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 <p>CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL</p>	July 2023
Date of Next Review: July 2024	<b>Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures</b>

## Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact details
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kate Forbes	01273 558551
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/Child Protection Officer	Cindy Goddard	01273 558551 07590 844626
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead KS3	Claire Heron	01273 558551
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead KS4	Simon Boden	01273 558551
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead KS5	Richard Marsh	01273 558551
Nominated governor for Safeguarding	Christina Bamin	07803850692
Chairs of Governors	Geri Silverstone	07810292023
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Lado@brighton-hove.gov.uk	01273295643
Children's Social Care – for reporting concerns	Front Door for Families	01273 290400
	Emergency Duty Service – after hours, weekends and public holidays	01273 335905 or 335906
Targeted early help services for children and families	Front Door for Families	01273 290400

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## Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

### Introduction

**“God is love, and he who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him” (1 Jn 4:16)**

Our mission is to provide an **excellent** Catholic education for all our students which enables them to respond to the call of Christ throughout their lives. **Caritas** – the love which is God – is the gold thread running through everything we do. We welcome and accept all our students and staff as unique individuals created in the image of God. We treat one another with kindness and respect. We are a **community** of Caritas where everyone feels safe, supported and inspired to make a difference in our local, national and global communities. We strive for the highest quality of learning and teaching that inspires us all to discover and develop our God-given gifts and talents, to excel in the present and aim high in the future.

Our three Newman **values** are;

**Caritas** – I have been created for a specific purpose

**Excellence** – I always aim for my personal best

**Together** – I am a link in a chain

- 1.1 Safeguarding children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.
- 1.2 Our students’ welfare is our paramount concern. The governing body will ensure that our school will safeguard and promote the welfare of students and work together with other agencies to ensure that our school has adequate arrangements to identify, assess and support those children who are suffering or likely to suffer harm.
- 1.3 Our school is a community and all those directly connected, staff members, governors, parents, families and students, have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure.

### Our Ethos

- 1.4 We believe that our school should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes: our Catholic Christian school values; Social Moral Spiritual and Cultural values; the emotional, mental health and wellbeing and academic development of the individual child.
- 1.5 We recognise the importance of providing an environment within our school that will help children feel safe and respected. We recognise the importance of enabling children to talk openly and to feel confident that they will be listened to. We recognise the need to teach children the skills they need to stay safe and to ask for help if they need it.
- 1.6 We recognise that all adults within the school, including permanent and temporary staff, volunteers and governors, have a full and active part to play in protecting our students from harm.



- 1.7 We will work with parents to build an understanding of the school's responsibilities to ensure the welfare of all children, including the need for referrals to other agencies in some situations.

### Scope

- 1.8 In line with the law, this policy defines a child as anyone under the age of 18 years.
- 1.9 This policy applies to all members of staff in our school, including all permanent, temporary and ancillary staff, governors, volunteers, contractors and external service or activity providers.

### The Legal Framework

- 1.10 Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a duty on governing bodies of maintained schools and further education institutions (including sixth-form colleges) to make arrangements for ensuring that their functions relating to the conduct of the school are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are students at the school. Section 157 of the same Act places a similar duty on non-maintained and independent schools, including free schools and academies.
- 1.11 Under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, all maintained schools, further education colleges and independent schools, including free schools and academies, are required to cooperate with the local authority to improve the well-being of children in the local authority area.
- 1.12 Under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, all schools are required to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".
- 1.13 Under section 14B of the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children & Social Work Act 2017, the Local Safeguarding Partners can require a school or further education institution to supply information in order to perform its functions. This must be complied with.
- 1.14 This policy and the accompanying procedures have been developed in accordance with the local and national statutory and non-statutory guidance and procedures detailed in Appendix E. This includes:
- 1.14.1 *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-Agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children, July 2018*
- 1.14.2 *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, September 2023*
- 1.14.3 *Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures*
- 1.14.4 *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, February 2019*

### Roles & Responsibilities

- 1.15 The school's lead person with overall responsibility for child protection and safeguarding is the **Designated Safeguarding Lead**. We have four Deputy



Designated Safeguarding Leads to ensure there is appropriate cover for this role at all times. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team. The Designated Safeguarding Lead's responsibilities are described in Appendix A.

- 1.16 The school has a Designated Teacher for Children in Care and Previously in Care who has overall responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of looked-after children and previously looked-after children who are no longer looked after in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order, or were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales
- 1.17 The school has a **nominated governor** responsible for safeguarding to champion good practice, to liaise with the Principal & DSL and to provide information and reports to the governing body.
- 1.18 The **case manager for dealing with allegations** of abuse made relating to school staff members is the Principal. The case manager for dealing with allegations relating to the Principal is the chair of governors. The procedure for managing allegations is detailed in Appendix C.
- 1.19 The **Principal** will ensure that the policies and procedures adopted by the governing body are fully implemented and sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable staff members to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities.
- 1.20 The **governing body** is collectively responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are fully embedded within the school's ethos and reflected in the school's day-to-day practice.
- 1.21 **All staff members, governors, volunteers and external providers** know how to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse, how to respond to students who disclose abuse and what to do if they are concerned about a child.

### Supporting Children

- 6.1 We recognise the significant impact of trauma on children and families. We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence are likely to have low self-esteem and may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helpless, humiliated and some sense of blame. Our school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in their lives.
- 6.2 We accept that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn. We understand the need to work in a trauma-informed way with these children and their families.
- 6.3 We recognise that children can be at risk in a range of contexts (community, home, school, referred to as contextual safeguarding) and from their peers and not just from adults. We understand that all children involved in peer-on-peer abuse need protection and support.
- 6.4 Our school will support all students by:
  - ensuring the content of the curriculum includes social and emotional aspects of learning, drug, alcohol and tobacco education and relationships and sex education;



- ensuring a comprehensive curriculum response to online safety, enabling children and parents to learn about the risks of new technologies and social media and to use these responsibly;
- ensuring that child protection is included in the curriculum to help children stay safe, recognise when they do not feel safe and identify who they might or can talk to;
- building resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views;
- providing students with a number of appropriate adults to approach if they are in difficulties;
- supporting the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence;
- encouraging development of self-esteem and self-assertiveness while not condoning aggression or bullying;
- ensuring that all staff understand their responsibility for safeguarding and know what to do if they have a concern for a child's wellbeing.
- ensuring that all staff are aware of the early help process, and understand their role in it, including acting as the lead professional where appropriate.
- liaising and working together with other support services and those agencies involved in safeguarding children;
- monitoring attendance patterns and reviewing and responding to them as part of welfare and protection procedures; and
- monitoring children who have been identified as having welfare or protection concerns and providing appropriate support.
- participating in Operation Encompass, so that we receive notification from police of domestic abuse incidents involving children (incidents in which a child was present, ordinarily resides at the incident location or with an involved party); our participation will be published on our website.

## 7 Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedure

- 7.1 We have developed a structured procedure in line with *Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures* which will be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse. This is detailed in Appendix B.
- 7.2 In line with the procedures, the Front Door for Families will be notified as soon as there is a significant concern.
- 7.3 The name of the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be clearly advertised in the school, with a statement explaining the school's role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected abuse.
- 7.4 We will ensure all parents and carers are aware of the responsibilities of staff members to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and act in the best





interests of children by publishing the policy and procedures on our website and by referring to them in our introductory school materials.

## **8 Record Keeping**

- 8.1 We will ensure that records are maintained appropriately for children with safeguarding concerns and that confidential stand-alone files are created and maintained.
- 8.2 We will continue to support any student leaving the school about whom there have been concerns by ensuring that all appropriate information, including child protection and welfare concerns, is forwarded under confidential cover to the student's new school as a matter of priority.

## **9 Safer Workforce and Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers**

- 9.1 We will prevent people who pose risks to children from working in our school by ensuring that all individuals working in any capacity at our school have been subjected to safeguarding checks in line with the statutory guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, September 2023*.
- 9.2 We will ensure that agencies and third parties supplying staff provide us evidence that they have made the appropriate level of safeguarding check on individuals working in our school. We will also ensure that any agency worker presenting for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.
- 9.3 Every job description and person specification will have a clear statement about the safeguarding responsibilities of the post holder.
- 9.4 We will ensure that at least one member of every interview panel has completed safer recruitment training.
- 9.5 We have a procedure in place to handle allegations against members of staff and volunteers in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, September 2023* (see Annex E)

## **10 Staff Induction, Training and Development**

- 10.1 All new members of staff will be given an induction which includes child protection training proportionate to their roles and responsibilities. This will include: how to recognise signs of abuse, how to respond to any concerns, how to support local multi-agency procedures (e.g. providing information), online safety, familiarisation with the child protection policy, the schools staff behaviour/code of conduct and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. We will ensure that all staff understand the difference between a safeguarding concern and a child in immediate danger or at risk of significant harm.
- 10.2 The induction will include reading Part 1 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, September 2023*.
- 10.3 The Principal will undergo child protection training, when appointed to post and then refreshed every three years.
- 10.4 The Designated Safeguarding Lead and any Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads will undergo child protection training, when appointed to post and then refreshed every two years.

