

Appendix COVID-19 School Closure Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

School Name: St Peter's RC High School

Date: 31/03/2020 Date shared with staff: 1/04/2020 – Updated September 2021

1. Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This appendix contains summaries of our individual safeguarding arrangements in response

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Key Contacts:

Role	Name	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Sharon Dempsey	dempseys@stpetershigh.com
Deputy DSL	Fran Garvey	garveyf@stpetershigh.com
Deputy DSL	Kathryn Fowler	fowlerk@stpetershigh.com
Headteacher	Stephen Gabriel	office@stpeterhshigh.com
Heads of Year: Level 3 Safeguard trained	Ian Stenson Anthony Jobey Kemoy Walker Stephen Gardiner Geoff May	stensoni@stpetershigh.com jobeya@stpetershigh.com walker@stpetershigh.com gardiners@stpetershigh.com mayg@stpetershigh.com
Chair of governors	Peter Crowe	peter.crowe@manchester.ac.uk

Safeguarding Governor	Barbara Porter	barbara@dbjhome.co.uk
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Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability. All parents and carers have received information about Manchester City Council's plans for school vouchers.

The Safeguarding Team know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support and who the school deem as vulnerable.

We will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority Virtual School headteacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at increased risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and St Peter's will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent/carer or legal guardian.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, we or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

We will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance Monitoring

In accordance with guidelines from the local authority we will no longer need to complete our usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

If we have any children in attendance (e.g. because they are vulnerable or their parent(s) / carers are critical workers) we will submit the daily attendance sheet to the DfE by 12 noon - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-foreducational-settings>

If the school has closed, we will complete the return once as requested by the DfE.

We and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school and will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. We will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

To support the above, we will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available including email addresses.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, we will notify their social worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The optimal scenario is to have our trained DSL or Deputy available on site. Where this is not possible, they or trained deputy will be available to be contacted via phone or email - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a nominated senior member of staff will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, (CPOMS)) and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

It is important that all staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, the staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them. This will be shared on entry to the building and in a daily online email briefing.

The Safeguarding Team will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely. To access ICPC/RCPC held at Manchester Safeguarding and Improvement Unit, a report should be sent to qualityassurance@manchester.gov.uk whereby a reply email will be sent 24 hours before the conference containing the dial in details and reports from other partners. Please ensure the person sending the report is the person who will be calling into the conference as the SIU will not be contacting other safeguarding staff separately.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS account from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally by phone contact and followed up with an email to the headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors.

The Chair of Governors should follow the usual practice, contact the LADO and make a referral if the concern meets the threshold.

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training. The Designated Lead has received full DSL training on March 11th 2020.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers are working with us, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction and all relevant information.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable to work with children are not allowed to enter the workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, we will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to face contact.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Where we are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

We will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

We will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing

Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, we will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in school

We will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and online safety away from school and college

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the school's Code of Conduct.

We will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

At the moment we have instructed staff not to engage with online learning that involves videoed lessons or the use of webcams. However, should that decision change we will ensure the following advice is adhered to.

- No 1:1s, groups only (except with explicit permission from parents and the school) .
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers/webcams used should be in appropriate areas with as little as possible on view, for example, not in bedrooms; and if possible the background should be blurred. No personal information should be on view.
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms specified by senior managers and approved by our IT network manager / provider to communicate with pupils.
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

Supporting children not in school

We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our children.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child.

Details of this plan should be recorded.

The communication plans can include; remote contact via email, phone contact or making a referral to social services e.g. a social worker or the Virtual School headteacher. In an emergency, the police should be contacted immediately. Other possible individualised contact methods should be considered, risked assessed and recorded.

The Safeguarding Team will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages and in regular communication with staff and parents.

We recognise that school is a protective factor for children, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Our staff need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Supporting children in school

We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

We will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are reasonable, given the circumstances. If this cannot be achieved safely, the school will be closed.

We will refer to the Government and LA guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

We will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

Where we have concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with the LA.

Peer on Peer Abuse

We recognise that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where we receive a report of peer on peer abuse, we will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

We will listen and work with the child, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that child.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

Advice, Guidance & Support from the LA

Our headteacher shares all LA updates with relevant staff and all staff are aware of how to access support from our SSQA, the Safeguarding in Education Team, Virtual School and One Education as advised through the daily circulars.

ST PETER'S RC HIGH SCHOOL

SAFE GUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

January 2019

Mission Statement

St Peter's RC High School is a community founded on mutual love and care for the individual in which the Faith of the Church underpins all our activities. Christ is our model in striving for excellence in all that we do and in valuing the unique contribution and gift of every member of our school community. St Peter's is committed to working with home and parish to enable all pupils to succeed in life.



The Headteacher * who has the ultimate responsibility for safeguarding is Stephen Gabriel

In their absence, the authorised member of staff is Sharon Dempsey Deputy Head

KEY SCHOOL STAFF & ROLES

Name	Role	Location and/or Contact Phone Number
<i>Sharon Dempsey</i>	<i>Deputy Head and DSL</i>	<i>Ext 410</i>
<i>Ninette Menezes</i>	<i>Safeguarding Consultant</i>	<i>Ext 448</i>
<i>Kathryn Fowler</i>	<i>Senior Head of Year 8/ Deputy DSL</i>	<i>Ext 511</i>
<i>Fran Garvey</i>	<i>SENCO/ Deputy DSL</i>	<i>Ext 424</i>
<i>Anthony Jobey</i>	<i>Head of Year</i>	<i>Ext 505</i>
<i>Stephen Gardiner</i>	<i>Head of Year</i>	<i>Ext 552</i>
<i>Kemoy Walker</i>	<i>Head of Year</i>	
<i>Ian Stenson</i>	<i>Head of Year</i>	<i>Ext 526</i>
<i>Geoff May</i>	<i>Attendance and Behaviour Lead</i>	<i>Ext 522</i>

NAMED GOVERNOR * for Safeguarding & Prevent	Contact Phone Number/Email
Barbara Porter	<i>barbara@dbjhome.co.uk</i>

Our procedure if there is a concern about child welfare or safeguarding is:-

Internal referral of concern (all staff)

- Use the electronic CPOMS system to record any concern about a pupil
- Record clear details of pupil's name and form
- Record the information clearly and concisely including time, location, brief details of issue
- On CPOMS use alert button to alert Head of Year and Safeguarding Lead Sharon Dempsey
- If the concern is immediate, find the Designated Safeguarding Lead, (Sharon Dempsey) or Designated Safeguarding Deputy Lead (K Fowler/F Garvey
- All staff are issued with a login for CPOMS. If you do not know how to access CPOMS see Kathryn Fowler or Sharon Dempsey).

