



CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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Policy Contents

1.	Safeguarding statement	4
2.	Staff with key responsibilities	4
3.	Terminology	4-5
4.	Introduction, Guidance documents and linked policies	5
5.	Aims and Purpose	7
6.	Safe School, safe staff	7-8
7.	Roles and Responsibilities	9
	7.1 The role of All Staff	9
	7.2 The role of the Headteacher	10-11
	7.3 The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead	11-12
	7.4 The role of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	12
	7.5 The role of the Governing Body	12-13
8.	School Procedures	14
	8.1 Confidentiality, sharing and withdrawing Information	14
	8.2 Child Protection Procedures	14-15
	8.3 Dealing with disclosure	16-17
	8.4 Allegations Against Adults Working with Children and the LADO	18
	8.5 Acting on concerns based on adults' behaviour	19
	8.6 Whistleblowing	19
	8.7 Children Looked After/ Children Previously Looked After	19-20
	8.8 Children with SEND	20
	8.9 Young carers	20
	8.10 Private fostering	20-21
	8.11 Children Missing Education (CME)	21-22
	8.12 Children Missing out of Education	22
	8.13 School Attendance and Behaviour	23
	8.14 Restrictive Physical Intervention	23
	Appendix 1 - What is Child Abuse – indications of abuse	24
	- What is child abuse?	24
	- Definition of types of abuse	24-25
	- Indicators of abuse	25-31

- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools	31
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour	32-33
- Child on Child Abuse	33
- Upskirting	33

Appendix 2 – Safeguarding themes 34

- Online safety/Cybercrime	34
- Antibullying/Cyberbullying	34
- Discriminatory incidents – racism, homophobia, gender	34
- Radicalisation, Extremism and Terrorism	35-37
- Domestic Abuse	37
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	38
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and gangs	38-39
- Youth produced sexual imagery (sexting)	39-41
- FGM	41
- Forced Marriage	41-42
- Honour Based Abuse	42
- One Chance Rule	42

Appendix 3 – Other useful contacts 43

1. Safeguarding Statement

“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility”

We recognise our moral, professional and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We make every effort to provide an environment in which children and adults feel safe, secure, valued and respected. Students and staff feel confident to talk if they are worried; believing they will be effectively listened to.

The purpose of this policy is to provide staff, volunteers and governors with the framework they need in order to keep children safe in our school in a positive learning environment. The policy also informs parents and carers how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care.

2. Staff with key responsibilities

Role	Staff Name
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs K Nolan
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Ms S Bains, Ms J McGowan, Ms Edwards, Ms Wellspring & Mr Morgan, Mrs L Beatty
Child Protector Officer	Mrs B Dale
Headteacher	Mr L Smith
Child Protection & Safeguarding Governor Lead	Mr P Ward
Chair of Governors	Mr H Verma

3. Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

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

Child Protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

Early Help means the providing support as soon as additional needs and support emerge at any point in a child's life.

Staff refers to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full or part time, temporary or permanent, in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

Child(ren) includes everyone under the age of 18. On the whole, this will apply to students of our school; however, the policy will extend to visiting children and students from other institutions.

Parents refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example step-parents, foster carers and adoptive parents.

Social Care refers to Children's Services in the area in which the child is resident, unless a child is a Child Looked After (CLA) then this will be the Children's Services in their home authority.

4. Introduction and Guidance Documents

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; the Education Act 2002, and in line with government publications: 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2023), 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2023, Revised Safeguarding Statutory Guidance 2 'Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families' 2000, 'What to do if You are Worried a Child is Being Abused' 2015. The guidance reflects, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' September 2023.

The Governing body takes seriously its responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm or at risk of suffering harm.

Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

Where a child is suffering significant harm, or is likely to do so, action should be taken to protect that child. Action should also be taken to promote the welfare of a child in need of additional support, even if they are suffering harm or at immediate risk.

We recognise that all adults, including temporary staff, volunteers and governors, have a full and active part to play in protecting our students from harm, and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

The Teachers' Standards, updated 2013, state that all teachers, including the Headteacher, should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of the professional duties.

All staff believe that our school should provide a caring, positive safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical, emotional, spiritual and moral development of the individual child.

Guidance and documents referred to in this policy:

[Slough Safeguarding Policies and Procedures](#)

[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Keeping children safe in education 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 \(updated 2019\)](#)

[FGM Mandatory Reporting 2016 \(Updated 2020\)](#)

[The Equality Act 2010 \(updated 2014\)](#)

[What to do if you are worried a child is being abused 2015](#)

[Teacher Standards 2011 \(updated 2021\)](#)

[Information Sharing Advice for Practitioners 2015 \(updated 2018\)](#)

[Children Missing Education September 2023 \(slough.gov.uk\)](#)

This policy links to:

- Safer Recruitment
- Disclosure and Barring Service checks
- Whistleblowing
- Lettings
- Attendance
- Health and safety (pupils')
- Anti-Bullying
- Educational visits
- Child on Child abuse
- E-safety
- Staff Code of conduct

5. Aims and Purpose

The aims of this policy are:

- To provide an environment in which children feel safe, secure, valued, respected and confident in knowing how to approach adults if they are in difficulties or are worried, believing they will be effectively listened to.
- To raise the awareness of all staff (including visitors and volunteers) of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse
- To support the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence.
- To provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, and ensure we, the school, contribute to assessments of need and support packages for those children.
- To emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff.
- To develop a structured procedure within the school which will be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.
- To develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the Police and Social Care.
- To ensure that all staff working within our school who have substantial access to children have been checked as to their suitability, including verification of their identity, qualifications, and a satisfactory DBS check (according to guidance), and a central record is kept for audit.

6. Safe school, safe staff

All members of the governing body understand and fulfil their responsibilities, namely to ensure that:

- There is a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- The school operates safer recruitment procedures by ensuring that there is at least one person on every recruitment panel that has completed Safer Recruitment training
- The school has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers and to make a referral to the DBS if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns, or would have had they not resigned.
- A senior leader has Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) responsibility, the DSLs undertake interagency training and also undertake DSL 'new to role' and an 'update' course every 2 years
- All other staff have Safeguarding training updated as appropriate
- Any weaknesses in Child Protection are remedied immediately
- A member of the Governing Body is, usually the Chair, is nominated to liaise with the LA on Child Protection issues and in the event of an allegation of abuse made against the Headteacher
- Child Protection policies and procedures are reviewed annually and that the Child Protection policy is available on the school website or by other means
- The Governing Body considers how children may be taught about safeguarding. This may be part of a broad and balanced curriculum covering relevant issues through Personal Social Health and Economic education (PSHE) which includes Sex and Relationship Education (SRE).

