

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy



February 2020

Content

1. Statement of intent

Reid Street is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, both physical and emotional, of every pupil both inside and outside of the school premises. We implement a whole-school preventative approach to managing safeguarding concerns, ensuring that the wellbeing of pupils is at the forefront of all action taken.

This policy sets out a clear and consistent framework for delivering this promise, in line with safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance.

It will be achieved by:

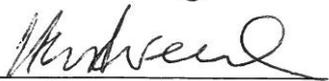
- Creating a culture of safer recruitment by adopting procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk to children.
- Teaching pupils how to keep safe and recognise behaviour that is unacceptable.
- Identifying and making provision for any pupil that has been subject to abuse.
- Ensuring that members of the governing board, the Principal and staff members understand their responsibilities under safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, are alert to the signs of child abuse and know to refer concerns to the DSL.
- Ensuring that the Principal and any new staff members and volunteers are only appointed when all the appropriate checks have been satisfactorily completed.

Policies will be reviewed annually, unless an incident or new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an earlier date of review.

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

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff, governors and volunteers and are consistent with those of Darlington Safeguarding Partnership.

Signed by:

	Principal	Date:	14/2/20
	Link Governor for Safeguarding	Date:	14/2/20

2. Key personnel:

The **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** for child protection and safeguarding in this school is: Mrs Joanne Davison

Contact details: Reid Street Primary School – 01325 251006
admin@reidstreet.darlington.sch.uk

The **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead** in this school is: Mrs Tracey Charlton

Contact details: Reid Street Primary School – 01325 251006
admin@reidstreet.darlington.sch.uk

The **nominated child protection governor** for this school is: Ms Laura Kendrew

Contact details: Reid Street Primary School – 01325 251006
admin@reidstreet.darlington.sch.uk

The **Principal** is: Mrs Paula Ayto

Contact details: Reid Street Primary School – 01325 251006
admin@reidstreet.darlington.sch.uk

The **Designated Teacher for LAC** in this school is Debbie Hancock

Contact details: Reid Street Primary School – 01325 251006
admin@reidstreet.darlington.sch.uk

The DSL is: **Joanne Davison**. In the absence of the DSL, child protection matters will be dealt with by the deputy DSL **Tracey Charlton**.

All staff will refer to <https://www.darlington-safeguarding-partnership.co.uk/> regarding safeguarding concerns or issues.

3. Principles

- The school will ensure that the welfare of children is given paramount consideration when developing and delivering all school activities.
- All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection.
- All staff have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm in accordance with this guidance.
- All pupils and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support from the senior leadership of the school who will follow this policy guidance in doing so.

4. Aims

- To provide all staff with the necessary information to enable them to meet their statutory responsibilities to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children.
- To ensure consistent good practice across the school.
- To demonstrate the school's commitment with regard to safeguarding children.

5. Definitions

The terms "children" and "child" refer to anyone under the age of 18.

For the purposes of this policy, "safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children" is defined as:

- Protecting pupils from maltreatment.
- Preventing the impairment of pupils' health or development.
- Ensuring that pupils grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all pupils to have the best outcomes.

5.1 For the purposes of this policy, the term "**harmful sexual behaviour**" includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

- Using sexually explicit words and phrases.
- Inappropriate touching.
- Sexual violence or threats.
- Watching pornography.
- Full penetrative sex with other children or adults.

5.2 In accordance with the DfE's guidance, 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges' (2018), and for the purposes of this policy, the term "**sexual harassment**" is used within this policy to describe any unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, both online or offline, which violates a child's dignity and makes them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated, and can create a hostile, sexualised or offensive environment.

5.3 For the purpose of this policy, the term "**sexual violence**" encompasses the definitions provided in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, including those pertaining to rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault.

5.4 For the purposes of this policy, “**upskirting**” refers to the act of taking a picture or video under another person’s clothing, without their knowledge or consent, with the intention of viewing that person’s genitals or buttocks (with or without clothing). Despite the name, anyone (including both pupils and teachers), and any gender, can be a victim of upskirting.

6. Legal framework

This policy has been created with due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

Legislation

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Education (School Teachers’ Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019

Statutory guidance

- HM Government (2013) ‘Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage’
- DfE (2015) ‘The Prevent duty’
- DfE (2018) ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’
- DfE (2018) ‘Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006’
- DfE (2019) ‘Keeping children safe in education’

Non-statutory guidance

- DfE (2015) ‘What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused’
- DfE (2017) ‘Child sexual exploitation’
- DfE (2018) ‘Information sharing’
- DfE (2018) ‘Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges’

5.5 Other relevant school policies include:

- Behavioural Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Data Protection Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Exclusion Policy
- E-Safety Policy

7. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board has a duty to:

- Ensure that the school complies with its duties under the above child protection and safeguarding legislation.
- Guarantee that the policies, procedures and training opportunities in the school are effective and comply with the law at all times.
- Guarantee that the school contributes to inter-agency working in line with the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'.
- Confirm that the school's safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practices of the LA as part of the inter-agency safeguarding procedures.
- Understand the local criteria for action and the local protocol for assessment, and ensure these are reflected in the school's policies and procedures.
- Comply with its obligations under section 14B of the Children Act 2004 to supply the local safeguarding arrangements with information to fulfil its functions.
- Ensure that staff members have due regard to relevant data protection principles which allow them to share personal information.
- Guarantee that there are effective child protection policies and procedures in place together with a Staff Code of Conduct.
- Ensure that there is link governor responsible for safeguarding and child protection.
- Appoint a member of staff from the SLT to the role of DSL as an explicit part of the role-holder's job description.
- Appoint one or more deputy DSL(s) to provide support to the DSL and ensure that they are trained to the same standard as the DSL and that the role is explicit in their job description(s).
- Ensure all relevant persons are aware of the school's local safeguarding arrangements, including the governing board itself, the SLT and DSL.
- Make sure that pupils are taught about safeguarding, including protection against dangers online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Adhere to statutory responsibilities by conducting pre-employment checks on staff who work with children, taking proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required.
- Ensure that staff members are appropriately trained to support pupils to be themselves at school, e.g. if they are LGBTQ+.
- Guarantee that volunteers are appropriately supervised.
- Make sure that at least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training.
- Ensure that all staff members receive safeguarding and child protection training updates, such as e-bulletins, emails and staff meetings, as required, but at least annually.
- Certify that there are procedures in place to handle allegations against members of staff or volunteers.
- Confirm that there are procedures in place to make a referral to the DBS and the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), where appropriate, if a person is regulated

activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns or would have been had they not resigned.

- Guarantee that there are procedures in place to handle pupils' allegations against other pupils.
- Ensure that appropriate disciplinary procedures are in place, as well as policies pertaining to the behaviour of pupils and staff.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, including those in relation to peer-on-peer abuse.
- Make sure that pupils' wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide to protect individual pupils.
- Guarantee that there are systems in place for pupils to express their views and give feedback.
- Establish an Early Help procedure and ensure all staff understand the procedure and their role in it.
- Appoint a Designated Teacher to promote the educational achievement of LAC and ensure that this person has undergone appropriate training.
- Ensure that the Designated Teacher works with the virtual school head to discuss how the pupil premium funding can best be used to support LAC.
- Introduce mechanisms to assist staff in understanding and discharging their roles and responsibilities.
- Make sure that staff members have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep LAC safe, particularly with regards to the pupil's legal status, contact details and care arrangements.
- Put in place appropriate safeguarding responses for pupils who go missing from school, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify any risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation, and prevent the risk of their disappearance in future.
- Ensure that all members of the governing board have been subject to an enhanced DBS check.
- Create a culture where staff are confident to challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns.

7.1 The Principal has a duty to:

- Safeguard pupils' wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession.
- Ensure that the policies and procedures adopted by the governing board, particularly concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect, are followed by staff members.
- Provide staff, upon induction, with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, part one of the 'Keeping children safe in education' (KCSIE) guidance, Behavioural Policy, the Children Missing from Education Policy, online safety training, and the identity of the DSL and any deputies.

7.2 The DSL has a duty to:

- Understand and keep up-to-date with local safeguarding arrangements.
- Make the necessary child protection referrals to appropriate agencies.
- Liaise with the Principal to inform them of safeguarding issues and ongoing enquiries.

- Liaise with the deputy DSL(s) to ensure effective safeguarding outcomes.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff members on matters of safeguarding by liaising with relevant agencies.
- Understand the assessment process for providing Early Help and intervention.
- Support staff members in liaising with other agencies and setting up inter-agency assessment where early help is deemed appropriate.
- Keep cases of early help under constant review and refer them to the Children's Social Care Services (CSCS) if the situation does not appear to be improving.
- Have a working knowledge of how LAs conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and procedures – this will be discussed during the staff induction process.
- Be alert to the specific requirements of children in need, including those with SEND and young carers.
- Keep detailed, accurate and secure records of concerns and referrals.
- Secure access to resources and attend any relevant training courses.
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings.
- Work with the governing board to ensure the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually and the procedures are updated regularly.
- Ensure the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available publicly, and parents are aware that the school may make referrals for suspected cases of abuse or neglect, as well as the role the school plays in these referrals.
- Link with local safeguarding arrangements to make sure that staff members are aware of the training opportunities available and the latest local policies on safeguarding.
- Ensure that a pupil's child protection file is transferred via CPOMs or as a file delivered by hand and signed for by the receiving school when transferring to a new school.
- Be available at all times during school hours to discuss any safeguarding concerns. NB. The school will determine what "available" means, e.g. it may be appropriate to be accessible by electronic means such as phone or Skype.
- Hold the details of the LA personal advisor and liaise with them as necessary.

7.4 The deputy safeguarding lead (Mrs Tracey Charlton) is appropriately trained and, in the absence of the designated person, carries out those functions necessary to ensure the ongoing safety and protection of children. In the event of the long-term absence of the designated person, the deputy will assume all of the functions above. The Principal (Mrs Paula Ayto) was previously DSL prior to becoming Principal so has completed safeguarding training.

