



## **Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy**

**January 2026**

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Ethos statement	3
2. Introduction	3
3. Statutory framework	4
4. Key roles and responsibilities	4
• The Trust Board	
• Designated Safeguarding Lead	
• Academy Head	
• All Staff	
5. Training	7
6. Recognising concerns – signs and indicators of abuse	8
• Abuse	
• Physical abuse	
• Emotional abuse	
• Sexual abuse	
• Neglect	
7. Specific safeguarding issues	9
• Child criminal exploitation	
• Child sexual exploitation	
• Child on child abuse	
• So-called ‘honour’-based abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)	
• Mental Health	
• Serious violence	
8. Children potentially at greater risk of harm	13
• Children who need a social worker (Child in need & child protection plans)	
• Children absent from education (Children missing from education)	
• Effective Home Education	
• Children requiring mental health support	
• Looked after and previously looked after children	
• Children with SEN and disabilities, and/or physical health issues	
9. Curriculum	15
10. Online safety and use of AI statement	16
11. Procedures	18
12. Information sharing, record keeping and confidentiality	19
13. Managing allegations made against teachers, including Supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors	20
14. Use of school premises for non-school activities	21
15. Whistleblowing	21
16. Useful contacts and links	22
17. Appendix A – further information on specific safeguarding issues	23
18. Appendix B – recording form for safeguarding concerns	36
19. Appendix C – body map	38
20. Appendix D – flow chart	42
21. Role of the DSL	43
22. Role of the Trust Head of Virtual School/Designated Teacher	44

## School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Framework

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. Children includes anyone under the age of 18. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, always, what is in the **best interests** of the child.

(Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025)

### 1. Ethos statement

We recognise the moral and statutory responsibility placed on all staff to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We aim to provide a safe and welcoming environment, underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, are able to raise concerns and believe they are being listened to, and that appropriate action will be taken to keep them safe.

### 2. Introduction

The Trust Board recognises the need to ensure that it complies with its duties under legislation and this policy has regard to statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE), Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and locally agreed inter-agency procedures put in place by Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership Board and Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

This policy will be reviewed annually, as a minimum, and will be made available to the public via the Trust and school website or on request.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

This policy is for all staff, Trustees, parents, Locality Committee members, volunteers and the wider school community. It forms part of the child protection and safeguarding arrangements for our Trust and is one of a suite of policies and procedures, which encompass the safeguarding responsibilities of the Schools. In particular, this policy should be read in conjunction with the Trust's

- Staff Code of Conduct
- Safer Recruitment Policy,
- On-line Safety Policy (including Staff Acceptable Use)
- Anti-Bullying Policy,
- Department for Education (DfE) guidance Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges.

The aims of this policy are to:

- Provide staff with a framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people, and ensure that they understand and meet their statutory responsibilities;
- Ensure consistent good practice across the Trust.

The Trust expects that all staff will know and understand this Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and their responsibility to implement it. Staff working directly with children must, as a minimum, have read and understood Part One of KCSiE 2025. The Trust Safeguarding Lead will ensure that Academy Heads and senior leaders have read and understood Parts One and Two of KCSiE 2025. The Academy Heads and DSL will ensure that those staff who do not work directly with children will read Annex A of KCSiE.

The Trust will ensure that arrangements are in place for all staff members, Trustees and Locality Committee representatives to receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training which is regularly updated.

Compliance with the policy will be monitored by The Consortium Trust, Academy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

### **3. Statutory framework**

Section 157 of the Education Act and the Education (Independent Schools) Regulations 2014 for independent schools (including academies and free schools), and the Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021 for post 16 education providers, place a statutory duty on Trustees and proprietors to have policies and procedures in place that safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, who are pupils of the school which must have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State.

In accordance with statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, local safeguarding arrangements must be established for every local authority area by the three safeguarding partners (Local Authority, Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups). All three partners have equal and joint responsibility for a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements. In Suffolk, all schools have been named by the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (SSP)/ Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Partnership as relevant agencies, this means staff in schools must work in accordance with the multi-agency procedures developed by the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) /Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Partnership, which can be found on their websites at: <https://suffolksp.org.uk/>. <https://www.norfolkscb.org/>

### **4. Key roles and responsibilities**

#### **Trust Board**

Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that all Trustees and Locality Committee Members receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in schools and colleges are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole

Trustees and proprietors should be aware of their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, (including the Public Sector Equality Duty), and their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The Trust Board has a strategic leadership responsibility for all schools safeguarding arrangements and must ensure that all Trust schools comply with their duties under legislation. The Trust Board has a legal responsibility to make sure that there are appropriate policies and procedures in place, which have regard to statutory guidance, in order for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children and young people's welfare. The Trust Board will also ensure that the policy is made available to parents and carers by publishing this on the Trust and schools' website or in hard copy if requested.

The Trust Board will ensure they facilitate a whole school approach to safeguarding. This means ensuring safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development, and that all systems, processes and policies operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

The Trust Board will ensure that where there is a safeguarding concern school leaders will make sure the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. Systems will be in place that are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously, and knowing they can safely express their views and give feedback.

The Trust Board will ensure that all schools contribute to multi-agency working in line with statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and that the school's safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practice of the locally agreed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place.

The Trust Board will ensure that policies for special educational needs and disability, and supporting pupils in school with medical conditions, are in place and are reflective of safeguarding as appropriate.

It is the responsibility of the Academy Head, DSL and Office Manager to ensure that staff and volunteers are properly vetted to make sure they are safe to work with the pupils who attend our schools and that the schools have procedures for appropriately managing allegations of abuse made against members of staff (including the Academy Head, supply teachers, contractors, and volunteer helpers).

The Trust Board will ensure that there is a named a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who has lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, and a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of children who are in Care (CiC), or Previously Looked After (PLAC), and will ensure that these people have the appropriate training.

#### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

The designated safeguarding lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place). This should be explicit in the role-holder's job description. (The broad areas of responsibility and activities related to the role of the DSL are set out in Annex C of KCSiE).

The DSL will have the appropriate status, authority, and time to carry out the duties of the post.

The DSL and any Deputy DSLs should liaise with the Local Authority and work with other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

During term time, the DSL and/or a Deputy should always be available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. The DSL will make arrangements for adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term time activities.

**The Designated and Alternate safeguarding leads will receive Level 3 DSL Training every 2 years and supplementary/legislative updates via the Trust DSL Network meetings held each half term.**

#### **Academy Head**

The Academy Head will ensure that the policies and procedures adopted by the Trust are fully implemented and that sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable staff members to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities.

#### **All staff**

All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

All staff working directly with children must read and ensure they understand at least Part One of KCSiE 2025. Those staff that do not work directly with children must read and ensure they understand Annex A and Annex F of KCSiE 2024.

All staff must ensure they are familiar with the systems within school, which support safeguarding, including the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, the Code of Conduct policy, the behaviour policy, the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education (CME), and the role of the DSL (including the identity of the DSL and any Alternate DSL(s)).

All staff should be aware of indicators of abuse and neglect so that they are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection.

All staff should be able to reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

All staff should be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or being threatened, this could be due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. This should not prevent staff from having a professional curiosity and speaking to the DSL if they have concerns about a child. It is also important that staff determine how best to build trusted relationships with children and young people which facilitate communication.

All staff should know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused, neglected or exploited, and/or is otherwise at risk of involvement in criminal activity, such as knife crime, or involved in county lines drug dealing.

All staff should be aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 that may follow a referral, especially section 17 (children in need) and section 47 (a child suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm) along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments.

All staff should be aware of the early help offer and understand their role within it. This includes providing support as soon as a problem emerges, liaising with the DSL, and sharing information with other professionals in order to support early identification and assessment, focussing on providing interventions to avoid escalation of worries and needs (see Section 12: Information Sharing). In some cases, staff may be asked to act as the lead professional in undertaking an early help assessment.

Any child may benefit from early help, but all school staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs
- has special educational needs (SEN) (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan)
- has a mental health need
- is a young carer
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or sexual or criminal exploitation
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- has a family member in prison, or is affected by parental offending
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues or domestic abuse
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- has returned home to their family from care
- is at risk of 'honour'-based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or forced marriage
- is a privately fostered child
- is persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day

Knowing what to look out for is vital to the early identification of abuse and neglect and specific safeguarding issues such as child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation. If staff are unsure, they should always speak to the DSL (or Alternate). If in exceptional circumstances the DSL (or Deputy) is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Staff should consider speaking to a member of the senior leadership team and/or take advice from children’s social care. In these circumstances, any action taken should be shared with the DSL as soon as is practically possible.

Who to contact at Mendham Primary school:

<b>Role:</b>	<b>Name and contact details:</b>
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Henry Huxtable – Academy Head <a href="mailto:Head.wvp@consortiumtrust.org.uk">Head.wvp@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a>
Alternate Safeguarding Leads	Nikki Jones – Assistant Head <a href="mailto:N.Jones@consortiumtrust.org.uk">N.Jones@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a> Julie Rogers – Office Manager <a href="mailto:j.rogers@consortiumtrust.org.uk">j.rogers@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a>

Who to contact at St Edmunds Primary school:

<b>Role:</b>	<b>Name and contact details:</b>
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Henry Huxtable – Academy Head <a href="mailto:Head.wvp@consortiumtrust.org.uk">Head.wvp@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a>
Alternate Safeguarding Leads	Nikki Jones – Assistant Head <a href="mailto:N.Jones@consortiumtrust.org.uk">N.Jones@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a> Sheri Frearson – Administration assistant <a href="mailto:s.frearson@consortiumtrust.org.uk">s.frearson@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a>

Who to contact at Trust level:

<b>Role:</b>	<b>Name and contact details:</b>
Trust Safeguarding Lead	Jo Lawrence <a href="mailto:j.lawrence@consortiumtrust.org.uk">j.lawrence@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a>
Safeguarding Trustee	Sue Child - <a href="mailto:s.child@consortiumtrust.org.uk">s.child@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a>
Designated Safeguarding Leads	Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne <a href="mailto:a.aalders-dunthorne@consortiumtrust.org.uk">a.aalders-dunthorne@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a> Lisa Jones – <a href="mailto:l.jones@consortiumtrust.org.uk">l.jones@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a> Debbie Thomas – <a href="mailto:d.thomas@consortiumtrust.org.uk">d.thomas@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a>
(Lead Designated Teacher) for Children in Care and children previously in care (CiC)	Henry Huxtable – Academy Head <a href="mailto:Head.wvp@consortiumtrust.org.uk">Head.wvp@consortiumtrust.org.uk</a>

## 5. Training

Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety which, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring at induction

The Trust Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all staff receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training which is regularly updated and in line with legislation. In addition, all staff members will receive

regular safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings) as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and up to date knowledge of emerging and evolving safeguarding issues to safeguard children effectively.