- The DSL, is a member of the Senior Leadership Team with the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads also being members of the Senior Leadership Team and Middle Leaders. These Leads have undertaken the relevant training, and, upon appointment will undertake 'DSL new to role' training followed by biannual updates.
- All members of the Senior Leadership Team who are involved in recruitment and at least one member of the governing body will also complete safer recruitment training to be renewed every 2 years.
- All members of staff and volunteers are provided with child protection awareness information at induction, including in their arrival pack, the school safeguarding statement so that they know who to discuss a concern with.
- All members of staff are trained in and receive regular updates in e-safety and reporting concerns.
- All other staff and governors, have child protection awareness training, updated by the DSL as appropriate, to maintain their understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse.
- All members of staff, volunteers, and governors know how to respond to a pupil who discloses abuse through delivery of the Awareness Raising pack.
- All parents/carers are made aware of the responsibilities of staff members with regard to child protection procedures through publication of the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Our lettings policy will seek to ensure the suitability of adults working with children on school sites at any time and will assess the nature of the activity, for example through unannounced checks, to prevent the opportunity to use school facilities to radicalise young people.
- Community users organising activities for children are aware of the school's child protection guidelines and procedures.
- We will ensure that child protection type concerns or allegations against any adults, not just our employees, working in the school are referred to the Local Authorities Designated Officer (LADO), for advice, and that any member of staff found not suitable to work with children will be notified to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for consideration for barring, following resignation, dismissal, or when we cease to use their service as a result of a substantiated allegation, in the case of a volunteer.
- Our procedures will be regularly reviewed and up-dated.
- The name of the designated members of staff for Child Protection, the Designated Safeguarding Leads, will be clearly advertised in the school, with a statement explaining the school's role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected abuse.
- All new members of staff will be given a copy of our safeguarding statement, KCSIE, Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, with the names of members of the Child Protection team clearly displayed, as part of their induction into the school.
- The policy is available publicly either on the school website or by other means. Parents/carers are made aware of this policy and their entitlement to have a copy of it via the website.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

7.1 All Staff will:

- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn.
- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or have concerns.
- Plan opportunities within the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to assess and manage risk appropriately and keep themselves safe.
- Attend training in order to be aware of and alert to the signs of abuse.
- Maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' with regards to safeguarding and that 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'.
- Know how to respond to a student who discloses harm or abuse following training of 'Working together to Safeguard Children (2023)', and 'What to do if you are worried a child is being Abused' (2015) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023.
- Record their concerns if they are worried that a child is being abused and report these to one of the members of the Child Protection team immediately.
- Be prepared to refer directly to Slough Children First (SCF), and the police if appropriate, if there is a risk of significant harm and the DSL or their Deput(ies) are not available.
- Follow the allegations procedures if the disclosure is an allegation against a member of staff.
- Follow the procedures set out by SCF and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education.
- Provide support for children subject to Early Help, TAC, Child in Need, Child Protection or CLA that is in keeping with their plan.
- Treat information with confidentiality but never promising to "keep a secret".
- Notify a member of the CP team of any child on the school's CP list who has unexplained absence.
- Have an understanding of Early Help and be prepared to identify and support children who may benefit from this support.
- Will identify children who may benefit from early help, liaising with the CP team in the first instance. (Options may include managing support for the child internally via the schools pastoral support process or an early help assessment). In some circumstances it may be appropriate for a member of school staff to act as the Lead Professional in early help cases.
- Liaise with other agencies that support students and provide early help.

- Know who the members of the CP team are and know how to contact them.
- Have an awareness of the role of the DSL, the CP team, the schools Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, Behaviour Policy and Staff Code of Conduct and procedures relating to the safeguarding response for children who go missing from education (CME).
- Be mindful that the Teacher Standards states that teachers should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.
- Assist the Governing Body and Headteacher in fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities set out in legislation and statutory guidance.

7.2 The Headteacher

In addition to the role and responsibilities of all staff the Headteacher will ensure that:

- The school fully contributes to inter-agency working in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 guidance.
- The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and procedures are implemented and followed by all staff.
- All staff are aware of the role of the DSL team and the Lead DSL.
- Sufficient time, training, support, funding, resources, including cover arrangements where necessary, is allocated to the CP team to carry out their role effectively, including the provision of advice and support to school staff on child welfare and child protection matters, to take part in strategy discussions/meetings and other inter-agency meetings and/or support other staff to do so; and to contribute to the assessment of children.
- Provide opportunities for a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified.
- Ensure the CP team are trained to the same standard as the DSL and the role is explicit in their job description.
- Ensure adequate and appropriate cover arrangements are in place for any out of hours/out of term activities.
- Where there is a safeguarding concern that the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide.
- Child-centred systems and processes are in place for children to express their views and give feedback.
- All staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and that such concerns are handled sensitively and in accordance with the whistle-blowing procedures.

- That students are provided with opportunities throughout the curriculum to learn about safeguarding, including keeping themselves safe online.
- Ensure that allegations or concerns against staff are dealt with in accordance with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), Slough Children First (SCF) and KCSIE 2023.
- Ensure that statutory requirements are met to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service and additionally in the case of teaching staff the Teacher Regulation Agency where they think an individual has engaged in conduct that harmed (or is likely to harm) a child; or if the person otherwise poses a risk of harm to a child.

7.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for:

- Referring a child if there are concerns about possible abuse, to the Slough Borough council, and acting as a focal point for staff to discuss concerns. Referrals should be made in writing using the Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF), followed by a telephone call where necessary.
- The designated safeguarding lead and any deputies should liaise with safeguarding partners and work with other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children. NSPCC- When to call the police should help designated safeguarding leads understand when they should consider calling the police and what to expect when they do.
- Keeping records of concern about a child even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.
- Ensuring that all such records are kept confidentially and securely and are separate from pupil records, until the child's 25th birthday, and are copied on to the child's next school or college.
- Ensuring that an indication of the existence of marked on the pupil records.
- Liaising with other agencies and professionals.
- Ensuring that either they or the staff member attend case conferences, core groups, or other multi-agency planning meetings, contribute to assessments, and provide a report which has been shared with the parents.
- Ensuring that any student currently with a child protection plan who is absent in the educational setting without explanation for two days is referred to their key worker's Social Care Team.
- Organising child protection induction, and update training every 2 years, for all school staff.
- Providing, with the Headteacher, an annual report for the governing body, detailing any changes to the policy and procedures; training undertaken by the DSL, and by all staff and governors; number and type of incidents/cases, and number of children on the child protection register (anonymised).
- Will ensure that when a student transfers school, their child protection file is passed to the new school as soon as possible, and within statutory timescales (separately from the main student file and ensuring secure transit) and that confirmation of receipt is received.
- Will ensure that where a student transfers school and is on a child protection plan or is a child looked after, their information is passed to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed. In addition, consideration should be given to a multi-agency schools transition meeting if the case is complex or on-going.
- If the transit method requires that a copy of the Child Protection file is retained until such a

time that the new school acknowledges receipt of the original file, the copy should be securely destroyed on confirmation of receipt.

- Will ensure that all appropriate staff members have a working knowledge and understanding of their role in case conferences, core groups and other multi-agency planning meetings, to ensure that they attend and are able to effectively contribute when required to do so; where a report is required, this should be shared with the parents prior to the meeting.
- Will ensure that in collaboration with the school leadership and governors, the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly.
- Ensure that the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy is available publicly and that parents are aware that referrals about suspected harm and abuse will be made and the role of the school in this.
- Will ensure that names of the Child Protection team, are clearly advertised.
- Meet all other responsibilities as set out for DSLs in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.

