

EAST MIDLANDS EDUCATION TRUST

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy



East Midlands
Education Trust

Contacts

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LA Child Protection Contact/LADO	Eva Callaghan or covering LADO 0115 8041272
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	0300 500 8090
Emergency Duty Team (Children's Social Care)	0300 456 4546 (out of hours)

The following appendices are part of this policy:

Appendix 1	Roles and responsibilities
Appendix 2	Identifying concerns
Appendix 3	Confidentiality
Appendix 4	Protocol for visitors to school
Appendix 5	Prevent strategy
Appendix 6	Peer on Peer abuse
Appendix 7	Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (sexting)
Appendix 8	Child Sexual Exploitation policy
Appendix 9	Female Genital Mutilation
Appendix 10	Forced Marriage
Appendix 11	Private Fostering
Appendix 12	Children Missing Education
Appendix 12a	School Attendance flowchart
Appendix 13	Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children
Appendix 14	Children staying with host families

Links to other policies

This policy, together with the following, should be read alongside and in conjunction with other policies regarding the safety and welfare of children. These together make up the suite of policies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in our schools.

- Anti-bullying
- Attendance
- Behaviour Management
- Contact between staff and pupils
- Disability Equality
- Drugs
- e-Safety
- Physical intervention
- Safeguarding – Safer Recruitment
- School visits
- RSE

- SEND

Links to Local Authority Policies

- Pathway to Provision
- Guidance where children are at risk of missing education
- Escalation Policy
- Interagency Safeguarding Children Procedures of the NSCB

A whole Trust policy for child protection and to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

The Trust recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding children and protecting them from harm. This policy will be reviewed annually by Trustees.

Commitment

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in our schools and takes into account statutory guidance provided by the Department for Education and local guidance issued by the Three safeguarding partners (the local authority; a clinical commissioning group for an area within the local authority; and the chief officer of police for our local authority area).

We will ensure that all parents/carers are made aware of our responsibilities with regard to child protection procedures and how we will safeguard and promote the welfare of their children through the publication of this Trust's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

"Staff members working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the best interests of the child." Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019

These duties and responsibilities as set out within the Education Act 2002 sec 175 and 157, DfE Statutory Guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 and HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 which are incorporated into this policy.

Policy reviewed by:	Trustees
Review date:	Autumn 2019
Next review due:	Autumn 2020

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding children is defined as:

- The actions we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm are everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 page 7

NB: Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It also relates to broader aspects of care and education including:

- Pupils' health and safety and well-being, including their mental health
- Meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities
- The use of reasonable force.
- Meeting the needs of children with medical conditions.
- Providing first aid.
- Educational visits.
- Intimate care and emotional well-being
- Online safety and associated issues
- Appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the local context.

Safeguarding can involve a range of potential issues such as:

- Neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse
- Peer on peer abuse
- Bullying, including online bullying (by text message, on social networking sites etc) and prejudice based bullying
- Racist, disability and homophobic or transphobic abuse.
- Extremist behaviour and/or radicalisation
- Child sexual exploitation and trafficking
- The impact of new technologies, including "sexting and accessing pornography
- Substance misuse.
- Teenage relationship abuse
- Issues which may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity and youth violence.
- Particular issues affecting children including domestic violence, honour based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Our ethos is that the effective safeguarding of children can only be achieved by putting children at the centre of a system where we listen and hear what they say. Every individual within the Trust will play their part, including working with professionals from other agencies to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children and keep them safe. We will take opportunities to teach children about important safeguarding issues in a way that is age appropriate.

Our schools, therefore, aim to provide a safe environment and a vigilant culture where children and young people can learn and be safeguarded. If there are safeguarding concerns we will respond with appropriate action in a timely manner for those children who may need help or be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

Where staff members have concerns about a child (as opposed to a child being in immediate danger), they will decide what action to take in conjunction with the designated safeguard lead. Concerns can be raised directly with Children's Social Care, but we would advocate contact with the Designated Safeguarding Lead first. Where a child is identified as being in immediate danger then there should be no delay in reporting the concerns to Children's Social Care or the Police as required.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead who is familiar with national and local guidance will share concerns, where appropriate, with the relevant agencies.

The Policy

There are five main elements to our policy:

- Providing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.
- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused or harmed in accordance with his/her child protection plan.
- Raising awareness of safeguarding children, child protection processes and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.

We recognise that because of the day-to-day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. Our schools will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Ensure that every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with parents/carers and colleagues from other agencies.
- Include opportunities in the PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) (or whatever course a school has as its equivalent) curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse:
 - Availability of local and online advice including at primary level, accessing the NSPCC online and in school training for children.
 - Recognising and managing risks, including online, sexual exploitation, sexting and running away, as well as radicalisation.
 - Developing healthy relationships and awareness of domestic violence, bullying and abuse.
 - Recognising how pressure from others can affect their behaviour.
- Take all reasonable measures to ensure risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised.
- Take all appropriate actions to address concerns about the welfare of a child, working to local policies and procedures in full working partnership with agencies.
- Ensure robust child protection arrangements are in place and embedded in the daily life and practice of our schools.
- Promote pupil health and safety.
- Promote safe practice and challenge unsafe practice.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to deal with allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff including volunteers (DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019, page 53-64 and the SCB Local Inter-agency Procedures

- Provide first aid and meet the health needs of children with medical conditions.
- Ensure site security in our schools.
- Address drugs and substance misuse issues. Support and plan for young people in custody and their resettlement back into the community
- Work with all agencies with regard to missing children, anti-social behaviour/gang activity and violence in the community/knife crime and children at risk of sexual exploitation
- Recognise that everyone has a duty to safeguard children inside/outside the school environment including school trips, activities and vocational placements.
- Take into account contextual safeguarding and consider the context within which incidents and/or behaviours occur.

We will follow the procedures set out by the Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners and take account of guidance issued by the DfE (Department for Education) in Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2019 to:

- Ensure we have a designated safeguarding lead and a deputy safeguarding lead in each school for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection in each school.
- Ensure that we have a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children in each school.
- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and governing bodies know the name of their designated safeguarding lead (and their deputy) responsible for child protection and their role.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or to Children's Social Care/Police if a child is in immediate danger.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers are aware of the early help process and understand their role in it.
- Ensure that there is a whistleblowing policy and culture where staff can raise concerns about unsafe practice and that these concerns will be taken seriously.
- Ensure that there is a complaints system in place for children and families
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on their school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus.
- Notify Children's Social Care if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and cooperate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters, including attendance at child protection conferences.
- Keep written/electronic records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately; documenting and collating information on individual children to support early identification, referral and actions to safeguard.
- Ensure all written/electronic records are kept securely; separate from the main pupil file and in locked locations.
- Ensure that we follow robust processes to respond when children are missing from education or missing from home or care.
- Ensure that where reasonably possible the school holds more than one emergency contact number for each pupil.
- Where a pupil is placed with an alternative provision provider the school continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of the pupil and will ensure that written confirmation is obtained that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at the establishment.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- Apply confidentiality appropriately.
- Apply the escalation policy if there is any concern about the actions or inaction of social care staff or staff from other agencies.

Supporting children

We recognise that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. A school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school, their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. We also recognise that there are children who are more vulnerable than others, which includes children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Our schools will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- A school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- A school behaviour policy, which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in school. Schools in the Trust will ensure that their pupil know that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as Children's Social Care (in line with Local Authority guidance) and Educational Psychology Service.
- Ensuring that, where a pupil leaves and is subject to a child protection plan or where there have been wider safeguarding concerns, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.
- Ensuring that the vulnerability of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities is recognised

Roles and responsibilities**Everyone**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone in our schools who come into contact with children and their families have a role to play in safeguarding children. All staff in our schools consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of children.