- 10.5 All school staff, proportionate to their roles and responsibilities, and the nominated safeguarding governor will undergo child protection refresher training annually and will be provided with regular information to ensure their skills and knowledge are current. All other governors are invited to attend the refresher training along with teaching staff.
- 10.6 All school staff will be required to read Part 1 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, September 2023* and Annex A if their role involves direct work with children.
- 10.7 The nominated governor for safeguarding will undergo appropriate training prior to or soon after appointment to the role; this training will be updated every two years.
- 10.8 We will ensure that staff members provided by other agencies and third parties, e.g. supply teachers, have received appropriate child protection training commensurate with their roles before starting work. They will be given the opportunity to take part in whole-school training if it takes place during their period of work for the school.
- 10.9 The Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies will provide regular briefings to the school on: any changes to child protection legislation and procedures; relevant learning from local and national serious case reviews; local service provision: local safeguarding concerns.
- 10.10 The school will maintain accurate records of satisfactory completion of all staff child protection and safeguarding training.

## **11 Confidentiality, Consent and Information Sharing**

- 11.1 We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.
- 11.2 The Principal, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or any Deputy will disclose any information about a student to other members of staff on a need-to-know basis, and in the best interests of the child.
- 11.3 All staff members must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or well-being.
- 11.4 All staff members have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
- 11.5 All our staff members who come into contact with children will be given appropriate training to understand the purpose of information sharing in order to safeguard and promote children's welfare.
- 11.6 We will ensure that staff members are confident about what they can and should do under the law, including how to obtain consent to share information and when information can be shared without consent. This is covered in greater detail in Appendix B.

## **12 Multi-Agency Working**

- 12.1 We will develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, including agencies providing early help services to children, the police and Children's Social Work Services. We recognise that professional challenge has an important role to play in ensuring effective safeguarding.



- 12.2 We will ensure that relevant staff members participate fully in multi-agency meetings that support particular children and families, including child protection conferences and core groups, child in need network meetings, early help meetings, and strategy discussions.
- 12.3 We will participate in serious case reviews, other reviews and file audits as and when required to do so by the Brighton and Hove Local Safeguarding Children Partnership. We will ensure that we have a clear process for gathering the evidence required for reviews and audits, embedding recommendations into practice and completing required actions within agreed timescales.

### **13 Contractors, Service and Activity Providers and Work Placement Providers**

- 13.1 We will ensure that contractors and providers are aware of our school's child protection policy and procedures. We will require that employees and volunteers provided by these organisations use our procedure to report concerns.
- 13.2 We will seek assurance that employees and volunteers provided by these organisations and working with our children have been subjected to the appropriate level of safeguarding check in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, September 2023*. If assurance is not obtained, permission to work with our children or use our school premises may be refused.
- 13.3 When we commission services from other organisations, we will ensure that compliance with our policy and procedures is a contractual requirement.

### **14 Whistle-Blowing and Complaints**

- 14.1 We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff members fail to do so.
- 14.2 We will ensure that all staff members are aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues. If necessary, they will speak with the Principal, the chair of the governing body or with the Local Authority Designated Officer. Should staff not feel able to raise concerns they can call the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline on 0800 028 0285.
- 14.3 We have a clear reporting procedure for children, parents and other people to report concerns or complaints, including abusive or poor practice.
- 14.4 We will actively seek the views of children, parents and carers and staff members on our child protection arrangements through surveys, questionnaires and other means.

### **15 Site Security**

- 15.1 All staff members have a responsibility to ensure our buildings and grounds are secure and for reporting concerns that may come to light.
- 15.2 We check the identity of all visitors and volunteers coming into school. Visitors are expected to sign in and out in the office visitors' log and to display a visitor's badge while on the school site. Any individual who is not known or identifiable will be challenged for clarification and reassurance.



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

## **16 Quality Assurance**

- 16.1 We will ensure that systems are in place to monitor the implementation of and compliance with this policy and accompanying procedures. This will include periodic audits of child protection files and records by the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- 16.2 We will complete an audit of the school's safeguarding arrangements at frequencies specified by the Brighton and Hove Local Safeguarding Children Partnership and using the audit tool provided for this purpose.
- 16.3 The school's senior management and the governing body will ensure that action is taken to remedy without delay any deficiencies and weaknesses identified in child protection arrangements.

## **17 Policy Review**

- 17.1 This policy and the procedures will be reviewed every academic year. All other linked policies will be reviewed in line with the policy review cycle.
- 17.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that staff members are made aware of any amendments to policies and procedures.

## **Appendix A - The Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead**

**See also Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2023 Annex C: Role of the designated safeguarding lead**

### **1 Managing Referrals**

- 1.1 Refer all cases of suspected abuse to the Front Door for Families and to the Police if a crime may have been committed
- 1.2 Cases which involve concern around a member of staff should be referred, via the Principal, to the LADO as well.
- 1.3 The Disclosure and Barring Service will also be informed where a person is dismissed or left the school due to posing a risk or harm to a child.
- 1.4 Liaise with the Principal about safeguarding issues relating to individual children, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
- 1.5 Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff members on matters of child protection and safeguarding.
- 1.6 Liaise with agencies providing early help services and coordinate referrals from the school to targeted early help services for children in need of support.
- 1.7 Monitor any cases referred to early help and consider referral to children's services where the situation does not improve.
- 1.8 Refer cases to the Channel programme, via Front Door to Families, where there is a radicalisation concern as required.

### **2 Record Keeping**

- 2.1 Keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of child protection and welfare concerns and referrals
- 2.2 Ensure a stand-alone file is created as necessary for children with safeguarding concerns.
- 2.3 Maintain a chronology of significant incidents for each child with safeguarding concerns.
- 2.4 Ensure such records are kept confidentially and securely and separate from the child's educational record.
- 2.5 As soon as a child with safeguarding concerns moves to another school, liaise with the new school's Designated Safeguarding Lead for information sharing. Ensure the child's child protection or welfare concerns records are transferred to a new



school as soon as possible. These files should be transferred separately from the main student file, using secure transit and obtaining confirmation of receipt.

- 2.6 Where a child is transferring to be Electively Home Educated or the destination school is not known, the child protection or welfare concern records will be transferred to the Local Authority.
- 2.7 The final school will retain Child Protection files for at least DoB + 25 years.
- 2.8 Where a student is joining the school in-year, ensure that a check is made with their previous school for the existence of any child protection or welfare concerns records.

### **3 Multi-Agency Working and Information Sharing**

- 3.1 Cooperate with Children's Social Work Services for enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
- 3.2 Attend, or ensure other relevant staff members attend, child protection conferences, core group meetings and other multi-agency meetings, as required.
- 3.3 Liaise with other agencies working with the child, share information as appropriate and contribute to assessments.

### **4 Training**

- 4.1 Undertake appropriate training, updated at least every two years, and update knowledge and skills at least annually in order to:
  - be able to recognise signs of abuse and how to respond to them, including special circumstances such as Child Criminal Exploitation, Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, fabricated or induced illness (see chapter 8 of the *Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures*);
  - understand the assessment process for providing Early Help and intervention, e.g. Children's Services Threshold document: A guide to early help and safeguarding services.
  - have a working knowledge of how the Local Authority conducts initial and review child protection case conferences and contribute effectively to these; and
  - be alert to the specific needs of Children in Need (as specified in section 17 of the Children Act 1989), those with Special Educational Needs, pregnant teenagers and young carers.
- 4.2 Undertake Prevent awareness training.
- 4.3 Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's child protection policy and procedures, including providing induction on these matters to new and part-time staff members.
- 4.4 Organise whole-school child protection training for all staff members annually. Ensure staff members who miss the training receive it by other means, e.g. by joining another school's training.
- 4.5 Link with Brighton and Hove Local Safeguarding Children Partnership to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding.
- 4.6 Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses.



- 4.7 Ensure the school allocates time and resources every year for relevant staff members to attend training.
- 4.8 Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings in any action the school takes to protect them.
- 4.9 Maintain accurate records of staff induction and training.

## **5 Awareness Raising**

- 5.1 Review the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures annually and liaise with the school's governing body to update and implement them
- 5.2 Make the child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures available publicly and raise awareness of parents that referrals about suspected abuse may be made and the role of the school in any investigations that ensue.
- 5.3** Provide an annual briefing to the school on any changes to child protection legislation and procedures and relevant learning from local and national serious case reviews.

## **6 Quality Assurance**

- 6.1 Monitor the implementation of and compliance with policy and procedures, including periodic audits of child protection and welfare concerns files (at a minimum once a year).
- 6.2 Complete an audit of the school's safeguarding arrangements at frequencies specified by the Brighton and Hove Local Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- 6.3 Provide regular reports, including an annual report, to the governing body detailing changes and reviews to policy, training undertaken by staff members and the number of children with child protection plans and other relevant data.
- 6.4 Take lead responsibility for remedying any deficiencies and weaknesses identified in child protection arrangements.