7.4 The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are responsible for:

In addition to the role and responsibilities of all staff the Deputy DSL will:

- Be trained to the same standard as the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the role is explicit in their job description.
- Provide support and capacity to the DSL in carrying out delegated activities of the DSL; however, the lead responsibility of the DSL cannot be delegated.
- In the absence of the DSL, carries out the activities necessary to ensure the ongoing safety and protection of children. In the event of the long-term absence of the DSL the deputy will assume all of the functions above.

7.5 All members of The Governing Body understand and fulfil their responsibilities to ensure that:

- The school has effective safeguarding policies and procedures including a Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, a Staff Code of Conduct policy, a Behaviour Policy and a response to Children who go Missing from Education policy. Ensure policies are consistent with Slough Children First (SCF) and statutory requirements, are reviewed annually and that the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy is available on the school website.
- The SCF is informed in line with local requirements about the discharge of duties via the annual safeguarding audit.
- That the school operates a safer recruitment procedure that includes statutory checks on staff suitability to work with children and disqualification by association regulations and by ensuring that there is at least one person on every recruitment panel who has completed safer recruitment training, if there is not a panel conducting interviews then the individual will have completed the safer recruitment training.

- At least one member of the governing body has completed safer recruitment training to be repeated every three years and any member of the Governing Body that will sit on a recruitment and selection panel.
- Staff have been trained appropriately and this is updated in line with guidance and all staff have read Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 part 1 and Annex A and that mechanisms are in place to assist staff in understanding and discharging their roles and responsibilities as set out in the guidance.
- All staff including temporary staff and volunteers are provided with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and Staff Code of Conduct policy.
- The school has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff (including the Headteacher), volunteers and against other children and that a referral is made to the DBS and/or the Teaching Regulation Agency (as applicable) if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns, or would have had they not resigned.
- A nominated governor for safeguarding is identified.
- A member of the senior leadership team has been appointed by the Governing Body as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection and that the role is explicit in the role holder's job description.
- On appointment, the DSL and deputies undertake interagency training and DSL 'New to Role' training every two years as well as attending DSL network events, to refresh knowledge and skills.
- Children are taught about safeguarding (including online safety) as part of a broad and balanced curriculum covering relevant issues through personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and relationship and sex education (RSE).
- The school will comply with DfE and [Children Missing Education September 2023 \(slough.gov.uk\)](https://www.slough.gov.uk/children-missing-education-september-2023).
- The school will comply with regular data returns requested by the Local Authority, regarding all students, of statutory school age, attending alternative provision and/or on a reduced or modified timetable.
- Appropriate online filtering and monitoring systems are in place.
- Enhanced DBS checks (without barred list checks, unless the governor is also a volunteer at the school) are in place for all Governors.
- Any weaknesses in Safeguarding are remedied immediately.

8. School Procedures

8.1: Confidentiality, sharing and withdrawing information

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential. The Headteacher or CP team will disclose any information about a child to other members of staff on a need to know basis only. All matters relating to child protection will be treated as confidential and only shared as per the [‘Information Sharing Advice for Practitioners’ \(DfE 2018\) guidance](#).

All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children. The Data Protection Act 1998 and General Data Protection Regulations are not a barrier to sharing information where a failure to do so would place a child at risk of harm.

All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child’s safety or wellbeing. We will always undertake to share our intention to refer a child to Social Care with their parents/carers unless to do so could put the child at greater risk of harm, or impede a criminal investigation. If in doubt, we will consult with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

8.2: Child Protection Procedures

The following procedures apply to all staff working in the school and will be covered by training to enable staff to understand their role and responsibility.

The aim of our procedures is to provide a robust framework which enables staff to take appropriate action when they are concerned that a child is being harmed, abused or is at risk of harm or abuse.

The prime concern at all stages must be the interests and safety of the child. Where there is a conflict of interest between the child and an adult, the interests of the child must be paramount.

All staff are aware that very young children and those with disabilities, special needs or with language delay may be more likely to communicate concerns with behaviours rather than words. Additionally, staff will question the cause of knocks and bumps in children who have limited mobility.

If a member of staff suspects abuse, spots signs or indicators of abuse, or they have a disclosure of abuse made to them they must:

1. Make an initial record of the information related to the concern (on CPOMS)
2. Report it to the DSL and/or the CP team immediately.
3. The DSL and CP team will consider if there is a requirement for immediate medical intervention.
4. Make an accurate record on CPOMS (which may be used in any subsequent court proceedings) as soon as possible and within 24 hours of the occurrence, of all that has happened, including details of:
 - Dates and times of their observations
 - Dates and times of any discussions in which they were involved.
 - Any injuries
 - Explanations given by the child / adult
 - Rationale for decision making and action taken
 - Any actual words or phrases used by the child

5. In the absence of the DSL or their Deputies (including the Child Protection Officer and Early Help Coordinator), staff must be prepared to refer directly to SCF (and the police if appropriate) if there is the potential for immediate significant harm.

Following a report of concern the DSL must:

1. In consultation with the SCF [Needs assessment outline](#) decide whether or not there are sufficient grounds for suspecting significant harm, in which case a MARF must be made to SCF and the police if it is appropriate.
2. Normally the school should try to discuss any concerns about a child's welfare with the family and where possible to seek their agreement before making a referral to SCF. However, this should only be done when it will not place the child at increased risk or could impact a police investigation. The child's views should also be taken into account.

If there are grounds to suspect a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm or abuse the DSL must contact SCF. By sending a MARF by secure email to: sloughchildren.referrals@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk or contact CSF directly on 01753 875 362 (out of hours 01344 351999) to discuss the concerns. If a child is in immediate danger and urgent protective action is required, the Police (dial 999) must be called. The DSL must also notify SCF of the occurrence and what action has been taken.

3. If the DSL/DDSLs feels unsure about whether a referral is necessary they can phone SCF to discuss concerns.
4. If there is not a risk of significant harm, the DSL/DDSLs will either actively monitor the situation or consider Early Help.
5. Where there are doubts or reservations about involving the child's family, the DSL/DDSLs should clarify with SCF or the police whether the parents should be told about the referral and, if so, when and by whom. This is important in cases where the police may need to conduct a criminal investigation.
6. When a student is in need of urgent medical attention and there is suspicion of abuse the DSL/DDSLs should take the child to the accident and emergency unit at the nearest hospital, having first notified SCF. The DSL/DDSLs should seek advice about what action SCF will take and about informing the parents, remembering that parents should normally be informed that a child requires urgent hospital attention.
6. The exception to this process will be in those cases of known FGM where there is a mandatory requirement for the teacher to report directly to the police. The DSL should also be made aware.

8.3: Dealing with disclosures

All staff

A member of staff who is approached by a child should listen positively and try to reassure them. They cannot promise complete confidentiality and should explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child or other children safe. The degree of confidentiality should always be governed by the need to protect the child.