All new staff members will undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. This will include training on the Trust child protection and safeguarding policy, online safety, the code of conduct, the behaviour policy, the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education, and the role of the designated safeguarding lead. Copies of the school's policies, procedures and Annex A for those staff who do not work directly with children) will be provided to new staff at induction.

All staff will undergo online Prevent Training annually to maintain their knowledge base regarding pupils that may be susceptible to being drawn into terrorism and staff should also be aware that any referral requires the individual's consent.

The Trust Safeguarding Lead will ensure that safeguarding training for staff, including online safety training, is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole school safeguarding approach and wider staff training and curriculum planning.

The DSL will ensure that an accurate record of safeguarding training undertaken by all staff is maintained and updated regularly.

In considering safeguarding training arrangements, the Trust Safeguarding Lead will also have regard to the Teachers' Standards, which set out the expectation that all teachers manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe educational environment, and require teachers to have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils.

## **6. Recognising concerns - signs and indicators of abuse.**

All staff should be aware of indicators of abuse and neglect, and specific safeguarding issues such as child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation, so that they are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection.

All staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another, therefore staff should always be vigilant and always raise any concerns with their DSL.

All staff should be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Children are at risk of abuse online as well as face to face. In many cases, abuse will take place concurrently via online channels and in daily life. Children can also abuse their peers online, this can take the form of abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who do not want to receive such content.

The link to the Consortium Trust Online Safety Policy can be found [here](#)..

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and/or alcohol misuse, deliberately missing education, serious violence (including that linked to county lines), radicalisation and consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos can be signs that children are at risk.

All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside of this environment. All staff, but especially the DSL (and Deputy), should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations

outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, sexual abuse, serious youth violence and county lines.

### **Indicators of abuse and neglect**

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

The following indicators listed under the categories of abuse are not an exhaustive list:

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

**Emotional abuse:** the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

**Sexual abuse:** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (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. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue (also known as peer-on-peer abuse) in education and all staff should be aware of it and of the school's policy and procedures for dealing with it. (See section 7: Specific safeguarding issues and Appendix A)

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

(Source Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025)

## 7. Specific safeguarding issues

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as of drug taking, alcohol abuse, deliberately missing education and consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos can be signs that children are at risk. Other safeguarding issues all staff should be aware of include:

### **Child sexual exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power, to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.

### **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**

Some specific forms of CCE can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others.

Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to.

It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same, however staff should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.

Further information about CCE including definitions and indicators is included in Appendix A

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse 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 clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse including via the internet.

CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence and may happen without the child's immediate knowledge e.g. through others sharing videos or images of them on social media.

CSE can affect any child, who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16- and 17-year-olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.

Further information about CSE including definitions and indicators is included in Appendix A.

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn.

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

So-called ‘honour’-based abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving ‘honour’ often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA. Any form of marriage for someone under 18 is illegal, even where violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used.

**Mental Health** All staff should be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Only appropriately, trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Education staff, however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children’s experiences can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.

Staff can access a range of advice to help them identify children in need of extra mental health support, this includes working with external agencies. More information can be found in the mental health and behaviour in school’s guidance.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following the school’s policy, and speaking to the DSL or a Deputy.

### **Child on child abuse**

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (also referred to as peer-on-peer abuse). And that it can happen both inside and outside of school and online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of child-on-child abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports.

Victims of this abuse will likely find the experience distressing, which can affect their progress in school, this can be made worse if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same school. (We distinguish between the two parties involved and therefore use the terms of victim and perpetrator are used. It is clear that unless the child is over the age of 10 years then no crime has been committed. We will work together with all involved on a case-by-case basis.)

All staff should understand, that even if there are no reports in school it does not mean it is not happening; it may be the case that it is just not being reported. As such, it is important if staff have any concerns regarding child-on-child abuse they should speak to the DSL (or Deputy).

It is essential that all staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers, many of which are listed below, that are actually abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as “just banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys” can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward, and that they will be supported and kept safe. Abuse that occurs online or outside of the school or college should not be downplayed and should be treated equally seriously. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report. It is important to explain that the law is in place to protect children and young people rather than criminalise them, and this should be explained in such a way that avoids alarming or distressing them.

Child on child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse)
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)
- 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.
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nude images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm; and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)

All staff should be clear about the Trust policy and procedures with regards to child-on-child abuse and the important role they have to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it.

### **Serious violence**

All staff should be aware of the indicators which may signal that children are at risk from, or involved with, serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

All staff should be aware of the range of risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, such as being male, having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school, having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery.

Advice for schools is provided in the [Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement](#) and its [Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance](#)

Further information about specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues can be found in Appendix A (see below) All staff should familiarise themselves with this.

### **8. Children potentially at greater risk of harm**

The Trust Board recognise that whilst all children should be protected there are some groups of children who are potentially at greater risk of harm and, in some cases, these children may find it difficult to communicate what is happening to them.

Local authorities, with the help of other organisations as appropriate, have a duty to make enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. Such enquiries enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare and must be initiated where there are concerns about maltreatment. This includes all forms of abuse and neglect.

The Trust Board will have regard to the following statutory guidance:

[Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school – DfE Statutory Guidance](#)

#### **Children who need a social worker (Child in Need and Child Protection Plans)**

Children may need a social worker due to complex safeguarding or welfare needs. Children may need this help due to abuse, neglect and complex family circumstances. A child's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educationally disadvantaged in facing barriers to attendance, education, behaviour and mental health.

The Trust Board expects that the Local Authority will share the fact a child has a social worker, and the DSL will hold and use this information so that decisions can be made in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. This should be considered as a matter of routine. There are clear powers to share this information under existing duties on both LAs and school to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Where children need a social worker, this should inform decisions about safeguarding (for example, responding to unauthorised absence or missing education where there are known safeguarding risks) and about promoting welfare (for example, considering the provision of pastoral and/or academic support, alongside action by statutory services).

#### **Children who are absent from education**

Children being absent from education for **prolonged periods** and/or on repeat occasions can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, child sexual and child criminal exploitation - particularly county lines. It is important the school or college's response to persistently absent pupils and children missing education supports identifying such abuse, and in the case of absent pupils, helps prevent the risk of them becoming a child missing education in the future. This includes when problems are first emerging but also where children are already known to local authority children's social care and need a social worker (such as a child who is a child in need or who has a child protection plan, or is a looked after child), where being absent from education may increase known safeguarding risks within the family or in the community. Further information and support, includes:

- Guidance on school attendance 'Working together to improve school attendance' including information on how schools should work with local authority children's services where school absence indicates safeguarding concerns.

- Information regarding schools' duties regarding children missing education, including information schools must provide to the local authority when removing a child from the school roll at standard and non-standard transition points, can be found in the department's statutory guidance: [Children Missing Education](#).
- further information for colleges providing education for a child of compulsory school age can be found in: [Full-time-Enrolment of 14 to 16 year olds in Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges](#).
- general information and advice for schools and colleges can be found in the Government's [Missing Children and Adults Strategy](#).

(Source Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025)

### **Elective Home Education**

Many home education children have an overwhelmingly positive learning experience. We would expect the parents' decision to home educate to be made with their child's best education at the heart of the decision. However, this is not the case for all, and home education can mean some children are less visible to the services that are there to keep them safe and supported in line with their needs.

Where a parent/carer has expressed their intention to remove a child from school with a view to educating at home, the school will work together with the LA and other key professionals to coordinate a meeting with parents/carers where possible.

Ideally, this would be before a final decision has been made to, to ensure the parents/carers have considered what is in the best interests of each child. This is particularly important where a child has SEND, is vulnerable, and/or has a social worker.

### **Children requiring mental health support**

Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

The Trust Board will ensure there is a clear system and process in place for identifying possible mental health problems, including routes to escalate, and a clear referral and accountability system.

Staff can access further advice in a DfE guidance documents, [Preventing and tackling bullying](#) and [Mental health and behaviour in schools](#) which set out how staff can help prevent mental health problems by promoting resilience as part of an integrated, whole school approach to social and emotional wellbeing, which is tailored to the needs of pupils.

The school's senior mental health lead will be a member of, or be supported by, the senior leadership team.

### **Looked after children and previously looked after children.**

The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and/or neglect. The Trust Board will ensure staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep looked after children safe.

The Trust Board will ensure there are arrangements in place so that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents, or on an interim or full care order) and the child's contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.

The Lead Designated Teacher will be responsible for maintaining required personal knowledge levels, attending any relevant training and updating school/hub Designated Teachers accordingly. Appropriate staff will also have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after the child. The DSL should have the details of the child's social worker and the name of the Virtual School Head in the authority that looks after the child.

A previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable and all staff should have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep previously looked after children safe. The Trust Board recognises that when dealing with looked after children and previously looked after children, it is important that all agencies work together and prompt action is taken when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group.

**Children with SEN and disabilities, and/or physical health issues** can face additional safeguarding challenges, both in terms of their vulnerability and also in terms of being able to report abuse both online and offline.

Staff should avoid making assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury may relate to the child's disability or medical condition without further exploration.

Staff should also be aware that these children may be more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children. Similarly, staff should be aware of the potential for children with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying without outwardly showing signs or being able to communicate how they are feeling.