All staff within our schools are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help to children to prevent concerns from escalating. All staff contribute to providing a safe environment in which children can learn.

All our staff are aware of the early help process and understand their role in this, this includes being able to identify emerging problems to recognise children who may benefit from early help. Staff know in the first instance to discuss their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and understand they may be required to support other agencies and professionals in assessments for early help.

All our staff are aware of systems within The Trust, and are explained to them as part of their staff induction, which includes our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, the employee Code of Conduct, Pupil Behaviour Policy and the role and names of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies and Keeping Children Safe in Education Part One. School leaders and staff who work directly with children must also read annex A of keeping Children Safe in Education 2019.

All our staff receive safeguarding and child protection training which is updated every three years. In addition to this training, all staff members receive child protection and safeguarding updates when required, but at least annually.

All our staff are aware of the process for making referrals to Children's Social Care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 and understand the role they may have in these assessments.

All our staff know what to do if a child is raising concerns, disclosures of abuse and neglect. Staff will maintain a level of confidentiality whilst liaising with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Children's Social Care. Our staff will never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a disclosure or allegation, recognising this may not be in the best interest of the child.

Teachers (including NQTs and Head teachers) – Professional Duty

The Teachers' Standards 2012 remind us that teachers, newly qualified teachers and head teachers should safeguard children and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of our professional duties.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead in all our schools who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding children and child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role. This designated safeguarding lead is a senior member of the school leadership team and their responsibilities are explicit in their job description.

We also have at least one deputy safeguarding lead in all our schools, who will provide cover for the designated safeguarding lead when they are not available. Our deputy safeguarding leads have received the same training as our designated safeguarding lead. They will provide additional support to ensure responsibilities for child protection and safeguarding children are fully embedded within their school's ethos, and that specific duties are discharged. They will assist the Designated Safeguarding Lead in managing referrals, attending Child Protection conferences and supporting the child/children.

We acknowledge the need for effective and appropriate communication between all members of staff in relation to safeguarding pupils. Each Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure there is a structured procedure within their school, which will be followed by all of the members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is expected to:

Manage Referrals

- Refer cases of suspected abuse or allegations to the relevant investigating agencies.
- Support staff who make referrals to children's social care and other referral pathways

Work with others

- Liaise with the Principal/Head Teacher to inform him/her of any issues and ongoing investigations.
- Liaise with staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and deciding when to make a referral by liaising with other agencies. Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for other staff
- Take part in strategy discussions or attend inter-agency meetings and/or support other staff to do so and to contribute to the assessment of children.
- Liaise with the local authority and other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

Undertake training

- Formal designated safeguarding lead training will be undertaken every two years. Informal training and updating of knowledge and skills will be at regular intervals, undertaken at least annually. The designated safeguarding lead is responsible for their own training and should obtain access to resources or any relevant refresher training.
- The training undertaken should enable the designated safeguarding lead to:
 - understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention through the Local Authority mechanisms.
 - Have a working knowledge of how the Local Authority's Safeguarding Partners operates, the conduct of a child protection conference, and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
 - Ensure that each member of staff has access to the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and procedures
 - Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, including those with special educational needs and or disabilities and young carers
 - Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals.
 - Understand the Prevent Duty and provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
 - Encourage a culture of protecting children; listening to children and their wishes and feelings.

Raise awareness

- Ensure that the child protection policies are known, understood and used appropriately
- Ensure that the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is reviewed annually, procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly and work with the Trust regarding this
- Work strategically to ensure policies and procedures are up-to-date and drive and support development work within our schools.
- Ensure that the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is available to parents and carers and make parents/carers aware that referrals may be made about suspected abuse or neglect
- Liaise with the Local Authority Safeguarding Partners and ensure all staff receive induction training covering child protection and are able to recognise and report any concerns immediately as they arise.

Child protection file

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring that where children leave their school or college, the child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt is obtained. The child protection file will be transferred separately from the main pupil file. The Designated Safeguarding Lead of the transferring school will also consider whether it would be appropriate to share information with a new school in advance of a pupil leaving.

Availability

- During term time the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a deputy) are always available (during school hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Appropriate arrangements are put in place for out of school hours activities.

Training

The CEO will ensure that:

- The policies and procedures adopted by the Trust are fully implemented and followed by all staff.

The Principal/Head Teacher of each school will ensure that:

- The policies and procedures devolved to their local governing body are fully implemented and followed by all staff.
- Liaise with the case manager and the Local Authority Designated Officer where there are concerns about a staff member
- Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child and the DBS as required
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the senior designated person and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of children.
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice with regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with the agreed Whistleblowing policy. Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer, or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels may be open to them including the NSPCC helpline 0800 028 0285 (8AM – 8PM) Monday – Friday and email help@nspcc.org.uk .
- The Principal/Head Teacher will ensure all staff have access to and read the whole school Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, the Employee Code of Conduct, the Pupil Behaviour Policy, Contact between Staff and Pupils outside the usual work context policy and the DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance 2019, Part 1, as a minimum and are aware of the role and names of the Designated Safeguarding leads and their deputies.
- The Principal/Head Teacher will ensure there are mechanisms in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019

Trustees

Trustees are collectively responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are fully embedded within the ethos of all our schools and reflected in each school's day-to-day safeguarding practices by:

- Ensuring there is an individual member of a local governing body to take leadership responsibility for safeguarding and champion child protection issues within their school.
- Ensuring each school has effective policies and procedures in line with statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018) as well as with local Safeguarding Partners guidance and the means to monitor their school's compliance with them.
- Ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place for *appropriate* action to be taken in a *timely* manner to promote a child's welfare
- Recognising the importance of information sharing between agencies. Ensuring cooperation with the local authority and other safeguarding partners.
- Appointing a designated safeguarding lead from the leadership team to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection and a designated teacher for looked after children, who is appropriately trained.
- Ensuring that all staff read at least part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 and ensure that there are mechanisms in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in part one.
- Ensuring that the local governing body is collectively responsible for their school's safeguarding arrangements. All members of a local governing body will undertake training about child protection to ensure they have the knowledge and information needed to perform their functions and understand their responsibilities.
- Ensuring there is a training strategy in place for all staff, including the Principal/Head Teacher, so that child protection training is undertaken with refresher training at three yearly intervals. The designated safeguarding lead should receive refresher training at two yearly intervals.
- Ensuring that staff undergo safeguarding child protection training at induction and there are arrangements in place for staff to be regularly updated to ensure that safeguarding remains a priority.
- Ensuring that temporary staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of that school's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities.
- Ensuring that there are procedures in place to manage allegations against staff. Exercising their disciplinary functions in respect of allegations against a member of staff or as a consequence of dealing with a complaint.
- Ensuring a response if there is an allegation against the Principal/Head Teacher by liaising with the LADO (Local authority designated officer) or other appropriate officers within their local authority. This would be the responsibility of the Chair of Governors or, in the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair
- Ensuring appropriate responses to children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse, including child sexual exploitation and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.
- Ensuring that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children online.
- Ensuring that children learn about safeguarding online through teaching and learning opportunities.
- Ensuring that peer on peer abuse is included in the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, sexting and a school's response is included and different gender issues that are prevalent in peer on peer abuse.
- Giving staff the opportunities to contribute and shape safeguarding arrangements and policy.
- Prevent people who pose a risk of harm from working with children by adhering to statutory responsibilities to check staff who work with children, making decisions about additional checks and ensuring volunteers are supervised, as required.
- Ensuring at least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training.
- Recognising that certain children are more vulnerable than others such as looked after children and children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Looked After Children – the role of the Designated teacher and the Designated Safeguarding Lead

- A teacher is appointed who has responsibility for promoting the education achievement of children who are looked after. They have the appropriate training. The designated teacher will work with the Virtual School Head to ensure that the progress of the child is supported.
- In line with the Children and Social Work Act 2017 designated teachers also have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will also have details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual head. The designated safeguarding lead will work closely with the designated teacher as we recognise that children may have been abused or neglected before becoming looked after and we need to ensure their ongoing safety as well as supporting their education and development by linking with the designated safeguarding lead, their social worker and parents where appropriate.