## Appendix B - Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures

### 1 Definitions

- 1.1 **Abuse**, including neglect, is a form of maltreatment. A person may abuse a child by inflicting harm or by failing to prevent harm. Children may be abused within their family, in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or, more rarely, by a stranger.
- 1.2 **Children** are any people who have not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; a 16-year-old, whether living independently, in further education, in the armed forces or in hospital, is a child and is entitled to the same protection and services as anyone younger.
- 1.3 **Child protection** is part of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and refers to activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.
- 1.4 **Early Help** means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years to teenage years.
- 1.5 **Harm** is ill treatment or impairment of health and development, including impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another.
- 1.6 **Safeguarding children** is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** is defined in *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-Agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children (July 2018)* as:
- protecting children from maltreatment;
  - preventing impairment of children's health and development;
  - ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
  - taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- 1.7 **Significant harm** is the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in the family in the best interests of the child. Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 states 'where the question of whether harm suffered by a child is significant turns on the child's health or development, his health or development shall be compared with that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child.'
- 1.8 For more definitions, see *Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures*.

### 2 Categories of Abuse

- 2.1 **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such that it causes severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve:
- making a child feel worthless, unloved or inadequate
  - only there to meet another's needs
  - inappropriate age or developmental expectations
  - overprotection and limitation of exploration, learning and social interaction





- seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another, e.g. domestic abuse
- making the child feel worthless and unloved - high criticism and low warmth
- serious bullying (including cyber bullying)
- exploitation or corruption

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

2.2 **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse. Once a child is born, it may involve a parent failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, including exclusion from home or abandonment
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision, including the use of inadequate care givers
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- ensure regular school attendance

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

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

Physical abuse is not solely perpetrated by adults. Children can also commit acts of physical abuse.

2.4 **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Activities may involve physical contact, including penetration of any part of the body, or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children looking at or in the production of sexual images, including on the internet, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Child sexual exploitation is also sexual abuse; it involves children and young people receiving something, for example accommodation, drugs, gifts or affection, as a result of them performing sexual activities, or having others perform sexual activities on them. It could take the form of grooming of children, e.g. to take part in sexual activities or to post sexual images of themselves on the internet.

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

### 3 Specific Safeguarding Issues



- 3.1 School staff members need to be aware of specific safeguarding issues, as identified in *Keeping Children Safe in Education*. Chapter 8 of the *Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures* has detailed information about local procedures for some specific issues.
- 3.2 Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 5 covers managing peer on peer sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- 3.3 Keeping Children Safe in Education identifies the following specific safeguarding issues:

Children and the court system
Children missing from education
Children with family members in prison
Child sexual exploitation
Child criminal exploitation: county lines
Domestic abuse
Homelessness
So-called 'honour-based' violence - including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing
Radicalisation
Peer on peer abuse – bullying and cyberbullying
Peer on peer abuse – physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
Peer on peer abuse – initiation/hazing type violence and rituals
Peer on peer abuse – sexting (youth produced sexual imagery)
Peer on peer abuse – sexual violence and sexual harassment
Peer on peer abuse – up-skirting
Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges



Bullying
Drugs
Health & Wellbeing

- 3.4 Keeping Children Safe in Education Annex C contains important additional information about online safety.
- 3.5 Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership has additional information and guidance on some of these issues at:  
<http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/professionals/>

### 3.6 **Further Information on Children Missing from Education**

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

### 3.7 **Further information on Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact: it can also occur through the use of technology. Like all forms of child sex abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16- and 17-year olds who can legally consent to have sex;
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;
- can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media);



- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Some of the following signs may be indicators of child sexual exploitation:

- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant;
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

### 3.8 Further Information on Child Criminal Exploitation

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered. Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

### 3.9 Further Information on Domestic Violence

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological;
- physical;
- sexual;
- financial; and
- emotional

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.

### **3.10 Further information on Homelessness**

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a new duty to refer service users for support. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Whilst referrals and or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

In most cases school and college staff will be considering homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it should also be recognised that in some cases 16- and 17-year olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Children's services will be the lead agency for these young people and the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child's circumstances.

### **3.11 Further information on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. There are a range of potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk of FGM, which individually may not indicate risk but if there are two or more indicators present this could signal a risk to the child or young person. Victims of FGM are likely to come from a community that is known to practise FGM. Professionals should note that girls at risk of FGM may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so sensitivity should always be shown when approaching the subject. Staff should activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children's social care.

Warning signs that FGM may be about to take place, or may have already taken place, can be found in the [Brighton and Hove FGM Multi Agency Resource Pack](#) or within the e-learning for all professionals, developed by the Home Office, available at [www.fgmelearning.co.uk](http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk)

Girls who are threatened with, or who have undergone FGM may withdraw from education, restricting their educational and personal development. They may feel unable to go against the wishes of their parents and consequently may suffer emotionally. Staff may become aware of a student because she appears anxious, depressed and emotionally withdrawn. They may be presented with a sudden decline in her performance, aspirations or motivation. There may be occasions when a student comes to an educational establishment or college but then absents herself from lessons, possibly spending prolonged periods in the bathroom.

Students who fear they may be at risk of FGM can often come to the attention of, or turn to, a teacher, lecturer or other member of staff before seeking help from the police or social services. Sometimes the student's friends report it to staff. Teachers, lecturers and other members of staff are in an ideal position to identify and respond to a victim's needs at an early stage.

Staff should be aware of mandatory reporting requirements with regards to known cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) which require teachers to personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Further details can be found Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2023

### **3.12 Further Information on Forced Marriage**

A forced marriage is one in which at least one participant does not (or cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is recognised in the UK as a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats of violence, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (e.g. shame and coercion) Financial abuse can also be a factor.

Whilst it is unlikely that primary-age students will be the victims of forced marriage, they may disclose that older siblings or parents are at risk.

### **3.13 Further information on Preventing Radicalisation**

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, which received Royal Assent on 12 February 2015, places a duty on specified authorities, including local authorities and childcare, education and other children's services providers, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ("the Prevent duty"). This came into force on 1 July 2015. The Prevent duty directs inspectors to examine an educational establishment's response to extremist behaviour when considering the behaviour and safety of students, as well as the effectiveness of the leadership and management of the educational establishment in preventing extremism.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 also places a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. The panel must include the local authority and chief officer of the local police. Panels will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, following a referral from the



police and where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, arrange for support to be provided to those individuals. The Act will require partners of Channel panels to co-operate with the panel in the carrying out of its functions and with the police in undertaking the initial assessment as to whether a referral is appropriate.

Educational establishments and colleges which are required to have regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education are listed in the Act as partners of the panel. The relevant provisions of the Act came into force on 12 April 2015 but many local authorities already have Channel panels set up in their area.

### Channel Training

'Channel' is the name for the process of referring a person for early intervention and support, including:

- identifying people at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- assessing the nature and extent of that risk, and
- developing the most appropriate support plan for the people concerned.

The Channel process is about safeguarding children, young people and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from risk before a crime occurs.

You can complete a short general awareness course online:

[elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Prevent is the pan-Sussex strategy for preventing vulnerable people from being radicalised into violent extremism: The pan Sussex Prevent describes partner's (including educational establishments) role in the Prevent agenda:

### Sharing with colleagues

- Promote awareness of the PREVENT strategy within your organisation and partners, including the local risks, roles and responsibilities involved in its delivery
- Ensure colleagues and partners are aware of how to report any potentially relevant information or concerns
- Promote an understanding amongst colleagues and partners of how to identify indicators of terrorism
- Promote an understanding amongst colleagues and partners of how to identify potential signs of individual vulnerability to radicalisation.
- Indicators of terrorist activity

The Department for education has published The Prevent Duty Departmental advice for educational establishments and childcare providers at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf)

## 3.14 Further Information on Sexting & Upskirting

Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others, or sends sexually explicit messages. Sexting among children



and young people can be a common occurrence, where they often describe these incidents as 'mundane'. Children involved in sexting incidents will be dealt with by the police as victims as opposed to perpetrators, unless there are mitigating circumstances. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should record all incidents of sexting. This should include both the actions taken and the actions not taken, together with justifications. School staff must actively avoid viewing any images. School staff should seek to preserve evidence. In applying judgement to the sexting incident consider the following:

- Significant age difference between the sender/receiver involved
- If there is any external coercion involved or encouragement beyond the sender/receiver.
- If you recognise the child as more vulnerable than is usual.
- If the image is of a severe or extreme nature.
- If the situation is not isolated and the image has been more widely distributed.
- If this is not the first time children have been involved in a sexting act
- If other knowledge of either the sender or recipient may add cause for concern.

If these characteristics present cause for concern then escalate or refer the incident. If not, manage the situation accordingly, recording details of the incident, action and resolution. See "Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people" (published by UKCCIS) at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/609874/6\\_2939\\_SP\\_NCA\\_Sexting\\_In\\_Schools\\_FINAL\\_Update\\_Jan17.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/609874/6_2939_SP_NCA_Sexting_In_Schools_FINAL_Update_Jan17.pdf)

Upskirting is a criminal offence. Upskirting typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.

### **3.15 Further information on Private Fostering**

Parents and carers often fail to notify schools about private fostering arrangements even though they are legally required to notify Children's Services. Often this is because they are unaware of the requirements. They believe that this is a private family arrangement which does not concern anybody else.

This lack of awareness means that many privately fostered children remain hidden and can be vulnerable, as in the case of Victoria Climbié who was a privately fostered child.

