



# Greenway Primary & Nursery School

## Child Protection Policy

### Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body no less than annually

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on 06.12.17

It is due for review in Autumn 2018

Signature .....

Date

Head Teacher

Signature .....

Date

Chair of Governors

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

Safeguarding is defined as protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health and/or development, ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances (Working Together to Safeguard Children, DfE, 2015, pg.92)

This Child Protection Policy forms part of a suite of documents and policies which relate to the safeguarding responsibilities of the school.

In particular, this policy should be read in conjunction with the Safer Recruitment Policy, Pupil Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Mobile Phone Usage (see Staff Code of Conduct), the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure, Whistleblowing Policy and E Safety and ICT Acceptable Usage Policy.

**Purpose of a Child Protection Policy** To inform staff, parents, volunteers and governors about the school's responsibilities for safeguarding children. To enable everyone to have a clear understanding of how these responsibilities should be carried out.

**Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures** The school follows the procedures established by the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board; a guide to procedure and practice for all agencies in Hertfordshire working with children and their families.[www.hertsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.hertsafeguarding.org.uk)

**School Staff & Volunteers** All school and college staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

School staff and volunteers are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour and failure to develop because they have daily contact with children – see Appendices

All school staff will receive appropriate safeguarding children training (which is updated regularly – Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board advises every 3 years), so that they are knowledgeable and aware of their role in the early recognition of the indicators of abuse or neglect and of the appropriate procedures to follow. In addition, all staff members should receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required but at least annually, to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively

Temporary staff and volunteers will be made aware of the safeguarding policies and procedures by the Designated Safeguarding Lead including the Child Protection Policy and/or Staff Code of Conduct.

**Mission Statement  
Greenway Primary  
& Nursery School**

**of** Establish and maintain an ethos and culture where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened and responded to when they have a worry or concern.

Establish and maintain an ethos and culture where school staff and volunteers feel safe, are encouraged to talk and are listened and responded to when they have concerns about the safety and well being of a child.

Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.

Ensure that children who have additional/unmet needs are supported appropriately. This could include referral to early help services or specialist services if they are a child in need or have been/ are at risk of being abused and neglected.

Ensure that children who have been abused will be supported in line with a child protection plan, where deemed necessary.

Include opportunities in the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

Contribute to the six outcomes which are key to children's wellbeing:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic wellbeing
- have a sense of belonging

Consider how children may be taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

Staff members working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' and 'it could be happening to this child' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child,

staff members should always act in the interests of the child.

### **Implementation, Monitoring and Review of the Child Protection Policy**

The policy will be reviewed at least annually by the Governing Body. It will be implemented through the school's induction and training programme, and as part of day to day practice. Compliance with the policy will be monitored by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and through staff performance measures.

## **2. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK**

In order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, the school will act in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Education Act 2002 (section 175/157)
- Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures (Electronic)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DFE 2016)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: information for all school and college staff (DFE 2016) – Appendix 1
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2015)
- The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005
- Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- Section 26 Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (PREVENT Duty)
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (Section 74, Serious Crime Act 2015)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2015) requires all schools to follow the procedures for protecting children from abuse and neglect which are established by the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board.

Schools are also expected to ensure that they have appropriate procedures in place for responding to situations in which:

(a) a child may have been abused or neglected or is at risk of abuse or neglect

(b) a member of staff has behaved in a way that has, or may have harmed a child or that indicates they would pose a risk of harm

## **3. THE DESIGNATED SENIOR PERSON (NB Keeping Children Safe in Education DFE 2016 refers to this role as DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD - DSL)**

Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that the school or college designates an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. This person should have the status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post including committing resources and, where appropriate, supporting and directing other staff.

During term time the DSL and/or a deputy will always be available (during school or college hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns and individual arrangements. For out of hours/out of term activities there will always be a member of the Senior Leadership team available.

The **Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection (DSL)** (formerly known as the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection) in this school is:

**NAME: KATHARINE ELLWOOD**

A Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead should be appointed to act in the absence/unavailability of the DSL.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection in this school are:

**NAME: AMY CROCKETT, BEVERLEY MURPHY, DANI ROE & ANNE MARIE RUSSELL**

**The broad areas of responsibility for the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) are:**

**To ensure that the school operates within the legislative framework and recommended guidance**

**Managing referrals**

Decide upon the appropriate level of response to specific concerns about a child eg discuss with parents, offer an assessment under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or refer to the Local Authority Children's Social Care team (see Raising Awareness below)

Refer all cases of suspected abuse or neglect to the Local Authority Children's Services (Safeguarding and Specialist Services) team; the police (cases where a crime may have been committed); and to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern.