Identifying concerns

All members of staff, volunteers and the designated governor for child protection will know how to identify pupils who may be being harmed and then how to respond to a pupil who discloses abuse, or where others raise concerns about them. Our staff will be familiar with procedures to be followed.

Staff understand that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events covered by one definition and that in most cases multiple issues will overlap with each other.

Staff who regularly come into contact with children are aware of the DfE guidance [What to do if you're Worried a Child is Being Abused](#)

Some of the following signs might be indicators of abuse or neglect:

- Children whose behaviour changes – they may become aggressive, challenging, disruptive, withdrawn or clingy, or they might have difficulty sleeping or start wetting the bed;
- Children with clothes which are ill-fitting and/or dirty;
- Children with consistently poor hygiene;
- Children who make strong efforts to avoid specific family members or friends, without an obvious reason;
- Children who don't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities;
- Children who are having problems at school, for example, a sudden lack of concentration and learning or they appear to be tired and hungry;
- Children who talk about being left home alone, with inappropriate carers or with strangers;
- Children who reach developmental milestones, such as learning to speak or walk, late, with no medical reason;
- Children who are regularly missing from school or education;
- Children who are reluctant to go home after school;
- Children with poor school attendance and punctuality, or who are consistently late being picked up;
- Parents who are dismissive and non-responsive to practitioners' concerns;
- Parents who collect their children from school when drunk, or under the influence of drugs;
- Children who drink alcohol regularly from an early age;
- Children who are concerned for younger siblings without explaining why;
- Children who talk about running away; and
- Children who shy away from being touched or flinch at sudden movements.

The four categories of child abuse are as follows:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse, and
4. Neglect

Physical Abuse - a form of abuse that 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.

May be recognised by: Children with frequent injuries, injury such as bruising, bite marks, burns and scalds, fractures but also by aggressive behaviour. It may also be an indicator of concern where a parent gives an explanation inconsistent with the injury or gives several different explanations for the injury.

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 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.

May be recognised by: Developmental delay, attachment issues, aggressive behaviour, appeasing behaviour, watchfulness or stillness, low self-esteem, withdrawn or a loner, or having difficulty in forming relationships. Emotional abuse may be difficult to recognise as signs are usually behavioural rather than physical. Signs of emotional abuse may be associated or similar to other forms of abuse so presence of emotional abuse may indicate other abuse is prevalent as well.

Sexual Abuse - involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

May be recognised by: Inappropriate sexualised conduct, age inappropriate sexualised play or conversation, sexually harmful behaviour – contact or non-contact, self-harm, eating disorders, continual, inappropriate or excessive masturbation, anxiousness or unwillingness to remove clothes – sports / PE etc, pain or itching in genital area, blood on underclothes, bruising in genital region and / or inner thighs etc.

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.

May be recognised by: Being constantly hungry; constantly tired; have a poor state of clothing; be emaciated; have untreated medical problems; be frequently late or have poor or non-attendance at school; have low self-esteem; display neurotic behaviour and/or have poor social relationships, have poor personal hygiene. A neglected child may also be apathetic, fail to thrive or be left with or in the care of adults under the influence of alcohol or drug misuse.

Children with Special Educational Needs - we recognise that children with special educational needs (SEN) and or disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. Children with SEN and/or disabilities are especially vulnerable when identifying concerns due to their impaired capacity to resist or avoid abuse. They may have speech, language and communication needs, which may make it difficult to tell others what is happening.

This policy reflects the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children which include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying- without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

Serious violence

All staff should be aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved in 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.

All staff should be aware of the associated risks and understand the measures in place to manage these. Further advice for schools can be found in the Home Office's 'Preventing youth violence and gang involvement' and 'Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines' guidance.

Taking action where concerns are identified

Our staff recognise the difference between concerns about a child and a child in immediate danger. If staff have concerns about a child, they will need to decide what action to take. Where possible, a discussion will take place with the designated safeguarding lead to agree a course of action.

Where there are concerns about children displaying sexually harmful behaviour reference will be made to the Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool at <https://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool>, in order to determine whether a behaviour might be normal in terms of a child's development. The school will evidence in the pupil file when the tool has been used and the conclusions drawn. This assessment will be kept under review. If after using these resources a concern remains or support is required to reach a judgement on further action MASH will be contacted.

If a child is in immediate danger or risk of harm a referral will be made immediately to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (or equivalent) and/or the Police immediately. In this case, a referral will be made by the member of staff if required, with the designated safeguarding lead being informed of the referral.

Our staff recognise that children are vulnerable to abuse by their peers. Such abuse will be taken seriously by staff and will not be dismissed.

If a child chooses to tell a member of staff about alleged abuse, there are a number of actions that staff will undertake to support the child:

- The key facts will be established in language that the child understands and the child's words will be used in clarifying/expanding what has been said.
- No promises will be made to the child, e.g. to keep secrets.
- Staff will stay calm and be available to listen.
- Staff will actively listen with the utmost care to what the child is saying.
- Where questions are asked, this should be done without pressurising and only using open questions.
 - Leading questions should be avoided as much as possible.
 - Questioning should not be extensive or repetitive.
- Staff will not put words in the child's mouth but subsequently note the main points carefully.

- A full written record will be kept by the staff duly signed and dated, including the time the conversation with the child took place, outline what was said, comment on the child's body language, etc.
- It is not appropriate for staff to make children write statements about abuse that may have happened to them or get them to sign the staff record.
- Staff will reassure the child and let them know that they were right to inform them and inform the child that this information will now have to be passed on.
- The designated safeguarding lead will be informed immediately unless the disclosure has been made to them.
- Information should be shared with Children's Social Care without delay, either to the child's own social worker or to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) or equivalent. Children's Social Care will liaise with the police where required which will ensure an appropriate police officer response rather than a uniformed response.
- The Police would only therefore be contacted direct in an emergency.
Staff will never attempt to carry out an investigation of suspected abuse by interviewing the child or any others involved. The only people who should investigate child abuse and harm are Social Care, Police or the NSPCC.

Appendix 3

Confidentiality

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential; however, a member of staff must never guarantee confidentiality to children; children will not be given promises that any information about an allegation will not be shared.

Where there is a child protection concern it will be passed immediately to the designated safeguarding lead. When a child is in immediate danger Children's Social Care/Police will be contacted.

The head teacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead will disclose personal information about a pupil to other members of staff, including the level of involvement of other agencies, only on a 'need to know' basis.

All staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children

Schools will ensure relevant staff have due regard to the data protection principles, which allow them to share personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR. Relevant staff will also be confident of the processing conditions under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR which allows them to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information which is sensitive and personal, and should be treated as 'special category personal data'.

Schools should not under the GDPR as supplemented by the Data Protection Act 2018 provide pupils' education data where the serious harm test under that legislation is met. Therefore, in a situation where a child is in a refuge, this could mean that schools can withhold data under the GDPR; they should do so where the serious harm test is satisfied.

Protocol for visitors to school

Responsibilities

The Principal/Head Teacher and Chair of Governors are responsible for implementing this guidance and managing visitors to their school. All staff have a responsibility to ensure that visitors to their school are properly welcomed and managed safely within school.