Referral to Children's Services

- If there is an immediate risk to pupil, Head of Year to make a telephone call to the Contact Centre (**tel 0161 234-5001**) followed up by a written referral using referral form in CP shared areas
- Record referral in shared areas
- All staff are encouraged to make a referral directly to Children's Services if they feel a child is at risk

All visitors are given a 'Pocket Guide to Safeguarding' Booklet which offers advice on how to safeguard children and who to contact if they have any safeguarding concerns

Contact numbers of Children's Services are detailed below:

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Helpline: **0161 219 2895**,
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC): **0808 800 5000**
- Local Authority (LA) Safeguarding in Education Team: **0161 245 7171**

Our procedure if there is an allegation that an adult has harmed a child, or that a child is at risk from a named adult is:

- Immediately contact Sharon Dempsey (dempseys@stpetershigh.com) (DSL) via email and record details of concern including nature of concern, details of child and adult
- S Dempsey will investigate the allegation following procedures outlined in KCSIE and the school Safeguarding Policy
- S Dempsey will inform the headteacher S Gabriel of any allegations
- If the allegation is against the headteacher S Gabriel, S Dempsey will inform the chair of Governors Peter Crowe. S Dempsey will also inform Majella O'Hagan, Manchester Designated Officer (formerly LADO): **0161 234 1214**.

Our Whistleblowing procedure if staff and volunteers wish to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in our safeguarding regime internally or externally can be found on the school website

See whistle blowing policy on website

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APPENDICES:-

- A. Part 1 & Annex A of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE), 10th September 2018, statutory guidance to be read by all staff***
- B. Legislation, Statutory Guidance & Ofsted Framework ***
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1. INTRODUCTION

Through this policy we aim to create and maintain a safe learning environment where all children and adults feel safe, secure and valued and know they will be listened to and taken seriously.

This policy has been developed to ensure that all adults in our school are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to identify and address any safeguarding concerns and to ensure consistent good practice.

Our approach is child-centred.

'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.' (KCSIE)

See Part 1 and Annex A of KCSIE, for definitions and further information about Significant Harm, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Neglect, Contextual Safeguarding and Complex Safeguarding Issues including Child Sexual Exploitation, Peer on Peer Abuse, Domestic Abuse, Radicalisation, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Modern Slavery, Knife Crime, County Lines in the full statutory guidance.'

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children goes beyond implementing basic child protection procedures. The aims of this policy are in accordance with both our Mission Statement and our Equal Opportunities Policy and it is an integral part of all of our activities and functions.

‘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; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.’ (KCSIE)

Mission Statement

St Peter’s RC High School is a community founded on mutual love and care for the individual in which the Faith of the Church underpins all our activities. Christ is our model in striving for excellence in all that we do and in valuing the unique contribution and gift of every member of our school community. St Peter’s is committed to working with home and parish to enable all pupils to succeed in life.

- 1.1 Under the Education Act 2002, schools have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils and are committed to the guidance set out in ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ and ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’. Our policy ensures that we comply with our Statutory Duties (Appendix A & B)
- 1.2 Our policy takes account of non-statutory guidance issued by the DfE and other relevant organisations (Appendix C)
- 1.3 Our policy ensures that we work in partnership with other organisations, where appropriate, to identify any concerns about child welfare and take action to address them and that we comply with local policies, procedures and arrangements (Appendices D & F)
- 1.4 Our policy complements and supports other relevant school policies (Appendix E)

2. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

2.1 Our Headteacher will ensure that:-

- The policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils are fully implemented and followed by all staff, including volunteers and that they are regularly updated in response to local practice or national changes in legislation.
- All staff and volunteers understand and comply with our Code of Conduct.

- We evaluate our safeguarding policies & procedures at least on an annual basis and return our completed SG Safeguarding Self Evaluation (SEF) proforma to the LA as requested
- A senior member of staff, known as the DSL is appointed with a clear job description. He/she has lead responsibility for Child Protection and Safeguarding and receives appropriate on-going training, support and supervision as well as sufficient time and resources to enable them to discharge their responsibilities. They are supported by Deputy DSLs from within the safeguarding team.
- Parents/carers are aware of and have an understanding of our responsibilities to promote the safety and welfare of its pupils by making our statutory obligations clear in our prospectus.
- The Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is available on our website and is referenced in the staff handbook.
- Child friendly information of how to raise a concern/make a disclosure has been developed through regular assemblies, form periods and wall displays and is accessible to all children. The electronic Guardian system offers a 24 hour anonymous helpline is available to all children
- We co-operate fully with MCC and MSCB multi-agency safeguarding procedures and arrangements are in place to monitor the quality of referrals and interventions through the role of the Safeguarding governor Barbara Porter
- We create a culture whereby all staff, volunteers and visitors feel confident and have knowledge of how to raise a concern about poor or unsafe practice in regard to the safeguarding and welfare of the children and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively. All visitors are offered a Pocket guide to Safeguarding on entrance to building
- Any staff commissioned who are carrying out regulated activities from external agencies/organisations have been DBS checked and their employing organisations have safeguarding policies in place, including safer recruitment and annual safeguarding training appropriate to roles.
- We ensure a risk assessment takes place to establish that the appropriate checks take place on all volunteers.
- We have appropriate procedures to ensure that there is no risk to children from visitors and we exercise diligence and prevent any organisation or speaker from using our facilities to disseminate extremist views or radicalise pupils and staff. Any presentations from outside visitors are checked prior to delivery. A member of staff is always present.

2.2 Our **Governing Body** will ensure that:-

- All policies, procedures and training in our school are effective and comply with the law at all times.
- Named members are identified as the designated governors for Safeguarding and for Prevent and receive appropriate training.

- The identified Safeguarding governor will provide the governing body with appropriate information about safeguarding and will liaise with the designated member of staff. The DSL regularly updates the Governing Body on any changes in safeguarding practice.
- Our safeguarding policy and our staff Code of Conduct are reviewed at least annually alongside the completion of the Local Authority audit
- We operate safer recruitment and selection practices, including appropriate use of references and checks on new staff, governors and volunteers. All leadership and selected governors have received Safer Recruitment training and have completed the Educare Safer Recruitment training package
- We have procedures in place for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers and these are in line with Local Authority procedures.
- All staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children receive appropriate training and information about the safeguarding processes. In September of each academic year Level 1 Safeguarding training for all new members of staff and refresher training for existing staff is delivered by the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- There is appropriate challenge and QA of the safeguarding policies and procedures. The school's Safeguarding Consultant (N Menezes) regularly checks practice including SCR/policy amendments/changes to legislation.