Additional consideration needs to be given to children with communication difficulties and for those whose preferred language is not English. It is important to communicate with them in a way that is appropriate to their age, understanding and preference.

All staff should know who the DSL is and who to approach if the DSL is unavailable. All staff have the right to make a referral to SCF or Police directly and should do this if, for whatever reason, there are difficulties following the agreed protocol, for example, they are the only adult on the school premises at the time and have concerns about sending a child home.

Guiding principles, the seven Rs:

Receive

- Listen to what is being said, without displaying shock or disbelief
- Accept what is said and take it seriously
- Make a note of what has been said as soon as practicable

Reassure

- Reassure the student, but only so far as is honest and reliable
- Don't make promises you may not be able to keep e.g. 'I'll stay with you' or 'everything will be alright now' or 'I'll keep this confidential'
- Do reassure, for example, you could say: 'I believe you', 'I am glad you came to me', 'I am sorry this has happened', 'We are going to do something together to get help'

Respond

- Respond to the student only as far as is necessary for you to establish whether or not you need to refer this matter, but do not interrogate for full details
- Do not ask 'leading' questions i.e. 'did he touch your private parts?' or 'did she hurt you?' Such questions may invalidate your evidence (and the child's) in any later prosecution in court
- Do not ask the child why something has happened.
- Do not criticize the alleged perpetrator; the student may care about him/her, and reconciliation may be possible
- Do not ask the student to repeat it all for another member of staff. Explain what you have to do next and whom you have to talk to. Reassure the student that it will be a senior member of staff

Report

- Share concerns with the DSL immediately.
- If you are not able to contact your DSL or the Deputy DSLs, and the child is at risk of immediate harm, contact SCF or Police, as appropriate directly
- If you are dissatisfied with the level of response you receive following your concerns, you should press for re-consideration

Record

- If possible make some very brief notes at the time, and write them up as soon as possible
- Record the date, time, place, person(s) present and noticeable nonverbal behaviour, and the words used by the child. If the child uses sexual 'pet' words, record the actual words used, rather than translating them into 'proper' words
- If appropriate, complete a body map to indicate the position of any noticeable bruising
- Record facts and observable things, rather than your 'interpretations' or 'assumptions'

Remember

- Support the child: listen, reassure, and be available
- Complete confidentiality is essential. Share your knowledge only with appropriate professional colleagues
- Get some support for yourself if you need it

Review (led by DSL)

- Has the action taken provided good outcomes for the child?
- Did the procedure work?
- Were any deficiencies or weaknesses identified in the procedure? Have these been remedied?
- Is further training required?

What happens next?

It is important that concerns are followed up and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they are. The member of staff should be informed by the DSL what has happened following a report being made. If they do not receive this information they should seek it out.

If they have concerns that the disclosure has not been acted upon appropriately they might inform the Headteacher or Safeguarding Governor of the school and/or may contact SCF.

Receiving a disclosure can be upsetting for the member of staff, therefore we would provide an opportunity for a debrief with a member of the CP team about the disclosure. In some cases additional counselling might be needed and staff should be encouraged to recognise that disclosures can have an impact on their own emotions

8.4: Allegations against a member of staff and the LADO

This procedure should be used in all cases in which it is alleged a member of staff or volunteer in a school, or another adult who works with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to children

In dealing with allegations or concerns against an adult, staff must:

- Report any concerns about the conduct of any member of staff or volunteer to the Headteacher immediately.
- If an allegation is made against the Headteacher, the concerns need to be raised with the Chair of Governor as soon as possible. If the Chair of Governors is not available, then the LADO should be contacted directly.
- There may be situations when the Headteacher or Chair of Governors will want to involve the police immediately if the person is deemed to be an immediate risk to children or there is evidence of a possible criminal offence.
- Once an allegation has been received by the Headteacher or Chair of Governors will contact the LADO on 01753 690906/07927 681858 or Email: LADO@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk immediately and before taking any action or investigation.
- Following consultation with the LADO inform the parents of the allegation unless there is a good reason not to.
- The school will follow the Slough Borough Council procedures for managing allegations against staff. Under no circumstances will we send a child home, pending such an investigation, unless this advice is given exceptionally, as a result of a consultation with the Designated Officer.
- Suspension of the member of staff, excluding the Headteacher, against whom an allegation has been made, needs careful consideration, and the Headteacher will seek the advice of the Local Authority's Designated Officer in making this decision.
- In the event of an allegation against the Headteacher, the decision to suspend will be made by the Chair of Governors with advice from the Local Authority's Designated Officer.
- In liaison with the LADO, the school will determine how to proceed and if necessary the LADO will refer the matter to Children's Social Care and/or the police.
- If the matter is investigated internally, the LADO will advise the school to seek guidance from local authority colleagues in following procedures set out in part 4 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2023) and SCF procedures.

8.5: Acting on concerns based on an adult's behaviour

If you have any concerns about the behaviour of an adult who is an employee or volunteer towards a child, **do not ignore it**.

- If staff members have concerns about another staff member then this should be reported to the Headteacher.
- Where there are concerns about the Headteacher this should be referred to Harish Verma, the Chair of Governors.

Further information is available in the school's Whistleblowing Policy. Further advice can be taken from the NSPCC free whistleblowing advice line: help@nspcc.org.uk , telephone 0800 028 0285.

8.6: Whistleblowing

- We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so.
- All staff are made aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the safety of a child or the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues. If it becomes necessary to consult outside the school, they should speak in the first instance, to the Local Authority's Designated Officer (LADO) following the Whistleblowing Policy.
- Whistle-blowing regarding the Headteacher should be made to the Chair of the Governors, Harish Verma, [hverma@wexham.slough.sch.uk]

8.7: Children Looked After/Children Previously Looked After

The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and neglect.

The school ensures that staff have the necessary skills and understanding to keep looked after children safe. Appropriate staff have information about a child's looked after legal status and care arrangements, including the level of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after the child and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.

The Designated Teachers have the appropriate level training to equip them with the knowledge and skills to undertake their role.

The designated teacher for Children Looked After and the DSL have details of the child's social worker and the name and contact details of Slough Virtual School.

The Designated Teacher for children looked after and children previously looked after will work in partnership with Virtual School to discuss how Student Premium Plus funding can be best used to support the progress of children looked after in the school and meet the needs

of the child's within their personal education plan. A separate register is kept for all children in our care who we know were previously looked after and their progress and welfare is continually monitored by our Designated Teachers.

8.8: Children with SEND

We recognise that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are over three times more likely to be abused than non-SEND students (Jones et al, 2012). Staff working more closely with our SEND students on a 1:1 basis give particular attention to ensuring that each child can communicate what they would like to say and understand what the adult is trying to say to them.

We understand that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group, including:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's condition without further exploration
- Being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children
- Being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs
- Communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting worries and challenges

8.10: Young Carers

It is the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies) to keep a record of those students who play the part of a major carer for a family member. However, such families do not often publicise their situation for fear of social care involvement. We offer a support package to these students appropriate to their individual situation. This package would contain elements of the support offered to students looked after by the local authority.