All staff will be made aware of this guidance and that it applies to all visitors equally, including VIPs.

Types of visitor

There are a number of different types of legitimate visitors to a school.

- Visitors who attend the school in connection with children and who have a professional role i.e. social workers, educational psychologist, SEND officers, targeted support workers or health related professionals.
- Visitors attending to work with children in roles such as peripatetic tutors, sports coaches
- Visitors who attend the school in connection with the building, grounds or equipment i.e. builders, contractors, maintenance staff or IT workers
- VIPs – Very Important People
- Other legitimate visitors i.e. parents, school governors, Trustees

Visits should be planned to ensure they run smoothly, taking into account the need to safeguard both children, the reputation of the school and the visitor. Where appropriate, risk assessments should be undertaken.

Procedures for ALL visitors

- Wherever possible, visits to schools should be pre-arranged
- All visitors must report to reception first and not enter a school via any other entrance
- At reception, all visitors should explain the purpose of their visit and who has invited them.
- All Local Authority staff should show their photo ID card.
- All visitors will be asked to sign the visitors' record book. If the visitor is part of a large group of visitors a separate register may be utilised
- A visitor's badge should be worn and displayed prominently.
- Visitors should wait in the reception area until they are met by an appropriate member of staff to be escorted to their destination.
- All visitors should be accompanied by a member of staff. Visitors should not be alone with pupils/children unless this is a legitimate part of their role for example a social worker seeing a child and the relevant school has assured itself that the visitor has had the appropriate DBS check (or the visitor's employers have confirmed that their staff have appropriate checks).
- On departing the school, visitors should leave via reception, sign out of the building, return their visitor badge and be seen to leave the premises. School reception staff should check the 'in – out' records regularly to monitor compliance with these procedures.
- All EMET staff, including Trustees, who are wearing their EMET photo ID are not required to wear a visitor's badge nor sign in, unless this is required for a school's fire procedures.

Special categories of visitor

VIPs

A VIP is usually an external visitor of importance or influence who commands special treatment.

- Royalty and Royal Representatives
- Government (Members of Parliament, including government ministers and politicians)
- Diplomats and Senior Public Servants
- Chairpersons/ Chief Executives Officers of major companies and organisations
- Senior Officers from Charitable Trusts
- Religious leaders
- Civic and local community leaders
- Notable academics, Olympians, Authors, high profile prize winners and those with celebrity status in particular fields such as sport, music, the arts, media including celebrities and who are likely to inspire others.

Important considerations for VIP visits

An invitation to a VIP should be made in advance with sufficient time to enable appropriate planning for a safe and successful visit, recognising how the visit will be hosted and importantly who will be escorting and supervising the visitor at all times.

In general terms VIPs should be treated in a very similar way to any other visitor but a degree of common sense should prevail. Members of their entourage must follow normal procedures.

All VIPs and any entourage should be accompanied at all times by a member of staff.

Local Authority, Trustees and EMET Staff

Local Authority, Trustees and EMET staff who visit schools and who have unsupervised contact with children will have had an appropriate DBS check conducted by their employing service. Schools will of course, need to see identification from visitors to confirm that they do indeed work for the Local Authority or EMET. All Local Authority and EMET staff visiting schools carry photo identification.

Staff from other MAT schools

A member of staff from a MAT school wearing an EMET badge and lanyard has access to a school without signing in unless this is required for a school's fire procedures.

Staff from other agencies

The same requirement as above applies. If a school has 'written notification' from an agency that their staff have a DBS 'Enhanced with barred list information' check, then it is not necessary for the visitor to produce individual evidence of their DBS check before being granted unsupervised contact with children.

Candidates for interview

For those candidates currently working in a school, a small amount of time to see the school unescorted by a member of staff is appropriate. Candidates who do not fall into this category must be escorted by a member of staff.

Contractors

The statutory guidance says:

“Schools and colleges should ensure that any contractor, or any employee of the contractor, who is to work at the school or college has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check. Contractors engaging in regulated activity will require an enhanced DBS certificate (including barred list information). For all other contractors who are not engaging in regulated activity, but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children, an enhanced DBS check (not including barred list information) will be required. In considering whether the contact is regular, it is irrelevant whether the contractor works on a single site or across a number of sites.

Under no circumstances should a contractor in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be allowed to work unsupervised, or engage in regulated activity. Schools and colleges are responsible for determining the appropriate level of supervision depending on the circumstances.

If a contractor working at a school or college is self-employed, the school or college should consider obtaining the DBS check, as self-employed people are not able to make an application directly to the DBS on their own account.

Schools and colleges should always check the identity of contractors and their staff on arrival at the school or college”. (*Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2019*)

For building or maintenance contractors schools should establish a formal agreement regarding access to specific areas of the building. For many building projects physical separation – fencing off the work areas will provide additional safeguards. Any DBS checks required should be completed before the contractor begins work in school.

Trainee teachers

The statutory guidance says:

“Where applicants for initial teacher training are salaried by the school or college, the school or college must ensure that all necessary checks are carried out. As trainee teachers are likely to be engaging in regulated activity, an enhanced DBS certificate (including barred list information) must be obtained. Where trainee teachers are fee-funded it is the responsibility of the initial teacher training provider to carry out the necessary checks, schools should obtain written confirmation from the training provider that these checks have been carried out and that the trainee has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children. There is no requirement for the school to record details of fee-funded trainees on the single central record”. (*Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2019*)

As with other visitors who have been checked by an external organisation, the school should have ‘written notification’ that appropriate checks have been made.

If tutors of trainee teachers do not have unsupervised contact with children, they will not require a DBS check. If they do have such contact, then it will be the responsibility of their institution to undertake the check and inform the school that appropriate checks have been made.

Governors

Governors should follow the same procedures as other visitors when coming into school. If they are to have unsupervised contact with children, they will require the appropriate DBS checks.

Parents and relatives

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) says that schools do not have the power to request DBS checks and barred list checks, or ask to see DBS certificates, for visitors such as children's relatives or other visitors attending, for example, a sports day. In these circumstances, staff will use their professional judgment about the need to escort or supervise visitors.

Ofsted

Ofsted provide each local authority with written confirmation that all Ofsted staff who visit schools have been through a DBS 'Enhanced with barred list information' check. They also confirm that all approved additional inspectors have also been through a DBS 'Enhanced with barred list information' check. Ofsted provide a list of all approved additional inspectors at:

<https://www.gov.uk/search?q=additional+inspectors>

Our schools will regard this note as constituting 'written notification' that Ofsted staff have been subject to relevant checks, as local authorities hold 'written notification' from Ofsted.

Raising awareness of visitor safety with children

Pupils should be reminded on a regular basis and especially prior to any VIP or celebrity visits that they should remain with a staff member and not wander off/ leave to an area which unsupervised by a member of staff. They should also be reminded of any other relevant actions identified by a risk assessment relating to the visit.

Concerns related to a visitor

Pupils, staff and parents should be made aware of who they should report concerns to or go to for help and advice if they have concerns about a visitor. This would be any teacher in the first instance, who should then report the concerns to the designated person for safeguarding.

Any issues regarding the suitability of visitors to a school will be noted by the designated person for safeguarding and promptly brought to the attention of the Principal/Head Teacher. If the behaviour of a visitor causes safeguarding concerns, the designated person for safeguarding will contact their Local Authority Safeguarding Partner for advice.