2.3 Our **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** is a member of our Senior Leadership Team and has a specific responsibility for championing the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. She takes lead responsibility for Early Help, safeguarding and child protection, although other activities may be delegated if appropriate.

The DSL Sharon Dempsey, alongside the pastoral team comprising of 5 heads of year, SENCO (with LAC and Mental Health responsibility) and the Behaviour and Attendance lead will:

- Act as the first point of contact with regards to all safeguarding matters.
- Attend specialist DSL training every two years.
- Keep up to date with changes in local policy and procedures, be aware of any guidance issued by the DfE concerning safeguarding and update school procedures/policies as necessary
- Provide support and training for staff and volunteers . This comprises of annual Level 1 and refresher training as well as regular updates and briefings through weekly morning briefings, sharing of information such as the Local Authority newsletter 'Keeping Children Safe in our City' and fortnightly safeguarding briefings to the headteacher
- Ensure that all referrals made to Children's Services are effective and in line with MSCB procedures. The DSL reads all referrals as well as keeps abreast of all safeguarding

communication with Children's Services and other agencies through daily monitoring of CPOMS

- Ensure that all staff with specific responsibility for safeguarding children, receive the appropriate supervision to undertake this role. Timetabled meetings are held half termly with DSL and safeguarding team as well as daily communication through morning meetings
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers understand and are aware of our reporting and recording procedures and are clear about what to do if they have a concern about a child
- Always be available during school hours during term-time, and at other times as designated by the Headteacher.
- For out of hours/holidays, the school endeavours to attend all necessary meetings and liaises with Liz Rose the Senior QA safeguarding officer for Manchester to ensure information is presented at appropriate meetings

2.4 **All staff** in the school, including supply staff and volunteers have responsibility for safeguarding, according to their roles and under the guidance of the DSL.

All staff will:-

- Follow our agreed Code of Conduct guidance
- Attend training sessions/briefings as required to ensure that they are aware of the signs of Abuse, Neglect, Complex Safeguarding Concerns and key LA approaches including Early Help and Signs of Safety
- Attend training sessions/briefings as required to ensure that they follow relevant Policies/procedures
- Provide a safe environment where children can learn
- Be approachable to children and respond appropriately to any disclosures
- Never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about an allegation, as this may not ultimately be in the best interest of the child
- Know what to do if they have a concern and follow our agreed procedures for recording concerns, sharing information and making referrals
- Attend multi-agency meetings as required, if appropriate to their role
- Contribute to the teaching of safeguarding in the curriculum as required, if appropriate to their role
- Provide targeted support for individuals and groups of children as required, if appropriate to their role

Teaching staff have additional statutory duties, including to report any cases of known or suspected Female Genital Mutilation.

3. TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING

- 3.1 All new staff and regular volunteers will receive appropriate safeguarding information during induction. The DSL and pastoral team are responsible for delivering this training to all staff through the Induction Programme, briefings, Educare training packages and this includes PGCSE Students, School direct students, governors.
- 3.2 All staff must ensure that they have read and understood 'KCSIE' Part 1 and Annex A (Appendix A) and signed to say that they have done so. This is done on an annual basis and this information is recorded and kept with the Safeguarding Lead.
- 3.3 All staff will receive annual child protection training/refresher which includes basic safeguarding information about our policies and procedures, signs and symptoms of abuse (emotional and physical), indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation, how to manage a disclosure from a child as well as when and how to record a concern about the welfare of a child. All training is delivered by the DSL who also monitors referrals through CPOMS to ensure staff are recording information appropriately on a daily basis
- 3.4 All staff members will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates in relation to local and national changes, but at least annually, providing them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. All PowerPoints/briefings/Designated Lead summaries from Network Meetings are recorded by DSL and saved in a Safeguarding File.

4. SAFEGUARDING/CHILD PROTECTION POLICY & PROCEDURES

4.1 PUPIL VOICE

Children are encouraged to contribute to the development of policies and share their views. Policies such as the Behaviour Policy, Anti - Bullying Policy are shared with School Council and I Matters Council and they regularly give feedback, write and deliver Form Periods/Assemblies in specific safeguarding issues to ensure pupil voice is heard

4.2 ATTENDANCE

- 4.2.1 We view poor attendance as a safeguarding issue and in accordance with our Attendance Policy, absences are rigorously pursued and recorded. In partnership with the appropriate agencies, we take action to pursue and address all unauthorised absences in order to safeguard the welfare of children in our care.
- 4.2.3 Our Attendance Policy identifies how individual cases are managed and how we work proactively with parents/carers to ensure that they understand why attendance is

important. In certain cases, this may form part of an Early Help Assessment (EHA) or a Parenting Contract.

- 4.2.4 We implement the statutory requirements and MCC policy and procedures in terms of monitoring and reporting children missing education (CME) and off-rolling and understand how important this practice is in safeguarding children and young people.

See attendance policy on website

4.3 EXCLUSIONS

- 4.3.1 The DSL will be involved when a fixed term or permanent exclusion is being discussed and any safeguarding issues will be considered. Where it is felt that a child or young person is likely to be permanently excluded a multi-agency assessment will be instigated to ensure that there is improved understanding of the needs of the young person and their family and that the key agencies are involved.

4.4 VULNERABLE GROUPS

- 4.4.1 We ensure all key staff work together to safeguard vulnerable children. We have daily meetings with the Senior Leaders for Behaviour, Safeguarding and Curriculum as well meeting with pastoral team to share information. CPOMS is used to share safeguarding concerns and monitored daily by every member of the pastoral team.
- 4.4.2 Any child may benefit from early help at times, but all staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:
- is disabled and has specific additional needs;
 - has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan);
 - is a young carer;
 - is misusing drugs or alcohol;
 - is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
 - is an international new arrival, refugee or asylum seeker
 - is looked after, previously looked after or under a special guardianship order.
- 4.4.3 Children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. All staff are aware that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children.