Further information can be found in the departments:

- [SEND Code of Practice 0 to 25 years](#), and
- [Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions](#).

And from specialist organisations such as:

- The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information and Support Services (SENDIASS). SENDIASS offer information, advice and support for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. All local authorities have such a service: [Find your local IAS service \(councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk\)](#)
- [Mencap](#) - Represents people with learning disabilities, with specific advice and information for people who work with children and young people

### **Children who are lesbian, gay, bi, or trans (LGBTQ+)**

The fact that a child or a young person may be LGBTQ+ is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm. However, children who are LGBTQ+ can be targeted by other children. In some cases, a child who is perceived by other children to be LGBTQ+ (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as children who identify as LGBTQ+.

Risks can be compounded where children who are LGBTQ+ lack a trusted adult with whom they can be open. It is therefore vital that staff endeavour to reduce the additional barriers faced and provide a safe space for them to speak out or share their concerns with members of staff.

LGBTQ+ inclusion is part of the statutory Relationships Education, Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education curriculum and there is a range of support available to help schools counter homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and abuse.

## **9. Curriculum**

The Trust Board will ensure that children and young people are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. This is in order to help children stay safe, recognise when they do not feel safe and identify who they might or can talk to. Staff recognise that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all children, and a more personalised or contextualised approach for more vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some SEND children might be needed.

Opportunities to teach safeguarding may include covering relevant issues through Relationships Education (*primary schools*) and Relationships and Sex Education (also known as Sex and Relationship Education).

The Trust Board will also ensure there is a comprehensive curriculum response to online safety issues, enabling children and young people and their parents to learn about the risks of new technologies, communication and social media and how to use these responsibly.

The Trust Board will ensure that there are appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place to safeguard children and young people from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

## **10. Online safety**

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues such as child sexual exploitation, radicalisation and sexual predation and technology often provides the platform that facilitates such harm.

The Trust Board has had due regard to the additional information and support set out in KCSiE 2025 and ensures that the school has a whole school approach to online safety and has a clear policy on use of communications technology in school. Online safety will be a running and interrelated theme when devising and implementing policies and procedures. This will include considering how online safety is reflected in all relevant policies and whilst planning the curriculum, any teacher training, the role of the DSL and any parental engagement.

It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. The Trust Board adopts a whole school approach to online safety to protect and educate pupils and staff in their use of technology, and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns as appropriate.

Online safety and the school or college's approach to it should be reflected in the child protection policy which, amongst other things, should include appropriate filtering and monitoring on school devices and school networks. Considering the 4Cs will provide the basis of an effective online policy. The school or college should have a clear policy on the use of mobile and smart technology, which will also reflect the fact many children have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks (i.e. 3G, 4G and 5G). This access means some children, whilst at school or college, sexually harass, bully, and control others via their mobile and smart technology, share indecent images consensually and non-consensually (often via large chat groups) and view and share pornography and other harmful content. Schools and colleges should carefully consider how this is managed on their premises and reflect this in their mobile and smart technology policy and their child protection policy.

Schools and colleges are likely to be in regular contact with parents and carers. Those communications should be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online and parents and carers are likely to find it helpful to understand what systems schools and colleges use to filter and monitor online use. It will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will ask to access and be clear who from the school or college (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online.

Whilst considering their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provide them with a safe environment in which to learn, governing bodies and proprietors should be doing all that they reasonably can to limit children's exposure to the above risks from the school's or college's IT system. As part of this process, governing bodies and proprietors should ensure their school or college has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness. They should ensure that the leadership team and relevant staff have an awareness and understanding of the provisions in place and

manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns when identified. Governing bodies and proprietors should consider the number of and age range of their children, those who are potentially at greater risk of harm and how often they access the IT system along with the proportionality of costs versus safeguarding risks

The appropriateness of any filtering and monitoring systems are a matter for individual schools and colleges and will be informed in part, by the risk assessment required by the Prevent Duty.

To support schools and colleges to meet this duty, the Department for Education has published filtering and monitoring standards which set out that schools and colleges should:

- identify and assign roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems.
- review filtering and monitoring provision at least annually.
- block harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- have effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs

Governing bodies and proprietors should review the standards and discuss with IT staff and service providers what more needs to be done to support schools and colleges in meeting this standard.

Online safety issues can be categorised into four areas of risk:

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example, pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, or radicalisation or extremism;
- Contact: being exposed to harmful online interaction with other users, for example, peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising, and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes;
- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images, and online bullying); and
- Commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams. If staff feel that either they or pupils are at risk this should be reported to the Anti-Phishing Working Group (<https://apwg.org>).

The Trust Board will ensure that an annual review is undertaken of the school's approach to online safety, supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks pupils face online.

The following resources, plus many more listed in Annex B, may also help schools and colleges understand and teach about safeguarding:

- DfE advice for schools: [teaching online safety in schools](#)
- UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) guidance: [Education for a connected](#)
- UKCIS guidance: [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)
- The UKCIS [external visitors guidance](#) will help schools and colleges to ensure the maximum impact of any online safety sessions delivered by external visitors
- National Crime Agency's CEOP education programme: [Thinkuknow](#)
- Public Health England: [Every Mind Matters](#)
- [Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes](#) - this includes advice on preparing for any online challenges and hoaxes, sharing information with parents and carers and where to get help and support.

Guidance on e-security is available from the [National Education Network](#). In addition, schools and colleges should consider meeting the [Cyber security standards for schools and colleges.GOV.UK](#). Broader guidance on

cyber security including considerations for governors and trustees can be found at [Cyber security training for school staff - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/learning-and-development/cyber-security-training-for-school-staff).

### **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Safeguarding**

The Trust recognises the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and is committed to using such technologies responsibly, ethically, and in line with our statutory safeguarding duties. AI tools may be used to support teaching, learning, administration, and safeguarding processes; however, their use will always prioritise the safety, privacy, and wellbeing of pupils, staff, and the wider school community.

When AI systems are used—for example, to assist in monitoring online activity, managing data, or identifying potential safeguarding concerns—the school will ensure that:

- Human oversight is maintained at all times; decisions relating to pupil welfare will never be made solely by an automated system.
- Data protection laws (including the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018) are strictly observed, ensuring that personal data is collected, processed, and stored securely and transparently.
- Bias and fairness are considered in the evaluation and use of AI tools to prevent discrimination or inequitable treatment of any individual or group.
- Staff are trained in the appropriate and ethical use of AI technologies, understanding both their potential benefits and limitations.
- Pupils and parents are informed, where appropriate, about how AI may be used to support safeguarding and educational outcomes.

The Trust will regularly review the use of AI systems as part of its safeguarding and data protection audits to ensure continued compliance with legal and ethical standards. Any concerns arising from the use of AI will be addressed in line with the Trust's safeguarding and data protection procedures.

### **11. Procedures**

The Trust uses an online system to record, investigate and monitor all aspects of Safeguarding within Trust schools. This online system is called MyConcern and all school staff have received training and have appropriate access to this system.

All concerns should be recorded as soon as possible after a disclosure (by 5pm same day is best practice).

Should any disclosures relate to ANY Trust DSLs, these concerns should not be recorded onto Confide but should be emailed directly to Senior Trust DSLs Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne and Jo Lawrence to avoid any familial conflicts of interest.

If Supply staff or visitors notice any indicators of abuse/neglect or signs that a child or young person may be experiencing a safeguarding issue they should record their concerns on a school recording form for safeguarding concerns and pass it to the DSL without delay.

A suggested recording form is included at Appendix B for all those staff who may not have access to the MyConcern/Confide system (Supply staff or Visitors) or in the event of malfunction

#### **What to do if you are concerned.**

If a child makes an allegation or disclosure of abuse against an adult or other child or young person, it is important that you:

- Stay calm and listen carefully;
- Accept what is being said;
- Allow the child/young person to talk freely – do not interrupt or put words in the child/young person's mouth;

- Only ask questions when necessary to clarify, do not investigate or ask leading questions;
- Reassure the child, but don't make promises which it might not be possible to keep;
- Do not promise confidentiality;
- Emphasise that it was the right thing to tell someone;
- Reassure them that what has happened is not their fault;
- Do not criticise the perpetrator;
- Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told;
- Make a written record, which should be signed and include the time, date and your position in school;
- Do not include your opinion without stating it is your opinion;
- Pass the information to the DSL or alternate without delay
- Consider seeking support for yourself and discuss this with the DSL as dealing with a disclosure can be distressing.
- Understand the importance of intra familial harms and consider any necessary support for siblings following incidents;

When a record of a safeguarding concern is passed to the DSL, the DSL will record the time and date the record of concern was received. The DSL will assess the concern and, taking into account any other safeguarding information known about the child/young person, consider whether it suggests that the threshold of significant harm, or risk of significant harm, has been reached. If the DSL is unsure whether the threshold has been met, they will contact:

In the case of familial conflicts, the senior Trust DSLs will be responsible for triaging and processing the concern as required.

If the Senior DSLs/School DSL is unsure whether the threshold has been met, they will contact:

- Where the DSL believes that a child or young person may be at imminent danger and at significant harm risk of harm, they should immediately contact the relevant service below:
- Customer First on 0808 800 4005 (follow this by completing a referral on the Suffolk/Norfolk portal.
- Professionals can contact the Children's Advice and Duty and Duty Service (CADS) on 0344 800 8021 (NB they do not accept paper)

It is important that any consultation should not delay a referral to Customer First or CADS.

Where a safeguarding concern does not meet the threshold for completion of a referral, the DSL should record how this decision has been reached and should consider whether additional needs of the child have been identified that might be met by a coordinated offer of early help.

School staff might be required to contribute to multi-agency plans to provide additional support to children. This might include attendance at child protection conferences or core group meetings. The school is committed to providing as much relevant up to date information about the child as possible, including submitting reports for child protection conferences in advance of any meeting in accordance with procedures and timescales.

Where reasonably possible, the school is committed to obtaining more than one emergency contact number for each pupil.