7.5 Other staff members have a responsibility to:

- Safeguard pupils' wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

- Act in accordance with school procedures with the aim of eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, including those in relation to peer-on-peer abuse.
- Maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.
- Be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect.
- Be aware of the early help process and understand their role in it.
- Act as the lead professional in undertaking an Early Help Assessment, where necessary.
- Be aware of, and understand, the process for making referrals to CSCS, as well as for making statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 and their role in these assessments.
- Be confident of the processing conditions under relevant data protection legislation, including information which is sensitive and personal, and information that should be treated as special category data.
- Make a referral to CSCS/CAP and/or the police immediately, if at any point there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child.
- Be aware of and understand the procedure to follow in the event that a child confides they are being abused or neglected.
- Support social workers in making decisions about individual children, in collaboration with the DSL.
- Maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality when dealing with individual cases, and always act in the best interest of the child.
- Follow the school's procedure for, and approach to, preventing radicalisation.
- Challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns, where necessary.

7.6 The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children is Mrs Hancock. She has a responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of LAC and previously LAC, who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales. The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and/or neglect. The school should ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keeping looked after children safe. The Designated lead for Looked After Children should have the information needed in relation to a child's looked after legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility. They should also have information about the child's care arrangements, the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her, details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual school head in the authority that looks after the child. A previously looked after child remains potentially vulnerable and all staff need to be aware of safeguarding these children within their setting.

8 Inter-agency working

- 8.1 The school contributes to inter-agency working as part of its statutory duty.
- 8.2 The school is aware of and will follow the local safeguarding arrangements.
- 8.3 The school will work with CSCS, CAP the police, health services and other services to protect the welfare of its pupils, through the early help process and by contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support.
- 8.4 Where a need for Early Help is identified, the school will allow access for CSCS from the host LA and, where appropriate, a placing LA, for that LA to conduct (or consider whether to conduct) a section 17 or 47 assessment.
- 8.5 The school recognises the importance of proactive information sharing between professionals and local agencies in order to effectively meet pupils' needs and identify any need for early help.
- 8.6 Considering 4.3, staff members are aware that whilst the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 place a duty on schools to process personal information fairly and lawfully, they also allow for information to be stored and shared for safeguarding purposes – data protection regulations do not act as a barrier to sharing information where failure to do so would result in the pupil being placed at risk of harm.
- 8.7 Staff members will ensure that fear of sharing information does not stand in the way of their responsibility to promote the welfare and safety of pupils.
- 8.8 If staff members are in doubt about sharing information, they will speak to the DSL or deputy DSL.
- 8.9 The school also recognises the particular importance of inter-agency working in identifying and preventing child sexual exploitation (CSE).

9. Good practice guidelines

9.1 To meet and maintain our responsibilities towards children, we agree to the following standards of good practice:

- Treating all children with respect.
- Setting a good example by conducting ourselves appropriately.
- Involving children in decision-making which affects them.
- Encouraging positive and safe behaviour among children.
- Being a good listener.
- Being alert to changes in a child's behaviour.
- Recognising that challenging behaviour may be an indicator of abuse.
- Reading and understanding all of the school's safeguarding and guidance documents on wider safeguarding issues, for example bullying, physical contact, e-safety plans and information-sharing.
- Maintaining appropriate standards of conversation and interaction with and between children and avoiding the use of sexualised or derogatory language.
- Being aware that the personal and family circumstances and lifestyles of some children lead to an increased risk of neglect and or abuse.
- Be aware of personal circumstances and consider these in relation to the teaching of PSHE, Internet Safety and RSE – some lessons should be adapted where appropriate according to the needs of the child.

9.2 If a child discloses that they are being abused then you will need to let them know that you must pass the information on – you are **not** allowed to keep secrets.

During your conversation with the child:

- Allow them to speak freely.
- Remain calm and do not over react – the child may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting you.
- Give reassuring nods or words of comfort – ‘I’m so sorry this has happened’, ‘I want to help’, ‘This isn’t your fault’, ‘You are doing the right thing in talking to me’.
- Do not be afraid of silences – remember how hard this must be for the child.
- Under no circumstances ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings too, or what does the child’s parent think about all this.
- At an appropriate time tell the child that in order to help them you must pass the information on.
- Do not offer to keep secrets or promises.
- Do not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort. It may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused.
- Avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing earlier. Saying ‘I do wish you had told me about this when it started’ or ‘I can’t believe what I’m hearing’ may be your way of being supportive but the child may interpret it that they have done something wrong.
- Tell the child what will happen next. The child may agree to go with you to see the designated person. Otherwise let them know that someone will come to see them before the end of the day.
- Report verbally to the designated person.
- Write up your conversation as soon as possible on the record of concern form and hand it to the designated person.
- Seek support if you feel distressed.

10. Abuse and neglect

10.1 All members of staff will be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be given a specific label and multiple issues often overlap one another.

10.2 All staff members will be aware of the indicators of abuse and the appropriate action to take following a pupil being identified as at potential risk of abuse or neglect.

When identifying pupils at risk of potential harm, staff members will look out for a number of indicators including, but not limited to, the following:

- Injuries in unusual places, such as bite marks on the neck, that are also inconsistent with their age
- Lack of concentration and acting withdrawn
- Knowledge ahead of their age, e.g. sexual knowledge
- Use of explicit language
- Fear of abandonment
- Depression and low self-esteem

10.3 All members of staff will be aware of the indicators of peer-on-peer abuse, such as those in relation to bullying, gender-based violence, sexual assaults and sexting.

10.4 All staff will be aware of the necessary procedures to follow to prevent peer-on-peer abuse, as outlined in this policy.

10.5 All staff will be aware of the behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse, truancy and sexting, and will understand that these put pupils in danger.

10.6 Staff members will be aware of the effects of a pupil witnessing an incident of abuse, such as witnessing domestic violence at home.

Types of abuse and neglect

10.7 **Abuse:** A form of maltreatment of a child which involves inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family, institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others, e.g. via the internet.

10.8 **Physical abuse:** A form of abuse which may involve actions such as hitting, throwing, burning, drowning and poisoning, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical abuse can also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

10.9 **Emotional abuse:** A form of abuse which involves the emotional maltreatment of a child to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. This may involve telling a child they are worthless, unloved, inadequate, not giving them the opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or often making them feel as though they are in danger.

10.10 **Sexual abuse:** A form of abuse which involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, and whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This may involve physical assault, such as penetrative assault and touching, or non-penetrative actions, such as looking at sexual images or encouraging children to behave in inappropriate ways.

10.11 **Neglect:** A form of abuse which involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of a child's health or development. This may involve providing inadequate food, clothing or shelter, or the inability to protect a child from physical or emotional harm or ensure access to appropriate medical treatment.

10.12 **Exposure** to 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. Domestic abuse affecting young people can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life.

Support for those involved in a child protection issue.

Child neglect and abuse is devastating for the child and can also result in distress and anxiety for staff who become involved. We will support the children and their families and staff by:

- Taking all suspicions and disclosures seriously

- Nominating a link person who will keep all parties informed and be the central point of contact. Where a member of staff is the subject of an allegation made by a child, a separate link person will be nominated to avoid any conflict of interest
- Responding sympathetically to any request from a child or member of staff for time out to deal with distress or anxiety
- Maintaining confidentiality and sharing information on a need-to-know basis only with relevant individuals and agencies
- Storing records securely
- Offering details of help lines, counselling or other avenues of external support
- Following the procedures laid down in our whistle blowing, complaints and disciplinary procedures
- Cooperating fully with relevant statutory agencies.

11. Children who may be particularly vulnerable

Some children are at increased risk of neglect and or abuse. Many factors can contribute to an increase in risk, including prejudice and discrimination, isolation, social exclusion, communication issues and reluctance on the part of some adults to accept that abuse happens, or who have a high level of tolerance in respect of neglect.

To ensure that all of our children receive equal protection, we will give special consideration and attention to children who are:

- Disabled or have special educational needs.
- Vulnerable to self-harming.
- Vulnerable to eating disorders.
- Living with medical conditions.
- Living in a known domestic abuse situation.
- Affected by known parental substance misuse.
- Asylum seekers.
- Living away from home.
- Vulnerable to being bullied or engaging in bullying.
- Living in temporary accommodation.
- Living transient lifestyles.
- Living in chaotic, neglectful and unsupportive home situations.
- Vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion or sexuality.
- Involved directly or indirectly in prostitution or child trafficking.
- Do not have English as a first language.

12 . Pupils with SEND

12.1 The school recognises that pupils with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges and understands that further barriers may exist when determining abuse and neglect in this group of pupils.

12.1 Staff will be aware of the following:

- Certain indicators of abuse, such as behaviour, mood and injury, may relate to the pupil's disability without further exploration; however, it should never be assumed that a child's indicators relate only to their disability.

- Pupils with SEND can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying, without outwardly showing any signs.
- Communication barriers may exist, as well as difficulties in overcoming these barriers

12.2 When reporting concerns or making referrals for pupils with SEND, the above factors will always be taken into consideration.

12.3 When managing a safeguarding issue relating to a pupil with SEND, the DSL will liaise with the school's SENDCO, as well as the pupil's family where appropriate, to ensure that the pupil's needs are effectively met.

13 FGM Female Genital Mutilation

13.1 For the purpose of this policy, FGM is defined as the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or any other injury to the female genital organs.

13.2 FGM is considered a form of abuse in the UK and is illegal.

13.3 All staff will be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. If staff members are worried about someone who is at risk of FGM or who has been a victim of FGM, they are required to share this information with social care and/or the police.

13.4 Teaching staff are **legally required** to report to the police any discovery, whether through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence, of FGM on a girl under the age of 18. Teachers failing to report such cases will face disciplinary action.

NB. The above does not apply to any suspected or at-risk cases, nor if the individual is over the age of 18. In such cases, local safeguarding procedures will be followed.

13.5 There are a range of potential indicators that a pupil may be at risk of FGM. While individually they may not indicate risk, if two or more indicators are present, this could signal a risk to the pupil.

13.6 Victims of FGM are most likely to come from communities that are known to adopt this practice. It is important to note that the pupil may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so staff will be sensitive when broaching the subject.

13.7 Indicators that may show a heightened risk of FGM include the following:

- The socio-economic position of the family and their level of integration into UK society.
- Any girl with a mother or sister who has been subjected to FGM.
- Any girl withdrawn from PSHE.

13.8 Indicators that may show FGM could take place soon include the following:

- When a female family elder is visiting from a country of origin.
- A girl may confide that she is to have a 'special procedure' or a ceremony to 'become a woman'.
- A girl may request help from a teacher if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk.