These can include assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration, being more prone to peer group isolation the potential for being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying without outwardly showing any signs; and communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

5. CASE MANAGEMENT, RECORD KEEPING & MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

5.1 KEEPING RECORDS

- 5.1.1 We keep and maintain up to date information on children on the school roll including where and with whom the child is living, attainment, attendance, referrals to and support from other agencies. The record will also include a chronology of any other significant event in a child's life.
- 5.1.2 We keep copies of all referrals to Children and Families Services, the Early Help Hub and any other agencies related to safeguarding children. This is kept on a centralised data base in password protected area of the school system as well as on individual CPOMS account which only the pastoral team have access to.
- 5.1.3 We keep secure the safeguarding records in a locked filing cabinet in the Designated Safeguarding Lead's office. A spare key is kept in the school safe in case access to files is needed.
- 5.1.4 We send a pupil's child protection or safeguarding file separately from the main file to a new establishment if a pupil leaves the school and keep a copy of the file. This is the responsibility of the DSL and the Head of Year 11

5.2 RECORDING AND REPORTING CONCERNS

- 5.2.1 All staff, volunteers and visitors have a responsibility to report any concerns about the welfare and safety of a child and all such concerns must be taken seriously (KCSIE Part 1 in Appendix A).
- 5.2.2 If a concern arises all staff, volunteers and visitors must follow the procedures summarised in KCSIE and in this policy. Staff are all trained to report a concern using the electronic CPOMS system. They alert the DSL and Head of Year of the child they are concerned with. Visitors without access to CPOMS are advised to raise any concerns with a senior member of staff who will report concerns on their behalf using the CPOMS system

5.3 INFORMING PARENTS/CARERS

- 5.3.1 Our responsibility is to safeguard and promote the welfare of all the children in our care. We aim to do this in partnership with our parents/carers and would expect them to provide up to date contact details, including at least 2 emergency contacts.
- 5.3.2 In most cases parents/carers will be informed when concerns are raised about the safety and welfare of their child and given the opportunity to address any concerns raised. We will aim to engage with parents/carers through the LA Early Help processes, including carrying out an Early Help Assessment (EHA).
- 5.3.3 We will inform, and gain consent, from parents/carers if possible, if a referral is to be made to the Children's Social Care Service or any other agency **unless it is believed that doing so would put the child at risk**, eg in cases of suspected sexual abuse. We will record the reasons, if consent is not gained.

5.4 MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

- 5.4.1 We will develop effective links with Social Workers and other relevant agencies and co-operate as required with any enquiries regarding child protection issues.
- 5.4.2 We will notify Children's Social Care if:
- a child subject to a child protection plan is at risk of permanent exclusion.
 - there is an unexplained absence of a child who is subject to a child protection plan
 - it has been agreed as part of any child protection plan or core group plan.

5.5 CONFIDENTIALITY & INFORMATION SHARING

- 5.5.1 Staff will ensure that confidentiality protocols are followed and under no circumstances will they disclose any information about children outside of their professional role.
- 5.5.2 Information about children will only be shared with other members of staff on a need to know basis. This will be decided by the safeguarding team and discussed verbally rather than through email
- 5.5.3 All staff and volunteers understand that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies, if in the child's best interests, in order to safeguard them. We have arrangements in place that set out clearly the process and principles for sharing information within school and with the three safeguarding partners, other organisations, agencies and practitioners as required. This includes an agreed rationale for when and what to share/when and what not to share and systems for recording the reasons for these decisions. We follow the guidelines for Transfer of Information from Manchester Local Authority.

- 5.54 For pupils with a live CP file, this is passed directly to a new setting and signed for. CPOMS information is transferred electronically to those settings who also use the system when information is requested.
- 5.55 We comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR in that we ensure that we process all personal information fairly and lawfully and keep it safe and secure.

See GDPR policies on website

5.6 CHILD PROTECTION (CP), CHILD IN NEED (CiN) MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- 5.6.1 An initial CP conference will be held if it is considered that the child is suffering or at risk of significant harm.
- 5.6.2 We will attend and contribute to initial and review CP conferences, CiN conferences and relevant multi-agency meetings, including core groups. Head of Year attend these meetings: if they are unable to attend, they will send another colleague from the pastoral team in their place.
- 5.6.3 Members of staff who are asked to attend a CP conference or other core group meetings about an individual pupil/family will need to have as much relevant updated information about the child as possible and will send a report, using the most up-to-date proforma, to the Chair within the required timescales, at least 48 hours before the conference. This detail is recorded on CPOMS as evidence of information shared. If a meeting takes place during the school holidays, staff will email any reports to the necessary party. Sharon Dempsey will be available by email in cases of emergency
- 5.6.4 Our reports will include the voice of the child.
- 5.6.5 We will discuss and share reports with the parents/carers before the conference. This will either be in a face to face meeting or over the telephone
- 5.6.6 All relevant staff will be confident in using the tools which are part of the Signs of Safety approach. Training has been delivered in this area for the pastoral team and will be updated for new staff

5.6 CONCERNS/DISCLOSURES BY CHILDREN, STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

- 5.7.1 Any concern, disclosure or expression of disquiet made by a child will be listened to seriously and acted upon as quickly as possible to safeguard his or her welfare.
- 5.6.2 All staff and volunteers must be clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets.

- 5.71 We will make sure that the child or adult who has expressed the concern or made the complaint will be informed not only about the action to be taken but also where possible about the length of time required to resolve the complaint.
- 5.72 We will endeavour to keep the child or adult informed about the progress of the complaint/expression of concern.

5.8 SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS (SCRs)

- 5.8.1 The MSCB will always undertake a serious case review when a child dies (including death by suicide) and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in their death. If required, we will cooperate fully with the review process.

Our DSL will keep up to date with the findings from SCRs in Manchester and share the learning and review our safeguarding procedures if relevant.

6. THE CURRICULUM

We are committed to promoting emotional health and well-being and to supporting the development of the skills needed to help children keep themselves safe and healthy, develop their self-esteem, develop resilience and understand the responsibilities of adult life, particularly in regard to child care and parenting skills.