School staff must ensure that they are aware of the procedure to follow when a child goes missing from education. Further information can be found in Appendix A.(see below)

All staff will understand that they should follow our safeguarding procedures for reporting a concern if they are worried about peer-on-peer abuse. The DSL will respond to any concerns related to child-on-child sexual abuse and violence in line with guidance outlined in Part five of *'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025'*. We will ensure that all concerns, discussions, and decisions reached are clearly recorded and any identified actions are followed up.

## **12. Information sharing, record keeping and confidentiality**

Information sharing is vital in safeguarding children by identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect, and in promoting children's welfare, including their educational outcomes. Schools have clear powers to share, hold and use information for these purposes.

As part of meeting a child's needs, the school understands that it is critical to recognise the importance of information sharing between professionals and local agencies and will contribute to multi-agency working in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. Where there are concerns about the safety of a child, the sharing of information in a timely and effective manner between organisations can reduce the risk of harm.

Whilst the Data Protection Act 2018 places duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully, it is not a barrier to sharing information where the failure to do so would result in a child or vulnerable adult being placed at risk of harm. Similarly, human rights concerns, such as respecting the right to a private and family life would not prevent sharing where there are real safeguarding concerns.

Staff should not assume a colleague or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe. Staff will have regard to the Government guidance: [Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#) which supports staff who have to make decisions about sharing information. This advice includes the seven golden rules for sharing information and considerations with regard to the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If in any doubt about sharing information, staff should speak to the DSL or a Deputy.

Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. All concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for those decisions should be recorded on MyConcern. If in doubt about recording requirements, staff should discuss with the DSL.

The school recognises that confidentiality should be maintained in respect of all matters relating to child protection. Information on individual child protection cases may be shared by the DSL or Deputy DSL with other relevant members of staff. This will be on a 'need to know' basis and where it is in the child's best interests to do so.

A member of staff must never guarantee confidentiality to anyone about a safeguarding concern (including parents/carers or pupils) or promise a child to keep a secret which might compromise the child's safety or wellbeing.

As well as allowing for information sharing, in circumstances where it is warranted because it would put a child at risk of serious harm, the DPA 2018 and the GDPR allow schools to withhold information. This may be particularly relevant where a child is affected by domestic abuse perpetrated by a parent or carer.

Ordinarily, the school will always undertake to share its 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, staff will consult with professionals on this point.

### Norfolk schools

We are working in partnership with Norfolk Constabulary and Norfolk Children's Services to identify and provide appropriate support to pupils who have experienced domestic violence in their household; this scheme is called Operation Encompass. In order to achieve this, Norfolk Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub will share police information of all domestic incidents where one of our pupils has been present with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s). On receipt of any information, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide on the appropriate support the child requires, this could be silent or overt. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the 'Norfolk Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools'. We will record this information and store this information in accordance with the record keeping procedures outlined in this policy.

The school will have regard to guidance for schools on maintaining and transferring pupil safeguarding/child protection records. Where a child leaves the school, the DSL will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school as soon as possible (within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term). The file will be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.

### 13. Allegations made against/Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors

The school will follow the Local Authority arrangements for Managing Allegations of Abuse Against People Who Work With Children or Those Who Are in A Position of Trust if an allegation is made against an adult in a position of trust.

The appropriate Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the Local Authority Designated Officer. They may advise to complete a written referral:

Email on [LADO@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@suffolk.gov.uk) or  
LADO central telephone number 0300  
123 2044

Email on [LADO@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@norfolk.gov.uk)

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

- 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/she may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

This applies to any child the member of staff, supply teacher, volunteer or contractor has contact with in their personal, professional or community life. It also applies regardless of whether the alleged abuse took place in our school.

If any member of staff has concerns that a colleague, supply teacher, volunteer or contractor might pose a risk to children, it is their duty to report these via Confide or to the Academy Head. Where the concerns or allegations are about the Academy Head, these should be referred to the Trust office namely the CEO.

If the allegation is related to a Trust central team member, this should be reported to the CEO, The CEO/Academy Head should report the concern to the Local Authority Designated Officer and is advised by LADO, we will refer to DBS or Teachers services to indicate potential prohibition form teaching. If the allegation is against the CEO then this should be reported to the Chair of the Trustees.

#### **14. Use of school premises for non-school activities**

The Academy Head will ensure that where school facilities/premises are hired or rented out to organisations or individuals, sports associations or service providers to run community or extra-curricular activities appropriate arrangements are in place to keep children safe.

The Academy Head will seek assurance that the hiring body concerned has appropriate child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures in place, including inspecting these as needed. Arrangements will also be put in place for the body hiring or renting the school facilities or premises to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

This applies regardless of whether or not the children who attend any of these services or activities are children on the school roll or attend the college. The governing body or proprietor should also ensure safeguarding requirements are included in any transfer of control agreement (i.e. lease or hire agreement), as a condition of use and occupation of the premises; and that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement.

The guidance on [Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings](#) details the safeguarding arrangements that schools and colleges should expect these providers to have in place

#### **15. Whistleblowing**

It is recognised that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so.

Whistleblowing is 'making a disclosure in the public interest' and occurs when a worker (or member of the wider school community) raises a concern about danger or illegality that affects others, for example, pupils in the school or members of the public.

All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions/inactions of colleagues, poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding arrangements.

The Trust Board would wish for everyone in the school community to feel able to report any child protection/safeguarding concerns through existing procedures within school, including the whistleblowing procedure adopted by the Trust where necessary. However, for members of staff who do not feel able to raise such concerns internally, there is a NSPCC whistleblowing helpline. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 (line available from 8.00am to 8.00pm, Monday to Friday) or email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

#### **16. Useful Contacts:**

Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Professional Helpline: 0345 606 1499

Customer First (Professional Referral Line) for use in emergencies only: 0345 606 6167

Customer First: 0808 800 4005

Police (emergency only): 999

Suffolk Police main switchboard: 01473 613500

Suffolk Police Cybercrime Unit: 101

Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership [www.suffolksp.org.uk](http://www.suffolksp.org.uk)

Suffolk County Council: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/staying-safe-online/e-safer-suffolk/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/staying-safe-online/e-safer-suffolk/)

Norfolk CADS for Professionals – 0344 800 8021

Norfolk CADS for members of the public- 0344 800 8020



Norfolk Duty Desk 01603 307797

Norfolk Safeguarding Partnership - <https://norfolklscb.org/>

Norfolk Police Main Switchboard - <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/contact-us>

Norfolk County Council - <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning>

## Appendix A

Further information on specific safeguarding issues (source: Annex B, KCSiE)

### **Child abduction and community safety incidents**

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances; and by strangers.

Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation.

As children get older and are granted more independence (for example, as they start walking to school on their own), it is important they are given practical advice on how to keep themselves safe. Many schools provide outdoor-safety lessons run by teachers or by local police staff.

Is it important that lessons focus on building children's confidence and abilities rather than simply warning them about all strangers. Further information is available at: [www.actionagainstabduction.org](http://www.actionagainstabduction.org) and [www.clevernevergoes.org](http://www.clevernevergoes.org).

### **Children and the court system**

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two age-appropriate guides to support children [5-11 year olds](#) and [12-17 year olds](#).

They explain each step of the process and support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained.

Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children. The Ministry of Justice has launched online [child arrangements information tool](#) with clear and concise information on the dispute resolution service. This may be useful for some parents and carers.

### **Children absent from education (Children missing from education)**

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

### **Children with family members in prison**

Approximately 200,000 children in England and Wales have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. [NICCO](#) provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

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

We know that different forms of harm often overlap, and that perpetrators may subject children and young people to multiple forms of abuse, such as criminal exploitation (including county lines) and sexual exploitation.

In some case the exploitation or abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants (for example, money, gifts or affection), and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage, such as increased status, of the perpetrator or facilitator.

Children can be exploited by adult males or females, as individuals or in groups. They may also be exploited by other children, who themselves may be experiencing exploitation – where this is the case, it is important that the child perpetrator is also recognised as a victim.

Whilst the age of the child may be a contributing factor for an imbalance of power, there are a range of other factors that could make a child more vulnerable to exploitation, including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, learning difficulties, communication ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Some of the following can be indicators of both child criminal and sexual exploitation where children:

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

Children who have been exploited will need additional support to help maintain them in education.

CSE can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

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

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

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

### **County lines**

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

Children can be recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools (mainstream and special), further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, children's home and care homes

Children are also increasingly being targeted and recruited online using social media. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs can manufacture drug debts which need to be worked off or threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

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

- go missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their home;
- have been the victim or perpetrator of serious violence e.g. knife crime)
- are involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs;
- are exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging’, where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection;
- are found in accommodation that they have no connection with, often called a ‘trap house or cuckooing’ or hotel room where there is drug activity;
- owe a ‘debt bond’ to their exploiters;
- have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing.

Further information on the signs of a young person’s involvement in county lines is available in guidance published by the [Home Office](#).

### **Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism**

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

Further information on the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery, the support available to victims and how to refer them to the NRM is available in the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance. Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims – GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery>

### **Cybercrime**

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

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

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

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

Note that Cyber Choices does not currently cover 'cyber-enabled' crime such as fraud, purchasing of illegal drugs online and child sexual abuse and exploitation, not other areas of concern such as on-line bullying or general online safety.

Additional advice can be found at [Cyber Choices](#), '[NSPCC – When to call the Police](#)' and [National Cyber Security Centre – NCSC.GOV.UK](#)

### **Domestic abuse**

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

Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home. The government will issue statutory guidance to provide further information for those working with domestic abuse victims and perpetrators, including the impact on children.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of peer-on-peer abuse is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'. Depending on the age of the young people this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of 'domestic abuse' (if one or both parties are under 16). However, as with any child under 18, where there are concerns about safety or welfare, child safeguarding procedures should be followed and both young victims and young perpetrators should be offered support. The Act's provisions, including the new definition, will be commenced over the coming months.

### **Operation Encompass**

[Operation Encompass](#) operates in all police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the police will inform the key adult (usually the DSL) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can enable immediate support to be put in place, according to the child's needs.