- A girl, or her family member, may talk about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent.

13.9 Staff will be vigilant to the signs that FGM has already taken place so that help can be offered, enquiries can be made to protect others, and criminal investigations can begin.

13.10 Indicators that FGM may have already taken place include the following:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet
- Spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems
- Prolonged or repeated absences from school followed by withdrawal or depression
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations
- Asking for help, but not being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear

13.11 Teachers will not examine pupils, and so it is rare that they will see any visual evidence, but they will report to the police where an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should also consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve CSCS as appropriate.

13.12 FGM is also included in the definition of 'honour-based' violence (HBV), which involves crimes that have been committed to defend the honour of the family and/or community, alongside forced marriage and breast ironing.

13.13 All forms of HBV are forms of abuse and will be treated and escalated as such.

13.14 Staff will be alert to the signs of HBV, including concerns that a child is at risk of HBV, or has already suffered from HBV, and will consult with the DSL who will activate local safeguarding procedures if concerns arise.

13.15 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 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 will face disciplinary sanctions.

13.16 Procedure - If a member of staff suspects a child is at risk of, has already undergone, or receives a disclosure about FGM, they must be careful to respond in an appropriate and sensitive manner. Efforts should be made to establish the full facts from the child before any action is taken.

13.17 The member of staff should discuss it with our school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, following the procedures set out in our child protection policy. The matter must be reported to the Police and Social Care by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Joanne Davison.

13.18 School staff should not attempt to investigate the case themselves or attempt to speak to the child's parents as this may place the child at an increased risk of harm. For further guidance refer to Female Genital Mutilation: Guidance for Schools.

14. Breast Ironing

Schools have a vital role to play in protecting pupils who are vulnerable to breast ironing.

This is a traditional West African Practice involving the pounding of the developing breast of young girls with hot objects, most commonly stones, spoons and hammers. The practice is carried out by girl's mothers or female family members to remove outward signs of puberty and prevent girls becoming sexually attractive to men.

15. Forced marriage

15.1 For the purpose of this policy, a **“forced marriage”** is defined as a marriage that is 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 the marriage. Forced marriage is classed as a crime in the UK.

15.2 As part of Honour Based Violence, staff will be alert to the signs of forced marriage including, but not limited to, the following:

- Becoming anxious, depressed and emotionally withdrawn with low self-esteem.
- Showing signs of mental health disorders and behaviours such as self-harm or anorexia.
- Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological.
- Displaying a sudden decline in their educational performance, aspirations or motivation.
- Regularly being absent from school.
- Displaying a decline in punctuality.
- An obvious family history of older siblings leaving education early and marrying early.

15.3 If staff members have any concerns regarding a child who may have undergone, is currently undergoing, or is at risk of, forced marriage, they will speak to the DSL and local safeguarding procedures will be followed – this could include referral to CAP, CSCS, the police or the Forced Marriage Unit. All forms of so called HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. If in any doubt, staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead.

15.4 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). Some communities use religion and culture as a way to coerce a person into marriage.

16. Preventing radicalisation

16.1 For the purpose of this policy, **“radicalisation”** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies.

16.2 Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of the school's wider safeguarding duties.

16.3 The school will actively assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism.

16.4 Staff will be alert to changes in pupils' behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

16.5 Staff will use their professional judgement to identify pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation and act appropriately, which may include making a referral to the Channel programme. The school will work with local safeguarding arrangements as appropriate.

16.6 The school will ensure that they engage with parents and families, as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. In doing so, the school will assist and advise family members who raise concerns and provide information for support mechanisms.

16.7 Any concerns over radicalisation will be discussed with a child's parents, unless the school has reason to believe that the child would be placed at risk as a result.

Training

16.8 The DSL will undertake Prevent awareness training to be able to provide advice and support to other staff on how to protect children against the risk of radicalisation. The DSL will hold formal training sessions with all members of staff to ensure they are aware of the risk indicators and their duties regarding preventing radicalisation.

Risk indicators of vulnerable pupils

16.9 Indicators of an identity crisis include the following:

- Distancing themselves from their cultural/religious heritage.
- Uncomfortable with their place in society.

16.10 Indicators of a personal crisis include the following:

- Family tensions.
- A sense of isolation.
- Low self-esteem.
- Disassociation from existing friendship groups.
- Searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.

16.11 Indicators of vulnerability through personal circumstances includes the following:

- Migration.
- Local community tensions.
- Events affecting their country or region of origin.
- Alienation from UK values.
- A sense of grievance triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination.

16.12 Indicators of vulnerability through unmet aspirations include the following:

- Perceptions of injustice.
- Feelings of failure.
- Rejection of civic life.
- Indicators of vulnerability through criminality.
- Experiences of dealing with the police.
- Involvement with criminal groups.

Making a judgement

16.13 When making a judgement, staff will ask themselves the following questions:

- Does the pupil have access to extremist influences?
- Does the pupil access the internet for the purposes of extremist activities (e.g. using closed network groups, accessing or distributing extremist material, contacting such groups covertly using Skype)?
- Is there a reason to believe that the pupil has been, or is likely to be, involved with extremist organisations?
- Is the pupil known to have possessed, or be actively seeking, extremist literature/other media likely to incite racial or religious hatred?
- Does the pupil sympathise with or support illegal/illicit groups?
- Does the pupil support groups with links to extremist activity?
- Has the pupil encountered peer, social, family or faith group rejection?
- Is there evidence of extremist ideological, political or religious influence on the pupil?
- Have international events in areas of conflict and civil unrest had a noticeable impact on the pupil?
- Has there been a significant shift in the pupil's outward appearance that suggests a new social, political or religious influence?
- Has the pupil come into conflict with family over religious beliefs, lifestyle or dress choices?
- Does the pupil vocally support terrorist attacks, either verbally or in their written work?
- Has the pupil witnessed or been the victim of racial or religious hate crimes?
- Is there a pattern of regular or extended travel within the UK?
- Has the pupil travelled for extended periods of time to international locations?
- Has the pupil employed any methods to disguise their identity?
- Does the pupil have experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion?
- Does the pupil display a lack of affinity or understanding for others?
- Is the pupil the victim of social isolation?
- Does the pupil demonstrate a simplistic or flawed understanding of religion or politics?
- Is the pupil a foreign national or refugee, or awaiting a decision on their/their family's immigration status?
- Does the pupil have insecure, conflicted or absent family relationships?
- Has the pupil experienced any trauma in their lives, particularly trauma associated with war or sectarian conflict?
- Is there evidence that a significant adult or other person in the pupil's life has extremist views or sympathies?

16.14 Critical indicators include where the pupil is:

- In contact with extremist recruiters.
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders.
- Accessing extremist websites.
- Possessing extremist literature.
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining extremist organisations.

- Making significant changes to their appearance and/or behaviour.

16.15 Any member of staff who identifies such concerns, because of observed behaviour or reports of conversations, will report these to the DSL.

16.16 The DSL will consider whether a situation may be so serious that an emergency response is required. In this situation, a 999 call will be made; however, concerns are most likely to require a police investigation as part of the Channel programme, in the first instance.

Channel programme

16.17 Safeguarding children is a key role for both the school and the LA, which is implemented through the use of the Channel programme. This service shall be used where a vulnerable pupil is at risk of being involved in terrorist activities.

16.18 In cases where the school believes a pupil is potentially at serious risk of being radicalised, the principal or DSL will contact the Channel programme.

16.19 The DSL will also support any staff making referrals to the Channel programme.

16.20 The Channel programme ensures that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background, receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist-related activity.

16.21 The programme identifies individuals at risk, assesses the extent of that risk, and develops the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned, with multi-agency cooperation and support from the school.

16.22 The delivery of the Channel programme may often overlap with the implementation of the LA's or school's wider safeguarding duty, especially where vulnerabilities have been identified that require intervention from CSCS, or where the individual is already known to CSCS.

Building children's resilience

16.23 The school will:

- Provide a safe environment for debating controversial issues.
- Promote fundamental British values, alongside pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Allow pupils time to explore sensitive and controversial issues.
- Provide pupils with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage potentially difficult situations, recognise risk, make safe choices and recognise where pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing.
- Equip pupils to explore political and social issues critically, weigh evidence, debate, and make reasoned arguments.
- Teach pupils about how democracy, government and law making/enforcement occur.
- Teach pupils about mutual respect and understanding for the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities of the UK.

Resources

16.24 The school will utilise the following resources when preventing radicalisation:

- Local safeguarding arrangements.
- Local police (contacted via 101 for non-emergencies).
- The DfE's dedicated helpline (020 7340 7264).
- The Channel awareness programme.
- The Educate Against Hate website. <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

17 .Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

17.1 For the purpose of this policy, “**child sexual exploitation**” is defined as: a form of sexual abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person into sexual activity, for either, or both, of the following reasons:

- In exchange for something the victim needs or wants.
- For the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

17.2 CSE does not always involve physical contact, as it can also occur online. It is also important to note that a child can be sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.

17.3 The school has adopted the following procedure for handling cases of CSE, as outlined by the DfE:

Identifying cases

17.4 School staff members are aware of and look for the key indicators of CSE; these are as follows:

- Going missing for periods of time or regularly going home late.
- Regularly missing lessons.
- Appearing with unexplained gifts and new possessions.
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation.
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.
- Undergoing mood swings or drastic changes in emotional wellbeing.
- Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant.
- Displaying changes in emotional wellbeing.
- Misusing drugs or alcohol.

Referring cases

17.5 Where CSE, or the risk of it, is suspected, staff will discuss the case with the DSL. If after discussion a concern still remains, local safeguarding procedures will be triggered, including referral to the CAP/CSCS.

Support

17.6 The CAP and all other necessary authorities will then handle the matter to conclusion. The school will cooperate as needed.

18. Homelessness

18.1 The DSL and deputy(s) will be aware of the contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so that concerns over homelessness can be raised as early as possible.

18.2 Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include the following:

- Household debt.
- Rent arrears.
- Domestic abuse.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Any mention of a family moving home because “they have to”.

18.3 Referrals to the Local Housing Authority do not replace referrals to CSCS where a child is being harmed or at risk of harm.

18.4 For 16- and 17-year-olds, homelessness may not be family-based and referrals to CSCS will be made as necessary where concerns are raised.

