not keep a copy of this for longer than 6 months
- 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, including (where relevant) any teacher sanctions or restrictions imposed by a European Economic Area professional regulating authority, and criminal records checks or their equivalent
- 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

We will ask for written information about previous employment history and check that information is not contradictory or incomplete.

We will seek references on all short-listed candidates, including internal candidates, before the interview. We will scrutinise these and resolve any concerns before confirming appointments. The references requested will ask specific questions about the suitability of the applicant to work with children.

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

- Responsible, on a regular basis in a school or college, for teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children; or
- Carrying out paid, or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school or college where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children; or
- Engaging in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once and regardless of whether they are supervised or not

### Existing staff

If the headteacher has concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with children, we will carry out all the relevant checks as if the individual was a new member of staff. We will also do this if an individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is.

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

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- We believe the individual has engaged in [relevant conduct](#); or
- The individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence, or there is reason to believe the individual has committed a listed relevant offence, under the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 \(Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions\) Regulations 2009](#); or
- The 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e. they may harm a child or vulnerable adult or put them at risk of harm); and
- The individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left

## Agency and third-party staff

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

## Contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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

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## Governors

All trustees, local governors and members 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 the school places 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.

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## Appendix 4: allegations of abuse made against staff

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

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child, or
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children, or
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children

It applies regardless of whether the alleged abuse took place in the school. Allegations against a teacher who is no longer teaching and historical allegations of abuse will be referred to the police.

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

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

## Suspension of the accused until the case is resolved

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

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

- Redeployment within the school so that the individual does not have direct contact with the child or children concerned
- Providing an assistant to be present when the individual has contact with children
- Redeploying the individual to alternative work in the school so that they do not have unsupervised access to children
- Moving the child or children to classes where they will not come into contact with the individual, making it clear that this is not a punishment and parents have been consulted
- Temporarily redeploying the individual to another role in a different location, for example to an alternative school or other work.

## 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
- **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

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## Procedure for dealing with allegations

In the event of an allegation that meets the criteria above, the headteacher (or chair of governors where the headteacher is the subject of the allegation) - the 'case manager' - will take the following steps:

- Immediately discuss the allegation with the designated officer at the local authority. This is to consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action, including whether further enquiries are necessary to enable a decision on how to proceed, and whether it is necessary to involve the police and/or children's social care services. (The case manager may, on occasion, consider it necessary to involve the police *before* consulting the designated officer - for example, if the accused individual is deemed to be an immediate risk to children or there is evidence of a possible criminal offence. In such cases, the case manager will notify the designated officer as soon as practicably possible after contacting the police)
- Inform the accused individual of the concerns or allegations and likely course of action as soon as possible after speaking to the designated officer (and the police or children's social care services, where necessary). Where the police and/or children's social care services are involved, the case manager will only share such information with the individual as has been agreed with those agencies
- Where appropriate (in the circumstances described above), carefully consider whether suspension of the individual from contact with children at the school is justified or whether alternative arrangements such as those outlined above can be put in place. Advice will be sought from the designated officer, police and/or children's social care services, as appropriate
- **If immediate suspension is considered necessary**, agree and record the rationale for this with the designated officer. The record will include information about the alternatives to suspension that have been considered, and why they were rejected. Written confirmation of the suspension will be provided to the individual facing the allegation or concern within 1 working day, and the individual will be given a named contact at the school and their contact details
- **If it is decided that no further action is to be taken** in regard to the subject of the allegation or concern, record this decision and the justification for it and agree with the designated officer what information should be put in writing to the individual and by whom, as well as what action should follow both in respect of the individual and those who made the initial allegation. This includes duty to refer to TRA and, where required, to the DBS
- **If it is decided that further action is needed**, take steps as agreed with the designated officer to initiate the appropriate action in school and/or liaise with the police and/or children's social care services as appropriate
- Provide effective support for the individual facing the allegation or concern, including appointing a named representative to keep them informed of the progress of the case and considering what other support is appropriate. Individuals can seek advice from trade union representatives, a colleague or can ask for an Occupational Health referral.
- Inform the parents or carers of the child/children involved about the allegation as soon as possible if they do not already know (following agreement with children's social care services and/or the police, if applicable). The case manager will also inform the parents or carers of the requirement to maintain confidentiality about any allegations made against teachers (where this applies) while investigations are ongoing. Any parent or carer who wishes to have the confidentiality restrictions removed in respect of a teacher will be advised to seek legal advice
- Keep the parents or carers of the child/children involved informed of the progress of the case and the outcome, where there is not a criminal prosecution, including the outcome of any disciplinary process (in confidence)