Private Fostering definition

Private fostering occurs when a child under 16 (or 18 if the child is disabled) is cared for and lives with an adult who is not a relative for 28 days or more. The following are considered to be relatives: a step parent (by marriage or civil partnership), grandparent, step grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt.

Private fostering is a private arrangement made by the parent(s), (or those with parental responsibility) for someone to care for their child because they are unable to do so (permanently or temporarily). This may be due to a number of reasons





such as parental ill health, a parent going abroad or to prison, a child being brought to the UK to study English or the relationship between the child and parent has broken down.

School staff play an essential role in identifying privately fostered children. If you know a child is being privately fostered you should advise the parent/carer that they have a legal obligation to report the arrangement to Children Social Care at least six weeks before it happens or within 48 hours if the arrangement is currently having been made in an emergency.

Alert the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will ensure this is followed up with Children Social Care and the arrangement is assessed, approved and monitored.

#### **4 Recognition – What To Look For**

- 4.1 Staff members should refer to the detailed information about the categories of abuse and risk indicators in the *Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures* for further guidance.
- 4.2 In an abusive relationship, the child may:
- appear frightened of their parent(s)
  - act in a way that is inappropriate to their age and development, although full account needs to be taken of different patterns of development and different ethnic groups
- 4.3 In an abusive relationship, the parent or carer may:
- persistently avoid child health services and treatment of the child's illnesses
  - have unrealistic expectations of the child
  - frequently complain about or to the child and fail to provide attention or praise
  - be absent
  - be misusing substances
  - persistently refuse to allow access on home visits by professionals
  - be involved in domestic violence and abuse
  - be socially isolated
- 4.4 Serious case reviews have found that parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health problems, sometimes referred to as the 'toxic trio', if they coexist in a family could mean significant risks to children. Problems can be compounded by poverty, frequent house moves or eviction.
- 4.5 Staff should be aware that children with special educational needs and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges including:
- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability
  - children with special educational needs and disabilities are particularly vulnerable to bullying and often show no outward signs



- communication issues can be a barrier to effective safeguarding

## **5 Peer on Peer Abuse – Managing Allegations of Abuse Made Against Other Children**

5.1 At our school we believe that all children have a right to attend and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults and other students.

We recognise that some students will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy or Anti-Bullying Policy when appropriate.

We are mindful of the need to follow published guidance and to seek advice and support from other professionals when appropriate. We will report directly to police when guidance indicates that a criminal offence may have been committed.

### **5.2 Safeguarding allegations**

It is important to remember that Peer-on-Peer Abuse does not occur in a vacuum. It occurs in a society where there are structures and norms that shape young people's views, experiences and behaviours, as well as responses to them. Consequently, there are different issues of gender that will need to be considered when responding to allegations made against students by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a student, some of the following features will be found.

The allegation:

- is made against an older student and refers to their behaviour towards a younger student or a more vulnerable student
- is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence
- raises risk factors for other students in the school
- indicates that other students may have been affected by this student
- indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this student

### **5.3 Examples of safeguarding issues against a student could include:**

Physical Abuse

- violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to use drugs or alcohol

Emotional Abuse

- blackmail or extortion
- threats and intimidation

Sexual Abuse

- indecent exposure, indecent touching or serious sexual assaults
- forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sexting

Sexual Exploitation



- encouraging other children to attend inappropriate parties
- photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts

In areas where gangs are prevalent, older students may attempt to recruit younger students using any or all of the above methods. Young people suffering from sexual exploitation themselves may be forced to recruit other young people under threat of violence.

#### **5.4 Minimising the risk of safeguarding concerns towards students from other students**

We will provide a developmentally appropriate PSHE syllabus which develops students' understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe.

Have systems in place for any student to raise concerns with staff, knowing they will be listened to, believed and valued.

Deliver targeted work on assertiveness and keeping safe to those students identified as being at risk.

On occasion, some students will present a safeguarding risk to other students. The school should be informed that the young person raises safeguarding concerns, for example, they are coming back into school following a period in custody or they have experienced serious abuse themselves.

These students will need an individual risk assessment and risk reduction plan to ensure that other students are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations. There is a need to balance the tension between privacy and safeguarding.

#### **5.5 What to do**

The initial response to a report from a child is important. It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

If staff have a concern about a child or a child makes a report to them, they should follow the school's safeguarding referral process. As is always the case, if staff are in any doubt as to what to do they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead should make a referral to the Front Door For Families, as appropriate. If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police should be contacted at the earliest opportunity and advice sought from them on appropriate follow-up in school. Unless other professionals advise otherwise the school will inform parents (of both the student being complained about and the alleged victim).

#### **5.6 Risk and Needs Assessment**

The school will follow Department for Education guidance and put in place a risk assessment and risk reduction plans for all children/young people affected by a report of peer on peer abuse. The plans should include how the children/young people will be supported. Wherever possible, this plan will be established in



collaboration with the child/young person, their parents/carers and other professionals. The plan will be shared with the child/young person and their parents/carers and will be reviewed regularly.

## **6 Children's Services Threshold Document**

- 6.1 The Children's Services Threshold Document has been developed so that everyone working with children in Brighton and Hove has a common language for understanding the needs and risks surrounding children and their families.
- 6.2 For example, if the school has concerns about a child and needs advice or support from the Front Door for Families, they will use the Threshold Document as a guide to understand the school's concerns and provide advice about what to do or to decide whether the child and family need social care involvement. The Threshold Document does not replace professional judgement, but it is intended to support decision-making and discussions between services and practitioners.
- 6.3 It is important that staff members are familiar with the Threshold Document, which can be accessed at [Brighton & Hove Threshold document](#)
- 6.4 The Threshold Document shows that a child's or family's additional needs can be on a range from none to very high, and that needs can shift from early help to child protection and back to preventative early help. It covers children whose needs are increasing as well as children whose needs are decreasing after Children's Social Work Services involvement. The Threshold Document will help practitioners to identify the right level of support for the child in the least intrusive way while keeping the child safe.
- 6.5 The Threshold Document identifies four levels of need.

### **Level 1:**

- children who are achieving expected outcomes
- their needs are met by their parents and by accessing universal services such as health and education
- they do not have additional needs

### **Level 2:**

- children with additional needs
- parents need professional support or guidance to help them meet their children's needs
- extra support can usually be provided by agencies that already know the family, e.g. their pre-school, school or college or NHS community services such as Health Visiting

### **Level 3:**

- children with multiple and complex needs



- children and parents need targeted early help or specialist services to meet the children's needs
- needs are met through multi-agency support and the use of Early Help Plans

**Level 4:**

- children with acute needs, including those in need of protection
- children and parents need multi-agency responses which include specialist intervention from Children’s Social Work Services through the family assessment process

**6.6** By referring to the Threshold Document, the school can identify when assessment and support for a child and family need 'stepping up' to a referral to Social Work Services and when the needs of a child and their family have been reduced enough for them to be 'stepped down' to early help services.

**7 What Action to Take If You Have Concerns About A Child**

Staff member	What action to take if you have concerns
Any member of staff, governor, volunteer, contractor or activity provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss your concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or in their absence, with one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads <b>as soon as possible, before the child leaves for the day.</b> It is important that the child is not sent home at the end of the day without taking the right protective action.</li> <li>• If the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their deputies are not available, you should contact the Front Door for Families yourself. Inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead about what actions you have taken.</li> </ul>
Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy	<p><b>You are concerned that the child is at risk of significant harm (Level 4 Threshold Document)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact the <b>Front Door for Families</b> immediately.</li> <li>• If you believe that the child is in immediate danger, or you suspect a crime has been committed, you must also contact the police immediately.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>You believe the child is not at risk of significant harm, but the child or their family may need support (Level 2 or 3 Threshold Document)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Threshold Document to identify the level of need.</li> <li>• Discuss your concerns with senior colleagues in another agency, if necessary</li> <li>• If your consultation results in the decision that the child and family need help at Level 2 or 3 of the Threshold Document, provide additional</li> </ul>

	support in the school and/or refer the child or their family to other agencies providing <b>early help services</b> .
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## 8 Dealing With A Disclosure Made By A Child – Advice For All Members Of Staff

If a child discloses that he or she has been abused in some way, the member of staff or volunteer should follow this guidance.

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief.
- Only ask questions when necessary to clarify, and without suggesting what the answer might be.
- Accept what is being said.
- Allow the child to talk freely – do not put words in the child’s mouth.
- Reassure the child that what has happened is not his or her fault.
- Do not make promises that you may not be able to keep.
- Do not promise confidentiality – it may be necessary to refer the child to Children’s Social Care.
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell.
- Do not criticise the alleged perpetrator.
- Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told.
- Inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay.
- Dealing with a disclosure from a child and safeguarding issues can be stressful. Consider seeking support for yourself and discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

## 9 Discussing Concerns with the Family and the Child – Advice for the DSL

- 9.1 In general, you should always discuss any concerns the school may have with the child’s parents. They need to know that you are worried about their child. However, you should not discuss your concerns if you believe that this would place the child at greater risk or lead to loss of evidence for a police investigation.
- 9.2 **If you decide not to discuss your concerns with the child’s parents or carers** this must be recorded in the child’s child protection file with a full explanation for your decision.
- 9.3 **It is important to consider the child’s wishes and feelings**, if age appropriate, as part of planning what action to take in relation to concerns about their welfare.
- 9.4 When talking to children, you should take account of their age, understanding and preferred language, which may not be English. It is also important to consider how a disabled child may need support in communicating.
- 9.5 How you talk to a child will also depend on the substance and seriousness of the concerns. You may need to seek advice from the Front Door For Families or the police to ensure that neither the safety of the child nor any subsequent investigation is jeopardised.