19. County lines criminal activity

Schools have a vital role to play in protecting pupils from the risks of child criminal exploitation.

19.1 For the purpose of this policy, “**County lines criminal activity**” refers to drug networks or gangs grooming and exploiting children to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban areas, rural areas and market and seaside towns.

19.2 Staff will be made aware of pupils with missing episodes who may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs.

19.3 Staff members who suspect a pupil may be vulnerable to, or involved in, this activity will immediately report all concerns to the DSL.

19.4 The DSL will consider referral to the National Referral Mechanism on a case-by-case basis.

19.5 Indicators that a pupil may be involved in county lines active include the following:

- Persistently going missing or being found out of their usual area.
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones.
- Excessive receipt of texts or phone calls.
- Relationships with controlling or older individuals or groups.
- Leaving home without explanation.
- Evidence of physical injury or assault that cannot be explained.
- Carrying weapons.
- Sudden decline in school results.
- Becoming isolated from peers or social networks.
- Self-harm or significant changes in mental state.
- Parental reports of concern.

20. Serious violence

20.1 Through training, all staff will be made aware of the indicators which may signal a pupil is at risk from, or is involved with, serious violent crime. These indicators include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Increased absence from school.
- A change in friendships.
- New relationships with older individuals or groups.
- A significant decline in academic performance.
- Signs of self-harm.
- A significant change in wellbeing.
- Signs of assault.
- Unexplained injuries.
- Unexplained gifts or new possessions.

20.2 Staff will be made aware of some of the most significant risk factors that could increase a pupil's vulnerability to becoming involved in serious violent crime. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A history of committing offences.
- Substance abuse.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Truancy.
- Peers involved in crime and/or anti-social behaviour.

20.3 Staff members who suspect a pupil may be vulnerable to, or involved in, serious violent crime will immediately report their concerns to the DSL.

21. Peer on Peer Abuse

21.1 All staff need to be aware that all children are capable of abusing their peers. The gendered nature of peer on peer abuse suggests that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys perpetrators, but all peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. Abuse is abuse and will never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".

21.2 All staff will be aware that peer-on-peer abuse can be manifested in many different ways, including sexting and gender issues, such as girls being sexually touched or assaulted, and boys being subjected to hazing/initiation type of violence which aims to cause physical, emotional or psychological harm.

21.3 Pupils will be made aware of how to raise concerns or make a report and how any reports will be handled. This includes the process for reporting concerns about friends or peers.

21.4 All staff will be made aware of the heightened vulnerability of pupils with SEND, who are three times more likely to be abused than their peers. Staff will not assume that possible indicators of abuse relate to the pupil's SEND and will always explore indicators further.

21.3 LGBTQ+ children can be targeted by their peers. In some cases, children who are perceived to be LGBTQ+, whether they are or not, can be just as vulnerable to abuse as LGBTQ+ children.

21.4 The different forms peer on peer abuse can take, such as:

- Bullying including cyber bullying.

- sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexting: the policy should include the school or college's approach to it.
- Online sexual harassment, including non-consensual sharing of images and videos and consensual sharing of sexual images and videos (often known as sexting), inappropriate comments on social media, exploitation, coercion and threats – online sexual harassment may be isolated or part of a wider pattern and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals.
- upskirting which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing.

Upskirting definition

21.5 Under the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, it is an offence to operate equipment and to record an image beneath a person's clothing without consent and with the intention of observing, or enabling another person to observe, the victim's genitals or buttocks (whether exposed or covered with underwear), in circumstances where their genitals, buttocks or underwear would not otherwise be visible, for a specified purpose.

A "specified purpose" is namely:

- Obtaining sexual gratification (either for themselves or for the person they are enabling to view the victim's genitals, buttocks or underwear).
- To humiliate, distress or alarm the victim.

"Operating equipment" includes enabling, or securing, activation by another person without that person's knowledge, e.g. a motion activated camera.

Upskirting will not be tolerated by the school. Any incidents of upskirting will be reported to the DSL who will then decide on the next steps to take, which may include police involvement.

Sexual harassment

21.6 Sexual harassment refers to unwanted conduct of a sexual nature that occurs online or offline. Sexual harassment violates a pupil's dignity and makes them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated, and can create a hostile, sexualised or offensive environment. If left unchallenged, sexual harassment can create an atmosphere that normalises inappropriate behaviour and may lead to sexual violence.

21.7 Sexual harassment includes:

- Sexual comments.
- Sexual "jokes" and taunting.
- Physical behaviour, such as deliberately brushing against another pupil.
- Online sexual harassment, including non-consensual sharing of images and videos and consensual sharing of sexual images and videos (often known as sexting), inappropriate comments on social media, exploitation, coercion and threats – online sexual harassment may be isolated or part of a wider pattern.

Sexual violence

21.8 Sexual violence refers to the three following offences:

- **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.

Harmful sexual behaviours.

21.9 The term “**harmful sexual behaviour**” is used to describe behaviour that is problematic, abusive and violent, and that may cause developmental damage. Harmful sexual behaviour may include:

- Using sexually explicit words and phrases.
- Inappropriate touching.
- Sexual violence or threats.
- Full penetrative sex with other children or adults.
- Sexual interest in adults or children of very different ages to their own.
- Forceful or aggressive sexual behaviour.
- Compulsive habits.
- Sexual behaviour affecting progress and achievement.
- Using sexually explicit words and phrases.
- Inappropriate touching.
- Sexual violence or threats.

21.10 Sexual behaviour can also be harmful if one of the children is much older (especially where there is two years or more difference, or where one child is pre-pubescent and the other is not) and where the child may have SEND.

A preventative approach

21.11 In order to prevent peer-on-peer abuse and address the wider societal factors that can influence behaviour, the school will educate pupils about abuse, its forms and the importance of discussing any concerns and respecting others through the curriculum, assemblies and PSHE lessons.

21.12 The school will also ensure that pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum in PSHE lessons, RSE and group sessions. Such content will be age and stage of development specific, and tackle issues such as the following:

- Healthy relationships
- Respectful behaviour
- Gender roles, stereotyping and equality
- Body confidence and self-esteem
- Prejudiced behaviour
- That sexual violence and sexual harassment is always wrong
- Addressing cultures of sexual harassment

- 21.13 Pupils will be allowed an open forum to talk about concerns and sexual behaviour. They are taught how to raise concerns and make a report, including concerns about their friends or peers, and how a report will be handled

Awareness

- 21.14 All staff will be aware that pupils of any age and sex are capable of abusing their peers and will never tolerate abuse as “banter” or “part of growing up”.
- 21.15 All staff will be aware that peer-on-peer abuse can be manifested in many different ways, including sexting and gender issues, such as girls being sexually touched or assaulted, and boys being subjected to hazing/initiation type of violence which aims to cause physical, emotional or psychological harm.
- 21.16 All staff will be made aware of the heightened vulnerability of pupils with SEND, who are three times more likely to be abused than their peers. Staff will not assume that possible indicators of abuse relate to the pupil’s SEND and will always explore indicators further.
- 21.17 LGBTQ+ children can be targeted by their peers. In some cases, children who are perceived to be LGBTQ+, whether they are or not, can be just as vulnerable to abuse as LGBTQ+ children.
- 21.18 The school’s response to boy-on-boy and girl-on-girl sexual violence and sexual harassment will be equally as robust as it is for incidents between children of the opposite sex.
- 21.19 Pupils will be made aware of how to raise concerns or make a report and how any reports will be handled. This includes the process for reporting concerns about friends or peers.

Support available if a child has been harmed, is in immediate danger or at risk of harm

- 21.20 If a child has been harmed, is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, a referral will be made to CSCS.
- 21.21 Within one working day, a social worker will respond to the referrer to explain the action that will be taken.

Support available if early help, section 17 and/or section 47 statutory assessments are appropriate

- 21.22 If early help, section 17 and/or section 47 statutory assessments (assessments under the Children Act 1989) are appropriate, school staff may be required to support external agencies. The DSL and deputies will support staff as required.

Support available if a crime may have been committed

- 21.23 Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assaults are crimes. Where a report includes such an act, the police will be notified, often as a natural progression of making a referral to CSCS. The DSL will be aware of the local process for referrals to both CSCS and the police.
- 21.24 Whilst the age of criminal responsibility is 10 years of age, if the alleged perpetrator is under 10, the principle of referring to the police remains. In these cases, the police will take a welfare approach rather than a criminal justice approach.
- 21.25 The school has a close relationship with the local police force and the DSL will liaise closely with the local police presence.

Support available if reports include online behaviour

- 21.26 Online concerns can be especially complicated. The school recognises that there is potential for an online incident to extend further than the local community and for a victim, or the alleged perpetrator, to become marginalised and excluded both online and offline. There is also strong potential for repeat victimisation if the content continues to exist.
- 21.27 If the incident involves sexual images or videos held online, the [Internet Watch Foundation](#) will be consulted to have the material removed.
- 21.28 Staff will not view or forward illegal images of a child. If they are made aware of such an image, they will contact the DSL.

Managing disclosures

- 21.29 Victims will always be taken seriously, reassured, supported and kept safe. Victims will never be made to feel like they are causing a problem or made to feel ashamed.
- 21.30 If a friend of a victim makes a report or a member of staff overhears a conversation, staff will take action – they will never assume that someone else will deal with it. The basic principles remain the same as when a victim reports an incident; however, staff will consider why the victim has not chosen to make a report themselves and the discussion will be handled sensitively and with the help of CSCS where necessary. If staff are in any doubt, they will speak to the DSL.
- 21.31 Where an alleged incident took place away from the school or online but involved pupils from the school, the school's duty to safeguard pupils remains the same.
- 21.32 All staff will be trained to handle disclosures. Effective safeguarding practice includes:
- Never promising confidentiality at the initial stage.
 - Only sharing the report with those necessary for its progression.
 - Explaining to the victim what the next steps will be and who the report will be passed to.
 - Recognising that the person the child chose to disclose the information to is in a position of trust.
 - Being clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed.
 - Not asking leading questions and only prompting the child with open questions.
 - Waiting until the end of the disclosure to immediately write a thorough summary. If notes must be taken during the disclosure, it is important to still remain engaged and not appear distracted.
 - Only recording the facts as the child presents them – not the opinions of the note taker.
 - Where the report includes an online element, being aware of searching, screening and confiscation advice and UKCCIS sexting advice.
 - Wherever possible, managing disclosures with two staff members present (preferably with the DSL or a deputy as one of the staff members).
 - Informing the DSL or deputy as soon as possible after the disclosure if they could not be involved in the disclosure.