8.11: Private Fostering Arrangements

A private fostering arrangement occurs when someone other than a parent or close relative cares for a child for a period of 28 days or more, with the agreement of the child's parents. It applies to children under the age of 16 years old or 18 years old if the child is disabled.

Children looked after by the local authority or who are placed in residential schools, children's homes or hospitals are not considered to be privately fostered.

Private fostering occurs in all cultures and children may be privately fostered at any age.

The school recognise that most privately fostered children remain safe and well but are aware that safeguarding concerns have been raised in some cases. Therefore, all staff are

alert to possible safeguarding issues, including the possibility that the child has been trafficked into the country.

By law, a parent, private foster carer or other persons involved in making a private fostering arrangement must notify children's social care as soon as possible. However, where a member of staff becomes aware that a student may be in a private fostering arrangement they will raise this with the DSL and the DSL will notify SCF.

8.12: Children Missing Education

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to an efficient, full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have.

The school recognises that children missing education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of abuse and harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life.

Where possible the school will hold more than one emergency contact number for each student.

The school will ensure that there is a record of joiners and leavers as defined in [The Education \(Student Registration\) \(England\) 2006](#).

When removing a child's name, the school will notify the Local Authority of: (a) the full name of the child, (b) the full name and address of any parent with whom the child normally resides, (c) at least one telephone number of the parent, (d) the child's future address and destination school, if applicable, and (e) the ground in regulation 8 under which the child's name is to be removed from the school register.

The school will make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of a child jointly with the Local Authority, before deleting the child's name from the school register if the deletion is under regulation 8(1), sub-paragraphs (f) (iii) and (h) (iii) of [The Education \(Student Registration\) \(England\) 2006](#).

The school will:

- Enter students on the admissions register on the first day on which the school has agreed, or has been notified, that the student will attend the school.
- Notify the Local Authority within five days of adding a child's name to the admission register. The notification must include all the details contained in the admission register for the new student.
- Monitor each child's attendance through their daily register and follow DFE guidelines in cases of unauthorised absence.
- Will only remove a child's name from the admissions register if instructed to do so by Slough Borough Council or we have received notification they have started in another school.
- The school will notify the Local Authority when they are about to remove a child's name from the school register under any of the fifteen grounds listed in the regulations, no later than the date that the child's name is due to be removed.
- Where parents notify the school, in writing, of their intention to electively home educate; the school will forward a copy of the letter to the Elective Home Education Team/Education Welfare. Where parents orally indicate that they intend to withdraw their child to be home

educated and no letter has been received, the school will not remove the child from roll and will notify Education Welfare at the earliest opportunity.

8.13: Children Missing Out on Education

The vast majority of children engage positively with school and attend regularly. However, in order to flourish, some children require an alternative education offer or may require a modified timetable to support a return to full time education provision. It is recognised that children accessing alternative provision or a reduced or modified timetable may have additional vulnerabilities. (Ofsted refer to these as Pupils Missing out on Education (PME), because they are not accessing their education in school in the 'usual way').

The school will gain consent (if required in statute) from parents to put in place alternative provision and/or a reduced or modified timetable.

The school will ensure that parents (and the local authority where the student has an EHCP) are given clear information about alternative provision placements and reduced or modified timetables: why, when, where, and how they will be reviewed;

The school will keep the placement and timetable under review and involve parents in the review. Reviews will be frequent enough to provide assurance that the off-site education and/or modified timetable is achieving its objectives and that the student is benefitting from it;

The school will monitor and track children attending alternative provision to ensure that the provision meets the needs of the child.

The school will comply with regular data returns requested by the Local Authority, regarding all students, of statutory school age, attending alternative provision and/or on a reduced or modified timetable.

The school leadership will report to governors of any formal direction of a student to alternative provision to improve behaviour.

The school leadership will report to governor's information regarding the use and effectiveness of the use of alternative provision and modified timetables.

8.14: School Attendance and Behaviour

Additional policies and procedures are in place regarding school attendance and behaviour.

The school recognises that absence from school and exclusion from school may be indicators of abuse and neglect, including the exploitation of children. The DSL will regularly liaise with members of school staff with responsibility for behaviour and attendance to ensure risk is identified and appropriate intervention is in place to protect children from harm.

The school will work in partnership with Thames Valley Police and other partners for reporting children that go missing from the school site during the school day. Staff will be alert to signs of children at risk of travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

8.15: Restrictive Physical Intervention

We acknowledge that staff must only ever use physical intervention as a last resort, when a child is or at immediate risk of harming him/herself or others, and that at all times it must be the minimal force necessary to prevent injury to another person. Such events should be fully recorded and signed by a witness.

Staff understand that physical intervention of a nature which causes injury or distress to a child may be considered under child protection and/or disciplinary procedures.

We recognise that touch is appropriate in the context of working with children, and all staff have been given 'Safe Practice' guidance to ensure they are clear about their professional boundaries.

When applying disciplinary measures such as physical intervention or isolation for children with SEND, the school will consider the risks, given the additional vulnerabilities of these children.

Appendix 1 – Child Abuse

What is child abuse?

The following definitions are taken from *Working Together to Safeguard Children* HM Government (2018). In addition to these definitions, it should be understood that children can also be abused by being sexually exploited, honour-based violence, forced marriage or female genital mutilation.

What is abuse and neglect?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

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

Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.

These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.

It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur in isolation.

Sexual abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including online).

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

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

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

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

Indicators of abuse

Neglect

The nature of neglect

Neglect is a lack of parental care but poverty and lack of information or adequate services can be contributory factors.

Far more children are registered to the category of neglect on Child in Need and Child Protection plans than to the other categories. As with abuse, the number of children experiencing neglect is likely to be much higher than the numbers on the plans.

Neglect can include parents or carers failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision or stimulation
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

NSPCC research has highlighted the following examples of the neglect of children under 12 years old:

- frequently going hungry

- frequently having to go to school in dirty clothes
- regularly having to look after themselves because of parents being away or having problems such as drug or alcohol misuse
- being abandoned or deserted
- living at home in dangerous physical conditions
- not being taken to the doctor when ill
- not receiving dental care.

Neglect is a difficult form of abuse to recognise and is often seen as less serious than other categories. It is, however, very damaging: children who are neglected often develop more slowly than others and may find it hard to make friends and fit in with their peer group.

Neglect is often noticed at a stage when it does not pose a risk to the child. The duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (*What to do if You're Worried a Child is Being Abused* DfE 2015) would suggest that an appropriate intervention or conversation at this early stage can address the issue and prevent a child continuing to suffer until it reaches a point when they are at risk of harm or in significant need.

Neglect is often linked to other forms of abuse, so any concerns school staff should be discussed with the DSL.

Indicators of neglect

The following is a summary of some of the indicators that may suggest a child is being abused or is at risk of harm.