Unknown, uninvited or malicious visitors to the school

Any visitor to a school site who is not wearing an identity badge should be challenged politely by staff and escorted to reception to sign the visitor's book and be issued with an identity badge. Failure to comply should result in them being asked to leave the site and the Principal/Head Teacher or other senior person informed. In extreme circumstances or if the person refuses to leave, the police could be called and the school's appropriate emergency plan invoked.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Schools will regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy and its effectiveness. The responsibility for this will lie with the Designated Person for Safeguarding

Prevent Strategy

The Prevent Duty is the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Definitions (Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019)

Extremism – is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

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

The Trust deplores terrorism of every kind and of any radical ideology. We will do anything we can to protect our pupils from the threat of terrorism and we will not tolerate extremism in our schools. As is our responsibility under law, we will do our utmost to safeguard our pupils from being drawn into extremism and terrorism.

We support and adhere to the latest guidance from the Department for Education which requires schools to actively promote fundamental British Values and to ensure that pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

Risk Assessment

The statutory guidance makes clear that schools are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

We appreciate that schools are in an important position to identify risks within a given local context and that it is important that schools understand these risks so that they can respond in an appropriate and proportionate way. In exercising our specific duty under Prevent we seek to protect children and young people from being drawn into, and against, the messages of all violent extremism. This includes and is not restricted to Daesh, AQ, Far Right, Neo Nazi, White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups and extremist Animal Rights risk.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing 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. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views. School staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately. The Prevent duty does not require teachers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.

Furthermore, the Trust is aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age, which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language. As part of whole schools' e-safety programmes, we highlight the potential risks pupils may face in relation to on-line radicalisation and encourage students to report any concerns they may have for themselves or other students.

Working in Partnership

When it is appropriate, a school will make a referral to the Channel programme. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. Contact will be made with parents/carers.

Staff Training

In addition to whole school training on safeguarding, which will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications, each school works closely with the Prevent team and provides additional WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training to staff.

Building children's resilience to radicalisation

Our schools can build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making. Schools are already expected to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and, within this, fundamental British values.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), or our schools' alternative programme, is an effective way of providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. This subject is used in our schools to teach pupils to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. They can also develop effective ways of resisting pressures, including knowing when, where and how to get help. Each school encourages pupils to develop positive character traits through PSHE, such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence.

Citizenship helps to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. It should equip pupils to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, to debate, and to make reasoned arguments. In Citizenship, pupils learn about democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld. Pupils learn about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

The Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, a school is able to offer a safe space in which children can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

Promoting Fundamental British Values

Each school should promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. This can help schools to demonstrate how they are meeting the requirements of section 78 of the Education Act 2002, in their provision of SMSC. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values.

Through the provision of SMSC our schools will:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of a school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people; and
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Our schools recognise that children are vulnerable to and capable of abusing their peers. We take such abuse as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult. Peer on peer abuse will not be tolerated or passed off as part of “banter” or “growing up”

In cases where peer on peer abuse is identified we will follow our child protection procedures, recognising that both the victim and perpetrator will require support.

We recognise that peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to

- Child Sexual Exploitation Appendix 8
- Bullying (including cyberbullying)
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- Sexual violence such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- Sexual harassment such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- Upskirting, which is a criminal offence and typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm
- Sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery)
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (Appendix 7)
- Radicalisation
- Abuse in intimate relationships
- Children who display sexually harmful behaviour
- Gang association and serious violence
- Technology can be used for bullying and other abusive behaviour

There are a number of factors, which make children more vulnerable to peer on peer abuse: experience of abuse within their family; living with domestic violence young people in care; children who go missing; children with additional needs (SEN and/or disabilities).

Research tells us girls are more frequently identified as being abused by their peers, girls are more likely to experience unwanted sexual touching in schools. Boys are less likely to report intimate relationship abuse. Boys report high levels of victimisation in areas where they are affected by gangs. There is an increasing evidence base emerging on the sexual exploitation of boys (both by adults and peers) and LGBTQ young people. We recognise that both boys and girls experience peer on peer abuse but they do so in gendered ways.

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (Sexting)

Introduction

Each school recognises that 'sexting' is a growing concern amongst professionals and parents as it can expose children to risks, particularly if the imagery is shared further. It can lead to embarrassment, bullying and increased vulnerability to sexual exploitation. Producing and sharing images of under 18's is also illegal.

There is no clear definition of what is 'sexting' and indeed many professionals, young people and parents have different interpretations ranging from sending flirty messages to sending nude or semi-nude photographs via mobiles or over the internet.

This guidance is based on the UKCCIS Sexting in Schools and Colleges guidance 2016. The full guidance is located at [UKCCIS 2016 Guidance](#). This guidance covers:

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

It does not cover:

- The sharing of sexual imagery of people under 18 by adults as this constitutes child sexual abuse and schools should always inform the police and CSC.
- Young people under the age of 18 sharing adult pornography or exchanging sexual texts which don't contain imagery.

The term youth produced sexual imagery has been adopted to provide some clarity and to distinguish it from imagery where there are adults involved in some manner. The purpose of this guidance is to make expectations clear to pupils and their parents and carers as well as to be clear to staff about each school's policy and procedure in responding to incidents.

This policy forms part of our schools' safeguarding arrangements and our response to concerns about 'sexting' will be guided by the principle of proportionality and our primary concern at all times is the welfare and protection of the children and young people involved.

The Trust recognise that it is an offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to possess, distribute, show and make indecent images of children (a child being under 18 years) but it does not define what is indecent.

However, the police accept that the law, which criminalised indecent images of children, was created before the technological advances of today and it originally sought to protect children from adults. It was not intended to criminalise children. Despite this, children who share sexual imagery of themselves or peers are breaking the law and therefore we will seek to manage this type of case appropriately.

All professionals including the National Police Chiefs Council agree that incidents involving youth produced imagery should primarily be treated as a safeguarding issue. It is agreed that we should not unnecessarily criminalise children, as the consequence of this can be significant in terms of their life chances in adulthood. Where children do share images it is often as a result of natural curiosity and exploring relationships and in the context of the digital world we live in.

Our schools are therefore empowered to deal with the majority of these incidents without involving the police.

Handling Incidents

A school may become aware of the issue in a variety of ways i.e. from the child direct, a friend of parent or a member of staff.

We recognise that the child is likely to be very embarrassed and worried about what might happen. We also recognise the pressure that is on a child can be under to take part in sharing such imagery but we will reassure them they are not on their own and will help and support them. We will also help them to understand what has happened and the context for the concerns. We will also discuss issues of consent and trust within healthy relationships.

All incidents will be investigated in line with our safeguarding and child protection policy. Where an incident comes to our attention:

- The incident will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.
- An initial meeting with the appropriate school staff will be held to:
 - Establish if there is immediate risk & what further information is needed, whether or not the imagery has been shared
 - Consider facts about the children involved, which could influence a risk assessment. Further guidance and questions to consider is in Annexe A, page 31 [UKCCIS Sexting in Schools Guidance 2016](#)
- A meeting with the young person will be held (if appropriate)
- Parents will generally be informed at an early stage

An immediate referral to Children's Social Care and/or the Police should be made if at the initial stage:

- The incident involves an adult
- The child has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed or if there are concerns about capacity to consent
- If the sexual acts are unusual for the developmental age or violent
- Children under 13 years are involved
- The child is at immediate risk e.g. suicidal or self-harming

Where the above do not apply then a school will generally deal with a matter without involving the Police or Children's Social Care although this will be subject to review.

This decision is made where we are confident that we have sufficient information to assess and manage any risks within our schools' pastoral support and disciplinary framework. The decision will be made by the Designated Safeguarding Lead with the input of the Principal/Head Teacher and others as appropriate and will be recording.

Examples of cases where there is no need to involve the Police are:

- If a young person has shared imagery consensually, such as when in a romantic relationship, or as a joke, and there is no intended malice, it is usually appropriate for a school to manage the incident directly.
- In contrast any incidents with aggravating factors, for example, a young person sharing someone else's imagery without consent and with malicious intent, should generally be referred to Police and/or Children's Social Care.