- 9.6 If concerns have arisen as a result of information given by a child, it is important to reassure the child but not to promise confidentiality.
- 9.7 **It is expected that you discuss your concerns with the parents before making a referral to the Front Door for Families, unless you consider that this would place the child at increased risk of significant harm.**
- 9.8 Parents will ultimately be made aware of which organisation made the referral.

## **10 Early Help for Children and Families**

- 10.1 Most parents can look after their children without the need of help other than from their family or friends. However, some parents may need additional help from our school or other services such as the NHS. Providing help early is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.
- 10.2 Our school will work together with other agencies to provide a coordinated offer of early help, in line with *Working Together to Safeguard Children July 2018* and local guidance, to any child who needs it.
- 10.3 We will pool our knowledge within the school and with other agencies about which families or children need additional support in a range of ways so that we can work out how best to help them. We will use the Threshold Document to identify what level of need the child or their family has.
- 10.4 We will work closely with targeted early help services, via the Front Door For Families, and Children's Social Work Services if we feel families need more support and input, or children are at risk of harm, and we will continue to provide support if other services are also needed.
- 10.5 Early help support is accessed by making a referral to the Front Door For Families. Consent for this will need to be gained from the family first.
- 10.6 Our school will work with other services in early help planning and coordination of interventions to meet young peoples and families.

## **11 Front Door for Families Responses to Concerns About A Child**

- 11.1 Once Children's Social Work Services has accepted our referral as needing a social-care-led response (Level 4 of the Threshold Document), a senior social work practitioner and their manager will evaluate the concerns to identify the sources and levels of risk and to agree what protective action may be necessary.
- 11.2 The evaluation of concerns and risks involve deciding whether:
- the child needs immediate protection and urgent action is necessary; or
  - the child is suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm and enquiries need to be made under section 47 of the Children Act 1989; or
  - the child is in need and should be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
- 11.3 We will cooperate with Children's Social Work Services and the police in any emergency action they take using their legal powers for immediate protection of the child. This may involve removing the child from their home.





- 11.4 We will participate in any multi-agency discussions (strategy discussions), if invited to do so, and share information about the child and their family to plan the response to concerns.
- 11.5 We will share information about the child and their family for section 47 enquiries and family assessments undertaken by Children's Social Work Services.
- 11.6 We will ensure that a relevant staff member participates in all initial and review child protection conferences, if we are invited to attend. The staff member will work together with other agencies to discuss the need for and agree to an outcome-focused child protection plan and will ensure that the child's wishes and views are considered in their own right in planning.
- 11.7 If we are members of the core group to implement a child protection plan, we will ensure a relevant staff member participates in all core group meetings.
- 11.8 We will ensure that we complete all actions allocated to us as part of the outcome-focused plan, whether a child protection plan or a family support plan, in a timely way.
- 11.9 We will continue to monitor children once their plans are ended to ensure that they are supported and kept safe.

## **12 Information Sharing and Consent**

- 12.1 It is essential that people working with children can confidently share information as part of their day-to-day work. This is necessary not only to safeguard and protect children from harm but also to work together to support families to improve outcomes for all.
- 12.2 The school may have to share information about parents or carers, such as their medical history, disability or substance misuse issues, for investigations of child abuse carried out by Children's Social Work Services.
- 12.3 We will proactively seek out information as well as sharing it. This means checking with other professionals whether they have information that helps us to be as well informed as possible when working to support children.
- 12.4 The Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation are not a barrier to sharing information. It is there to ensure that personal information is managed in a sensible way and that a balance is struck between a person's privacy and public protection.
- 12.5 We should be sharing any concerns we have with parents at an early stage, unless this would put a child at greater risk or compromise an investigation. Parents need to know what our responsibilities are for safeguarding and protecting children and that this involves sharing information about them with other professionals.
- 12.6 Be clear about the purpose of sharing confidential information and only share as much as you need to achieve your purpose.
- 12.7 Try to get consent from parents (or the child, if they have sufficient understanding) to share information, if possible. However, **you do not need consent if you have serious concerns about a child's safety and well-being.**
- 12.8 **Consent is not necessary** in cases where Children's Social Work Services are making child protection enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.





Information needs to be shared with Children's Social Work Services; staff members must make sure to record what information has been shared.

#### 12.9 **Consent is necessary** for:

- Children's Social Work Services investigations or assessments of concerns under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Children's Social Care will assume that we have obtained consent from the parents to share information unless we make them aware that there is a specific issue about consent. This must be discussed with a social worker at the Front Door For Families.
- Early Help Assessments. Assessments are undertaken with the agreement of the child and their parents or carers.

12.10 If you are in any doubt about the need for seeking consent, get advice from the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

12.11 Keep a record of your decision to share information, with or without consent, and the reasons for it. Remember also that it is just as important to keep a record of why you decided not to share information as why you did so.

### 13 **Record Keeping**

**13.1** Good record keeping is an important part of the school's accountability to children and their families and will help us in meeting our key responsibility to respond appropriately to welfare concerns about children.

13.2 Records should be factual, accurate, relevant, up to date and auditable. Where opinions are included this must be made clear. Where people are referred to they should be identified clearly by role. Records should support monitoring, risk assessment and planning for children and enable informed and timely decisions about appropriate action to take.

13.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that records are maintained appropriately for children with safeguarding concerns and that stand-alone files are created and maintained in line with requirements of the above guidance.

### 14 **Professional Challenge and Disagreements**

14.1 Working with children and families, and in particular child protection work, is stressful and complex, as well as involving uncertainty and strong feelings. To ensure that the best decisions are made for children, we need to be able to challenge one another's practice.

14.2 We will promote a culture within our school that enables all staff members to raise, without fear of repercussions, any concerns they may have about the management of child protection in the school. This may include raising concerns about decisions, action and inaction by colleagues about individual children. If necessary, staff members will speak with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, the Principal, the chair of governors or with the Local Authority Education Safeguarding Officer.

14.3 Cooperation across agencies is crucial; professionals need to work together, using their skills and experience, to make a robust contribution to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare within the framework of discussions, meetings, conferences and case management.

- 14.4 If there are any professional disagreements with practitioners from other agencies, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Principal will raise concerns with the relevant agency's safeguarding lead in line with guidance in the *Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures*.
- 14.5 If the school disagrees with the child protection conference chair's decision, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Principal will consider whether they wish to challenge it further and raise the matter with Children's Services Head of Safeguarding.

## 15 Safer Recruitment

- 15.1 Our school has robust recruitment and vetting procedures to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children, which are in line with those stipulated within *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, September 2023*
- 15.2 Our job advertisements and application packs make explicit reference to the school's commitment to safeguarding children, including compliance with disclosure and barring regulations and clear statements in the job description and person specification about the staff member's safeguarding responsibilities.
- 15.3 All staff members, including volunteers, who have contact with children, young people and families will have appropriate pre-employment checks in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, September 2023*
- 15.4 School governors are required to have both an enhanced DBS check *and* a section 128 check if they wish to be on the governing body of an academy or maintained school (via Teaching Regulation Agency's Teacher Services web page). This does not apply to associate members appointed to serve on governing body committees
- 15.5 At least one member on every shortlisting and interview panel will have completed safer recruitment training.
- 15.6 The Principal and DSL and the nominated governor for child protection are responsible for ensuring that our **single central record of pre-employment checks** is accurate and up to date.

## Appendix C - Managing allegations of abuse made relating to school staff or volunteers

- 1 The school takes seriously all allegations of abuse made relating to staff members, including volunteers, and will investigate them in line with the statutory guidance, *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, September 2023* and the *Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures*.
- 2 The process described below is a summary of the procedure described in the above documents. The case manager for the investigation should refer to them for details.
- 3 **The procedure applies to all adults working in the school or providing a service on behalf of the school to our students either within or outside school premises**, i.e. all permanent, temporary and ancillary staff, governors, volunteers, contractors and external service or activity providers (**collectively referred to as staff or staff members** in this procedure).
- 4 The allegations management procedure will be used in all cases where it is alleged that a staff member, has:
  - behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child; or
  - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
  - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates that they would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children.
- 5 Allegations may arise in a number of ways, for example a report from a child, a complaint from a parent, or a concern raised by another adult within the school. An allegation may concern someone's behaviour or actions within their job or a voluntary activity, or within their family or private life.
- 6 **Any concerns will be considered in the context of the four types of abuse**
- 7 Concerns include inappropriate relationships between adults and children. For example:
  - a sexual relationship between a child under 18 and an adult in a position of trust with them, even if the relationship may appear to be consensual;
  - grooming, i.e. meeting a child under 16 with intent to commit a relevant offence (section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003); or
  - other behaviour that gives rise to concerns, such as possession of abusive images of children or inappropriate contact through texts or online, inappropriate messages, gifts or socialising with children.
- 8 If an allegation or concern arises about a staff member outside of their work with children, and this may present a risk to children for whom the staff member is responsible, the general principles outlined in these procedures will still apply.
- 9 **Roles and responsibilities:**



- **Anyone who has concerns** about, or has received an allegation about, the behaviour of a staff member **needs to report the concerns immediately to the Principal. In the absence of the Principal, or if the Principal is the subject of the allegation, concerns must be reported to the chair of governors. If both the Principal and the chair of governors are absent, the allegation needs to be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).**
- The **Principal will act as the case manager** for investigations of allegations and liaise with the **LADO**.
- The **chair of governors will act as the case manager**, if the allegation is made in relation to the Principal.
- The **LADO** is involved in the overall management and oversight of individual cases. They will provide advice and guidance to the case manager, liaise with the police and other agencies and monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process.