- 6.1 All children have access to an appropriate curriculum, differentiated to meet their needs. They are encouraged to express and discuss their ideas, thoughts and feelings through a variety of activities and have access to a range of cultural opportunities which promote the fundamental British values of tolerance, respect and empathy for others. As a Catholic school, our values of love, diversity, achievement and responsibility underpin our school ethos and are shared at all opportunities
- 6.2 This enables them to learn to develop the necessary skills to build self-esteem, respect others, support those in need, resolve conflict without resorting to violence, question and challenge and to make informed choices in later life.
- 6.3 There is access to a range of extra-curricular activities which promotes these values and supports the social, spiritual, moral well-being and physical and mental health of the pupils.
- 6.4 Access lessons, regular Form Periods and assemblies provide opportunities for children and young people to discuss and debate a range of subjects including lifestyles, knowing and understanding how to keep themselves safe and different family patterns.
- 6.5 We take account of the latest advice and guidance provided to help address specific vulnerabilities, risks and forms of exploitation including Obesity, poor mental health, CSE,

Radicalisation and Extremism, Modern Slavery, County Lines, Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage. See Appendices for guidance and links to further information.

7. E-SAFETY

- 7.1 E-safety is a safeguarding issue not an ICT issue. The purpose of Internet use in our school/setting/college is to help raise educational standards, promote children's achievement, and support the professional work of staff, as well as enhance our management information and business administration.
- 7.2 The internet is an essential element in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction and we have a duty to provide children with quality access to it as part of their learning experience.
- 7.3 We will ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring methods are in place to ensure that children are safe in school from all types of inappropriate and unacceptable materials, including terrorist and extremist material. We use the web filtering system Lightspeed to categorise all websites based on content which are either allowed or denied according to safeguarding guidance. We also monitor search queries and have a list of "blocked" words which immediately deny access, as well as the system logging anything it thinks is suspicious. All internet activity, including searches are logged and the ICT School Manager receives a daily report of all suspicious and blocked searches for the previous day. These are then immediately shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead using an email system.
- 7.4 We will encourage children to use the Internet safely, including opportunities for them to think and discuss.
- 7.5 We will ensure that children will not misuse their own devices whilst in school. Phones are banned from use in school at all times and are not to be used unless for educational purpose at the discretion of the class teacher
- 7.6 We have separate acceptable use policies (AUPs) for both staff and children. This covers the use of all technologies used, both on and offsite. All staff and pupils must sign to say they have read these policies and a copy of the signed policy is stored by Carol Hull, ICT Consultant to the school. If they are not signed within an appropriate timescale then the individual is blocked access to the school system
- 7.7 We follow the MSCB guidelines 'Safeguarding online guidelines for minimum standards' and the advice on the UK Safer Internet Website.
- 7.8 We work with parents to promote good practice in keeping children safe online and regularly share advice and guidance through flyers and pop in sessions at each Parents' evening as well as inviting in experts such as Digital Resilience through the Parent Zone company

8. SAFER RECRUITMENT & SELECTION OF STAFF

- 8.1 Our recruitment and selection policies and processes adhere to the DfE guidance 'KCSIE'. *See safer recruitment policy on website*
- 8.2 At least one member of each recruitment panel will have attended up to date Safer Recruitment Training. All members of the leadership team and selected governors have received training and this will be refreshed at the appropriate time
- 8.3 All relevant staff (involved in early years settings and/or before or after school care for children under eight) are made aware of the disqualification and disqualification by association legislation and their obligations to disclose relevant information to the Headteacher.
- 8.4 Trainee teachers will be checked either by the school or by the training provider, from whom written confirmation will be obtained and recorded by the Business Manager Nina Gardiner in conjunction with the SCR
- 8.5 Risk assessments are carried out on all volunteer activities as required.
- 8.6 The school maintains a single central record of recruitment checks undertaken. This is maintained by the Business Manager and regularly checked by the DSL
- 8.7 The Headteacher and governing body will ensure that all external staff and volunteers, including out of hours organisations, using our school site have been recruited safely, including DBS checked as appropriate.
- 8.8 Written notification will be requested from any agency or third party organisation used by us to confirm that the organisation has carried out the statutory recruitment checks for all its activities.

9. MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AND CONCERNS AGAINST STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- 9.1 We adhere to DfE guidance 'KCSIE, Section 4', when dealing with allegations made against staff and volunteers. Any allegation will be immediately reported to the Deputy head/DSL Sharon Dempsey who will inform the Headteacher and act to investigate the allegation promptly. Staff will be informed at all points of any action taken. Following guidelines, it is not our policy to immediately 'suspend' a member of staff, but we will act to ensure that all parties are safeguarded and communicated with effectively. Any allegations and subsequent actions/decisions will be recorded as advised in KCSIE.

- 9.2 All allegations made against a member of staff and volunteers, including contractors or security staff working on site, will be dealt with quickly and fairly and in a way that provides effective protection for the child while at the same time providing support for the person against whom the allegation is made.
- 9.3 Allegations which meet the threshold will be referred to the Designated Officer (formerly known as the LADO) who will oversee the management of the allegation and its investigation. (See link to guidance in Appendix D)
- 9.4 We ensure that all staff are aware of how to raise a concern, including anonymously as a whistleblower.

See whistle blowing policy on website

10.SAFETY ON & OFF SITE

- 10.1 Our site is secure with safeguards in place to prevent any unauthorised access and also to prevent children leaving the site unsupervised.
- 10.2 All visitors, including visiting speakers, are subject to our safeguarding protocols whilst on site and will be supervised at all times, if no checks have been obtained. Different colour lanyards indicate regular visitors who have been subject to DBS checks and those who must be supervised at all times as they have not been DBS checked
- 10.3. We will 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. We are responsible for determining the appropriate level of supervision depending on the circumstances. We will always check the identity of contractors and their staff on arrival at the school or college.
- 10.4 We operate a responsible booking protocol and will carry out appropriate checks on all organisations which request to hire our facilities.
- 10.5 We will only place children in alternative educational provision (AP) which we have quality assured and is a registered provider.
- 10.6 Children who require access to AP will have a personalised learning plan designed to meet their needs. Our DSL will liaise with the AP DSL to ensure a consistent approach and that relevant information is shared. Their attendance will be monitored by us in accordance with the School Register Regulations
- 10.7 We have a provider access policy and procedures in place. We will ensure that any person supervising a child under the age of 16 on a placement has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check. If the activity undertaken by a child 16 years of age or over on work experience gives the opportunity for contact with children.

We will consider whether a DBS enhanced check should be requested.

- 10.8 All school trips are fully risk assessed and no child will be taken off-site without parental permission.
- 10.9 For international exchanges, we will liaise with partner schools abroad, to establish a shared understanding of the arrangements in place both before and during the visit. We will ensure we are satisfied that these are appropriate and sufficient to safeguard effectively every child who will take part in the exchange. We may also feel it necessary to contact the relevant foreign embassy or High Commission of the country in question to discuss what checks may be possible in respect of those providing homestay outside of the UK.
- 10.10 We have a Health & Safety policy eg for contacting parents, and for reporting to the emergency services, including Police & Hospital.