The following information will be considering when deciding on a course of action:

- Why was the imagery shared? Was the young person coerced or put under pressure to produce the imagery?
- Who has shared the imagery? Where has the imagery been shared? Was it shared and received with the knowledge of the pupil in the imagery?
- Are there any adults involved in the sharing of the imagery?
- What is the impact on the young people involved?
- Do the young people involved have additional vulnerabilities?
- Does the young person understand consent?

- Has the young person taken part in this kind of activity before?

Professional judgement will always be applied.

Images will not generally be viewed by staff, unless there is a clear reason for doing so, and reporting of the content is usually sufficient

- We will NOT copy, print or share the image as this is illegal
- If viewing is done, it will be with another member of safeguarding staff or senior leadership

Once a decision has been made not to involve the Police or Children's Social Care then images may be deleted but we will be clear that this is appropriate action.

Where it is necessary to involve the Police and it is appropriate we are authorised to seize any device (Education Act 2011) and pass it the Police

Children's Social Care will be involved where are concerns which meet the threshold or if we know they are already involved with a child.

Educating Young People

Our schools need to teach children in an age appropriate way about youth produced imagery to prevent harm by providing them with the skills, attributes and knowledge to help them navigate risks.

This approach to tackling sensitive issues promotes a whole school approach to safeguarding giving children the space to explore key issues and the confidence to seek the support of adults should they encounter problems.

This issue will be taught as part of a wider PSHE and RSE programme and though IT curriculum work to underpin a specific message such as 'sexting'.

The work that we do therefore will include issues, at an age-appropriate level such as:

- communication
- understanding healthy relationships including trust
- understanding and respecting the concept of genuine consent
- understanding our rights (especially our collective right to *be safe* and to *feel safe*)
- recognising abusive and coercive language and behaviours
- accepting our responsibilities (especially our responsibility to respect others trust and protect their right to be physically, emotionally and reputationally safe)

Helplines and reporting

- Children can talk to a ChildLine counsellor 24 hours a day about anything that is worrying them by ringing 0800 11 11 or in an online chat at <http://www.childline.org.uk/Talk/Chat/Pages/OnlineChat.aspx>.
- If parents or carers are concerned that their child is being contacted by adults as a result of having sharing sexual imagery they should report to NCA-CEOP at www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre
- ChildLine and the Internet Watch Foundation have partnered to help children get sexual or naked images removed from the internet. Young person can get their photo removed by talking to a ChildLine counsellor. More information is available at <http://www.childline.org.uk/explore/onlinesafety/pages/sexting.aspx>
- If parents and carers are concerned about their child, they can contact the NSPCC Helpline by ringing 0808 800 5000, by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk, or by texting 88858. They can also ring the Online Safety Helpline by ringing 0808 800 5002.

Advice and information for parents

- The NSPCC has information and advice about sexting available on its website: [NSPCC Sexting](#)
- The National Crime Agency/CEOP has produced a film resource for parents and carers to help them prevent their children coming to harm through sharing sexual imagery: [THINKUKNOW Nude-selfies-a-parents-guide](#)
- Childnet have information and advice about sexting available on its website: <http://www.childnet.com/young-people/secondary/hot-topics/sexting>
- <https://www.childnet.com/young-people/primary/get-answers>
- Parent Info (<http://parentinfo.org/>) provides information and advice to parents from expert organisations on topics ranging from sex and relationships, mental health and online safety including sexting.
- The NSPCC provides information on how to talk to children about keeping themselves safe
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>
- Internetmatters.org has a range of resources to help talk to primary children about a range of topics including information on sharing information and pictures online..
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/primary/parent-support/>

Resources parents could highlight to their children

- Childline have created Zip-It, an app that provides witty comebacks in order to help young person say no to requests for naked images [Childline Zipit Ap](#)
- There is information on the Childline website for young people about sexting: [Childline information for young people](#)
- The Safer Internet Centre has produced resources called '[Childnet So you got naked online](#)' which help young people to handle incidents of sexting

The NSPCC adults helpline: 0808 800 5002 The NSPCC has partnered with O2 to offer direct support to parents and other adults on issues relating to online safety.

Childline: www.childline.org.uk Childline offers direct support to children and young people including issues relating to the sharing of sexual imagery.

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline (POSH): <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/about/helpline> Tel: 0844 381 4772. This helpline supports professionals with an online safety concern or an online safety concern for children in their care. Professionals are able to contact the helpline to resolve issues.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Policy

The Trust adheres to local authorities Safeguarding Children Board procedures in relation to child sexual exploitation. This is our policy to summarise our position.

We recognise that child sexual exploitation is a high profile issue both nationally and locally.

The definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:

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

Child Sexual Exploitation DfE Feb 2017

Each school recognises that child sexual exploitation can cause a great deal of harm to a child, including physically, emotionally, educationally and socially. Where it exists, it can also cause harm to communities including schools.

Child sexual exploitation can happen in a number of ways to both boys and girls, for example, it can happen in the virtual world through various social media and this can still cause significant harm. It can happen through inappropriate relationships such as older boy/girlfriends or through parties, gangs or organised abuse. Some children will be particularly vulnerable to exploitation, for example, if they have had a chaotic upbringing or if they are in care or go missing, involved in gangs or bullying. We recognise however that any child can become a target for exploitation, particularly where the internet and social media are involved. This is because normal life events that go with being a child or teenager in today's age can be a challenge and make them susceptible to grooming and exploitation.

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

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

As a Trust, we recognise that prevention is the best position with regard to CSE. We seek to support children to develop confidence and build resilience. We will endeavour to support their age appropriate knowledge and raise awareness and understanding of what CSE is, to understand the risks of CSE and to spot the warning signs for themselves and also their friends and peers and by doing so keep safe.

If prevention is not possible, we aim to identify children who are at risk of, or being, exploited very early. Early intervention is key to effectively working with the child to prevent or reduce the level of risk. Once they have been groomed, some children will find it difficult to withdraw from their abusers and we need to contribute to helping to protect them. Some children feel that they are in a relationship with these people. We commit to working with our inter-agency partners to safeguard and protect children.

Much of this work will be through our programmes of personal, social and health education (PSHE) (or school equivalent) or through our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) work.

An important part of educating our children is focussing on what is a healthy relationship and issues of consent. This will also target potential abusers at an early age with the intention of helping to shape their attitudes to others.

We want to have a culture where the welfare of children is actively promoted and staff and pupils are vigilant. As part of this, children will feel listened to and safe.

Female Genital Mutilation

We recognise that Female Genital Mutilation is a safeguarding issue; it is child abuse and a form of violence against girls. Our schools follow procedures laid down by their local authority Safeguarding Children Board.

A new duty for teachers to report 'known' cases of Female Genital Mutilation FGM was introduced on the 31st October 2015. If a teacher discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18 the teacher must personally report this to the police.

FGM is a procedure that includes the partial or total removal of the external female genital organs for 'cultural' or other non-therapeutic reasons.

It is illegal in the UK to subject a child to female genital mutilation (FGM) or to take a child abroad to undergo the procedure – Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

School staff should be alert to the following indicators:

- The family comes from a community known to practise FGM or is less integrated within the community.
- A child may talk about a long holiday to a country where the practice is prevalent.
- A child may confide that she is to have a 'special procedure' or to attend a special occasion.
- A child may request help, directly or indirectly, from a teacher or another adult.
- Any female child born to a woman or has a sister who has been subjected to FGM must be considered to be at risk, as must other female children in the extended family.
- A girl is withdrawn from PSHE/RSE.