## **10 Initial action by the person noticing concerns or receiving an allegation first:**

- Treat the matter seriously and keep an open mind.
- Do not make assumptions or offer alternative explanations.
- Do not investigate or ask leading questions, if seeking clarification.
- Do not promise confidentiality, but give assurance that the information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis.
- Act quickly.
- Make a written record of the information. Where possible, record the exact words of the person making the allegation or the child's own words.
- Record the time, date and place and names of people present when the allegation was made or concerning behaviour was observed. Record the time, date and place of alleged incidents, persons present and what was said, if these were mentioned by the person making the allegation.
- Sign and date the written record.
- Immediately report the matter to the Principal or the chair of governors, as in 15.9 above and give them the written record.

## **11 Initial response by the case manager:**

- Do not investigate the matter immediately or interview the staff member or the child concerned.
- Obtain written details of the concern or allegation, signed and dated by the person reporting it. Countersign and date the written details and record the decisions made and the reasons for those decisions.
- Contact the LADO immediately to report the allegation and for a consultation. The allegation must be reported within one day at the most.



- If the allegation requires immediate attention but is received out of hours, contact the Children's Services Emergency Duty Team or the police and inform the LADO as soon as possible.
- Refer allegations relating to a staff member who is no longer working in the school to the police in the first instance and then inform the LADO.

## 12 Initial consideration of the allegation by the case manager and the LADO:

- The case manager and the LADO will consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree on a course of action, including whether further information is needed.
- The case manager may need to obtain relevant additional information, such as previous history, whether the child or their family have made similar allegations in the past and the staff member's current contact with children.
- If the allegation is not demonstrably false and there is cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, the LADO will refer the case to Children's Social Work Services and ask them to convene a strategy discussion.
- The LADO will consult the police if a criminal offence may have been committed. If the threshold for significant harm is not reached but a police investigation may be needed, the LADO will immediately inform the police.
- If an investigation by Children's Social Work Services or the police is not necessary, the case manager and the LADO will discuss the options open to the school depending on the nature of the allegation and the evidence available. This will range from taking no further action to dismissal or a decision not to use the staff member's services in the future.
- If the initial evaluation leads to no further action relating to the staff member concerned, the decision and justification should be recorded by both the case manager and the LADO. Agreement should be reached on what information should be put in writing to the individual and what action should follow, including informing the person who made the allegation originally.

## 13 Persons to be notified:

- After consultation with the LADO, the case manager should inform the accused person about the allegation as soon as possible.
- **However, if a strategy discussion is needed, or the police or Children's Social Work Services need to be involved, the case manager should not inform the accused person until those agencies have been consulted and have agreed what information can be disclosed to the individual.**
- In principle, the case manager should inform the parents or carers of the children involved about the allegation. The LADO should be consulted first to ensure that this will not impede any investigation or disciplinary process. In some cases, the parents or carers may need to be informed right away, e.g. if a child is injured and needs medical attention.



- The parents or carers and the child, if sufficiently mature, should be helped to understand the process and kept informed about the progress of the case and the outcome if no criminal prosecution will take place.

#### **14 Confidentiality:**

- Every effort should be made to maintain confidentiality and guard against publicity while an allegation is being investigated. Information should be restricted to only those who need to know in order to protect the children concerned, carry out the investigation and manage the disciplinary process.
- The Education Act 2011 introduced **reporting restrictions** preventing the publication of any material that may lead to the identification of a teacher who has been accused by, or on behalf of, a student from the same school.
- Reporting restrictions apply until the point that the accused person is charged with an offence, or until the Secretary of State publishes information about the investigation or decision from the disciplinary process. Reporting restrictions also cease if the accused person goes public themselves, thereby waiving their right to anonymity.
- Breaching reporting restrictions is a criminal offence. Therefore, the case manager should inform the parents or carers concerned about the implications of publishing details of the allegation on social networking sites. They should be advised to seek legal advice, if they wish to apply to court for removal of reporting restrictions.
- The case manager should discuss with the LADO how best to manage speculation, leaks and gossip within the school and the community at large, and press interest, if it arises.

#### **15 Supporting people:**

- The school together with Children's Social Work Services and the police, if they are involved, will consider the impact on the child concerned and provide support as appropriate.
- The Principal will ensure that the child and family are kept informed of the progress of the investigation.
- The staff member who is the subject of the allegation will be advised to contact their union, professional association or a colleague for support.
- Personnel Services will be consulted at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the staff member is provided with appropriate support, if necessary, through occupational health or welfare arrangements.
- The Principal will appoint a named representative to keep the staff member updated on the progress of the investigation; this will continue during any police or section 47 investigation or disciplinary investigation.

#### **16 Managing risk during the investigation:**

- The perceived level of risk during the investigation needs to be considered and managed. In some situations the level of risk may require the staff member not



to be working with specific children or all children in the school until the investigation is completed.

- There are several options open to the employer, including:
  - redeployment so as not to come into direct contact with one or more children; or
  - refraining (agreeing that the person will not work with children during the investigation); or
  - suspension.
- Refraining and suspension should be considered as neutral acts and should not be automatic. Suspension should be considered only in cases where there is cause to believe children in the school are at risk of harm or the allegation is so serious that it might be grounds for dismissal.
- Decisions about risk are best made in a multi-agency forum such as the strategy discussion. The LADO will canvass the views of the agencies participating and inform the case manager. However, only the employer has the power to refrain or suspend.
- Possible risks to the children involved and any children in the accused staff member's home, work or community life will be evaluated and managed.

## **17 Timescales:**

- Cases will be resolved as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair investigation.
- It is expected that the majority of cases should be resolved within one month and all but the most exceptional cases should be resolved within 12 months.
- However, the timing will depend on the nature, seriousness and complexity of the case and the right outcome is far more important than meeting timescales.
- Cases where it is immediately apparent that the allegation is unsubstantiated or malicious should be resolved within one week.
- The school should discuss the timing of actions with the LADO for all allegations that do not require police involvement but for which there are child protection concerns.
- If the nature of the allegation does not require formal disciplinary action, the school should start appropriate action within three working days.
- If a disciplinary hearing is required and can be held without further investigation, the hearing should be held within 15 working days.

## **18 Resignations and compromise agreements:**

- The allegation will be investigated according to procedure, even if the accused staff member resigns or ceases to provide their services.





- Every effort will be made to reach a conclusion to the case should the staff member refuse to cooperate, having been given a full opportunity to answer the allegation and make representation.
- Although it would not be possible to apply disciplinary sanctions if the period of notice expires before the conclusion of the investigation, the outcome of the disciplinary process will be recorded.
- The school will not use 'compromise/settlement agreements', for example where the staff member agrees to resign provided that disciplinary action is not taken and that a future reference is agreed.

## 19 Outcomes of investigations of allegations:

- **Substantiated** – there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation
- **Malicious** – there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive
- **False** – there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation
- **Unsubstantiated** – there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence.

## 20 Disciplinary or suitability process and investigations:

- The LADO and the case manager will discuss whether disciplinary action is appropriate in all cases where:
  - o it is clear at the outset, or decided by a strategy discussion, that a police investigation or section 47 enquiry is not necessary; or
  - o the police or the Crown Prosecution Service informs that the criminal investigation and subsequent trial are complete, or that an investigation is to be closed without charge, or prosecution is discontinued.
- The discussion will consider any potential misconduct or gross misconduct by the staff member, and take into account:
  - o the information provided by the police and Children's Services;
  - o the result of any investigation or trial; and
  - o the different standards of proof in disciplinary and criminal proceedings.
- In the case of supply, contract or volunteer workers, the LADO and the case manager will work with the providing agency in deciding whether to continue using the person's services or whether they can provide future work with children or whether to report them for barring considerations.

## 21 Record keeping:

- The case manager will keep a clear and comprehensive summary of the case record and provide a copy to the accused staff member. A copy of the record should also be given to the LADO.



- The record will include details of how the allegation was investigated and resolved and the decisions reached. It will be completed in collaboration with the LADO.
- Details of allegations that are found to be malicious will be removed from personnel records.
- In the case of all other allegations, the summary will be placed in the staff member's personnel file and kept until the person reaches retirement age or for a period of 10 years from the date of the allegation, if that is longer.