21.33 The DSL will be informed of any allegations of abuse against pupils with SEND. They will record the incident in writing and, working with the SENCO, decide what course of action is necessary, with the best interests of the pupil in mind at all times. In the event of a referral having to be made to **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Referral Form** has to be completed and e mailed to ssact@darlington.gov.uk

Confidentiality

21.34 The school will only engage staff and agencies required to support the victim and/or be involved in any investigation. If a victim asks the school not to tell anyone about the disclosure, the school cannot make this promise. Even without the victim's consent, the information may still be lawfully shared if it is in the public interest and protects children from harm.

21.35 The DSL will consider the following when making confidentiality decisions:

Parents will be informed unless it will place the victim at greater risk.

If a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger or has been harmed, a referral will be made to CSCS.

Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assaults are crimes – reports containing any such crimes will be passed to the police.

21.36 The DSL will weigh the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and others. If a referral is made against the victim's wishes, it will be done so extremely carefully and the reasons for referral will be explained to the victim. Appropriate specialist support will always be offered.

Anonymity

21.37 There are legal requirements for anonymity where a case is progressing through the criminal justice system. The school will do all it can to protect the anonymity of children involved in any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment. It will carefully consider, based on the nature of the report, which staff will be informed and what support will be in place for the children involved.

21.38 When deciding on the steps to take, the school will consider the role of social media in potentially exposing victims' identities and facilitating the spread of rumours.

Risk assessment

21.39 The DSL or a deputy will make an immediate risk and needs assessment any time there is a report of sexual violence. For reports of sexual harassment, a risk assessment will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Risk assessments are not intended to replace the detailed assessments of experts, and for incidents of sexual violence it is likely that a professional risk assessment by a social worker or sexual violence specialist will be required.

21.40 Risk assessments will consider:

- The victim.
- The alleged perpetrator.

- Other children at the school, especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them.

21.41 Risk assessments will be recorded (either on paper or electronically) and kept under review in accordance with the school's **Data Protection Policy**.

Taking action following a disclosure

21.42 The DSL or a deputy will decide the school's initial response, taking into consideration:

- The victim's wishes.
- The nature of the incident.
- The ages and developmental stages of the children involved.
- Any power imbalance between the children.
- Whether the incident is a one-off or part of a pattern.
- Any ongoing risks.
- Any related issues and the wider context, such as whether there are wider environmental factors in a child's life that threaten their safety and/or welfare.
- The best interests of the child.
- That sexual violence and sexual harassment are always unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

21.43 Immediate consideration will be given as to how to support the victim, alleged perpetrator and any other children involved.

21.44 For reports of rape and assault by penetration, whilst the school establishes the facts, the alleged perpetrator will be removed from any classes shared with the victim. The school will consider how to keep the victim and alleged perpetrator apart on school premises, and on transport where applicable. These actions will not be seen as a judgement of guilt on the alleged perpetrator.

21.45 For reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment, the proximity of the victim and alleged perpetrator and the suitability of shared classes, premises and transport will be considered immediately.

21.46 In all cases, the initial report will be carefully evaluated and the wishes of the victim, nature of the allegations and requirement to protect all children will be taken into consideration.

Managing the report

21.47 The decision of when to inform the alleged perpetrator of a report will be made on a case-by-case basis. If a report is being referred to CSCS or the police, the school will speak to the relevant agency to discuss informing the alleged perpetrator.

21.48 There are four likely outcomes when managing reports of sexual violence or sexual harassment:

- Managing internally.
- Providing early help.
- Referring to CSCS/CAP.
- Reporting to the police.

21.49 Whatever outcome is chosen, it will be underpinned by the principle that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable and will not be tolerated.

All concerns, discussion, decisions and reasons behind decisions will be recorded either on paper or electronically.

21.50 The following situations are statutorily clear and do not allow for contrary decisions:

- A child under the age of 13 can never consent to sexual activity.
- The age of consent is 16.
- Sexual intercourse without consent is rape.
- Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault are defined in law.
- Creating and sharing sexual photos and videos of children under 18 is illegal – including children making and sending images and videos of themselves.

Managing internally

21.51 In some cases, e.g. one-off incidents, the school may decide to handle the incident internally through behaviour and bullying policies and by providing pastoral support.

Providing early help

21.52 The school may decide that statutory interventions are not required, but that pupils may benefit from early help – providing support as soon as a problem emerges. This approach can be particularly useful in addressing non-violent harmful sexual behaviour and may prevent escalation of sexual violence.

Referral to CSCS

21.53 If a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm or is in immediate danger, the school will make a referral to CSCS. Parents will be informed unless there is a compelling reason not to do so (if referral will place the victim at risk). This decision will be made in consultation with CSCS.

21.54 The school will not wait for the outcome of an investigation before protecting the victim and other children.

21.55 The DSL will work closely with CSCS to ensure that the school's actions do not jeopardise any investigation. Any related risk assessment will be used to inform all decisions.

21.56 If CSCS decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate, the school will consider referring the incident again if they believe the child to be in immediate danger or at risk of harm.

21.57 If the school agrees with the decision made by CSCS, they will consider the use of other support mechanisms such as early help, pastoral support and specialist support.

Reporting to the police

21.58 Reports of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault will be passed on to the police – even if the alleged perpetrator is under 10 years of age. Generally, this will be in parallel with referral to CSCS. The DSL and deputies will follow the local process for referral.

21.59 Parents will be informed unless there is a compelling reason not to do so. Where parents are not informed, it is essential for the school to support the child with any decision they take, in unison with CSCS and any appropriate specialist agencies.

- 21.60 The DSL and **governing board** will agree what information will be disclosed to staff and others, in particular the alleged perpetrator and their parents. They will also discuss the best way to protect the victim and their anonymity.
- 21.61 The DSL will be aware of local arrangements and specialist units that investigate child abuse.
- 21.62 In some cases, it may become clear that the police will not take further action, for whatever reason. In these circumstances, the school will continue to engage with specialist support for the victim as required.

Bail conditions

- 21.63 Police bail is only used in exceptional circumstances. It is unlikely that a child will be placed on police bail if alternative measures can be used to mitigate risks.
- 21.64 The school will work with CSCS and the police to support the victim, alleged perpetrator and other children (especially witnesses) during criminal investigations. The school will seek advice from the police to ensure they meet their safeguarding responsibilities.
- 21.65 The term 'released under investigation' (RUI) is used to describe alleged perpetrators released in circumstances that do not warrant the application of bail.
- 21.66 Where bail is deemed necessary, the school will work with CSCS and the police to safeguard children – ensuring that the victim can continue in their normal routine and continue to receive a suitable education.
- 21.67 Managing delays in the criminal justice system
- 21.68 The school will not wait for the outcome (or even the start) of criminal proceedings before protecting the victim, alleged perpetrator and other children. The associated risk assessment will be used to inform any decisions made.
- 21.69 The DSL will work closely with the police to ensure the school does not jeopardise any criminal proceedings, and to obtain help and support as necessary.

The end of the criminal process

- 21.70 Risk assessments will be updated if the alleged perpetrator receives a caution or is convicted. If the perpetrator remains in the same school as the victim, the school will set out clear expectations regarding the perpetrator, including their behaviour and any restrictions deemed reasonable and proportionate with regards to the perpetrator's timetable.
- 21.71 The school will ensure that the victim and perpetrator remain protected from bullying and harassment (including online).
- 21.72 Where an alleged perpetrator is found not guilty or a case is classed as requiring "no further action", the school will offer support to the victim and alleged perpetrator for as long as is necessary. The victim is likely to be traumatised and the fact that an allegation cannot be substantiated does not necessarily mean that it was unfounded. The school will discuss decisions with the victim and offer support.
- 21.73 The alleged perpetrator is also likely to require ongoing support, as they have also been through a difficult and upsetting experience.

Ongoing support for the victim

- 21.74 Any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the victim will be made with the following considerations in mind:
- The terminology the school uses to describe the victim
 - The age and developmental stage of the victim

- The needs and wishes of the victim
- Whether the victim wishes to continue in their normal routine
- The victim will not be made to feel ashamed about making a report
- What a proportionate response looks like

21.75 Victims may not disclose the whole picture immediately and they may be more comfortable talking about the incident on a piecemeal basis; therefore, a dialogue will be kept open and the victim can choose to appoint a designated trusted adult.

21.76 Victims may struggle in a normal classroom environment. Whilst it is important not to isolate the victim, the victim may wish to be withdrawn from lessons and activities at times. This will only happen when the victim wants it to, not because it makes it easier to manage the situation.

21.77 The school will provide a physical space for victims to withdraw to.

21.78 Victims may require support for a long period of time and the school will be prepared to offer long-term support in liaison with relevant agencies.

21.79 Everything possible will be done to prevent the victim from bullying and harassment as a result of any report they have made.

21.80 If the victim is unable to remain in the school, alternative provision or a move to another school will be considered – this will only be considered at the request of the victim and following discussion with their parents.

21.81 If the victim does move to another school, the DSL will inform the school of any ongoing support needs and transfer the child protection file.

Ongoing support for the alleged perpetrator

21.82 When considering the support required for an alleged perpetrator, the school will take into account:

- The terminology they use to describe the alleged perpetrator or perpetrator.
- The balance of safeguarding the victim and providing the alleged perpetrator with education and support.
- The reasons why the alleged perpetrator may have abused the victim – and the support necessary.
- Their age and developmental stage.
- What a proportionate response looks like.
- Whether the behaviour is a symptom of their own abuse or exposure to abusive practices and/or materials.

21.83 When making a decision, advice will be taken from CSCS, specialist sexual violence services and the police as appropriate.

21.84 If the alleged perpetrator moves to another school (for any reason), the DSL will inform the destination school of any ongoing support needs and transfer the child protection file.

21.85 The school will work with professionals as required to understand why the abuse took place and provide a high level of support to help the pupil understand and overcome the reasons for their behaviour and reduce the likelihood of them abusing again.