Where the DSL is unavailable DDSL's to then liaise with the DSL to inform her of any concerns or issues (especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations).

Develop effective working relationships with other agencies and act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and also when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies

Support staff who make referrals

Share information with appropriate staff in relation to a child's looked after (CLA) legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or an Interim Care Order or Care Order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.

Ensure they have details of the CLA's social worker and the name of the virtual school Head Teacher in the authority that looks after the child

## **Training**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead should undergo formal training every two years. The DSL should also undertake Prevent awareness training. In addition to this training, their knowledge and skills should be refreshed (for example via e-bulletins, meeting other DSPs, or taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at least annually in order to:

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as early help assessments
- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's Child Protection Policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff and that they undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding children effectively and that this is kept up to date by refresher training at three yearly intervals.
- Ensure that new staff receive a safeguarding children induction within 7 working days of commencement of their contract – the local practise is for this to be delivered to newly appointed staff of the local consortium of schools as directed by Hertfordshire County Council.
- Ensure that temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the school's arrangements for safeguarding children within 7 working days of their commencement of work.
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
- Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals which are kept separate from the academic file in a secure place, marked "Strictly Confidential" and are passed securely and separately should the child transfer to a new provision.
- Provide appropriate reports to, and ensure the school's attendance at, child protection conferences and contribute to decision making and delivery of actions planned to safeguard the child.

- Ensure that the school effectively monitors children about whom there are concerns, including notifying the Local Authority's Social Care team when there is an unexplained absence of more than two days for a child who is the subject of a child protection plan.
- Provide guidance to parents, children and staff about obtaining suitable support.
- Effectively discuss with new parents the role of the DSL and the role of safeguarding in the school. Make parents aware of the safeguarding procedures used and how to access the Child Protection Policy.
- Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses
- Encourage a culture of listening and responding to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school may put in place to protect them

### **Raising Awareness**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead should ensure the school's policies are known and used appropriately:

- Ensure the school's Child Protection Policy is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with Governing Body regarding this
- Ensure the Child Protection Policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school in this
- Link with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding
- Where children leave the school, ensure the file for safeguarding and any child protection information is sent to any new school as soon as possible but transferred separately from the main pupil file.
- Schools should obtain proof that the new school/education setting has received the safeguarding file for any child transferring and then destroy any information held on the child in line with data protection guidelines (see Record Keeping Guidance on Hertfordshire Grid for Learning for further information).

## **4. THE GOVERNING BODY**



The Governing Body has overall responsibility for ensuring that there are sufficient measures in place to safeguard the children in the school. They must also have regard to this guidance to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in the school are effective and comply with the law at all times.

**The nominated governor for child protection is:**

**NAME: ELIZABETH O'REILLY**

In particular, the Governing Body must ensure:

- Child Protection Policy and procedures are in place and adhered to
- Safer recruitment procedures are in place and adhered to
- A Staff Code of Conduct is in place and adhered to
- Safeguarding policies and procedures are reviewed annually and information provided to the Local Authority about them and about how duties have been discharged.
- Staff are provided with Part One of Keeping Children Safe In education (DfE 2016) – Appendix 1 and are aware of specific safeguarding issues
- Staff Induction is in place with regards child protection and safeguarding
- Monitoring of the prioritisation of the welfare of children within the school and review of the culture within the school so that the staff are confident to challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns and that the staff are confident to raise any issues with them
- Monitoring of the delivery of how children are taught about safeguarding in an age appropriate way
- Ensuring that appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place to safeguard children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. Additional information to support governing bodies and proprietors is provided in Annex C of Keeping Children Safe in Education(DfE2016) – available at [http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/child\\_protection/policy/national.shtml](http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/child_protection/policy/national.shtml)
- Appointment of a DSL (and deputies) who is a senior member of the school leadership team who undertakes safeguarding training every two years (in line with LCSB guidance) and receive regular (annual) safeguarding refreshers (for example via e-bulletins, meeting other DSPs, or taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments)
- Relevant safeguarding children training for school staff/volunteers is attended
- Safe management of allegations

- Deficiencies or weaknesses in safeguarding arrangements are remedied without delay
- A member of the Governing Body (usually the Chair) is nominated to be responsible in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against the Head Teacher.
- Inter-agency working, which includes providing a coordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified.