In brief the signs that FGM may have occurred are:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing.
- Spending longer in the bathroom.
- Urinary or menstrual problems.
- Prolonged absence and then noticeable behaviour changes.
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations.
- May confide in a professional but may not be explicit or may be embarrassed.

Where it is known or suspected that FGM has occurred:

- Be sensitive to the child, and family, be gender sensitive, make no assumptions, be non-judgemental, use simple language, record clearly.
- You have a duty to protect, safeguard and share information.
- Refer to Children's Social Care for coordination of careful assessment (not necessarily with consent).
- There will be potential enquiries under Section 47.
- Potential police enquiries.
- Possible use of police protection or legal orders such as EPO, prohibitive steps but not necessarily the removal of the child.(Government Equalities Office: Fact sheet)

Honour-based Violence

"So-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) encompasses 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. All forms of so called HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such".

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019.

Forced marriage

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into 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). The Trust recognises that it plays an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

If there are concerns for the safety of a student under 18 years old, we will activate local child safeguarding procedures as set out by each Local Authority Safeguarding Children Board and use national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children's social care (Multi-agency Practice Guidelines: Handling Cases of Forced marriage June 2014)

Private Fostering

What is a private fostering arrangement?

A private foster carer is someone *other than* a parent or a close relative who cares for a child for a period of 28 days or more, in agreement with the child's parent. It applies only to children under 16 years, or under 18 if they are disabled.

A private fostering arrangement is not a when a child is Looked After by the Local Authority or placed in any residential home, hospital or school.

Private foster carers can be part of the child's wider family, a friend of the family, the parents of the child's boyfriend or girlfriend or someone unknown but willing to foster the child. A cousin, great aunt or a co-habitee of a mother or father would therefore be a private foster carer.

Close relatives - a grandparent, a brother or sister, an aunt or an uncle, a step parent - are *not* private foster carers.

Who may be privately fostered?

This list is by no means exhaustive and indicates the scale and variety of situations and agencies these arrangements can cover.

- Children whose parents are unable to care for them, for example if they have chronic ill health or are in prison;
- Children sent to this country, for education or health care, by parents who live overseas;
- A child living with a friend's family because they don't get on with their own family;
- Children living with a friend's family because of their parents' study or work;
- Children staying with another family because their parents have separated or divorced;
- Teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend;
- Children from abroad who attend a language school or mainstream school in the county and are staying with host families;
- Children at boarding schools who do not return to their parents in the holidays but stay with 'host families' recruited by 'education guardians';
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking minors who are living with friends, relatives or strangers.

Children who are trafficked into the UK are especially vulnerable and are often living in de facto private fostering arrangements. Child trafficking is the movement of children for exploitation, including domestic servitude, commercial sexual exploitation and to support benefit claims. Where trafficking is suspected, a safeguarding referral should be made to the Local Authority Multiagency Safeguarding Hub.

Each school will:

- Ensure that all staff are aware of the definition of private fostering and the Local Authority's responsibilities when such arrangements occur;
- Ensure that when a student is involved in a private fostering arrangement staff are made aware of who has parental responsibility;
- Look at admission files to check on the home situation, and make a note to follow up any circumstances which are not clear.
- Whenever staff become aware of private fostering arrangements they should notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead or another appropriate member of staff should speak to the families of children who might be involved in private fostering and check that they are aware of their duty to notify the Local Authority of the arrangement. School staff should actively encourage the parents and/or carer to notify Children's Services of the arrangement

Children Missing Education

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. We are aware that local authorities have a duty to establish, as far as it is possible to do so, the identity of children of compulsory school age who are missing education in their area.

We recognise that a child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect.

When a child is absent from school without authority, each school will follow its procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.

We will discuss and agree actions with regards to individual cases with the relevant colleagues in safeguarding/education within a school's local authority, for pupils who are to be removed from the admission register where the pupil:

- has been taken out of school by their parents and the school has received written notification from the parent they are being educated outside the school system e.g. home education – this will be communicated with the home elective team
- does not arrive at the school as part of an admission process and we are not aware of their whereabouts
- has ceased to attend school and no longer lives within reasonable distance of the school at which they are registered and has been discussed with the children missing officer (CMO), or equivalent, as they have not been registered at a new school
- has been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither he/she nor his/her parent has indicated the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age;
- are in custody for a period of more than four months due to a final court order and the proprietor does not reasonably believe they will be returning to the school at the end of that period; or,
- have been permanently excluded

Where a pupil who fails to attend our schools regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a **continuous** period of 10 school days or more we will follow our respective local authority guidance where children are at risk of missing education.

. We will not remove a child from our role unless we are legally permitted to do so.

This guidance may be different for each local authority – below is the current guidance specific to Nottinghamshire.