21.86 Disciplining the alleged perpetrator

- 21.87 Disciplinary action can be taken whilst investigations are ongoing and the fact that investigations are ongoing does not prevent the school reaching its own conclusion and imposing an appropriate penalty.
- 21.88 The school will make such decisions on a case-by-case basis, with the DSL taking a leading role. The school will take into consideration whether any action would prejudice an investigation and/or subsequent prosecution. The police and CSCS will be consulted where necessary.
- 21.89 The school will also consider whether circumstances make it unreasonable or irrational for the school to make a decision about what happened while an investigation is considering the same facts.
- 21.90 Disciplinary action and support can take place at the same time.
- 21.91 The school will be clear whether action taken is disciplinary, supportive or both.

Shared classes

- 21.92 Once the DSL has decided to progress a report, they will again consider whether the victim and alleged perpetrator will be separated in classes, on school premises and on school transport – balancing the school's duty to educate against its duty to safeguard. The best interests of the pupil will always come first.
- 21.93 Where there is a criminal investigation into rape or assault by penetration, the alleged perpetrator will be removed from classes with the victim and potential contact on school premises and transport will be prevented.
- 21.94 Where a criminal investigation into rape or assault by penetration leads to a conviction or caution, in all but the most exceptional circumstances, this will constitute a serious breach of discipline and result in the view that allowing the perpetrator to remain in the school would harm the education or welfare of the victim and potentially other pupils.
- 21.95 Where a criminal investigation into sexual assault leads to a conviction or caution, the school will consider suitable sanctions and permanent exclusion. If the perpetrator will remain at the school, the school will keep the victim and perpetrator in separate classes and manage potential contact on school premises and transport. The nature of the conviction or caution, alongside the wishes of the victim, will inform any discussions made.
- 21.96 Where a report of sexual assault does not lead to a police investigation, this does not mean that the offence did not happen or that the victim has lied. Both the victim and alleged perpetrator will be affected and appropriate support will be provided. Considerations regarding sharing classes and potential contact will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- 21.97 In all cases, the school will record its decisions and be able to justify them. The needs and wishes of the victim will always be at the heart of the process.

Working with parents and carers

- 21.98 In most sexual violence cases, the school will work with the parents of both the victim and alleged perpetrator. For cases of sexual harassment, these decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- 21.99 The school will meet the victim's parents with the victim present to discuss the arrangements being put in place to safeguard the victim, and to understand their wishes in terms of support arrangements and the progression of the report.
- 21.100 Schools will also meet with the parents of the alleged perpetrator to discuss arrangements that will impact their child, such as moving them out of classes with

the victim. Reasons behind decisions will be explained and the support being made available will be discussed. The DSL or a deputy will attend such meetings, with agencies invited as necessary.

- 21.101 Clear policies regarding how the school will handle reports of sexual violence and how victims and alleged perpetrators will be supported will be made available to parents.

Safeguarding other children

- 21.102 Children who have witnessed sexual violence, especially rape and assault by penetration, will be provided with support.
- 21.103 It is likely that children will “take sides” following a report, and the school will do everything in its power to protect the victim, alleged perpetrator and witnesses from bullying and harassment.
- 21.104 The school will keep in mind that contact may be made between the victim and alleged perpetrator and that harassment from friends of both parties could take place via social media and do everything in its power to prevent such activity.
- 21.105 As part of the school’s risk assessment following a report, transport arrangements will be considered, as it is a potentially vulnerable place for both a victim and alleged perpetrator. Schools will consider any additional support that can be put in place.

Communication and confidentiality

- 21.106 The school will only engage staff and agencies required to support the victim and/or be involved in any investigation. If a victim asks the school not to tell anyone about the disclosure, the school cannot make this promise. Even without the victim’s consent, the information may still be lawfully shared if it is in the public interest and protects children from harm. Where there is an allegation or incident of sexual abuse or violence, the victim is entitled to anonymity by law; therefore, the school will consult its policy and agree what information will be disclosed to staff and others, in particular the alleged perpetrator and their parents.
- 21.107 Where a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system, the school will do all it can to protect the anonymity of the pupils involved in the case.
- 21.108 Concerns will only be reported to those necessary for its progression and reports will only be shared amongst staff members and with external agencies on a need-to-know basis.
- 21.109 During disclosure of a concern by a pupil, staff members will not promise the pupil confidentiality and will ensure that they are aware of what information will be shared, with whom and why.
- 21.110 Where it is in the public interest, and protects pupils from harm, information can be lawfully shared without the victim’s consent, e.g. if doing so would assist the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime.
- 21.111 Depending on the nature of a concern, the DSL will discuss the concern with the parents of the pupils involved.
- 21.112 Discussions with parents will not take place where they could potentially put a pupil at risk of harm.

21.113 Discussion with the victim's parents will relate to the arrangements being put in place to safeguard the victim, with the aim of understanding their wishes in terms of support arrangements and the progression of the report.

21.114 Discussion with the alleged perpetrator's parents will have regards to the arrangements that will impact their child, such as moving classes, etc., with the reasons behind decisions being explained and the available support discussed.

All child protection and safeguarding concerns will be treated in the strictest of confidence in accordance with school data protection policies.

22. Contextual safeguarding

22.1 Safeguarding incidents can occur outside of school and can be associated with outside factors. School staff, particularly the DSL and their deputy(s), will always consider the context of incidents – this is known as contextual safeguarding.

22.2 Assessment of pupils' behaviour will consider whether there are wider environmental factors that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare.

22.3 The school will provide as much contextual information as possible when making referrals to CAP/CSCS.

23. E-Safety

23.1 As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, all pupils will be made aware of online risks and taught how to stay safe online.

23.2 The school's e-safety policy explains how we keep children safe in school. Cyber-bullying by children, via online gaming, in chat rooms, through texts/emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. Online gaming /Chat rooms and social networking sites are the more obvious sources of inappropriate and harmful behaviour and children are not allowed to access these sites whilst in school.

23.3 The school regularly teaches children about online safety through Computing/PSHE lessons. The introduction of the LA Gold package for Internet Safety ensures that information given to children is correct, relevant and age appropriate.

23.4 The PSHE and RSE spiralling curriculums continue to embed key practises for ensuring that our pupils have a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe and what to do if they are at all concerned. See the PSHE and SRE policy and curriculum.

23.5 Through training, all staff members will be made aware of the following:

- Pupil attitudes and behaviours which may indicate they are at risk of potential harm online.
- The procedure to follow when they have a concern regarding a pupil's online activity.

23.6 The school ensures that suitable filtering systems are in place to prevent children accessing inappropriate sites.

23.7 The use of mobile phones by staff and pupils is closely monitored by the school. Children are not allowed mobile phones in school however, on the rare occasions that they do bring one to school they need to switch it off and take it to the office where it is stored.

24. Concerns about a pupil

- 24.1 If a member of staff has any concern about a child's welfare, they will act on them immediately by speaking to the DSL or a deputy.
- 24.2 All staff members are aware of the procedure for reporting concerns and understand their responsibilities in relation to confidentiality and information sharing, as outlined in this policy.
- 24.3 Where the DSL is not available to discuss the concern with, staff members will contact the deputy DSL with the matter.
- 24.4 If a referral is made about a child by anyone other than the DSL, the DSL will be informed as soon as possible.
- 24.5 The LA/CAP will make a decision regarding what action is required within one working day of the referral being made and will notify the referrer.
- 24.6 Staff are required to monitor a referral if they do not receive information from the LA/CAP regarding what action is necessary for the pupil.
- 24.7 If the situation does not improve after a referral, the DSL will ask for reconsideration to ensure that their concerns have been addressed and that the situation improves for the pupil.
- 24.8 If Early Help is appropriate, the case will be kept under constant review. If the pupil's situation does not improve, a referral will be considered.
- 24.9 All concerns, discussions and decisions made, as well as the reasons for making those decisions, will be recorded in writing by the DSL, Deputy DSL or SLT on the CPOMS system. Relevant paper work referrals, plans are saved and attached electronically.
- 24.10 If a pupil is in immediate danger, a referral will be made to CAP/CSCS and/or the police immediately.
- 24.11 If a pupil has committed a crime, such as sexual violence, the police will be notified without delay.
- 24.12 Where there are safeguarding concerns, the school will ensure that the pupil's wishes are always taken into account, and that there are systems available for pupils to provide feedback and express their views.
- 24.13 When responding to safeguarding concerns, staff members will act calmly and supportively, ensuring that the pupil feels like they are being listened to and believed.
- 24.14 An inter-agency assessment will be undertaken where a child and their family could benefit from coordinated support from more than one agency. These assessments will identify what help the child and family require in preventing needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed.

25. A child missing from education

- 25.1 A child going missing from school is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and, as such, these children are increasingly at risk of being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation.
- 25.2 Staff will monitor pupils that go missing from the school, particularly on repeat occasions, and report them to the DSL following normal safeguarding procedures, in accordance with the Children Missing Education Policy.
- 25.3 The school will inform the LA of any pupil who fails to attend regularly or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more.

Admissions register

- 25.4 Pupils are placed on the SIMS admissions register at the beginning of the first day that is agreed by the school, or when the school has been notified that the pupil will first be attending.
- 25.5 The school will notify the LA within five days of when a pupil's name is added to the admissions register.
- 25.6 The school will ensure that the admissions register is kept up-to-date and accurate at all times and will inform parents when any changes occur.
- 25.7 Two emergency contact details will be held for each pupil where possible.
- 25.8 Staff will monitor pupils who do not attend the school on the agreed date and will notify the LA at the earliest opportunity.
- 25.9 If a parent notifies the school that their child will live at a different address, the school will record the following information on the admissions register:
- The full name of the parent with whom the pupil will live.
 - The new address.
 - The date from when the pupil will live at that address.
- 25.10 If a parent notifies the school that their child will be attending a different school, or is already registered at a different school, the following information will be recorded on the admissions register:
- The name of the new school.
 - The date on which the pupil first attended or is due to attend that school.
- 25.11 Where a pupil moves to a new school, the school will use a secure internet system to securely transfer pupils' data.
- 25.12 To ensure accurate data is collected to allow effective safeguarding, the school will inform the LA of any pupil who is going to be deleted from the admission register, in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended), where they:
- Have been taken out of the school by their parents, and are being educated outside the national education system, e.g. Elective Home Education (EHE).

- Have ceased to attend the school, and no longer live within a reasonable distance of the premises.
- Have been certified by the school's medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and their parent has not indicated the intention to the pupil continuing to attend school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
- Have been in custody for a period of more than four months due to a final court order and the school does not reasonably believe they will be returning to the school at the end of that period.
- Have been permanently excluded.