## 5. WHEN TO BE CONCERNED

If staff members have any concerns about a child they will need to decide what action to take. Where possible, there should be a conversation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead to agree a course of action, although any staff member can make a referral to Children's Services by ringing 0300 123 4043.

If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, a referral should be made to Children's Services and/or the police immediately. Anyone can make a referral. Where referrals are not made by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, the Designated Safeguarding Lead should be informed as soon as possible that a referral has been made.

### **A child centred and coordinated approach to safeguarding:**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility**. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, each professional should make sure their approach is **child centred**. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

Schools and colleges and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is based on the principle of providing help for families to stay together where it is safe for the children to do so, and looking at alternatives where it is not, whilst acting in the **best interests** of the child at all times.

### **Children who may require early help (known as Families First in Hertfordshire)**

Families First is Hertfordshire's programme of early help services for families. A directory of early help services is available at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst) and will help practitioners and families find information and support to prevent escalation of needs and crisis.

All staff should be aware of the **early help process**, and understand their role in identifying emerging problems, sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment of a child's needs. It is important for children to receive the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating. This also includes staff monitoring the situation and feeding back to the Designated Safeguarding Lead any ongoing/escalating concerns so

that consideration can be given to a referral to Children's Services (Safeguarding and Specialist Services) if the child's situation doesn't appear to be improving.

Staff and volunteers working within the School should be alert to the potential need for early help for children also who are more vulnerable. For example:

- **Children with a disability and/or specific additional needs.**
- **Children with special educational needs.**
- **Children who are acting as a young carer.**
- **Children who are showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour.**
- **Children whose family circumstances present challenges, such as substance abuse, adult mental health or learning disability, domestic violence**
- **Children who are showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect.**

School staff members should be aware of the main categories of maltreatment: **physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect**. They should also be aware of the indicators of maltreatment and **specific safeguarding issues** so that they are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection.

*See Appendix 4 for information on indicators of abuse and Appendix 1 for specific safeguarding issues.*

#### **Children with special educational needs and disabilities:**

Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children.

This can include:

- ❖ Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's impairment without further exploration;
- ❖ Assumptions that children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying- without outwardly showing any signs;
- ❖ Communication barriers and difficulties
- ❖ Reluctance to challenge carers (professionals may over empathise with carers because of the perceived stress of caring for a disabled child)
- ❖ Disabled children often rely on a wide network of carers to meet their basic

needs and therefore the potential risk of exposure to abusive behaviour can be increased.

- ❖ A disabled child's understanding of abuse.
- ❖ Lack of choice/participation
- ❖ Isolation

### **Peer on peer abuse**

Education settings are an important part of the inter-agency framework not only in terms of identifying, evaluating and referring concerns to Children's Services and the Police, but also in the assessment and management of risk that the child or young person may pose to themselves and others in the education setting.

If one child or young person causes harm to another, this should not necessarily be dealt with as abuse. When considering whether behaviour is abusive, it is important to consider:

- Whether there is a large difference in power (for example age, size, ability, development) between the young people concerned; or
- whether the perpetrator has repeatedly tried to harm one or more other children; or
- Whether there are concerns about the intention of the alleged perpetrator.

Peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways and different gender issues can be prevalent. Severe harm may be caused to children by abusive and bullying behaviour of other children, which may be physical, sexual or emotional and can include gender based violence/ sexual assaults, sexting, teenage relationship abuse, peer-on-peer exploitation, serious youth violence, sexual bullying or harmful sexual behaviour.

Hertfordshire County Council recommends that education settings use The Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool by the Brook Advisory Service to help professionals; assess and respond appropriately to sexualised behaviour. The traffic light tool can be found at [www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool](http://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool).

Guidance on responding to and managing sexting incidents can be found at:

[http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/child\\_protection/reference/index.shtml#sex](http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/child_protection/reference/index.shtml#sex)

Staff should recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers and should not be tolerated or passed off as "banter" or "part of growing up".