GUIDANCE FOR HEAD TEACHERS AND BUSINESS MANAGERS WHERE CHILDREN ARE AT RISK OF MISSING EDUCATION

Child / young person is on roll but not attending	Child moving out of county	Family indicate they are moving abroad	School Allocations Intake or In-year admissions rounds
<p>School/Academy to attempt to make contact with parent/carers no later than day 3, best practice day 1. Follow your internal school attendance procedures.</p> <p>Days 0-10, School/Academy should continue to make efforts to engage the family; recording their contact: telephone conversations, texts, e-mails, letters, home visits. Liaising with professionals who may be involved. School/Academy should consider what action to take if attendance is 10% unauthorised.</p>	<p>Request from the family their new address and details of new School/Academy. If obtained please share with: admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk</p> <p>Hopefully the new school will make contact with you, if not, make contact with them to confirm on roll.</p>	<p>School must request and record details of the new family address and school. You can't remove from roll without this. If obtained please share with: admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk http://www.languageshop.org/ (translation support)</p>	<p>If allocated and there is not an acceptance/agreed start date best practice is for school to make attempts to engage (telephone, text, e-mail, welcome letter, home visit (where appropriate)).</p> <p>If a child/young person has been allocated a place at your school/academy and they do not arrive you must inform the CMO within 10 days evidencing efforts to engage.</p> <p>If an application to transfer school during the year (outside of the normal intake process), the leaving school should keep them on roll until it has been confirmed by the new school that they have arrived and have been taken on roll.</p> <p>Places must be taken up by the start of the next half term after the place has been allocated. For places allocated in the summer term 2018, the place must be taken up before the end of the summer term. <i>For children admitted through first admissions round please refer to your summer term guidance.</i></p> <p>A child should be placed on roll at the point of acceptance by parent or arriving on the first day.</p>
<p>Whereabouts confirmed to be known but not attending education or engaging with School/Academy.</p> <p>Whereabouts unknown evidencing reasonable efforts to locate/make contact with the family.</p>	<p>If without a new school within 10 days, a referral should be made to: Children Missing Officer (CMO) providing the families new address, contact details and a summary of efforts made by school to engage the family.</p>	<p>If school does not receive the above a referral should be made to: Children Missing Officer (CMO)</p>	
<p>Child and family meet the threshold for Early Help through the Family Service (level 3 Pathway to Provision). Make a referral to the Early Help Unit via an EHAF evidencing the actions you have taken.</p> <p>Absence meets the threshold for enforcement action as outlined in the Nottinghamshire Code of Conduct, make a referral to the Early Help Unit via an EHAF Child stays on roll.</p>	<p>Referral is made to: Children Missing Officer (CMO)</p> <p>No later than day 10 when there is no explanation for absence and above checks have been completed.</p> <p>Details of how to refer are on page 2, please clearly state any safeguarding concerns you may have.</p> <p>DO NOT remove from your roll until CMO has completed initial checks and confirmed that they can be removed.</p>	<p>Looked After Children (LAC)</p> <p>If a LAC is moving placement and no longer attending, school should liaise with the Virtual School and the child's Social Worker. DO NOT remove from roll.</p>	
	<p>Child is of statutory school age but not applied or on roll of a School/Academy</p> <p>Direct referral to: Children Missing Education (CMO)</p> <p>Providing child's name / DOB / address and details of parent / carers.</p>	<p>Independent / Residential Schools</p> <p>The same procedures should be followed as those in School's / Academies</p>	<p>If allocated children do not arrive PLEASE FOLLOW UP, DO NOT ASSUME they will have gone elsewhere or remained at their previous School/Academy!!</p>
		<p>Gypsy/Roma/Traveller</p> <p>If a Traveller family indicate they are to travel for work purposes School/Academy should request details of where they will be travelling and when they aim to return.</p> <p>If they do not return within 4 weeks of the expected return date please follow attendance procedures.</p>	
<p>Parent/Carers indicate they wish to Home Educate (EHE)</p> <p>Request must be made in writing, following a conversation between school and parent/carers, with a copy of the letter placed in the pupil file and a copy of the letter forwarded securely to EHE.</p> <p>School/Academy to return the EHE 1A and 1B forms to the EHE Administrator.</p> <p>Remove the learner from your roll. DO NOT remove from your roll if stated without confirmation from the LA. School file to be sent to EHE at County Hall via secure mail.</p>	<p>Child permanently excluded</p> <p>LA to be notified on the day of exclusion via e-mail.</p> <p>The LA will respond and continue to work with you through the process.</p> <p>DO NOT remove from your roll until advised.</p>		<p>Own admission authorities must inform the admissions team of any enquiry/application and outcome. This helps identify any vulnerable child requiring a place and avoids a child being out of education for an undue length of time. All academies must notify the local authority via admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk within five days of adding a pupil's name to the admission register.</p>
<p>Child not in full receipt of education (25hrs)</p> <p>Information should be shared with the Fair Access Team. Levels of provision will be closely monitored and scrutinised.</p>	<p>Truancy – School/Academy to inform parent/carers that their child/young person is not in school. School/Academy risk assess before considering a Police response. (prior checks to be completed and evidenced upon calling the police, unless immediate risk evident). Please be mindful of missing and hidden missing where young people's whereabouts are not known to parent/carers. This can be discussed with the CMO.</p>		<p>Family indicate they are returning home for family, cultural or health reasons</p> <p>School/Academy need to consider the circumstances of the absence in deciding which code to use. Parents should provide school with a return date. If the family do not return on this date attendance procedures should be followed.</p>
<p>SAFEGUARDING - Every child should be accounted for, their whereabouts should be known or a referral made to the appropriate service. Please be mindful that the MASH is for level 4 safeguarding concerns with children believed to be at risk of or actual harm. The Early Help Unit will support with early intervention/attendance. It is important that concerns are risk assessed by school. All referrals should indicate the level of concern and previous actions taken. A referral made to the correct service will help for support to be in place in a timely fashion. If unsure please seek guidance prior to referring.</p>			<p>Health Related Education</p> <p>If a child has been out of school for 15 days or more due to illness please liaise with the School Nurse and then a referral can be made to:</p> <p>Health Related Education Team (please contact the Health Related Education Team to discuss a request for their involvement)</p>
<p>Useful links: http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schoolsportal/local-authority/attendance (Nottinghamshire Schools Portal) http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/children-social-care/nottinghamshire-children-in-trust/pathway-to-provision (P2P) http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/109754/factsheet-summer-term-final-2.pdf (Summer Term) http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550415/Children_Missing_Education_-_statutory_guidance_of_CME http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/children-social-care/nottinghamshire-children-in-trust/pathway-to-provision/early-help-assessment-form (EHAF)</p>			
GUIDANCE FOR REMOVING A CHILD FROM THE SCHOOL ROLL			
<p>PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE A CHILD FROM YOUR ROLL UNLESS YOU HAVE RECORDED AND SHARED THE FOLLOWING WITH THE LA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the full name of the pupil, the full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil normally resides, at least one telephone number of the parent, the pupil's future address and destination school, if applicable, and the ground in regulation 8 under which the pupil's name is to be removed from the admission register (see Annex A). This will need to be clearly recorded when updating your systems as you will need to inform the LA. <p>All other deletions breach statutory guidance</p>			

Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any sex. They can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. In dealing with such incidents the school will follow the advice set out in “Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges” DfE December 2017

Sexual violence refers to sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003: rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault.

Sexual harassment refers to unwanted conduct of a sexual nature that can occur online and offline. Sexual harassment can include:

- Sexual comments
- Sexual “jokes” or taunting
- Physical behaviour
- Online sexual harassment

The Trust’s approach will be underpinned by the principle that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Some situations are statutorily clear:

- 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
- Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault are defined in law
- Creating and sharing sexual photos and videos of under 18s is illegal (often referred to as sexting). This includes children making and sharing sexual images and videos of themselves.

Managing the report

Every situation will be considered on a case by case basis. Parents and carers should normally be informed (unless this would put the victim at greater risk)

1. Manage internally: In some cases of sexual harassment, for example one-off incidents, the school may take the view that the children concerned are not in need of early help or statutory intervention and that it would be appropriate to handle the incident internally, using the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies and by providing pastoral support.
2. Early help: the school may decide that the children involved do not require statutory intervention but may benefit from early help. This can be particularly useful to address non-violent harmful sexual behaviour.
3. Referrals to Children’s Social Care: where a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm or is in immediate danger the school will make a referral to Children’s Social Care.
4. Reporting to the police: where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, the starting point is this should be passed to the police. Reporting to the police will generally be in parallel with referrals to Children’s Social Care.

Risk assessment

When there has been a report of sexual violence, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy should make an immediate risk and needs assessment. Where there has been a report of sexual harassment, the need for a risk assessment should be considered on a case by case basis.

Ongoing response

Safeguarding and supporting the victim

The needs and wishes of the victim should be paramount and whenever possible the victim, if they wish, should be able to continue in their normal routine. The priority should be to make the victim's daily experience as normal as possible so that school is a safe place for them. Support will be tailored on a case by case basis.

Safeguarding and supported the alleged perpetrator

The school will take into account the need to balance the safeguarding of the victim (and the wider student body) and on the other hand providing the alleged perpetrator with an education, safeguarding support as appropriate and implementing any disciplinary sanctions. Advice will be taken as appropriate from Children's Social care and the police.

Children staying with host families

Each school acknowledges that we have a duty to safeguard and promote children's welfare and that this extends to considering their safety and how best to minimise risk of harm to those children during any exchange visit the school arranges, and when organising for the care and accommodation of a child with a host family as part of the exchange.

In circumstances where the school arranges for a visiting child to be provided with care and accommodation in the UK (including where they engage a company to make those arrangements) in the home of a family to which the child is not related the responsible adults will be engaging in regulated activity for the period of the stay.

When the school arranges a homestay, it will consider what intelligence/information it has that will best inform its assessment of the suitability of the adults in those families who will be responsible for the visiting child during the stay and of other adults the school knows will be staying at the time of the visit. The school will use their professional judgement to decide what it considers will be relevant. However, to help inform this assessment the schools **will** obtain a DBS enhanced certificate with barred list information of those adults with parental responsibility for the host child who live at the host address. This check will not only establish whether the adults are barred from engaging in regulated activity relating to children, but where criminal record information is disclosed it will also allow the school or college to consider, alongside all other intelligence that it has obtained, whether these adults would be a suitable host for a child. The school is not required to obtain a DBS enhanced certificate in respect of any other adults aged 16 or over in the household where the child will be staying.