25.13 The school will also remove a pupil from the admissions register where the school and LA has been unable to establish the pupil's whereabouts after making reasonable enquiries into their attendance.

25.14 If a pupil is to be removed from the admissions register, the school will provide the LA with the following information:

- The full name of the pupil.
- The full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil lives.
- At least one telephone number of the parent with whom the pupil lives.
- The full name and address of the parent with whom the pupil is going to live, and the date that the pupil will start living there, if applicable.
- The name of the pupil's new school and the pupil's expected start date there, if applicable.
- The grounds for removal from the admissions register under regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

25.15 The school will work with the LA to establish methods of making returns for pupils back into the school.

25.16 The school will highlight to the LA where they have been unable to obtain necessary information from parents, e.g. where an address is unknown.

25.17 The school will also highlight any other necessary contextual information including safeguarding concerns

26. Alternative provision

26.1 The school will remain responsible for a pupil's welfare during their time at an alternative provider.

26.2 When placing a pupil with an alternative provider, the school will obtain written confirmation that the provider has conducted all relevant safeguarding checks on staff.

26.3 In addition to the responsible adults, the school will consider whether a DBS enhanced certificate should be obtained for anyone else aged over 16 in the household.

27. Private fostering

27.1 Where the school becomes aware of a pupil being privately fostered, they will notify the LA as soon as possible to allow the LA to conduct any necessary checks.

28. Pupils with family members in prison

Pupils with a family member in prison will be offered pastoral support as necessary.

They will receive a copy of '[Are you a young person with a family member in prison](#)' from Action for Prisoners' Families where appropriate and allowed the opportunity to discuss questions and concerns.

29. Pupils required to give evidence in court

Pupils required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or crimes they have witnessed, will be offered appropriate pastoral support. Pupils will also be provided with the booklet '[Going to Court](#)' from HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) where appropriate and allowed the opportunity to discuss questions and concerns.

30. Early Help

30.1 Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. <https://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/10602/family-leaflet-2019.pdf>

30.2 Any pupil may benefit from early help, but in particular staff will be alert to the potential need for early help for pupils who:

- Have SEND (whether or not they have a statutory EHC plan).
- Are young carers.
- Are living with parents/carers who are struggling to deal with their behaviour.
- Show signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups.
- Are frequently missing/going missing from care or from home.
- Parents misuse drugs or alcohol.
- Are at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation.
- Are in a family circumstance presenting challenges such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse.
- Are returned home to their family from care.
- Show early signs of abuse and/or neglect.
- Are at risk of being radicalised or exploited.
- Are privately fostered.

30.3 Early help will also be used to address non-violent harmful sexual behaviour to prevent escalation.

30.4 All staff will be made aware of the local early help process and understand their role in it.

30.5 The DSL will take the lead where early help is appropriate.

Managing referrals

30.6 The reporting and referral process will be followed accordingly. Referral forms can be found on the Darlington Borough council website [Referral form](#) DSL/ teachers will check [Darlington-continuum-of-need](#) to support referrals.

- 30.7 If early help is appropriate, the DSL (or deputy) will lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment.
- 30.8 Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead professional. Any such cases should be kept under constant review and consideration given to a referral to children's social care for assessment for statutory services if the child's situation does not appear to be improving or is getting worse.
- 30.9 When making a referral to CSCS or other external agencies, information will be shared in line with confidentiality requirements and will only be shared where necessary to do so.
- 30.10 The DSL will work alongside external agencies, maintaining continuous liaison, including multi-agency liaison where appropriate, in order to ensure the wellbeing of the pupils involved. Meeting will be held at least every 6 weeks to monitor progress.
- 30.11 The DSL will work closely with the police to ensure the school does not jeopardise any criminal proceedings, and to obtain help and support as necessary.
- 30.12 Where a pupil has been harmed or is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, the referrer will be notified of the action that will be taken within one working day of a referral being made. **Where this information is not forthcoming, the referrer will contact the assigned social worker for more information.**
- 30.13 At all stages of the reporting and referral process, the pupil will be informed of the decisions made, actions taken and reasons for doing so.
- 30.14 Discussions of concerns with parents will only take place where this would not put the pupil or others at potential risk of harm.
- 30.15 The school will work closely with parents to ensure that the pupil, as well as their family, understands that the arrangements in place, such as in-school interventions, are effectively supported and know where they can access additional support.

31. Child in Need

- 31.1 A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled. Local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
- 31.2 Support for those involved in a child protection issue is vital. Child neglect and abuse is devastating for the child and can also result in distress and anxiety for staff who become involved. We will support the children and their families and staff by:
- Taking all suspicions and disclosures seriously.
 - Nominating a link person who will keep all parties informed and be the central point of contact. Where a member of staff is the subject of an allegation made by a child, a separate link person will be nominated to avoid any conflict of interest.

- Responding sympathetically to any request from a child or member of staff for time out to deal with distress or anxiety.
- Maintaining confidentiality and sharing information on a need-to-know basis only with relevant individuals and agencies.
- Storing records securely on CPOMS.
- Offering details of help lines, counselling or other avenues of external support.
- Following the procedures laid down in our whistle blowing, complaints and disciplinary procedures.
- Cooperating fully with relevant statutory agencies.

32. Confidentiality and sharing information

- 32.1 All staff will understand that child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality.
- 32.2 Staff should only discuss concerns with the designated person, Principal or chair of governors (depending on who is the subject of the concern). That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.
- 32.3 Record of concern forms and other written information will be stored in a locked facility and any electronic information (CPOMS) will be password protected and only made available to relevant individuals.
- 32.4 When a child leaves school, the DSL will ensure the child protection file is transferred, separate from the main pupil file, to the new school as soon as possible ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt will be obtained. In addition the DSL will consider whether it is necessary to share information with a new school in advance of a child leaving.
- 32.5 Child protection records are normally exempt from the disclosure provisions of the Data Protection Act, which means that children and parents do not have an automatic right to see them.
- 32.6 If any member of staff receives a request from a child or parent to see child protection records, they should refer the request to the Principal.
- 32.7 The Data Protection Act does not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child.

33 Reporting directly to child protection agencies

- 33.1 Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all signs of abuse and neglect. The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children. Information may be directly shared with children's social care, police or the NSPCC if:
- The situation is an emergency and the designated senior person, their deputy, the Principal and the chair of governors are all unavailable.

- The member of staff dealing with the situation is convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the ch

34. Referrals

34.1 Initial contact can be made to Children's Access Point in order to receive information or guidance followed by a referral to the Children's First Response Team.

Children's Access Point Tel: 01325 406222

Children's First Response Team Tel: 01325 742020

Referral forms available at <https://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/childrens-social-care/early-help-assessment/>

Email: childrensaccesspoint@darlington.gov.uk

34.2 Have all information at hand regarding concerns and child's details.

35. Emergency action

35.1 In some cases you may need to **protect a child immediately**-in these situations **dial 999. The police** are the **only agency** with statutory powers for the **immediate protection of children**.

It is not the responsibility of any member of staff to decide whether the abuse has taken place or not but it is the responsibility of every member of staff to pass on information to the appropriate authority immediately.

35.2 Further support for extremism

Due Diligence and Counter Extremism Group (DDCEG) Helpline - (020 7340 7264) For school staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly and in confidence.

35.3 Durham Constabulary Prevent Team Direct dial 0191 375 2234

36. Concerns about staff members and safeguarding practices

36.1 If a staff member has concerns about another member of staff, it will be raised with the principal.

36.2 If the concern is with regards to the principal, it will be referred to the chair of governors.

36.3 Any concerns regarding the safeguarding practices at the school will be raised with the SLT, and the necessary whistleblowing procedures will be followed, as outlined in the **Whistleblowing Policy**.

36.4 If a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with the SLT, they should access other whistleblowing channels such as the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline (0800 028 0285).

36.5 Any allegations of abuse made against staff members will be dealt with in accordance with the school's

37. Dealing with allegations of abuse against staff

37.1 All allegations will be dealt with in line with the school's Whistle Blowing/Disciplinary Policies.

37.2 Where an allegation is substantiated, and the individual is dismissed or resigns, the school will refer it to the DBS. They will also consider referring the matter to the TRA for consideration for a prohibition order.

37.3 If a case manager is concerned about the welfare of other children in the community following a staff member's suspension, they may report this concern to CSCS.

37.4 The school will preserve records which contain information about allegations of sexual abuse for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), for the term of the inquiry in question.

38. Mobile phone and camera safety for staff and volunteers in school.

38.1 Staff members and volunteers will not use personal mobile phones or cameras when pupils are present.

38.2 Staff and volunteers may use mobile phones on school premises outside of working hours when no pupils are present.

38.3 Staff may use mobile phones in the staffroom during breaks and non-contact time.

38.4 Mobile phones will be safely stored and in silent mode whilst pupils are present.

38.5 Staff will use their professional judgement in emergency situations.

38.6 Staff may take mobile phones on trips, but they must only be used in emergencies or when contact with school / parents is vital.

38.7 Mobile devices will not be used to take images or videos of pupils or staff in any circumstances.

38.8 The sending of inappropriate messages or images from mobile devices is strictly prohibited.

38.9 Staff who do not adhere to this policy will face disciplinary action.

38.10 ICT technicians will review and authorise any downloadable apps used on school systems – no apps or programmes will be downloaded without express permission from an ICT technician or the IT coordinator.

38.11 The school will adhere to the terms of the E-Safety Policy at all times.

38.12 Photographs and videos of pupils will be carefully planned before any activity with particular regard to consent and adhering to the school's Data Protection Policy.

- 38.13 All staff will oversee the planning of any events where photographs and videos will be taken. The photograph consent list will be checked prior to every photograph opportunity.
- 38.14 Where photographs and videos will involve LAC pupils, adopted pupils, or pupils for whom there are security concerns, the Principal will liaise with the DSL to determine the steps involved.
- 38.15 The DSL will, in known cases of a pupil who is a LAC or who has been adopted, liaise with the pupil's social worker, carers or adoptive parents to assess the needs and risks associated with the pupil.
- 38.16 Staff will report any concerns about another staff member's use of mobile phones to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

39. Sports clubs and extracurricular activities

- 39.1 Clubs and extracurricular activities hosted by external bodies, e.g. charities or companies, will work in collaboration with the school to effectively safeguard pupils and adhere to local safeguarding arrangements.
- 39.2 Paid and volunteer staff running sports clubs and extracurricular activities are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and promote the welfare of pupils.
- 39.3 Paid and volunteer staff understand how they should respond to child protection concerns and how to make a referral to CSCS or the police, if necessary.
- 39.4 All national governing bodies of sport that receive funding from either Sport England or UK Sport, must aim to meet the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport.