In order to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse the school:

- Provides a developmentally appropriate PSHE curriculum which develops students understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe.
- Have systems in place for any student to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued.
- Develop robust risk assessments where appropriate (e.g. Using the Risk Assessment Management Plan and Safety and Support Plan tools).
- Have relevant policies in place (e.g. pupil behaviour policy).

**Where there is an allegation or concern that a child has abused others Section 4.4 of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Inter Agency Child Protection Procedures manual, 'Children Who Abuse Others':**

[http://hertsscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p\\_chil\\_abuse.html](http://hertsscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_chil_abuse.html)

Generally, in an abusive relationship the child may:

- Appear frightened of the parent/s or other household members e.g. siblings or others outside of the home
- Act in a way that is inappropriate to her/his age and development (full account needs to be taken of different patterns of development and different ethnic groups)
- Display insufficient sense of 'boundaries', lack stranger awareness
- Appear wary of adults and display 'frozen watchfulness'

All staff and volunteers should be aware of the Keeping Children Safe in Education information for all school staff (DfE 2016)

## **6. DEALING WITH A DISCLOSURE**

If a child discloses that he or she has been abused in some way or makes a comment that causes concern to the member of staff/volunteer, the member of staff / volunteer should:

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief
- Look at the child directly
- Accept what is being said
- Be aware that the child may have been threatened
- Allow the child to talk freely – do not press for information
- Reassure the child, but not make promises which it might not be possible to keep

- Not promise confidentiality – it might be necessary to refer to Children’s Services: Safeguarding and Specialist Services
- Reassure him or her that what has happened is not his or her fault
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell
- Listen, only asking questions when necessary to clarify
- Not criticise the alleged perpetrator
- Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told
- Make a written record (see Record Keeping)
- Pass the information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay

## **Support**

Dealing with a disclosure from a child, and safeguarding issues can be stressful. The member of staff/volunteer should, therefore, consider seeking support for him/herself and discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead

**If a school staff member receives a disclosure about potential harm caused by another staff member, they should see section 11 of this policy – School Procedures relating to Concerns/Allegations involving School Staff/Volunteers.**

## **7. RECORD KEEPING**

All concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for those decisions should be recorded in writing. If in doubt about recording requirements staff should discuss with the DSL.

When a child has made a disclosure, the member of staff/volunteer should:

- Record as soon as possible after the conversation. Use the school record of concern sheet wherever possible (pro-forma available on the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning)
- Not destroy the original records in case they are needed by a court
- Record the date, time, place and any noticeable non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the child
- Draw a diagram to indicate the position of any injuries
- Record statements and observations rather than interpretations or assumptions

All records need to be given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead promptly. No copies should be retained by the member of staff or volunteer.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all safeguarding records are managed in accordance with the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005.

If a pupil who is/or has been the subject of a child protection plan changes school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will inform the social worker responsible for

the case and transfer the appropriate records to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the receiving school, in a secure manner, and separate from the child's academic file.

## **8. CONFIDENTIALITY**

Safeguarding children raises issues of confidentiality that must be clearly understood by all staff/volunteers in schools.

- All staff in schools, both teaching and non-teaching staff, have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals, particularly the investigative agencies (Children's Services: Safeguarding and Specialist Services and the Police).
- If a child confides in a member of staff/volunteer and requests that the information is kept secret, it is important that the member of staff/volunteer tell the child in a manner appropriate to the child's age/stage of development that they cannot promise complete confidentiality – instead they must explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child or other children safe. This will ultimately be in the best interests of the child.
- Staff/volunteers who receive information about children and their families in the course of their work should share that information only within appropriate professional contexts.

## **9. SCHOOL PROCEDURES RELATING TO CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD - STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**

*Please see Appendix 3: What to do if you are worried a child is being abused: flowchart*

If any member of staff is concerned about a child, he or she must inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If concerns are not taken seriously by an organisation or, action to safeguard the child is not taken by professionals and the child is considered to be at continuing risk of harm, then staff should speak to the DSL in their school or contact Hertfordshire's Children's Services (including out of hours) on 0300 123 4043.

If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate harm to a child a referral should be made to children's social care immediately. Anybody can make a referral. If the child's situation does not appear to be improving the staff member with concerns should press for re-consideration. Concerns should always lead to help for the child at some point.