## 22 References:

- If the allegation was proven to be malicious, false or unsubstantiated, it will not be included in any references for the staff member.
- A history of repeated concerns or allegations which have all been found to be malicious, false or unsubstantiated will also not be included in any references.

## 23 Informing the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS):

- The LADO will discuss with the case manager whether the school will refer the staff member to the DBS and, in the case of a teacher to the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL), if the allegation is substantiated and the person is dismissed or the school ceases to use the person's services, or the person resigns or ceases to provide their services.
- **It is a legal requirement for schools to refer to the DBS anyone:**
  - o **who has harmed, or is likely to harm, or poses a risk of harm to a child; or**
  - o **if there is reason to believe that they have committed one of a number of listed offences (as set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009), and have been removed from working in paid or unpaid regulated activity or would have been removed had they not left.**



## **Appendix D - Linked Policies (all available on request)**

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Positive Relationships (Behaviour) Policy
- Complaints procedure
- Drug Education & Incident Management Policy
- Equality Information & Objectives Policy
- Health and Safety Policy - including First Aid
- General Data Protection Regulation
- Educational Outings & School Visits Policy
- e-Safety and Social Media Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy this link takes you to an old policy.
- Whistleblowing Policy

## Appendix E - Links for relevant local and national statutory and non-statutory guidance

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Local	Front Door for Families		Contact Front Door for Families online (make a referral) Family Services Directory and Family Information Service (find services and childcare to support a family you work with) Early Help forms	<a href="#">Brighton &amp; Hove Front Door for Families</a>
Local	Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board		The Brighton & Hove LSCB brings together local agencies that have a shared responsibility for promoting well-being and keeping children in Brighton & Hove safe. It agrees how these different agencies and professional groups should co-operate to safeguard children and has a role in making sure that arrangements work effectively to bring about good outcomes for children.	<a href="http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/">http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/</a>
	will be replaced by:  Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Board		This part of the website applies to you if you are a 'Professional', working with or caring for children and young people in an employed or voluntary capacity.	<a href="http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/professionals/#">http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/professionals/#</a>
Local	Whole Family Working & Thresholds		All Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to publish a threshold document to help explain the different levels of support that a family may require. This document and associated guidance covers expectations and statutory duties upon all agencies to work together to safeguard and protect children, and to take measures to ensure that all agencies are working to offer Early Help to prevent matters from getting worse for a child or their family.	<a href="#">Brighton &amp; Hove Threshold Document</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Local	Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Working with Children and Families</a></li> <li>2. <a href="#">Information Sharing and Confidentiality</a></li> <li>3. <a href="#">Recognition and Referral of Abuse and Neglect</a></li> <li>4. <a href="#">Response to Child Protection Referrals</a></li> <li>5. <a href="#">Child Protection Conferences</a></li> <li>6. <a href="#">The Child Protection Plan</a></li> <li>7. <a href="#">Complaints and Professional Disagreements</a></li> <li>8. <a href="#">Children in Specific Circumstances</a></li> <li>9. <a href="#">Risk Management of Known Offenders and Those who Pose a Risk</a></li> <li>10. <a href="#">Serious Case Reviews</a></li> <li>11. <a href="#">Child Death</a></li> <li>12. <a href="#">The Local Safeguarding Children Board</a></li> </ol>	<a href="https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/">https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/</a>
National	Schools: statutory guidance		The Department for Education's statutory guidance publications for schools and local authorities.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statutory-guidance-schools">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statutory-guidance-schools</a>
National	Keeping children safe in education	September 2023	This is statutory guidance from the Department for Education issued under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015. Schools and colleges in England must have regard to it when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. For the purposes of this guidance children includes everyone under the age of 18.	<a href="#">Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
National	Working Together to Safeguard Children A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children	July 2018	This guidance applies to all organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children. Specifically, this guidance applies to all local authorities, clinical commissioning groups, police and all other organisations and agencies as set out in chapter 2. It applies, in its entirety, to all schools. It applies to all children up to the age of 18 years whether living with their families, in state care, or living independently. This document should be complied with unless exceptional circumstances arise.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2</a>
National	Working Together: transitional guidance Statutory guidance for Local Safeguarding Children Boards, local authorities, safeguarding partners, child death review partners, and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel	July 2018	This is statutory guidance.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2</a>
National	Working Together to Safeguard Children Statutory framework: legislation relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children	July 2018	For information.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
National	Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education	July 2019	Statutory guidance. Contains information on what schools should do and sets out the legal duties with which schools must comply when teaching Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. Unless otherwise specified, 'school' means all schools, whether maintained, non-maintained or independent schools, including academies and free schools, non-maintained special schools, maintained special schools and alternative provision, including pupil referral units.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education</a>
National	What to do if you're worried a child is being abused Advice for practitioners	March 2015	This advice is non-statutory, and has been produced to help practitioners identify child abuse and neglect and take appropriate action in response. This advice is for anyone whose work brings them into contact with children and families.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2</a>
National	The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities	February 2018	This is statutory guidance from the Department for Education, issued under sections 20(4) and 20A(4) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008. This means that the governing bodies of maintained schools, academy proprietors and the designated staff member at maintained schools and academies must have regard to it when promoting the educational attainment of looked-after and previously looked-after children.	<a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf</a>
National	NSPCC		Research and resources Child protection and safeguarding information, advice and research	<a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/">https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
National	Teachers' Standards Guidance for school leaders, school staff and governing bodies	July 2011 June 2013	The Teachers' Standards apply to: trainees working towards QTS; all teachers completing their statutory induction period (newly qualified teachers [NQTs]); and teachers in maintained schools, including maintained special schools, who are covered by the 2012 appraisal regulations. The Teaching Regulation Agency will use Part Two of the Teachers' Standards, which relates to personal and professional conduct, when assessing cases of serious misconduct, regardless of the education sector in which the teacher works.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-standards">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-standards</a>
National	Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings	September 2019	Guidance for Ofsted inspectors to use when inspecting safeguarding under the common inspection framework. This guidance sets out the key points inspectors need to consider when inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-safeguarding-in-early-years-education-and-skills-from-september-2015">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-safeguarding-in-early-years-education-and-skills-from-september-2015</a>
National	Positive environments where children can flourish	March 2018	Guidance for Ofsted inspectors about physical intervention and restrictions of liberty.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/positive-environments-where-children-can-flourish">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/positive-environments-where-children-can-flourish</a>
National	Ofsted School Inspection Handbook	September 2019	Describes the main activities carried out during inspections of maintained schools and academies. Sets out the evaluation criteria that inspectors use to make their judgements and on which they report.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-eif">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-eif</a>
Attendance	School attendance parental responsibility measures Statutory guidance for local authorities, school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and the police	January 2015	This is statutory guidance from the Department for Education. This means that recipients must have regard to it when carrying out duties relating to Parenting Contracts, Parenting Orders and Penalty Notices.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parental-responsibility-measures-for-behaviour-and-attendance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parental-responsibility-measures-for-behaviour-and-attendance</a>



Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Attendance	School attendance Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities	August 2020	This is guidance from the Department for Education. This guidance is non-statutory, and has been produced to help schools and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance and plan the school day and year. The document also provides information about the interventions available to address pupils' poor attendance and behaviour at school. It would be helpful to read this alongside the statutory guidance on parental measures for school attendance and behaviour	<a href="#">Working together to improve school attendance</a>  <a href="#">Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance</a>
Attendance	Children missing education Statutory guidance for local authorities	September 2016	This statutory guidance sets out key principles to enable local authorities in England to implement their legal duty under section 436A of the Education Act 1996 to make arrangements to identify, as far as it is possible to do so, children missing education (CME). Local authorities should be able to demonstrate that they have considered this statutory guidance and where it is not followed, the local authority should have reasonable grounds for not doing so. This advice is not exhaustive and local authorities will need to take into account the circumstances of individual cases.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education</a>
Attendance	Elective home education	April 2019	This is departmental guidance from the Department for Education. It is non-statutory, and has been produced to help local authorities understand their role in relation to elective home education. Guidance is also for schools and there is a separate guidance document for parents.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education</a>
Attendance Behaviour	Alternative Provision	June 2016	This is statutory guidance. It applies to all educational settings providing alternative provision (AP): schools maintained by the local authority; <a href="#">academies</a> and <a href="#">free schools</a> ; pupil referral units (PRUs). AP settings are places that provide education for children who can't go to a mainstream school. This guidance covers the use of AP where: local authorities arrange education for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education; schools arrange education for pupils on a fixed-period exclusion; schools arrange education for pupils to improve their behaviour off-site.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-provision">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-provision</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Behaviour	Behaviour and discipline in schools Advice for headteachers and school staff	January 2016	This guide is from the Department for Education. It provides advice to headteachers and school staff on developing the school behaviour policy and explains the powers members of staff have to discipline pupils. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the powers and duties for school staff. It is for individual schools to develop their own best practice for managing behaviour in their school.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools</a>
Behaviour	Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England	September 2017	Statutory guidance for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion</a>
Behaviour	Searching, screening and confiscation Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies	January 2018	This advice is intended to explain schools' powers of screening and searching pupils so that school staff have the confidence to use them. In particular, it explains the use of the power to search pupils without consent. It also explains the powers schools have to seize and then confiscate items found during a search. It includes statutory guidance which schools must have regard to.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation</a>
Behaviour	Use of reasonable force in schools Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies	July 2013	This is non-statutory advice from the Department for Education. It is intended to provide clarification on the use of force to help school staff feel more confident about using this power when they feel it is necessary and to make clear the responsibilities of headteachers and governing bodies in respect of this power.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools</a>
Drugs	DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies	September 2012	This is advice from the Department for Education and the Association of Chief Police Officers. It is non-statutory and has been produced to help answer some of the most common questions raised by school staff in this area, as well as promoting understanding of the relevant powers and duties in relation to powers to search for and confiscate drugs, liaison with the police and with parents.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Exploitation	Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance	September 2018	<p>This guidance is primarily aimed at frontline staff who work with children, young people and potentially vulnerable adults. This includes professionals working in education, health, housing, benefits, law enforcement (police) and related partner organisations. This guidance is also useful for carers and parents, although they are not the primary audience.</p> <p>This guidance is intended to explain the nature of this harm to enable practitioners to recognise its signs and respond appropriately so that potential victims get the support and help they need.</p>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines</a>
Exploitation	Preventing youth violence and gang involvement Practical advice for schools and colleges	March 2015	This Home Office advice is for leaders, their senior teams and staff in schools or colleges in areas affected by gang or youth violence. When developing an approach, it is recommended that schools and colleges discuss ways to address youth violence with local police and community safety partners, as well as other local educational institutions.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-to-schools-and-colleges-on-gangs-and-youth-violence">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-to-schools-and-colleges-on-gangs-and-youth-violence</a>
Exploitation	Modern Slavery Awareness Booklet	October 2017	This guidance is intended as a resource providing clear and up to date information on the key facts, and to help public sector workers who may not routinely come across modern slavery recognise the signs and respond	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-awareness-booklet">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-awareness-booklet</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Exploitation	Child sexual exploitation Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation Child sexual exploitation Annexes to 'Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation'	February 2017	This advice is non-statutory, and has been produced to help practitioners, local leaders and decision makers who work with children and families to identify child sexual exploitation and take appropriate action in response. This includes the management, disruption and prosecution of perpetrators.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners</a>
Exploitation	Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked	2011	Non-statutory good practice guidance is for agencies in England which are likely to encounter, or have referred to them, children and young people who may have been trafficked.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-who-may-have-been-trafficked-practice-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-who-may-have-been-trafficked-practice-guidance</a>
Harmful Trad Practice	Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation	July 2020	Statutory guidance	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation</a>
Harmful Trad Practice	National FGM Centre		Information and guidance for professionals covering FGM and other Harmful Traditional Practices	<a href="http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/about-us/">http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/about-us/</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Health & Safety	Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England Templates & Resources also available	December 2015	This document contains both statutory guidance and non-statutory advice.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3</a>
Health & Safety	Controlling access to school premises	November 2018	This is non-statutory advice from the Department for Education. School premises are private property and parents will generally have permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in cases of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, schools may ban parents from entering the school.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/controlling-access-to-school-premises">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/controlling-access-to-school-premises</a>
Health & Safety	First Aid in Schools	February 2014	Under health and safety legislation employers have to ensure that there are adequate and appropriate equipment and facilities for providing first aid in the workplace. This guidance draws on existing good practice. It provides advice for schools on drawing up first-aid policies and ensuring that they are meeting their statutory duties. Please note information about first aid training providers in this advice is no longer current. The Health and Safety Executive provides guidance about finding appropriate first aid training and qualifications.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/first-aid-in-schools">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/first-aid-in-schools</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Info Share	Information sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers	July 2018	This HM Government advice is non-statutory, and has been produced to support practitioners in the decisions they take to share information, which reduces the risk of harm to children and young people and promotes their well-being. This guidance has been updated to reflect the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018. The GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and young people safe	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice</a>
Info Share	Data protection: a toolkit for schools	September 2018	The document provides 9 steps that, we think, can help schools efficiently develop the culture, processes and documentation required to be compliant with the strengthened legislation and effectively manage the risks associated with data management. It is important to note that this document provides tips and guidance only. It is intended to support schools draw out areas of risk. It does not constitute formal legal guidance, and as a data controller in its own right, a school is ultimately responsible for its own data protection procedures and compliance with legislation.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-protection-toolkit-for-schools">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-protection-toolkit-for-schools</a>
Mental Health	Counselling in schools: a blueprint for the future Departmental advice for school leaders and counsellors	February 2016	This is departmental advice from the Department for Education (DfE). This advice is non-statutory, and has been produced to help school leaders set up and improve counselling services in primary and secondary schools.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counselling-in-schools">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counselling-in-schools</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Mental Health	Mental health and behaviour in school's Departmental advice for school staff	November 2018	<p>This is non-statutory advice from the Department for Education. This guidance is for school staff and applies to all schools.</p> <p>It gives advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how to create a whole school culture, including promoting positive mental health</li> <li>• understanding the link between mental health and behaviour</li> <li>• how to identify children with possible mental health problems</li> <li>• where and how to put in place support, including working with external agencies where required</li> </ul> <p>It also provides links to sources of further support and guidance. The intervention and support guidance may also be useful for colleges and other post-16 institutions.</p>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2</a>
Online	Teaching online safety in school	June 2019	<p>Guidance supporting schools to teach their pupils how to stay safe online, within new and existing school subjects. This is non-statutory guidance from the Department for Education. It outlines how schools can ensure their pupils understand how to stay safe and behave online as part of existing curriculum requirements. It complements existing and forthcoming subjects including Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, Health Education, Citizenship and Computing. It does not imply additional content or teaching requirements.</p>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools</a>
Parents	Safeguarding Children in whom illness is fabricated or induced Supplementary guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children	March 2008	Not statutory good practice guidance.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-in-whom-illness-is-fabricated-or-induced">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-in-whom-illness-is-fabricated-or-induced</a>



Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Parents	Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility	September 2018	Guidance to help schools understand their obligations and duties in relation to the rights and responsibilities of parents, as recognised by education law.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility/understanding-and-dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility/understanding-and-dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility</a>
Peer-on-Peer	Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people (published by UKCCIS, not DfE)	January 2017	This advice is for designated safeguarding leads (DSLs), their deputies, headteachers and senior leadership teams in schools and educational establishments in England.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexting-in-schools-and-colleges">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexting-in-schools-and-colleges</a>
Peer-on-Peer	Preventing and tackling bullying Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies	July 2017	This document has been produced to help schools take action to prevent and respond to bullying as part of their overall behaviour policy. It outlines, in one place, the Government's approach to bullying, legal obligations and the powers schools have to tackle bullying, and the principles which underpin the most effective anti-bullying strategies in schools.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying</a>
Peer-on-Peer	Cyberbullying: Advice for headteachers and school staff	November 2014	This is non-statutory advice from the Department for Education for headteachers and all school staff on how to protect themselves from cyberbullying and how to tackle it if it happens.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying</a>
Peer-on-Peer	Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying	November 2014	This advice is for parents and carers about cyberbullying. It provides advice and information about how they can protect their child from cyberbullying and how to tackle it if it happens.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Peer-on-Peer	Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges Advice for governing bodies, proprietors, headteachers, principals, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads	Sept 2023	Previous guidance was withdrawn in September 2022. Advice around this can now be found within Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023	<a href="#">Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023</a>
Prevent	The Prevent duty Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers	June 2015	This advice is non-statutory, and has been produced to help recipients understand the implications of the Prevent duty. The Prevent duty is the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty</a>
SAFER RECRUITMENT	Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006	August 2018	Statutory	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
Safer Recruitment	Staffing and employment advice for schools	January 2021	Departmental advice for school leaders, governing bodies, academy trusts and local authorities. This advice is designed to help employers in all schools with staffing and employment issues, and to inform their decision making. It advises on matters contained within the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 for maintained schools and for independent schools, which include academies and free schools, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and on wider staffing and employment issues. It draws attention to relevant legislation and sources of up-to-date guidance and advice that employers need to consider, some of which may be statutory guidance.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staffing-and-employment-advice-for-schools">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staffing-and-employment-advice-for-schools</a>
Safer Recruitment	Overseas trained teachers	5 January 2021	This is non-statutory departmental advice on employing overseas-trained teachers (OTTs) to teach in state maintained and non-maintained special schools in England. In this guidance, OTTs are people who have qualified as teachers in a country outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employing-overseas-trained-teachers-from-outside-the-eea">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employing-overseas-trained-teachers-from-outside-the-eea</a>
SEND	Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years	May 2015	Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities This Code of Practice provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations and applies to England. It relates to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25</a>

Category	Document Title	Date	Status	Link
SEND	Schools: guide to the 0 to 25 SEND code of practice Advice for school governing bodies/proprietors, senior leadership teams, SENCOs and classroom staff	September 2014	This document is not a substitute for the full Code of Practice and has no statutory basis. The main duties that schools must have regard to are highlighted here and links are given to the relevant sections of the Code – it is important that schools familiarise themselves with the full version of the statutory guidance in the Code in addition to reading this guide	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings</a>