See Provider access and Health and safety on website

11. PEER ON PEER ABUSE (Sexual violence and sexual harassment)

St Peter's is committed to supporting all students and ensuring that they are kept safe from harm. Staff and Governors recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. The Senior Leadership team and Governing Body are responsible for ensuring that procedures exist to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse and consider how allegations of peer on peer abuse will be investigated and dealt with. There is a clear procedure of how those involved with peer on peer abuse will be supported. Pupils are regularly taught about healthy relationships through Form Periods, Assemblies and PSHE lessons. There is a culture of openness where pupils know they can talk to staff about any concerns or worries they have. Pupils know that they can report concerns directly to their Head of Year, SENCo or through the anonymous Guardian system. Pupils are given lots of opportunity to engage with the curriculum and materials around safeguarding through the School Council, Diversity Council, I Matter group and prefect system. Pupils in an abusive situation within school will be supported, incidents will be recorded and dealt with following the school's Safeguarding procedures.

Through training we ensure that all staff recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. The senior leadership team and governing body are responsible for ensuring that procedures exist to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse and consider how allegations of peer on peer abuse will be investigated and dealt with. There is a clear procedure on how victims of peer on peer abuse will be supported. (Please see **Appendix H** flow chart designed in conjunction with a range of external agencies and other schools).

All staff are aware of peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but not limited to, bullying (including cyber bullying), gender-based violence, sexual violence and sexual harassment, up skirting (which is now a criminal offence), physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, pulling hair, sexting and initiating /instigating violence and rituals. These issues will be addressed through our school curriculum and assemblies throughout the year.

All staff are expected to refer to HM Government guidance [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: advice for practitioners](#) for further help in identifying signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect. Staff members who are concerned that a child might have been / being abused by another child should follow usual safeguarding and child protection procedures and report to the DSL using CPOMS.

In respect of sexual violence and sexual harassment between children, the school takes a proactive approach to prevent such incidents from taking place. Throughout school, safeguarding is taught as part of our curriculum. We appreciate that whilst adults in school are working hard to keep children safe, children also play a large part in keeping themselves and their peers safe from abuse and neglect. An age-appropriate curriculum is rolled out in school to build capacity amongst our students in their understanding of particular issues, and what actions they can take to be safe.

We incorporate healthy relationships, people who help us, British values etc. in to our curriculum time in an age appropriate way for the year groups in school. Also from September 2020 we have included Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) in the school timetable, in line with DfE guidance and the national curriculum.

Students are taught to understand the issue and meaning of consent as delivered in the RSHE curriculum.

Students will be made aware of what constitutes unreasonable pressure from peers to

engage in risk-taking or inappropriate behaviour, and of how to report their concerns. Allegations of abuse by a peer will be treated as seriously as allegations of abuse from an adult, it should never be dismissed as normal behaviour.

Robust systems have been established in school for dealing with safeguarding concerns. All allegations of abuse and neglect, whether suspected or known will be treated seriously and in confidentiality. Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”. We will respond and manage any reports of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment in line with guidance added to KCSIE 2020 and within the MSP website.

If any disclosures are made, staff are trained to inform the relevant head of year and DSL using the usual reporting system of CPOMS where details of the disclosure or concerns are clearly recorded with dates, times, names and details of the incident/disclosure. Disclosures may be made to staff either verbally or through the anonymous electronic Guardian platform. A separate electronic form to record incidents of peer on peer abuse will also be recorded by a member of the Safeguarding team and saved in a confidential and protected area. Any student who makes a disclosure or allegation against another student will be taken seriously and treated with respect. Pupils will be supported by listening carefully to their concerns, investigating incidents fully seeking witnesses or other supporting evidence if available. The Safeguarding Team will discuss the issue, inform parents and also decide whether or not the incident warrants police or Children’s Services involvement and make appropriate referrals. The school will always support any parent/pupil who wished to contact the police. As a school we have a duty to safeguard all students and so we will endeavour to support both victim and perpetrator as far as possible. If necessary, risk assessments will be completed to support the victim. The child’s wishes are of paramount importance and we will always seek to support them and involve them in any decisions that we make when investigating an incident.

All information is handled in accordance with the GDPR Policy, which is written in line with HM Government guidance – ‘Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers, July 2018’, and the 7 principles of information sharing within that document.

When incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment occur the school’s response is ultimately decided on a case-by-case basis, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (deputy head) taking the lead role, using their professional judgement. Incidents of peer-on-peer abuse may need to be dealt with in various ways. Incidents of bullying will be dealt with via the school’s anti-bullying policy and/or behaviour policy. Incidents which take place outside of school may need to be addressed in school however the school are clear that where professional advice needs to be sought from external partners, it will be. The school’s Designated Safeguarding Lead will consult children’s social care on matters relating to the safety and welfare of a child and will consult the police in respect of matters relating to a possible crime. The school will put a proportionate and supportive package of care in place for those affected.

School leaders are aware that detailed advice to support schools and colleges has been published. The advice is available and includes, what sexual violence and sexual harassment look like, important context to be aware of, related legal responsibilities for schools and colleges and advice on a whole school or college approach to preventing child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment. The Leadership Team have all been briefed on peer on peer abuse and use guidance from the Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool provided by

Brook.

The school adopts the UK Council for Child Internet Safety guidance 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: How to respond to incidents and safeguarding young people' in respect of our response to sexting. This guidance clearly sets out how to handle incidents, should they occur and what preventative steps can be taken to educate young people. [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

Responding to reports of sexual violence/harassment

As a school we respond to each situation on a case by case basis. These include the following range of responses:

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. In this case, we will utilise our behaviour policy and sanctions and provide pastoral support. It will be firmly reiterated to both pupils and parents that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable and will not be tolerated. All concerns, discussions, decisions and reasons for decisions will be recorded and a copy placed on both CPOMS and the child's school record should any further instances occur.

2. Early help

In line with 1 above, the school may decide that the children involved do not require statutory interventions, but may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help can be particularly useful to address non-violent harmful sexual behaviour and may prevent escalation of sexual violence. The school has access to a school counsellor, speech and language therapist, educational psychologist who may be used to support students. The school will always seek external support such as the use of experts delivering Aims or ACE assessments to support the child.