It is important to recognise that indicators alone cannot confirm whether a child is being abused. Each child should be seen in the context of their family and wider community and a proper assessment carried out by appropriate persons. What is important to keep in mind is that if you feel unsure or concerned, do something about it. Don't keep it to yourself.

Physical indicators of neglect

- Constant hunger and stealing food
- Poor personal hygiene - unkempt, dirty or smelly
- Underweight
- Dress unsuitable for weather
- Poor state of clothing
- Illness or injury untreated

Behavioural indicators of neglect

- Constant tiredness
- Frequent absence from school or lateness
- Missing medical appointments
- Isolated among peers
- Frequently unsupervised
- Stealing or scavenging, especially food
- Destructive tendencies

Emotional abuse

The nature of emotional abuse

Most harm is produced in *low warmth, high criticism* homes, not from single incidents.

Emotional abuse is difficult to define, identify/recognise and/or prove.

Emotional abuse is chronic and cumulative and has a long-term impact.

All kinds of abuse and neglect have emotional effects although emotional abuse can occur by itself.

Children can be harmed by witnessing someone harming another person – as in domestic abuse.

It is sometimes possible to spot emotionally abusive behaviour from parents and carers to their children, by the way that the adults are speaking to, or behaving towards children. An appropriate challenge or intervention could affect positive change and prevent more intensive work being carried out later on.

Indicators of emotional abuse

Developmental issues

- Delays in physical, mental and emotional development
- Poor school performance
- Speech disorders, particularly sudden disorders or changes.

Behaviour

- Acceptance of punishment which appears excessive

- Over-reaction to mistakes
- Continual self-deprecation (I'm stupid, ugly, worthless etc)
- Neurotic behaviour (such as rocking, hair-twisting, thumb-sucking)
- Self-mutilation
- Suicide attempts
- Drug/solvent abuse
- Running away
- Compulsive stealing, scavenging
- Acting out
- Poor trust in significant adults
- Regressive behaviour – e.g., wetting
- Eating disorders
- Destructive tendencies
- Neurotic behaviour
- Arriving early at school, leaving late

Social issues

- Withdrawal from physical contact
- Withdrawal from social interaction
- Over-compliant behaviour
- Insecure, clinging behaviour
- Poor social relationships

Emotional responses

- Extreme fear of new situations
- Inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations (“I deserve this”)
- Fear of parents being contacted
- Self-disgust
- Low self-esteem
- Unusually fearful with adults
- Lack of concentration, restlessness, aimlessness
- Extremes of passivity or aggression

Physical abuse

The nature of physical abuse

Most children collect cuts and bruises quite routinely as part of the rough and tumble of daily life. Clearly, it is not necessary to be concerned about most of these minor injuries. But accidental injuries normally occur on the *bony prominences* – e.g. knees, shins.

Injuries on the *soft* areas of the body are more likely to be inflicted intentionally and should therefore make us more alert to other concerning factors that may be present. A body map can assist in the clear recording and reporting of physical abuse. The body map should only be used to record observed injuries and no child should be asked to remove clothing by a member of staff of the school.

Indicators of physical abuse / factors that should increase concern

- Multiple bruising or bruises and scratches (especially on the head and face)
- Clusters of bruises – e.g., fingertip bruising (caused by being grasped)
- Bruises around the neck and behind the ears – the most common abusive injuries are to the head
- Bruises on the back, chest, buttocks, or on the inside of the thighs
- Marks indicating injury by an instrument – e.g., linear bruising (stick), parallel bruising (belt), marks of a buckle
- Bite marks
- Deliberate burning may also be indicated by the pattern of an instrument or object – e.g., electric fire, cooker, cigarette
- Scalds with upward splash marks or *tide marks*
- Untreated injuries
- Recurrent injuries or burns
- Bald patches.

In the context of the school, it is normal to ask about a noticeable injury. The response to such an enquiry is generally light-hearted and detailed. So, most of all, concern should be increased when:

- the explanation given does not match the injury
- the explanation uses words or phrases that do not match the vocabulary of the child (adults words)
- no explanation is forthcoming
- the child (or the parent/carer) is secretive or evasive
- the injury is accompanied by allegations of abuse or assault

You should be concerned if a child:

- is reluctant to have parents/carers contacted
- runs away or shows fear of going home
- is aggressive towards themselves or others
- flinches when approached or touched
- is reluctant to undress to change clothing for sport
- wears long sleeves during hot weather
- is unnaturally compliant in the presence of parents/carers.
- has a fear of medical help or attention
- admits to a punishment that appears excessive.

Sexual abuse

The nature of sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is often perpetrated by people who are known and trusted by the child – e.g., relatives, family friends, neighbours, babysitters, and people working with the child in school, faith settings, clubs or activities. Children can also be subject to child sexual exploitation.

Characteristics of child sexual abuse:

- it is often planned and systematic – people do not sexually abuse children by accident, though sexual abuse can be opportunistic
- grooming the child – people who abuse children take care to choose a vulnerable child and often spend time making them dependent (this may occur online)
- grooming the child's environment – abusers try to ensure that potential adult protectors (parents and other carers especially) are not suspicious of their motives.

Most people who sexually abuse children are men, but some women sexually abuse too.

Indicators of sexual abuse

Physical observations:

- Damage to genitalia, anus or mouth
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Unexpected pregnancy, especially in very young girls
- Soreness in genital area, anus or mouth and other medical problems such as chronic itching
- Unexplained recurrent urinary tract infections and discharges or abdominal pain

Behavioural observations:

- Sexual knowledge inappropriate for age
- Sexualised behaviour or affection inappropriate for age

- Sexually inappropriate behaviour
- Hinting at sexual activity
- Inexplicable decline in education progress
- Depression or other sudden apparent changes in personality as becoming insecure
- Lack of concentration, restlessness, aimlessness
- Socially isolated or withdrawn
- Overly-compliant behaviour
- Acting out, aggressive behaviour
- Poor trust or fear concerning significant adults
- Regressive behaviour,
- Onset of wetting, by day or night; nightmares
- Arriving early at school, leaving late, running away from home
- Suicide attempts, self-mutilation,
- Suddenly drawing sexually explicit pictures
- Eating disorders or sudden loss of appetite or compulsive eating
- Regressing to younger behaviour patterns such as thumb sucking or bringing out discarded cuddly toys
- Become worried about clothing being removed
- Trying to be 'ultra-good' or perfect; overreacting to criticism.

Child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment

Child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their education attainment as well as their emotional well-being. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and offline (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable. It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support.

Reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment are extremely complex to manage. It is essential that victims are protected, offered appropriate support and every effort is made to ensure their education is not disrupted. It is also important that other children, adult students and school and college staff are supported and protected as appropriate.

Sexual Abuse by Young People

The boundary between what is abusive and what is part of normal childhood or youthful experimentation can be blurred. The determination of whether behaviour is developmental, inappropriate or abusive will hinge around the related concepts of true consent, power imbalance and exploitation. This may include children and young people who exhibit a range of sexually problematic behaviour such as indecent exposure, obscene telephone calls, sexting, fetishism, bestiality and sexual abuse against adults, peers or children.

Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at greater risk. It is important for staff to:

- Make it clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up
- Not tolerate or dismiss sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, or “just having a laugh”.
- Challenge behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, flicking bras and lifting or looking up skirts/shorts

Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

Sexual harassment

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

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

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

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

The Brook Traffic Light Tool uses a traffic light system to categorise the sexual behaviours of young people and is designed to help professionals:

- Make decisions about safeguarding children and young people
- Assess and respond appropriately to sexual behaviour in children and young people
- Understand healthy sexual development and distinguish it from harmful behaviour
- By categorising sexual behaviours, school can work with other agencies to the same standardised criteria when making decisions and can protect children and young people with a multi-agency approach.

The school recognise that it is vital that professionals agree on how behaviours should be categorised regardless of culture, faith, beliefs, and their own experiences or values.

Child on Child Abuse

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying)
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical Harm
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse

Upskirting – now a criminal offence (also includes shorts, for example for boys)

‘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. It is now a criminal offence.

Under the Voyeurism Act, upskirting offenders can now be arrested, face up to 2 years in prison and have their name placed on the sex offenders register if caught upskirting.

Appendix 2 – Safeguarding themes of focus

Online Safety

The school has an online safety policy which explains how we try to keep students safe in school and how we respond to online safety incidents.

Children increasingly use electronic equipment on a daily basis to access the internet, share and view content and images via social media sites such as Facebook, twitter, Instagram, snapchat and voodoo and for online gaming.

Some adults and other children use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts or emails, to grooming and enticing children to engage in extremist or sexual behaviour such as webcam photography or face-to-face meetings.

Students may also be distressed or harmed by accessing inappropriate material such as pornographic websites or those which promote extremist behaviour, criminal activity, suicide or eating disorders

Students are taught about online safety throughout the curriculum and all staff receive online safety training which is regularly updated. The school online safety co-ordinator is Paul Walsh

Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying

Our school policy on anti-bullying is set out in a separate document and acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures.

We keep a record of known bullying incidents which is shared with, and analysed by the governing body. All staff are aware that children with SEND and/or differences/perceived differences are more susceptible to being bullied/victims of child abuse.

When there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm' a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern. If the anti-bullying procedures are seen to be ineffective, the Headteacher and the DSL will also consider child protection procedures.

PSHE education regularly provides opportunities for children to understand bullying is wrong, its impact and how to deal with it.

Discriminatory Incidents (including racism, homophobia and disability)

As a school, we believe that respect for ourselves and others is a fundamental right and responsibility of and for all. It is the duty of all staff to ensure that every member of the school community feels valued, irrespective of their sexual/gender orientation, race or religion. Our policy on all incidents is set out separately, and acknowledges that repeated incidents or a single serious

incident may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. We keep a record of all discriminatory incidents.

Radicalisation and Extremism

[The Prevent Duty for England and Wales \(2015\)](#) under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on education and other children's services to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Extremism is defined as 'as 'vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs'. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Some children are at risk of being radicalised; adopting beliefs and engaging in activities which are harmful, criminal or dangerous. This can happen both online and offline.

The school is clear that exploitation of vulnerable children and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and follows the Department for Education guidance for schools and childcare providers on preventing children and young people from being drawn into terrorism.

The school seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

School staff receive training to help identify early signs of radicalisation and extremism.

Opportunities are provided in the curriculum to enable students to discuss issues of religion, ethnicity and culture and the school follows the [DfE advice Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC \(spiritual, moral, social and cultural education\) in Schools \(2014\)](#).

The school governors, the Headteacher and the DSL will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include, [due diligence checks for external speakers and private hire of facilities](#), anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy.

When any member of staff has concerns that a student may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the DSL. They should then follow the safeguarding procedures and refer cases to SCF. If the matter is urgent then Police must be contacted by dialling 999. In non-urgent cases where police advice is sought then dial 101 and report via Thames Valley Police.

The Department of Education has also set up a dedicated telephone helpline for staff and governors to raise concerns around Prevent (020 7340 7264).

Indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:

Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:

- The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
- Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

Students may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

Indicators of vulnerability include:

- Identity Crisis – the student / student is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
- Personal Crisis – the student / student may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
- Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the student / student’s country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
- Unmet Aspirations – the student / student may have perceptions of injustice or a feeling of failure,
- Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;

- Special Educational Needs and Disability – students / students may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

The Department of Education guidance [The Prevent Duty](#) can be accessed via this link.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse represents one quarter of all violent crime. It is actual or threatened physical, emotional, psychological or sexual abuse. It involves the use of power and control by one person over another. It occurs regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, age, religion, mental or physical ability. Domestic abuse can also involve other types of abuse.

We use the term domestic abuse to reflect that a number of abusive and controlling behaviours are involved beyond violence. Slapping, punching, kicking, bruising, rape, ridicule, constant criticism, threats, manipulation, sleep deprivation, social isolation, and other controlling behaviours all count as abuse.

Living in a home where domestic abuse takes place is harmful to children and can have a serious impact on their behaviour, wellbeing and understanding of healthy, positive relationships. Children who witness domestic abuse are at risk of significant harm and staff are alert to the signs and symptoms of a child suffering or witnessing domestic abuse.

The school is enrolled onto the Operation Encompass scheme, a joint project between the Police, Local Authority and schools; where every school day morning our DSL is notified of all domestic abuse incidents that have occurred and been reported to Police in the previous 24 hours which involved a child at this school (72 hours on a Monday morning). This provides an opportunity for us to ensure the right support is in place at the right time for children who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

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. All staff are aware of the link between online safety and vulnerability to CSE.

Any concerns that a child is being or is at risk of being sexually exploited should be passed immediately to the DSL.

The School is aware there is a clear link between regular non-attendance at school and CSE. Staff will consider a child to be at potential CSE risk in the case of regular non-attendance at school and make reasonable enquiries with the child and parents to assess this risk.

The DSL will consider the published SCF guidance and advice when there is a concern that a child is being or is at risk of being sexually exploited or where indicators have been observed that are consistent with a child who is being or who is at risk of being sexually exploited.

In all cases if the DSL identifies any level of concern the DSL should contact CSF and complete a MARF. If a child is in immediate danger the police should be called on 999.

The school is aware that a child often is not able to recognise the coercive nature of the abuse and does not see themselves as a victim. As a consequence the child may resent what they perceive as interference by staff. However, staff must act on their concerns as they would for any other type of abuse. Children also rarely self-report CSE so staff must be particularly vigilant to potential indicators of risk.

The school includes the risks of sexual exploitation in the PSHE (including SRE) curriculum. Students will be informed of the grooming process and how to protect themselves from people who may potentially be intent on causing harm. They will be supported in terms of recognising and assessing risk in relation to CSE, including online, and knowing how and where to get help.

Child Criminal Exploitation & Gangs (CCE)

There are a number of areas in which young people are put at risk by gang activity, both through participation in, and as victims of, gang violence which can be in relation to their peers or to a gang-involved adult in their household.

A child who is affected by gang activity or serious youth violence may have suffered, or may be likely to suffer, significant harm through physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect.