Operation Encompass does not replace statutory safeguarding procedures. Where appropriate, the police and/or schools should make a referral to children's social care if they are concerned about a child's welfare.

More information about the scheme and how schools can become involved is available in the Operation Encompass website.

### **National Domestic Abuse Helpline**

Refuge runs the National Domestic Abuse Helpline, which can be called free of charge and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247. Its website provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. It also has a form through which a safe time from the team for a call can be booked.

Additional advice on identifying children who are affected by domestic abuse and how they can be helped is available at:

[NSPCC-UK domestic-abuse signs symptoms effects](#)

[Refuge what is domestic violence/effects of domestic violence on children](#)

[Safelives: young people and domestic abuse](#)

[Domestic abuse: specialist sources of support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\) \(includes information for adult victims, young people facing abuse in their own relationships and parents experiencing child to parent violence/abuse\)](#)

[Home: Operation Encompass \(includes information for schools on the impact of domestic abuse on children\)](#)

### **Homelessness**

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

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

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

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

So-called honour-based abuse (HBV) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing, Abuse committed in the context of preserving

“honour” often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV, or already having suffered HBV.

### **Actions**

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

### **FGM**

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

### **FGM mandatory reporting duty for teachers**

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2016) places a statutory duty upon **teachers** along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should **not** be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies. Information on when and how to make a report can be found at: [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information](#).

Teachers **must** personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has good reason not to, they should still consider and discuss any such case with the school or college’s designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) and involve children’s social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. The following is a useful summary of the FGM mandatory reporting duty: [FGM Fact Sheet](#).

[Further information can be found in the Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation and the FGM resource pack particularly section 13.](#)

### **Forced marriage**

Forcing a person into marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example.) Nevertheless, some perpetrators use perceived cultural practices as a way to coerce a person into marriage, Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has created: Multi-agency practice guidelines: handling cases of forced marriage (pages 32-36 of which focus on the role of schools and colleges) and, Multi-agency statutory

guidance for dealing with forced marriage, which can both be found at [The right to choose: government guidance on forced marriage](#) - School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email [fm@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:fm@fcdo.gov.uk)

### **Preventing radicalisation**

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a school's or college's safeguarding approach.

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

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

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

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media) and settings (such as the internet).

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

The school's DSL (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral.

### **The Prevent duty**

All schools and colleges are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

The Prevent duty should be seen as part of schools' and colleges' wider safeguarding obligations. Designated safeguarding leads and other senior leaders should familiarise themselves with the [Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales](#), especially paragraphs 57-76 which are specifically concerned with schools (and also covers childcare). The guidance is set out in terms of four general themes: Risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training, and IT policies.

### **Channel**

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to be drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, who will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from the school may be asked to attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

The DSL should consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new school or college in advance of the child leaving. For example, information that would allow the new school or college to continue supporting victims of abuse or those who are currently receiving support through the 'Channel' programme, and have that support in place for when the child arrives.

Guidance on Channel is available at: [Channel Guidance](#).

### **Additional support**

The department has published advice for schools on the [Prevent duty](#). The advice is intended to complement the Prevent guidance and signposts other sources of advice and support.

There is additional guidance: [Prevent duty guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales](#) that applies to colleges.

The Home Office has developed three e-learning modules:

- [Prevent awareness](#) e-learning offers an introduction to the Prevent duty.
- [Prevent referrals](#) e-learning supports staff to make Prevent referrals that are robust, informed and with good intention.
- [Channel awareness](#) e-learning is aimed at staff who may be asked to contribute to or sit on a multi-agency Channel panel.
- [Refresher Awareness Course](#) for anyone who has already completed the awareness course and would like a reminder of the key points.

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

For advice specific to further education, the Education and Training Foundation (ETF) hosts the [Prevent for FE and Training](#). This hosts a range of free, sector specific resources to support further education settings comply with the Prevent duty. This includes the Prevent Awareness e-learning, which offers an introduction to the duty, and the Prevent Referral e-learning, which is designed to support staff to make robust, informed and proportionate referrals. The ETF Online Learning environment provides online training modules for practitioners, leaders and managers, support staff and governors/Board members outlining their roles and responsibilities under the duty.

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

### **Context**

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

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same school or college. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable.

It is essential that **all** victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by

reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at greater risk.

Staff should be aware of the importance of:

- Challenging inappropriate behaviours;
- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and
- challenging behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risk normalising them.

### **What is sexual violence and sexual harassment?**

#### **Sexual violence**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- A child under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity;
- The age of consent is 16;
- Sexual intercourse without consent is rape.

### **Sexual harassment**

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

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

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

### **Upskirting**

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

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

The initial response to a report from a child is incredibly important. How the school or college responds to a report can encourage or undermine the confidence of future victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment to report or come forward. Schools and colleges not recognising, acknowledging or understanding the scale of harassment and abuse and/or downplaying of some behaviours can actually lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour. It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

If staff have a concern about a child or a child makes a report to them, they should follow the referral process as set out in Part 1 of KCSiE. As is always the case, if staff are in any doubt as to what to do they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy).

### Toolkits

- [Childnet](#) - STAR SEND Toolkit equips, enables and empowers educators with the knowledge they need to support young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- [Childnet](#) - Just a joke? provides lesson plans, activities, a quiz and teaching guide designed to explore problematic online sexual behaviour with 9-12 year olds.
- [Childnet](#) - Step Up, Speak Up a practical campaign toolkit that addresses the issue of online sexual harassment amongst young people aged 13-17 years old.
- [Preventing Harmful Sexual Behaviour](#) toolkit by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, the toolkit contains links to useful information, resources and support, including practical tips to prevent HSB.
- [NSPCC - Harmful sexual behaviour framework](#) An evidence-informed framework for children and young people displaying HSB.
- [Contextual Safeguarding Network – Beyond Referrals](#) - Schools levers for addressing HSB in schools.
- [County Lines Toolkit For Professionals](#) - The Children's Society in partnership with Victim Support and National Police Chiefs' Council
- [Marie Collins Foundation](#) – Charity that, amongst other things, works directly with children, young people, and families to enable their recovery following sexual abuse.
- South West Grid for Learning - provides advice on all aspects of a school or college's online safety arrangements
- [CSA Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse](#) – free resources

## Additional advice and support

Abuse or Safeguarding issue	Link to Guidance/Advice	Source
Abuse	<a href="#">What to do if you're worried a child is being abused</a>	DfE advice
	<a href="#">Domestic abuse: Various Information/Guidance</a>	Home Office
	<a href="#">Faith based abuse: National Action Plan</a>	DfE advice
	<a href="#">Relationship abuse: disrespect nobody</a>	Home Office website
	<a href="#">Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy</a>	Home Office policy paper
	<a href="#">Together we can stop child sexual abuse</a>	HM Government campaign
	<a href="#">Operation Encompass</a>	Police advice and helpline service for all staff members from educational settings who may be concerned about children who have experienced domestic abuse.
Bullying	<a href="#">Preventing bullying including cyberbullying</a>	DfE advice
Children and the courts	<a href="#">Advice for 5-11-year-old witnesses in criminal courts</a>	MoJ advice
	<a href="#">Advice for 12-17-year-old witnesses in criminal courts</a>	MoJ advice
Children missing from education, home or care	<a href="#">Children missing education</a>	DfE statutory guidance
	<a href="#">Children missing from home or care</a>	DfE statutory guidance
	<a href="#">Children and adults missing strategy</a>	Home Office strategy
Children with family members in prison	<a href="#">National Information Centre on Children of Offenders</a>	Barnardo's in partnership with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) advice
Child Exploitation	<a href="#">County Lines: criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults</a>	Home Office guidance
	<a href="#">Child sexual exploitation: guide for practitioners</a>	DfE
	<a href="#">Trafficking: safeguarding children</a>	DfE and HO guidance
	<a href="#">Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children</a>	DfE statutory guidance
	<a href="#">Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims</a>	HO statutory guidance
Drugs	<a href="#">Drugs: advice for schools</a>	DfE and ACPO advice
	<a href="#">Drugs strategy 2017</a>	Home Office strategy
	<a href="#">Information and advice on drugs</a>	Talk to Frank website
	<a href="#">Drug and Alcohol education – teacher guidance &amp; evidence review</a>	PSHE Association website
"Honour Based Abuse" including FGM and forced marriage  (so called)	<a href="#">Female genital mutilation: information and resources</a>	Home Office
	<a href="#">Female genital mutilation: multi agency statutory guidance</a>	DfE, DH, and HO statutory guidance
	<a href="#">FGM resource pack</a>	HM Government guidance
Health and Well-being	<a href="#">Fabricated or induced illness: safeguarding children</a>	DfE, Department for Health and Home Office

	<a href="#">Rise Above: Free PSHE resources on health, wellbeing and resilience</a>	Public Health England resources
	<a href="#">Medical conditions: supporting pupils at school</a>	DfE statutory guidance
	<a href="#">Mental health and behaviour</a>	DfE advice
Homelessness	<a href="#">Homelessness: How local authorities should exercise their functions</a>	HCLG
Private fostering	<a href="#">Private fostering: local authorities</a>	DfE – statutory guidance
Radicalisation	<a href="#">Prevent duty guidance</a>	Home Office guidance
	<a href="#">Prevent duty: additional advice for schools</a>	DfE advice
	<a href="#">Educate Against Hate Website</a>	DfE and Home Office
	<a href="#">Prevent for FE and Training</a>	Education and Training Foundation (ETF)
Sexual Behaviour	<a href="#">Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service</a>	South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) and the Marie Collins Foundation. The service has been funded by the Home Office and developed in collaboration with the Department for Education.
Violence	<a href="#">Serious violence strategy</a>	Home Office strategy
	<a href="#">Factors linked to serious violence and how these factors can be used to identify individuals for intervention</a>	Home office
	<a href="#">Youth Endowment Fund</a>	Home Office
	<a href="#">Gangs and youth violence: for schools and colleges</a>	Home Office advice
	<a href="#">Ending violence against women and girls 2016-2020 strategy</a>	Home Office strategy
	<a href="#">Violence against women and girls: national statement of expectations for victims</a>	Home Office guidance

## Appendix B

**For use by Supply Staff, Visitors and exceptional circumstances**

### Record of concern about a child/young person's safety and welfare

Part 1 (for use by any staff – must be handwritten and legible)

Pupil's name:	Date of birth:	Class/Form:
Date & time of incident:	Date & time (of writing):	
Name (print): .....		
Signature: .....		
Job title:		
<p>Record the following factually: Nature of concern, e.g. disclosure, change in behaviour, demeanour, appearance, injury, witnesses etc. <i>(please include as much detail in this section as possible. Remember – the quality of your information will inform the level of intervention initiated. Attach additional sheets if necessary.</i></p>		
<p>What is the pupil's perspective?</p>		
<p>Any other relevant information. Previous concerns etc. <i>(distinguish between fact and opinion)</i></p>		
<p>Note actions, including names of anyone to whom your information was passed and when</p>		

Check to make sure your report is clear to someone else reading it.