3. Referrals to children's social care

Where a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm, or is in immediate danger, School will make a referral to local children's social care and will generally inform parents or carers, unless there are compelling reasons not to (if informing a parent or carer is going to put the child at additional risk). Any such decision should be made with the support of children's social care. Where statutory assessments are appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy will work alongside, and cooperate with, the relevant lead social worker. Collaborative working will help ensure the best possible package of coordinated support is implemented for the victim and, where appropriate, the alleged perpetrator and any other children that require support.

The school will not wait for the outcome (or even the start) of a children's social care investigation before protecting the victim and other children in the school or college. The designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will work closely with children's social care (and other agencies as required) to ensure any actions the school or college takes do not jeopardise a statutory investigation. The risk assessment as per paragraph 275 of KCSIE will help inform any decision. Consideration of safeguarding the victim, alleged perpetrator,

any other children directly involved in the safeguarding report and all children at the school or college should be immediate.

In some cases, children's social care will review the evidence and decide a statutory intervention is not appropriate. The school will be prepared to refer again if we believe the child remains in immediate danger or at risk of harm. If a statutory assessment is not appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will consider other support mechanisms such as early help, specialist support and pastoral support.

4. Reporting to the Police

Any report to the police will generally be in parallel with a referral to children's social care. Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, the starting point is this should be passed on to the police. Whilst the age of criminal responsibility is ten, if the alleged perpetrator is under ten, the starting principle of reporting to the police remains. The police will take a welfare, rather than a criminal justice, approach.

At this stage, school will generally inform parents or carers unless there are compelling reasons not to, for example, if informing a parent or carer is likely to put a child at additional risk. In circumstances where parents or carers have not been informed, it will be especially important that the school or college is supporting the child in any decision they take. This should be with the support of children's social care and any appropriate specialist agencies.

Where a report has been made to the police, the school should consult the police and agree what information can be disclosed to staff and others, in particular, the alleged perpetrator and their parents or carers. We will also discuss the best way to protect the victim and their anonymity. In addition, our school's engagement officer will be consulted for any necessary advice and guidance.

In some cases, it may become clear very quickly, that the police (for whatever reason) will not take further action. In such circumstances, it is important that the school continues to engage with specialist support for the victim as required.

After recent government action to tackle the issues raised by testimonies given on the Everyone's Invited website, NSPCC has been commissioned to run the helpline which we will publicise in school and on our website – 0800 136 663. This number is for children and young people who are victims of sexual abuse, adult victims, parents and carers of victims and professionals working with children and young people. It is to report or share incidents which have happened both in and outside of educational settings.

Guidance documents/appendices for school policies:

[Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020, January 2021 Update \(post EU exit\)](#)
[Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges, May 2018](#)
[Governors Handbook October 2020](#)



Keeping children safe in education

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges

Part 1: Information for all school and college staff

September 2018

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Summary

Keeping Children Safe in Education is statutory guidance that schools and colleges in England must have regard to it when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

- Governing bodies of maintained schools (including maintained nursery schools) and colleges;
- Proprietors of independent schools (including academies, free schools and alternative provision academies) and non-maintained special schools. In the case of academies, free schools and alternative provision academies, the proprietor will be the academy trust; and
- Management committees of pupil referral units (PRUs)

are asked to ensure that **all staff** in their school or college **read** at least Part one of the guidance.

For ease of reference Part one is set out here as a standalone document.

Part one: Safeguarding information for all staff What school and college staff should know and do

A child centred and coordinated approach to safeguarding

1. Schools and colleges and their staff are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).
2. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the **best interests** of the child.
3. No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, **everyone** who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.
4. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance 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
5. Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

The role of school and college staff

6. School and college staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for children, and prevent concerns from escalating.
7. **All** staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn and **all** staff should be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help.¹ Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.
8. **Any staff member** who has a concern about a child's welfare should follow the referral processes set out in paragraphs 22-33. Staff should expect to support social workers and other agencies following any referral.
9. Every school and college should have a designated safeguarding lead who will provide support to staff to carry out their safeguarding duties and who will liaise closely with other services such as children's social care.
10. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) are most likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and be the most appropriate person to advise on the response to safeguarding concerns.
11. The Teachers' Standards 2012 state that teachers (which includes headteachers) should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.²

What school and college staff need to know

12. **All** staff should be aware of systems within their school or college which support safeguarding and these should be explained to them as part of staff induction. This should include:
 - the child protection policy;
 - the behaviour policy;³

- the staff behaviour policy (sometimes called a code of conduct);
- the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and
- the role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies).

Copies of policies and a copy of Part one of this document should be provided to staff at induction.

All staff should receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training which is regularly updated. In addition, all staff should receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required, and at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

13. **All** staff should be aware of their local early help⁴ process and understand their role in it.
14. **All** staff should be aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, especially section 17 (children in need) and section 47 (a child suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm) that may follow a referral, along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments.⁵
15. **All** staff should know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected. Staff should know how to manage the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality. This means only involving those who need to be involved, such as the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) and children's social care. Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.

What school and college staff should look out for

16. **Any** child may benefit from early help, but all school and college staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:
 - is disabled and has specific additional needs

- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan)
- is a young carer
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves

⁴ Detailed information on early help can be found in Chapter 1 of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

⁵ More information on statutory assessments is included at paragraph 28. Detailed information on statutory assessments can be found in Chapter 1 of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

- has returned home to their family from care
- is a privately fostered child

18. **All** staff should be aware of indicators of abuse and neglect so that they are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection. Indicators of abuse and neglect, and examples of safeguarding issues are described in paragraphs 41-51.
19. Departmental advice [What to Do if You Are Worried a Child is Being Abused - Advice for Practitioners](#) provides more information on understanding and identifying abuse and neglect. Examples of potential indicators of abuse and neglect are highlighted throughout the advice and will be particularly helpful for school and college staff. The [NSPCC](#) website also provides useful additional information on abuse and neglect and what to look out for.
20. Staff 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 should always act in the **best** interests of the child.
21. Knowing what to look for is vital to the early identification of abuse and neglect. If staff are unsure, they should **always** speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy).