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- 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 governing board 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 staff**

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

- We will not decide to stop using a supply teacher due to safeguarding concerns without finding out the facts and liaising with our local authority designated officer to determine a suitable outcome
- The Headteacher(s) will discuss with the agency whether it is appropriate to suspend the supply teacher, 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 local authority designated officer as required
- We will address issues such as information sharing, to ensure any previous concerns or allegations known to the agency are taken into account (we will do this, for example, as part of the allegations management meeting or by liaising directly with the agency where necessary)

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

### **Timescales**

We will endeavour to deal with investigations in a timely fashion, working with the relevant partner agencies, and will seek to adhere to the following timescales where possible:

- Any cases where it is clear immediately that the allegation is unsubstantiated or malicious will be resolved within 10 working days
- If the nature of an allegation does not require formal disciplinary action, we will institute appropriate action within 5 working days
- If a disciplinary hearing is required and can be held without further investigation, we will hold this within 15 working days

### **Specific actions**

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

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

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

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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 case manager and the school's personnel adviser will discuss with the designated officer whether to make a referral to the DBS for consideration of whether inclusion on the barred lists is required. If they think that the individual has engaged in conduct that has harmed (or is likely to harm) a child, or if they think the person otherwise poses a risk of harm to a child, they must make a referral to the DBS.

If the individual concerned is a member of teaching staff, the case manager and personnel adviser will discuss with the designated officer 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 or malicious allegations**

If an allegation is shown to be deliberately invented, or malicious, the headteacher, or other appropriate person in the case of an allegation against the headteacher, will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the student(s) who made it, or whether the police should be asked to consider whether action against those who made the allegation might be appropriate, even if they are not a student.

### **Confidentiality**

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 local authority's designated officer, police and children's social care services, as appropriate, to agree:

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

### **Record-keeping**

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

- A clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation
- Details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved
- Notes of any action taken and decisions reached (and justification for these, as stated above)

If an allegation or concern is not found to have been malicious, the school will retain the records of the case on the individual's confidential personnel file, and provide a copy to the individual.



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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.

The records of any allegation that is found to be malicious will be deleted from the individual's personnel file.

## References

When providing employer references, we will not refer to any allegation that has been proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious, or any history of allegations where all such allegations have been proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious.

## Learning lessons

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

This will include consideration of (as applicable):

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

## Appendix 5: Support for students that identify as LGBTQI+

Within the ethos of our safeguarding policy, we recognise that LGBTQI+ students may not always have a secure enough environment away from school to explore their identity or seek support. School is a safe, secure

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environment where students are supported and nurtured with experienced staff from the safeguarding team who can help a young person onto the appropriate pathway for support. Students have the right to discuss and express gender identity openly and decide when, with whom and how much to share information .

Equality and diversity are at the heart of our daily school life. We aim to challenge stigma around mental health, disability, homophobia, bullying, LGBTQI+ and much more. We encourage all our students and staff to speak openly and courageously about the importance of challenging prejudice in all its forms. Teachers, in particular PRS teachers are equipped to deliver high quality LGBTQI+ inclusive education.

### **Support for LGBTQ+ and gender questioning young people**

Within Government Guidelines all young people within an education setting have the right to protection from discrimination or harassment. Staff may not discriminate against a pupil because of gender status.

Practise to support LGBTQI+ students is embedded across school policies and curriculum and we build on best practice to eliminate discrimination or harassment.

Our LGBTQI and gender questioning students, or those with gender dysphoria have a safe and secure environment within which to discuss role identity, if they request this. All students have the right to reflect their gender preference in their personality, choice of name and preferred gender pronouns, or clothes (within school uniform guidelines).

**Whilst Trans and gender questioning students have the right to use their preferred name and preferred gender pronoun within their friendship groups, classes and with trusted adults, name and gender status is not changed on the school roll. This would only come later once a student has been referred to psychology within CAMHS (if this is what they want) to identify the correct pathway towards obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate at which point this would be changed on the school roll.**

Confidentiality: All people have a right to privacy. This includes the right to keep one's trans or sexual orientation private. If the student chooses to involve their parents or carers with discussions about intervention and support, we will arrange this. A support package may include advice from the school nurse, support from our wellbeing team, space spaces, counselling, referral to CAMHS , pastoral support from a mentor or member of the safeguarding team. It must be understood that whilst this support is available, some may not want any intervention or treatment.

Transgender students are offered gender neutral toilets and changing facilities.