**Please pass this form to your DSL without delay**

**Record of concern about a child/young person's safety and welfare**

Part 2 (for use by DSL)

Information received by DSL:	Date:	Time completed:	From whom:		
Any advice sought, if applicable	Date:	Time completed:	From: name/organisation:		
	Advice received:				
Action taken with reasons recorded <i>(e.g. MARF completed, monitoring advice given to appropriate staff, CAF etc)</i>	Date:	Time completed:	By whom:		
Outcome	Date:	Time completed:	By whom:		
Parent/carer informed?	<b>Y</b>	Who spoken to:	Date:	Time:	By whom:
	<b>N</b>	Detail reason:			
Is any additional detail held, if so where?					
Name of DSL:			Signature:		

## Appendix C – Body Map

### BODYMAP

(This must be completed at time of observation)

Name of Pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

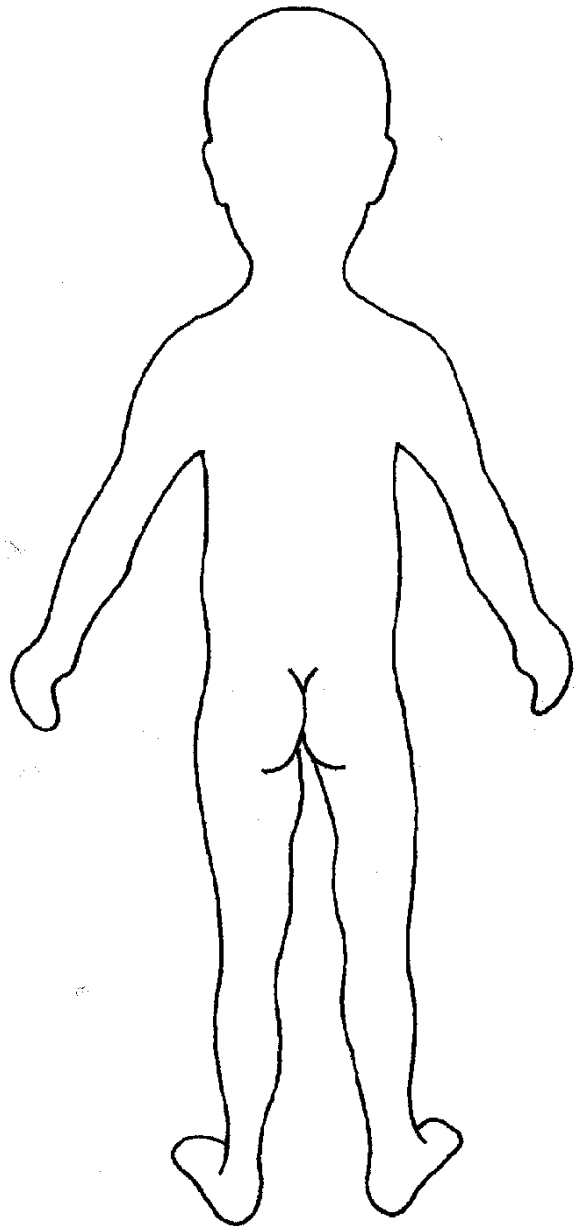
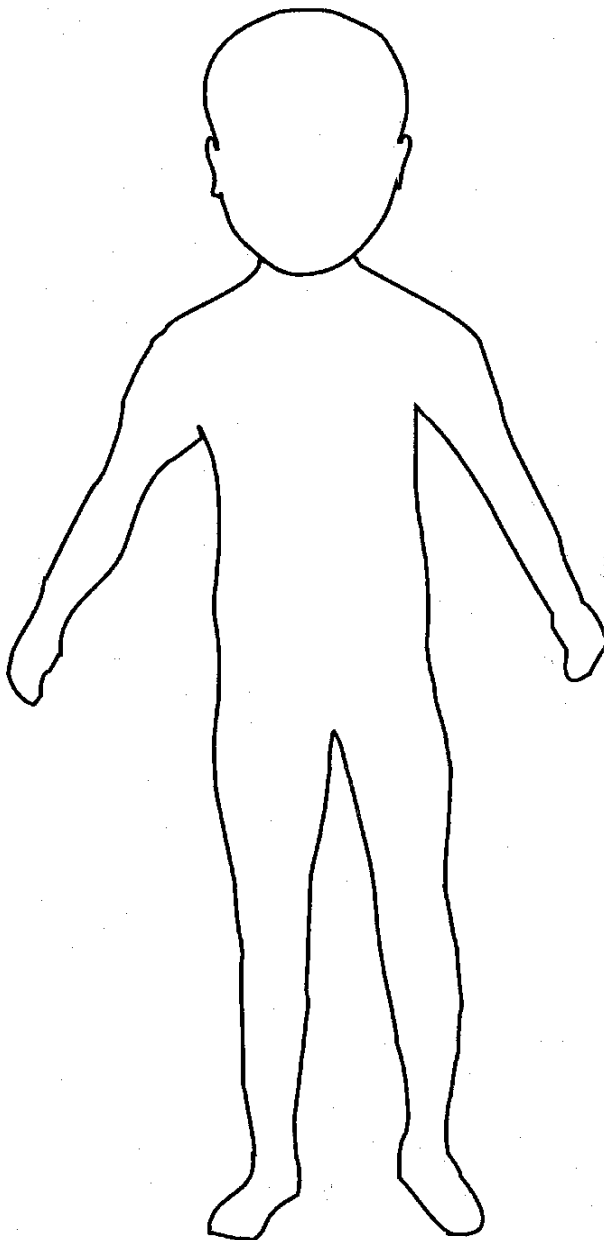
Date of

Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

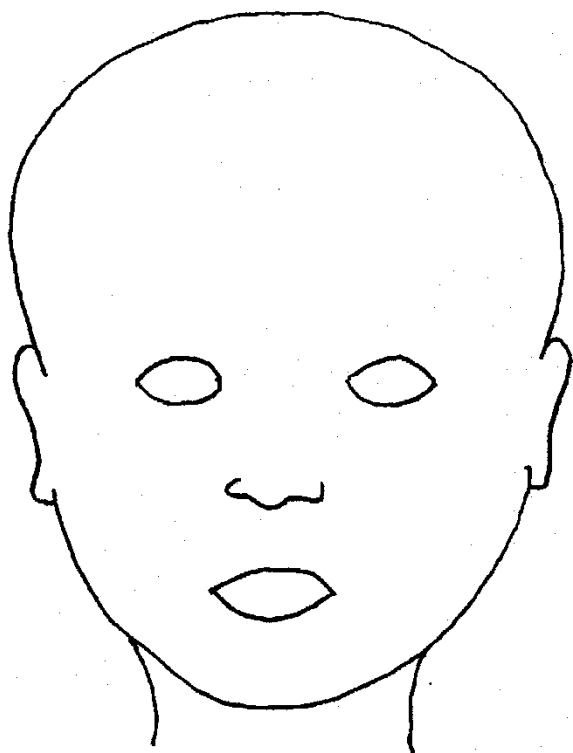
Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of  
observation: \_\_\_\_\_

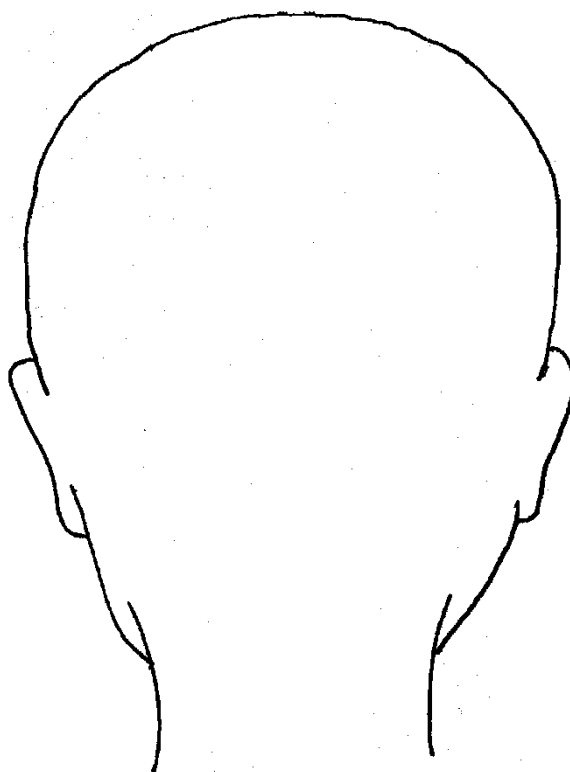


Name of pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

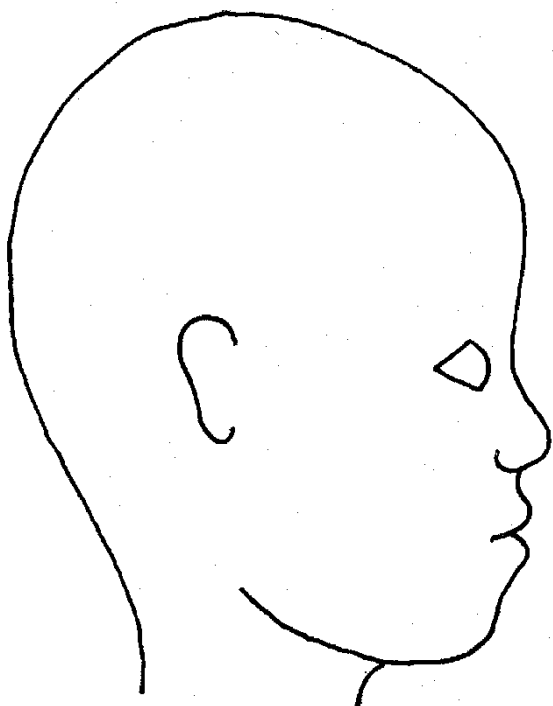
Date and time of observation: \_\_\_\_\_