40. Safer recruitment

- 40.1 An enhanced DBS check with barred list information will be undertaken for all staff members engaged in regulated activity. A person will be considered to be in 'regulated activity' if, as a result of their work, they:

- Are responsible on a daily basis for the care or supervision of children.
- Regularly work in the school at times when children are on the premises.
- Regularly come into contact with children under 18 years of age.

- 40.2 The DfE's [DBS Workforce Guides](#) will be consulted when determining whether a position fits the child workforce criteria.

Pre-employment checks

- 40.3 The governing board will assess the suitability of prospective employees by:
- Verifying the candidate's identity, preferably from the most current photographic ID and proof of address except where, for exceptional reasons, none is available.
 - Obtaining a certificate for an enhanced DBS check with barred list information where the person will be engaged in regulated activity.

- Obtaining a separate barred list check if an individual will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available.
- Checking that a candidate to be employed as a teacher is not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State, using the TRA Teacher Services' System.
- Verifying the candidate's mental and physical fitness to undertake their working responsibilities, including asking relevant questions about disability and health to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role.
- Checking the person's right to work in the UK. If there is uncertainty about whether an individual needs permission to work in the UK, the advice set out on the Gov.UK website will be followed.
- If the person has lived or worked outside the UK, making any further checks that the school considers appropriate; this includes checking for any teacher sanctions or restrictions that an EEA professional regulating authority has imposed.
- Checking professional experience, QTS and qualifications as appropriate using Teacher Services.

40.4 An enhanced DBS certificate will be obtained from candidates before or as soon as practicable after appointment. An online update check may be undertaken through the DBS update service if an applicant has subscribed to it and gives their permission.

40.5 References from internal candidates will always be scrutinised before appointment.

Governors

40.6 An enhanced DBS check will be carried out for each member of the governing board. Where a governor also engages in regulated activity, a barred list check will also be requested. The school will also contact the TRA using Teacher Services to check if a proposed governor is barred as a result of being subject to a section 128 direction. Where a barred list check has been performed, the section 128 direction will also be shown and will not require a separate check.

Those who have lived or worked outside of the UK

40.7 For those who have lived or worked outside of the UK, additional checks regarding teacher sanctions or restrictions will be conducted, this includes checking for any teacher sanctions or restrictions that an EEA professional regulating authority has imposed.

Barred list check

40.8 An enhanced DBS check may be requested for anyone working in school that is not in regulated activity but does not have a barred list check.

40.9 If there are concerns about an applicant, an enhanced DBS check with barred list information may be requested, even if they have worked in regulated activity in the three months prior to appointment.

40.10 Written information about their previous employment history will be obtained from candidates and the appropriate checks undertaken to ensure information is not contradictory or incomplete.

References

- 40.11 References will be obtained directly from referees and scrutinised, with all concerns satisfactorily resolved prior to confirmation of employment.
- 40.12 References will only be accepted from a senior person and not from a colleague.
- 40.13 References will be sought on all short-listed candidates, including internal ones, before an interview and checked on receipt to ensure that all specific questions were answered satisfactorily.
- 40.14 References will be obtained prior to interviews taking place and discussed during interviews.
- 40.15 Open testimonials will not be considered.
- 40.16 Information about past disciplinary actions or allegations will be considered carefully when assessing an applicant's suitability for a post.

Volunteers

- 40.17 No volunteer will be left unsupervised with a pupil or allowed to work in regulated activity until the necessary checks have been obtained.
- 40.18 An enhanced DBS certificate with barred list check will be obtained for all new volunteers in regulated activity that will regularly teach or look after children on an unsupervised basis or provide personal care on a one-off basis.
- 40.19 A supervised volunteer who regularly teaches or looks after children is not in regulated activity.
- 40.20 The school will obtain an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list check for existing volunteers that provide pastoral care.
- 40.21 Unless there is cause for concern, the school will not request any new DBS certificates with barred list check for existing volunteers that have already been checked.

Associate members

- 40.22 Associate members (i.e. individuals that are appointed by the governing board to serve on one or more committees) will not be required to obtain enhanced DBS checks.

Contractors

- 40.23 The school will ensure that any contractor or employee of the contractor working on the premises has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check.
- 40.24 Checks will be conducted to ensure that the contractor presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.
- 40.25 Contractors without a DBS check will be supervised if they will have contact with children. The identity of the contractor will be checked upon their arrival at the school.

Data retention

- 40.26 DBS certificates will be securely destroyed as soon as practicable, but not retained for longer than six months from receipt.

40.27 A copy of the other documents used to verify the successful candidate's identity, right to work and required qualifications will be kept for the personnel file. The personnel file will be held for the duration of the employee's employment plus six years.

Referral to the DBS

40.28 The school will refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed a child or poses a risk of harm to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed an offence and has been removed from working in regulated activity. The duty will also apply in circumstances where an individual is deployed to another area of work that is not in regulated activity or they are suspended.

Ongoing suitability

40.29 Following appointment, consideration will be given to staff and volunteers' ongoing suitability – to prevent the opportunity for harm to children or placing children at risk.

41. Single central record (SCR)

41.1 The school keeps an SCR which records all staff, including supply staff and teacher trainees on salaried routes, who work at the school.

41.2 All members of the proprietor body are also recorded on the SCR.

41.3 The following information is recorded on the SCR:

- An identity check.
- A barred list check.
- An enhanced DBS check.
- A prohibition from teaching check.
- A section 128 check
- A check of professional qualifications.
- A check to determine the individual's right to work in the UK.
- Additional checks for those who have lived or worked outside of the UK.

41.4 For agency and third-party supply staff, the school will also record whether written confirmation from the employment business supplying the member of staff has been received which indicates that all the necessary checks have been conducted and the date that confirmation was received.

41.5 If any checks have been conducted for volunteers, this will also be recorded on the SCR.

41.6 If risk assessments are conducted to assess whether a volunteer should be subject to an enhanced DBS check, the risk assessment will be recorded.

42. Staff suitability

42.1 All centres providing care for pupils under the age of eight must ensure that staff and volunteers working in these settings are not disqualified from doing so under the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.

42.2 A person may be disqualified if they:

- Have certain orders or other restrictions placed upon them.
- Have committed certain offences.

42.3 All staff members are required to sign the Childcare Disqualification Self-Declaration Form confirming that they are not disqualified from working in an Academy environment.

42.4 A disqualified person will not be permitted to continue working at the school, unless they apply for and are granted a waiver from Ofsted. The school will provide support with this process.

43. Training

43.1 Staff training

It is important that all staff have training to enable them to recognise the possible signs of abuse and neglect and to know what to do if they have a concern. New staff and governors will receive training during their induction. All staff, including the Principal (unless the Principal is the DSL) will receive training that is updated at least every three years and the DSL will receive training updated at least every two years, including training in inter-agency procedures. Where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from harm, it is important that a referral to children's social care (and if appropriate the police) is made immediately. All staff receive yearly refresher training and are aware of the process of making referrals to children's services, including the Early Help Process, using the indicators of abuse and neglect. If in exceptional circumstances, the DSL or deputy are not available, this should not delay the appropriate action being taken.

43.2 Staff members will undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction, which will be regularly updated on a termly basis or whenever there is a change in legislation.

43.3 The induction training will cover:

- The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- The Behavioural Policy.
- The Staff Code of Conduct.
- The safeguarding response to children who go missing from education.
- The identity of the DSL and any deputies.
- The role of the DSL and deputy DSLs.

43.4 All staff members will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required, but at least annually.

43.5 Training will cover, at a minimum:

- The issues surrounding sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Contextual safeguarding.
- How to keep previously LAC safe.
- Child criminal exploitation and the need to refer cases to the National Referral Mechanism.

43.6 Staff will receive opportunities to contribute towards and inform the safeguarding arrangements in the school.

- 43.7 The DSL and deputy DSL will undergo updated child protection training every two years, as well as additional training to refresh their skills and knowledge at regular intervals (at least annually) to allow them to keep up-to-date with any developments relevant to their role.
- 43.8 The DSL and deputy DSL will also undergo biennial Prevent awareness training which will enable them to understand and support the school with regards to the Prevent duty and equip them with the knowledge needed to advise staff.
- 43.9 The DSL and their deputy(s) will undergo online safety training to help them recognise the additional risks that pupils with SEND face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation, to ensure they have the capability to support pupils with SEND to stay safe online
- 43.10 Online training will also be conducted for all staff members as part of the overall safeguarding approach.

44. Monitoring and review

- 44.1 This policy is reviewed annually by the DSL, Safeguarding Governor and the Principal.
- 44.2 Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.
- 44.3 All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with all processes and procedures outlined in this policy as part of their induction programme.
- 44.4 The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2021.

As a Darlington school

Expert organisations

[Barnardo's](#)

[Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[Rape Crisis](#)

[University of Bedfordshire: Contextual Safeguarding](#)

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Support for victims

[Anti-Bullying Alliance](#)

[MoJ Victim Support](#)

[Rape Crisis](#)

[The Survivor's Trust](#)

[Victim Support](#)

Toolkits

[Brook](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[Safeguarding Unit, Farrer and Co, and Carlene Firmin, MBE, University of Bedfordshire](#)

Further information on confidentiality and information sharing

[Gillick Competency Fraser Guidelines](#)

[Government Information Sharing Advice](#)

[Information Commissioner's Office: Education](#)

[NSPCC: Things to Know and Consider](#)

Further information on sexting

[UK Council for Child Internet Safety: Sexting Advice](#)

[London Grid for Learning – Collection of Advice](#)

Support for parents

[Parentzone](#)

[Parentsafe – London Grid for Learning](#)

[CEOP Thinkuknow – Challenging Harmful Sexual Attitudes and their Impact](#)

[CEOP Thinkuknow – Supporting Positive Sexual Behaviour](#)

Contacts and Advice

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