While it is the DSLs role to make referrals, any staff member can make a referral to Children's Services. If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm (e.g. concern that a family might have plans to carry out FGM), a referral should be made to Children's Services and/or the Police immediately. Where referrals are not made by the DSL, the DSL should be informed as soon as possible.

If a **teacher** (persons employed or engaged to carry out teaching work at schools and other institutions in England) in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18 the **teacher** must report this to the police. **This is a mandatory reporting duty.** See Appendix 1- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2016): Annex A for further details.

If the allegations raised by the staff member are against other children the school should follow section 4.4 of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Procedures Manual - Children Who Abuse Others Please see the school's Anti Bullying Policy for more details on procedures to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse.

The member of staff must record information regarding the concerns on the same day. The recording must be a clear, precise, factual account of the observations. (Pro-forma is available on the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide whether the concerns should be referred to Children's Services: Safeguarding and Specialist Services. If it is decided to make a referral to Children's Services: Safeguarding and Specialist Services this will be discussed with the parents, unless to do so would place the child at further risk of harm.

Particular attention will be paid to the attendance and development of any child about whom the school has concerns, or who has been identified as being the subject of a child protection plan and a written record will be kept.

If a pupil who is/or has been the subject of a child protection plan changes school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will inform the social worker responsible for the case and transfer the appropriate records to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the receiving school, in a secure manner, and separate from the child's academic file.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for making the senior leadership team aware of trends in behaviour that may affect pupil welfare. If necessary, training will be arranged.

## **10. COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

Greenway Primary & Nursery School will:

- Ensure the Child Protection Policy is available publicly either via the website or by other means.
- Undertake appropriate discussions with parents prior to involvement of another agency unless to do so would place the child at further risk of harm by the behavioural response it prompts eg a child being subjected to abuse, maltreatment or threats/forced to remain silent if alleged abuser informed; or could impede any investigation by external authorities by



leading to an unreasonable delay; the risk of loss of evidential material, and/or placing a member of staff from any agency at risk

Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibilities placed on the school and staff for safeguarding children

## **11. SCHOOL PROCEDURES RELATING TO CONCERNS/ALLEGATIONS INVOLVING SCHOOL STAFF/VOLUNTEERS**

An allegation is any information which indicates that a member of staff/volunteer may have:

- Behaved in a way that has, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against/related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way which indicates s/he would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children

This applies to any child the member of staff/volunteer has contact within their personal, professional or community life.

### **What school staff should do if they have concerns about safeguarding practices within the school**

All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding arrangements. Appropriate whistleblowing procedures, which are suitably reflected in staff training and the staff code of conduct, should be in place for such concerns to be raised with the school's senior leadership team.

To reduce the risk of allegations, all staff should be aware of safer working practice and should be familiar with the guidance contained in the staff handbook, school code of conduct or Government document '*Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings*'.

The person to whom an allegation is first reported should take the matter seriously and keep an open mind. S/he should not investigate or ask leading questions if seeking clarification; it is important not to make assumptions. Confidentiality should not be promised and the person should be advised that the concern will be shared on a 'need to know' basis only.

Actions to be taken include making an immediate written record of the allegation using the informant's words - including time, date and place where the alleged incident took place, brief details of what happened, what was said and who was present. This record should be signed, dated and immediately passed on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who is also the Head Teacher.

If staff members have concerns about another staff member then this should be referred to the Head Teacher. If the concerns are about the Head Teacher, then the Chair of Governors should be contacted. The Chair of Governors in this school is:

**NAME:**

**CONTACT NUMBER:**

**ELIZABETH O'REILLY**

**07979 428910**

In the absence of the Chair of Governors, another named governor should be contacted. The named governor to contact in this school is:

**NAME:**

**CONTACT NUMBER:**

**FIONA DUCK**

**07527 674847**

The recipient of an allegation must **not** unilaterally determine its validity, and failure to report it in accordance with procedures is a potential disciplinary matter.

The Head Teacher/Chair of Governors will not investigate the allegation itself, or take written or detailed statements, but will assess whether it is necessary to refer the concern to the Local Authority Designated Officer:

**Children's Services – 03001234043**

**SOOHS (Out of Hours Service-Children's Services) - 03001234043**

If the concern or allegation meets any of the three criteria set out at the start of this section, contact should always be made with the Local Authority Designated Officer without delay (within one working day).