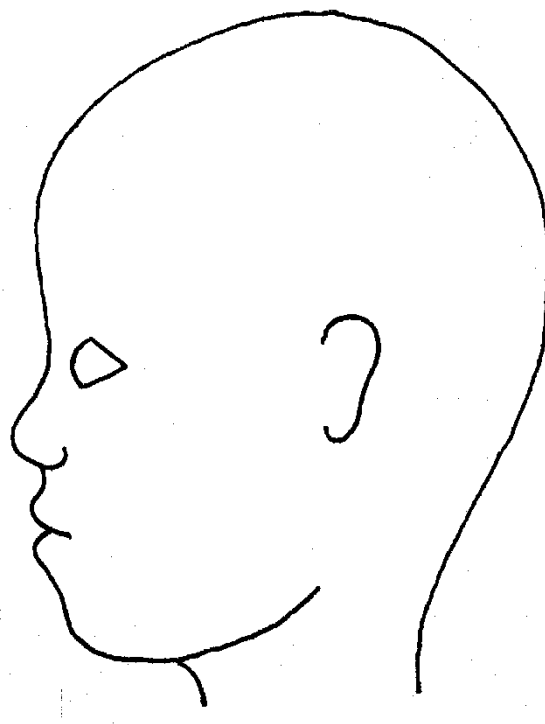
**FRONT**



**BACK**



**RIGHT**



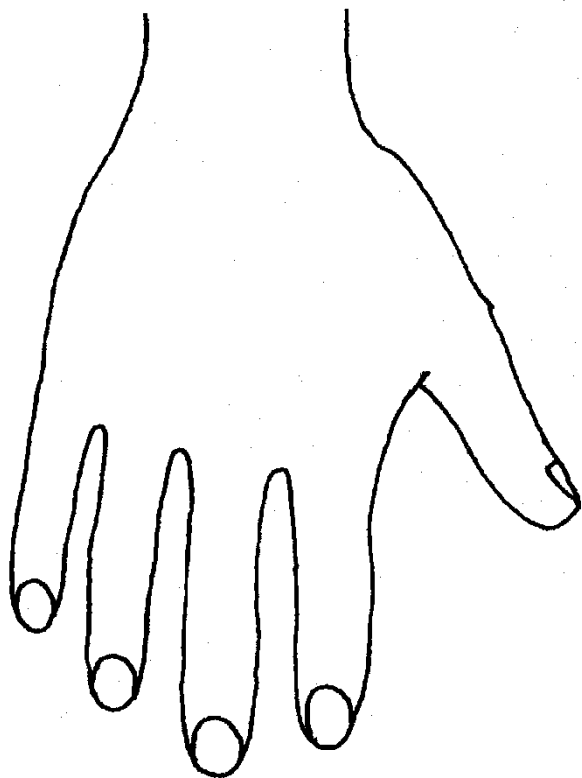
**LEFT**

Name of pupil:

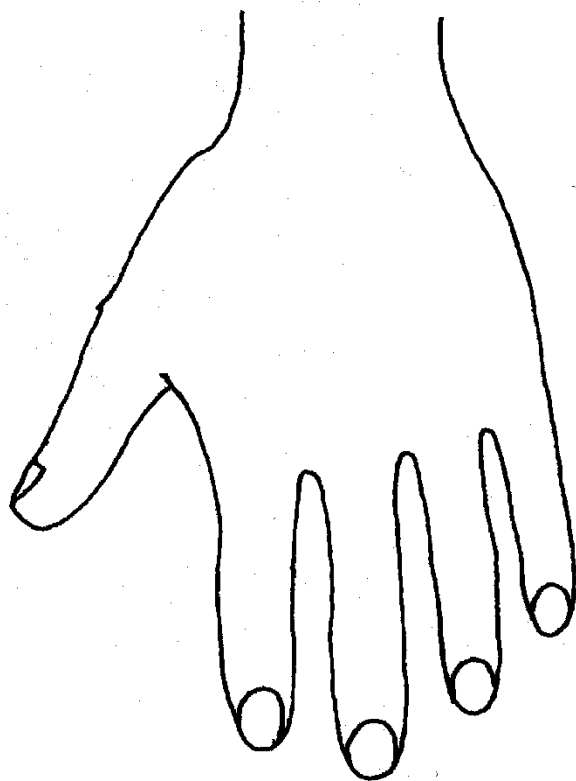
\_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of observation:

\_\_\_\_\_

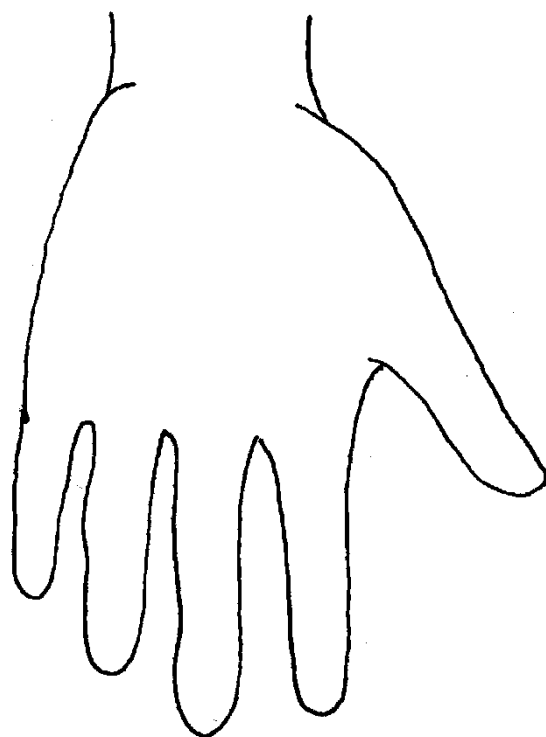
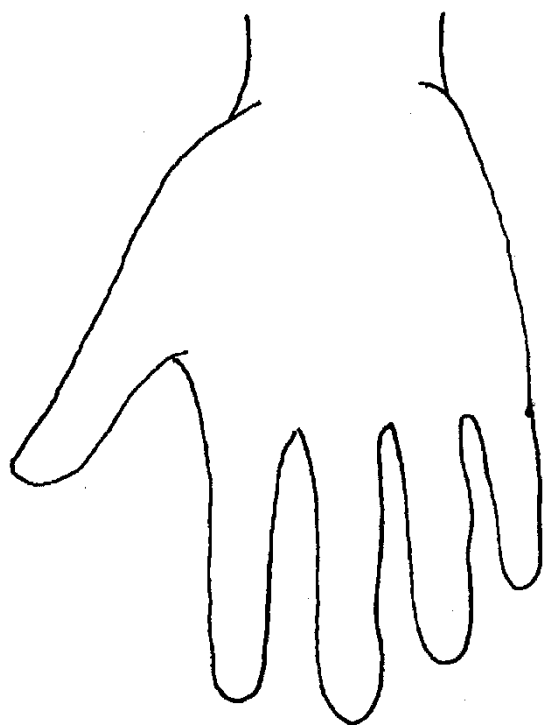


R



L

BACK

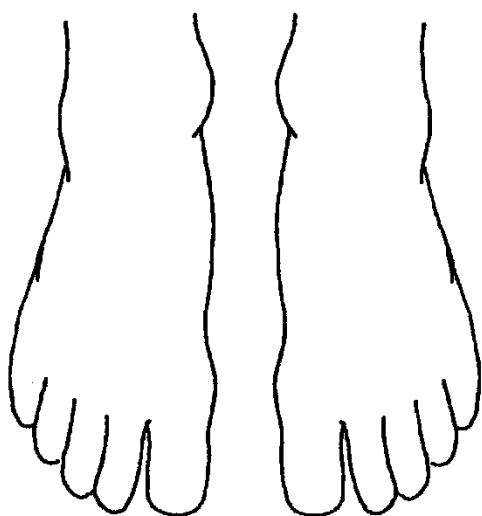


Name of Pupil:

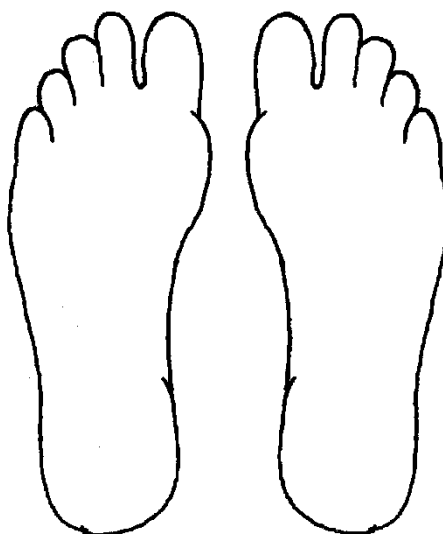
\_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of  
observation:

\_\_\_\_\_



R TOP L



R BOTTOM L



R



L

INNER



R



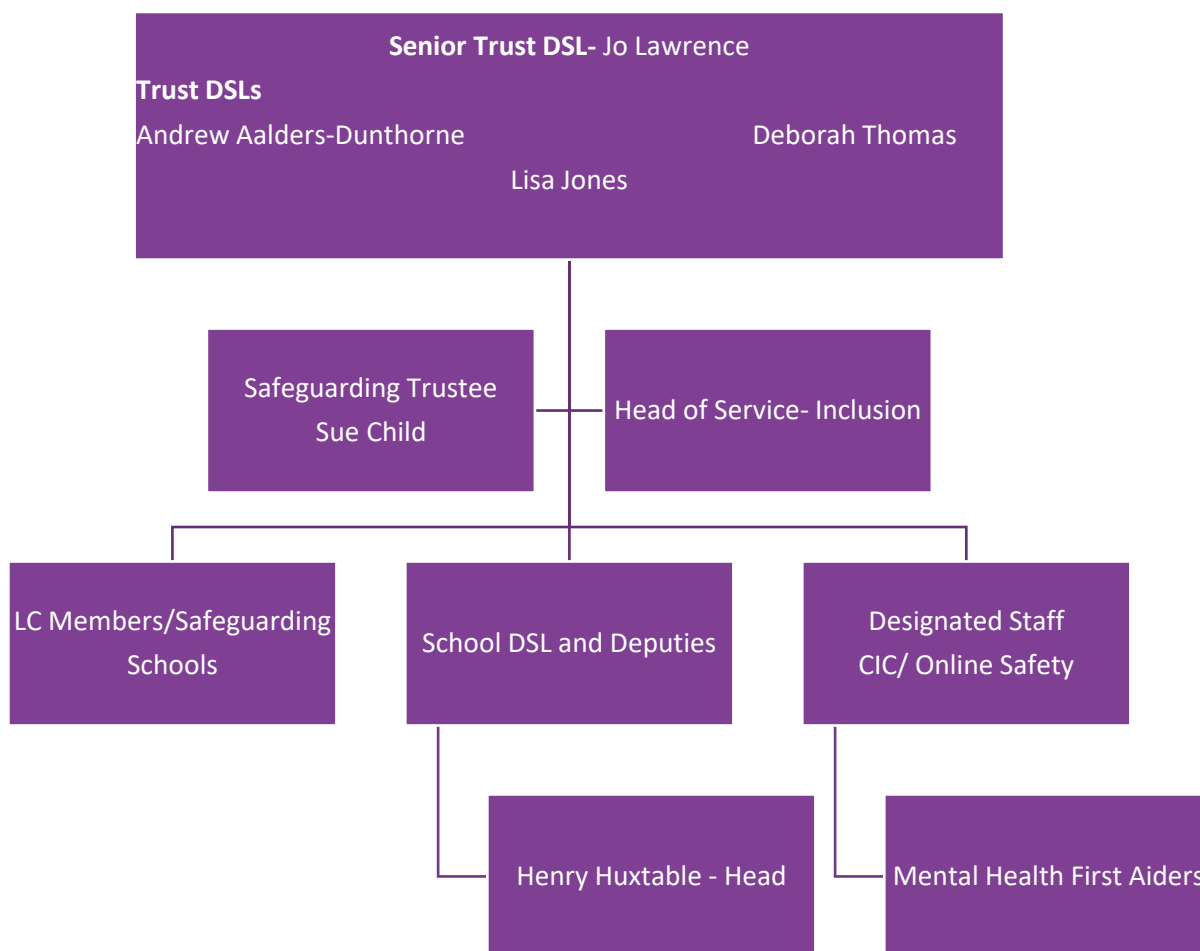
L

OUTER

Printed Name, Signature and  
Job title of staff:

---

## Appendix D – Flowchart



## Role of the DSL

### The Consortium Trust

#### Role of the Designated and Alternate Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Trust Board at the Consortium Trust ensures that the school designates an appropriate senior member of staff from SLT to take lead responsibility for child protection. These people 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.

**Central Trust DSLs are Jo Lawrence, Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne, Lisa Jones and Debbie Thomas.**

The broad areas of responsibility for the designated and alternate safeguarding leads are:

- The designated safeguarding lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place). This should be explicit in the role holder's job description
- Disclosure and Barring Service (cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child; and/or
- Police (cases where a crime may have been committed)
- Liaise with the Academy Head and The Trust's DSLs to inform him or her of issues especially ongoing enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies
- Managing Referrals - Refer all cases of suspected abuse to the Local Authority children's social care

Training:

The designated and deputy safeguarding leads should receive appropriate training carried out every two years 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 Safeguarding Policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need and those with special educational needs and young carers
- Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concern and referrals
- Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses
- Encourage a culture of listening 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 and deputy safeguarding leads should ensure the school policies are known and used appropriately:

- Ensure the Trust and local Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are updated regularly, and work with governing bodies 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 LSCB to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding
- Where children leave the school, ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school as soon as possible. This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

## The Role of the Designated Teacher for CIC

### The Consortium Trust

#### Role of the Designated Teacher for Children In Care (CIC)

The Trust Board at the Consortium Trust ensures that the school designates appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for Children in Care and children Post-Care. These people 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.

The role of the Designated Teacher for CIC in each school:

The designated teacher has a leadership role in promoting the educational achievement of every looked after child on the school's roll. The role should make a positive difference by promoting a whole school culture where the personalised learning needs of every looked after child matters and their personal, emotional and academic needs are prioritised.

The designated teacher should have lead responsibility for helping school staff to understand the things which can affect how looked after children learn and achieve. Everyone involved in helping looked after children achieve should:

- have high expectations of looked after children's involvement in learning and educational progress;
- be aware of the emotional, psychological and social effects of loss and separation from birth families, the reasons for that separation and that some children may find it difficult to build relationships of trust with adults because of their experiences;
- understand the reasons which may be behind a looked after child's behaviour, and why they may need more support than other children but the teacher should not allow this to be an excuse for lowering expectations of what a child is capable of achieving;
- understand how important it is to see looked after children as individuals rather than as a homogeneous group and to not publicly treat them differently from their peers;
- appreciate the importance of showing sensitivity about who else knows about a child's looked after status;
- appreciate the central importance of the child's PEP in helping to create a shared understanding between teachers, carers, social workers and most importantly, depending on age and understanding, the child him or herself of what everyone needs to do to help them to achieve their potential;
- have the level of understanding they need of the role of social workers, virtual school heads (or equivalent) in local authorities and how education – and the function of the PEP – fits into the wider care and planning duties of the authority which looks after the child
- ensure the PEP is completed by the DT, or the teacher in school who knows the child well, within the deadline given by the LA Virtual School. The PEP is a working document that is completed 'live' and regularly updated. The DT will also attend PEP meetings, which are arranged by the social worker (along with the class teacher if applicable).

Date : 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Document Control

### Changes History

Version	Date	Amended By	Details of Change
V2	31/07/2017	Principal/CEO	Annual review
V3	19/03/2018	Principal/CEO	Reviewed against updated SCC Policy
V4	20/10/2018	HoS WISA	Review to include KCSIE(2018) and other guidance updates
V5	03/10/2019	HoS WISA	Review to include KCSIE(2019) and other guidance updates
V6.1	01/09/2020	HoS WISA	Review to include KCSIE(2020) and other guidance updates. Include Covid 19 information
V6.2	26/03/2021	HoS WISA	Updated page numbers and Governors changed to LC members
V7	27/09/2021	HoS WISA	Updated in line with KCSIE 2021
V8	25/01/2023	Principal/CEO	Pagination added
V9	14/07/2023	Principal/CEO	Updated in line with KCSIE 2024
V10	05/09/2023	Principal / KLloyd	Updated section 11 Procedures to reflect familiar conflicts
V11	19/10/2023	Principal/K Lloyd	Updated to amend safeguarding Trustee to Mark Kemp effective immediately
V12	TBC	K Lloyd	Updated in line with KCSIE 2024 and link to Consortium Trust Online Safety Policy added.
V12.1	23/08/2023	K Lloyd	Updated to include Sue Child as Safeguarding Trustee.
V12.2	16/10/2023	K Lloyd	Update as typo on page 14.
V12.3	06/11/2023	K Lloyd	Update as Viv Procter added as Head of Virtual School and Lead CIC
V13	09/01/2024	K Lloyd	Working Together to Safeguard Children amended to new 2024 date. Appendix D flowchart updated. Role of DSL notice updated. Name and Contact Details updated.
V14	14/05/2024	K Lloyd	Updated with information relating to Norfolk Removal of out of date guidance
V15	31/08/2024	K Lloyd	Updated in line with KCSiE 2024
V15.1	02/08/2024	K Lloyd	Operational updates
V16	01/09/2025	Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Annual Update
V16.1	11/11/2025	Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Trust Board requested AI paragraph to be added to section 10.
V16.2	12/01/2026	Jo Lawrence	Operational Updates

### Approval

Name	Job Title	Signed	Date
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Principal/CEO	Electronic signature	29/12/2016
Dawn Carman-Jones	On behalf of the Trust Board	Electronic signature	29/12/2016
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Principal/CEO	Electronic signature	07/10/2021
Dawn Carman-Jones	On behalf of the Trust Board	Electronic signature	07/10/2021
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Principal/CEO	Electronic signature	26/01/2023
Dawn Carman-Jones	On behalf of the Trust Board	Electronic signature	14/07/2023
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Principal/CEO	Electronic signature	14/07/2023
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Principal/CEO	Electronic signature	08/08/2023
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Principal/CEO	Electronic signature	19/10/2022
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Principal/CEO	Electronic signature	13/07/2023
Dawn Carman-Jones	On behalf of the Trust Board	Electronic signature	13/07/2023
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	CEO	Electronic signature	15/02/2024
Dawn Carman-Jones	On behalf of the Trust Board	Electronic signature	15/02/2024
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	CEO	Electronic signature	23/05/2024
Dawn Carman-Jones	On behalf of the Trust Board	Electronic signature	23/05/2024
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	CEO	Electronic signature	11/07/2024
Steve Martin	On behalf of the Trust Board	Electronic signature	11/07/2024
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	CEO	Electronic signature	23/10/2025
Steve Martin	On behalf of the Trust Board	Electronic signature	23/10/2025
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	CEO	Electronic signature	13/01/2026

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Director of Primary Education or as required by changes in legislation.

At every review, this policy will be approved by the full Trust Board.

**END OF DOCUMENT**