The risk or potential risk of harm to the child may be as a victim, a gang member or both - in relation to their peers or to a gang-involved adult in their household. Teenagers can be particularly vulnerable to recruitment into gangs and involvement in gang violence. This vulnerability may be

exacerbated by risk factors in an individual's background, including violence in the family, involvement of siblings in gangs, poor educational attainment, or poverty or mental health problems.

Criminal exploitation of children is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity. Key identifying features of involvement in county lines are when children are missing, when the victim may have been trafficked for transporting drugs, a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered with Social Care and Police colleagues.

A child who is affected by gang activity, criminal exploitation or serious youth violence can be at risk of significant harm through physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Girls may be particularly at risk of sexual exploitation.

Any concerns that a child is being or is at risk of being criminally exploited will be passed without delay to the DSL. The school is aware there is a clear link between regular non-attendance at school and exploitation. Staff will consider a child to be at potential risk in the case of regular non-attendance at school and make reasonable enquiries with the child and parents to assess this risk.

A MARF to SCF will be made when any concern of harm to a child as a consequence of gang activity including child criminal exploitation becomes known. Any member of staff who has concerns that a child may be at risk of harm should immediately inform the DSL. The DSL will contact SCF. If there is concern about a child's immediate safety, the Police will be contacted on 999.

Youth produced sexual imagery (sexting)

The practice of children sharing images and videos via text message, email, social media or mobile messaging apps has become commonplace. However, this online technology has also given children the opportunity to produce and distribute sexual imagery in the form of photos and videos. Such imagery involving anyone under the age of 18 is unlawful.

Youth produced sexual imagery refers to both images and videos where:

- A person under the age of 18 creates and shares sexual imagery of themselves with a peer under the age of 18.
- A person under the age of 18 shares sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18 with a peer under the age of 18 or an adult.
- A person under the age of 18 is in possession of sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18.

All incidents of this nature should be treated as a safeguarding concern and in line with the UKCCIS guidance ['Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people'](#)

Cases where sexual imagery of people under 18 has been shared by adults and where sexual imagery of a person of any age has been shared by an adult to a child is child sexual abuse and should be responded to.

If a member of staff becomes aware of an incident involving youth produced sexual imagery they should follow the child protection procedures and refer to the DSL immediately.

The member of staff should confiscate the device involved and set it to flight mode or, if this is not possible, turn it off. Staff must not view, copy or print the youth produced sexual imagery.

The DSL should hold an initial review meeting with appropriate school staff and subsequent interviews with the children involved (if appropriate).

Parents should be informed at an early stage and involved in the process unless there is reason to believe that involving parents would put the child at risk of harm.

At any point in the process if there is concern a young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm a MARF is sent to SCF or the Police as appropriate.

Immediate referral at the initial review stage should be made to Children's Social Care/Police if:

- The incident involves an adult.
- There is good reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example, owing to special education needs).
- What you know about the imagery suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the child's development stage or are violent.
- The imagery involves sexual acts.
- The imagery involves anyone aged 12 or under.
- There is reason to believe a child is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of the imagery, for example the child is presenting as suicidal or self-harming.

During the decision making the DSL will consider if:

- There is a significant age difference between the sender/receiver.
- There is any coercion or encouragement beyond the sender/receiver.
- The imagery was shared and received with the knowledge of the child in the imagery.
- The child is vulnerable, for example subject to Child in Need, Child Protection or Early Help plans, Looked After, SEND.
- There is a significant impact on the children involved.
- The image is of a severe or extreme nature.
- The child involved understands consent.
- The situation is isolated or if the image been more widely distributed.
- There other circumstances relating to either the sender or recipient that may add cause for concern.
- The children have been involved in incidents relating to youth produced imagery before.

If any of these circumstances are present the situation will be referred according to our child protection procedures, including referral to SCF or the Police.

The DSL will record all incidents of youth produced sexual imagery, including the actions taken, rationale for actions and the outcome.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in England and Wales under the FGM Act (2003). It is a form of child abuse and violence against women. [A mandatory reporting duty requires teachers to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s](#), which are identified in the course of their professional work, to the police.

The duty applies to all persons in school who is employed or engaged to carry out 'teaching work' in the school, whether or not they have qualified teacher status.

The duty applies to the individual who becomes aware of the case to make a report. It should not be transferred to the DSL, however the DSL should be informed.

If a teacher is informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her or a teacher observes physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out on a girl under 18 and they have no reason to believe the act was necessary for the girl's physical or mental health or for purposes connected with labour or birth, the teacher should personally make a report to the police force in which the girl resides by calling 101. The report should be made immediately.

School staff are trained to be aware of risk indicators of FGM.

Concerns about FGM outside of the mandatory reporting duty should be reported using the school's child protection and safeguarding procedures. Staff should be particularly alert to suspicions or concerns expressed by female students about going on a long holiday during the summer holiday.

There should also be consideration of potential risk to other girls in the family and practicing community. Where there is a risk to life or likelihood of serious immediate harm the teacher should report the case immediately to the police, including dialling 999 if appropriate.

There are no circumstances in which a teacher or other member of staff should examine a girl.

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities cannot) consent to the marriage but are coerced into it. Coercion may include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. It may also involve physical or sexual violence and abuse.

This also includes any form of marriage for someone under 18 being illegal, even where violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used. The minimum age to marry in the UK now being 18 when it was raised from 16 in 2022.

Forced marriage is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights. Since June 2014 forcing someone to

marry has become a criminal offence in England and Wales under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

A forced marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage which is common in many cultures. The families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses.

School staff should never attempt to intervene directly as a school or through a third party. Contact should be made with SCF.

Honour-based Violence

Honour based violence (HBV) can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

Honour based violence might be committed against people who:

- become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion;
- want to get out of an arranged marriage; become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion;
- want to get out of an arranged marriage;
- want to get out of a forced marriage
- wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture
- It is considered a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual abuse.

One Chance Rule

All staff are aware of the 'One Chance' Rule' in relation to forced marriage, FGM and HBV. Staff recognise they may only have one chance' to speak to a child who is a potential victim and have just one chance to save a life.

The school are aware that if the victim is not offered support following disclosure that the 'One Chance' opportunity may be lost. Therefore, all staff are aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they become aware of potential forced marriage, FGM and HBV cases.

Appendix 3 – Other useful contacts

NSPCC: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

ChildLine: <http://www.childline.org.uk/pages/home.aspx>

CEOPSThinkuknow: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Anti-Bullying Alliance: <http://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

Beat Bullying: <http://www.beatbullying.org/>

Childnet International –making the internet a great and safe place for children. Includes resources for professionals and parents <http://www.childnet.com/>

Thinkuknow (includes resources for professionals and parents) <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Safer Internet Centre <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

Contextual Safeguarding Network <https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>

Samaritans www.samaritans.org.uk

YoungMinds www.youngminds.org.uk

Papyrus www.papyrus-uk.org/ - non-judgemental support, advice and information for those dealing with suicide, depression or emotional distress.