If it is decided that the concern or allegation meets the threshold for safeguarding, this will take place in accordance with section 4.1 of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures.

If it is decided that the concern or allegation does not meet the threshold for safeguarding, it will be handed back to the employer for consideration via the school's internal procedures.

The Head Teacher should, as soon as possible, **following briefing** from the Local Authority Designated Officer inform the subject of the allegation.

**For further information see:**

HSCB Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures (Electronic) Section 4.1 Managing Allegations Against Adults who work with Children and Young People.

Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer/through the whistleblowing procedure or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels may be open to them:

- Children's Services 0300 123 4043
- NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

**Safer working practice**

To reduce the risk of allegations, all staff should be aware of safer working practice and should be familiar with the guidance contained in the staff handbook/ school code of conduct / staff behaviour policy and Safer Recruitment Consortium document ***Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings (September 2015)*** available at

**[http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/child\\_protection/allegations/safe.shtml](http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/child_protection/allegations/safe.shtml)**

The document seeks to ensure that the responsibilities of school leaders towards children

and staff are discharged by raising awareness of illegal, unsafe, unprofessional and unwise

behaviour. This includes guidelines for staff on positive behaviour management in line with the ban on corporal punishment (School Standards and Framework Act 1998). Please see the school/college's behaviour management policy for more information.

**APPENDIX 1 : KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION (DfE 2016)**  
**Part One: Information for all school and college staff**  
**Annex A: Further information**

On publication of this Child Protection Policy (July 2016), the May 2016 version of the statutory guidance '**Keeping Children Safe In Education**' available online, has been denoted by DfE as 'for information only'. The guidance commences on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The DfE have confirmed that this guidance will be updated annually thereafter.

The existing version of the statutory guidance mentions that there will be also be updates likely before September 2016 in respect to the definition of Child Sexual Exploitation and also regulations relating to Children Missing from Education.

The CPSLO Service have therefore decided to provide the hyperlink only to Keeping Children Safe in Education in this policy rather than the document in its entirety, due to likely frequent change in content.

It is **essential** that **all** staff have access to this online document and read Part 1 and Annex , which provides further information on:

- children missing from education
- child sexual exploitation
- 'honour based' violence
- FGM mandatory reporting duty
- forced marriage
- preventing radicalisation

This is to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in this guidance.

We highly recommend that staff are asked to sign to say they have read these sections (please see Appendix 2) and should subsequently be re-directed to these online documents again should any changes occur.

**Link to Keeping Children Safe in Education:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

**APPENDIX 2: DECLARATION FOR STAFF**  
**Child Protection Policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2016)**

School name ..... Academic Year  
.....

Please sign and return to .....(DSL) by .....<insert date>.....

I, \_\_\_\_\_<insert name>\_\_\_\_\_ have read and am familiar with the contents of the following documents and understand my role and responsibilities as set out in these document(s):

- (1) The School's Child Protection Policy
- (2) **Part 1 and Annex A** of '**Keeping Children Safe in Education**' DfE Guidance , 2016

I am aware that the DSLs are:

.....  
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.....

and I able to discuss any concerns that I may have with them.

I know that further guidance, together with copies of the policies mentioned above, are available from the school office

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX 3: WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED: ADVICE FOR PRACTITIONERS (DfE 2015)**  
**Flowchart**

**Be alert**

- Be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect
- Identify concerns early to prevent escalation.
- Know what systems the school have in place regarding support for safeguarding e.g. induction training , staff behaviour policy / code of conduct and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead ( DSP) .

**Question behaviours**

- Talk and listen to the views of children, be non-judgemental.
- Observe any change in behaviours and question any unexplained marks / injuries
- To raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice , refer to the HT or principal, if the concerns is about the HT or Principal, report to Chair of Governors. Utilise whistleblowing procedure.

**Ask for help**

- Record and share information appropriately with regard to confidentiality
- If staff members have concerns, raise these with the school's or college's Designated Safeguarding Lead ( DSP)
- Responsibility to take appropriate action, do not delay.

**Refer**

- DSP will make referrals to children services but in an emergency or a genuine concern that appropriate action has not been taken, staff members can speak directly to Children's Services on 03001234043 .

## APPENDIX 4: INDICATORS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The framework for understanding children's needs:



### *Working Together to Safeguard Children (DFE, 2015)*

<b>Physical abuse</b>	
<p>A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.</p>	
<b>Child</b>	
Bruises – shape, grouping, site, repeat or multiple	Withdrawal from physical contact
Bite-marks – site and size Burns and Scalds – shape, definition, size, depth, scars	Aggression towards others, emotional and behaviour problems
Improbable, conflicting explanations for injuries or unexplained injuries	Frequently absent from school
Untreated injuries	Admission of punishment which appears excessive
Injuries on parts of body where accidental injury is unlikely	Fractures
Repeated or multiple injuries	Fabricated or induced illness -
<b>Parent</b>	<b>Family/environment</b>

Parent with injuries	History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
Evasive or aggressive towards child or others	Past history in the family of childhood abuse, self-harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault
Explanation inconsistent with injury	Marginalised or isolated by the community.
Fear of medical help / parents not seeking medical help	Physical or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.
Over chastisement of 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 over protection 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, though it may occur alone.

### **Child**

Self-harm	Over-reaction to mistakes / Inappropriate emotional responses
Chronic running away	Abnormal or indiscriminate attachment
Drug/solvent abuse	Low self-esteem
Compulsive stealing	Extremes of passivity or aggression
Makes a disclosure	Social isolation – withdrawn, a 'loner' Frozen watchfulness particularly pre school
Developmental delay	Depression
Neurotic behaviour (e.g. rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking)	Desperate attention-seeking behaviour
	Insufficient sense of boundaries; lack of stranger awareness
<b>Parent</b>	<b>Family/environment</b>
Observed to be aggressive towards child or others	Marginalised or isolated by the community.



Intensely involved with their children, never allowing anyone else to undertake their child's care.	History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
Previous domestic violence	History of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents and/or siblings of the family
History of abuse or mental health problems	Past history in the care of childhood abuse, self harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault
Mental health, drug or alcohol difficulties	Wider parenting difficulties
Cold and unresponsive to the child's emotional needs	Physical or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.
Overly critical of the child	Lack of support from family or social network.

### **Neglect**

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy 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); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

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

### **Child**

Failure to thrive - underweight, small stature	Low self-esteem
Dirty and unkempt condition	Inadequate social skills and poor socialisation
Inadequately clothed	Frequent lateness or non-attendance at school
Dry sparse hair	Abnormal voracious appetite at school or nursery
Untreated medical problems	Self-harming behaviour
Red/purple mottled skin, particularly on the hands and feet, seen in the winter due to cold	Constant tiredness
Swollen limbs with sores that are slow to heal, usually associated with cold injury	Disturbed peer relationships
	Insufficient sense of boundaries; lack of stranger awareness
<b>Parent</b>	<b>Family/environment</b>

Failure to meet the child's basic essential needs including health needs	Marginalised or isolated by the community.
Leaving a child alone	History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
Failure to provide adequate caretakers	History of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents and/or siblings of the family
Keeping an unhygienic dangerous or hazardous home environment	Past history in the family of childhood abuse, self harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault
Unkempt presentation	Lack of opportunities for child to play and learn
Unable to meet child's emotional needs	Dangerous or hazardous home environment including failure to use home safety equipment; risk from animals
Mental health, alcohol or drug difficulties	

### **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 via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

### **Child**

Self-harm - eating disorders, self-mutilation and suicide attempts	Poor self-image, self-harm, self-hatred
Running away from home	Inappropriate sexualised conduct
Reluctant to undress for PE	Withdrawal, isolation or excessive worrying
Pregnancy	Sexual knowledge or behaviour inappropriate to age/stage of development, or that is unusually explicit
Inexplicable changes in behaviour, such as becoming aggressive or withdrawn	Poor attention / concentration (world of their own)
Pain, bleeding, bruising or itching in genital and /or anal area	Sudden changes in school work habits, become truant
Sexually exploited or indiscriminate choice of sexual partners	
<b>Parent</b>	<b>Family/environment</b>
History of sexual abuse	Marginalised or isolated by the

	community.
Excessively interested in the child.	History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
Parent displays inappropriate behaviour towards the child or other children	History of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents and/or siblings of the family
Conviction for sexual offences	Past history in the care of childhood abuse, self harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault
Comments made by the parent/carer about the child.	Grooming behaviour
Lack of sexual boundaries	Physical or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.