What school and college staff should do if they have concerns about a child

22. If staff have **any concerns** about a child’s welfare, they should act on them immediately. See page 13 for a flow chart setting out the process for staff when they have concerns about a child.
23. If staff have a concern, they should follow their own organisation’s child protection policy and speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy).
24. Options will then include:

- managing any support for the child internally via the school's or college's own pastoral support processes;
- an early help assessment;⁶ or

⁶Further information on early help assessments, provision of early help services and accessing services is in Chapter 1 of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

- a referral for statutory services,⁷ for example as the child might be in need, is in need or suffering or likely to suffer harm.

25. The designated safeguarding lead or a deputy should always be available to discuss safeguarding concerns. If in exceptional circumstances, the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Staff should consider speaking to a member of the senior leadership team and/or take advice from local children's social care. In these circumstances, any action taken should be shared with the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) as soon as is practically possible.
26. Staff should not assume a colleague or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe. They should be mindful that early information sharing is vital for effective identification, assessment and allocation of appropriate service provision. [Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers](#) supports staff who have to make decisions about sharing information. This advice includes the seven golden rules for sharing information and considerations with regard to the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If in any doubt about sharing information, staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy. Fears about sharing information **must not** be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare, and protect the safety, of children.

Early help

27. If early help is appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead practitioner. Any such cases should be kept under constant review and consideration given to a referral to children's social care for assessment for statutory services, if the child's situation does not appear to be improving or is getting worse.

Statutory assessments

28. **Where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from harm, it is important that a referral to children's social care (and if appropriate the police) is made immediately.** Referrals should follow the local referral process.

Children in need

A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled. Local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Children suffering or likely to suffer significant harm

Local authorities, with the help of other organisations as appropriate, have a duty to make enquires under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. Such enquiries enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare and must be initiated where there are concerns about maltreatment, including all forms of abuse and neglect, female genital mutilation or other so-called honour based violence, and extra-familial threats like radicalisation and sexual exploitation.

29. The online tool [Report Child Abuse to Your Local Council](#) directs to the relevant local children's social care contact number.

What will the local authority do?

30. Within one working day of a referral being made, a local authority social worker should acknowledge receipt to the referrer and make a decision about the next steps and the type of response that is required This will include determining whether:
- the child requires immediate protection and urgent action is required
 - the child is in need, and should be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989

- there is reasonable cause to suspect the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and whether enquiries must be made and the child assessed under section 47 of the Children Act 1989
- any services are required by the child and family and what type of services
- further specialist assessments are required to help the local authority to decide what further action to take
- to see the child as soon as possible if the decision is taken that the referral requires further assessment.

31. The referrer should follow up if this information is not forthcoming.
32. If social workers decide to carry out a statutory assessment, staff should do everything they can to support that assessment (supported by the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) as required).
33. If, after a referral, the child's situation does not appear to be improving, the referrer should consider following local escalation procedures to ensure their concerns have been addressed and, most importantly, that the child's situation improves.

Female Genital Mutilation mandatory reporting duty for teachers

34. Whilst all staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) with regard to any concerns about female genital mutilation (FGM), there is a specific **legal** duty on **teachers**.⁸ If a **teacher**, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher **must** report this to the police. **See Annex A** for further details.

Record keeping

35. All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. If in doubt about recording requirements, staff should discuss with the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy).

Why is all of this important?

36. It is important for children to receive the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating. Research and serious case reviews have repeatedly shown the dangers of failing to take effective action.⁹ Examples of poor practice include:
 - failing to act on and refer the early signs of abuse and neglect;
 - poor record keeping;
 - failing to listen to the views of the child;
 - failing to re-assess concerns when situations do not improve;

- not sharing information;
- sharing information too slowly; and
- a lack of challenge to those who appear not to be taking action.

⁸ Under Section 5B(11) (a) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, “teacher” means, in relation to England, a person within section 141A(1) of the Education Act 2002 (persons employed or engaged to carry out teaching work at schools and other institutions in England).

⁹ An analysis of serious case reviews can be found at [Serious case reviews, 2011 to 2014](#).

What school and college staff should do if they have concerns about another staff member who may pose a risk of harm to children

37. If staff have safeguarding concerns, or an allegation is made about another member of staff (including volunteers) posing a risk of harm to children, then:

- this should be referred to the headteacher or principal;
- where there are concerns/allegations about the headteacher or principal, this should be referred to the chair of governors, chair of the management committee or proprietor of an independent school; and
- in the event of concerns/allegations about the headteacher, where the headteacher is also the sole proprietor of an independent school, allegations should be reported directly to the designated officer(s) at the local authority. (Further details can be found in Part four of this guidance).

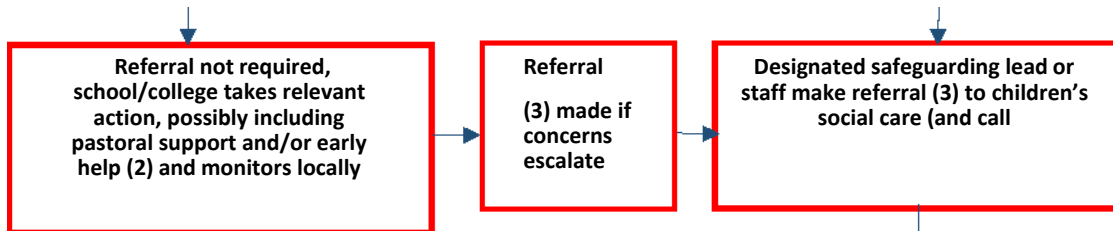
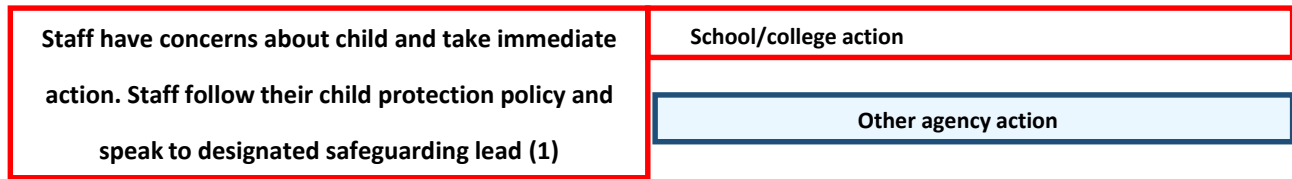
What school or college staff should do if they have concerns about safeguarding practices within the school or college

- 38.** All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's or college's safeguarding regime and know that such concerns will be taken seriously by the senior leadership team.
- 39.** Appropriate whistleblowing procedures, should be put in place for such concerns to be raised with the school's or college's senior leadership team.
- 40.** 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:

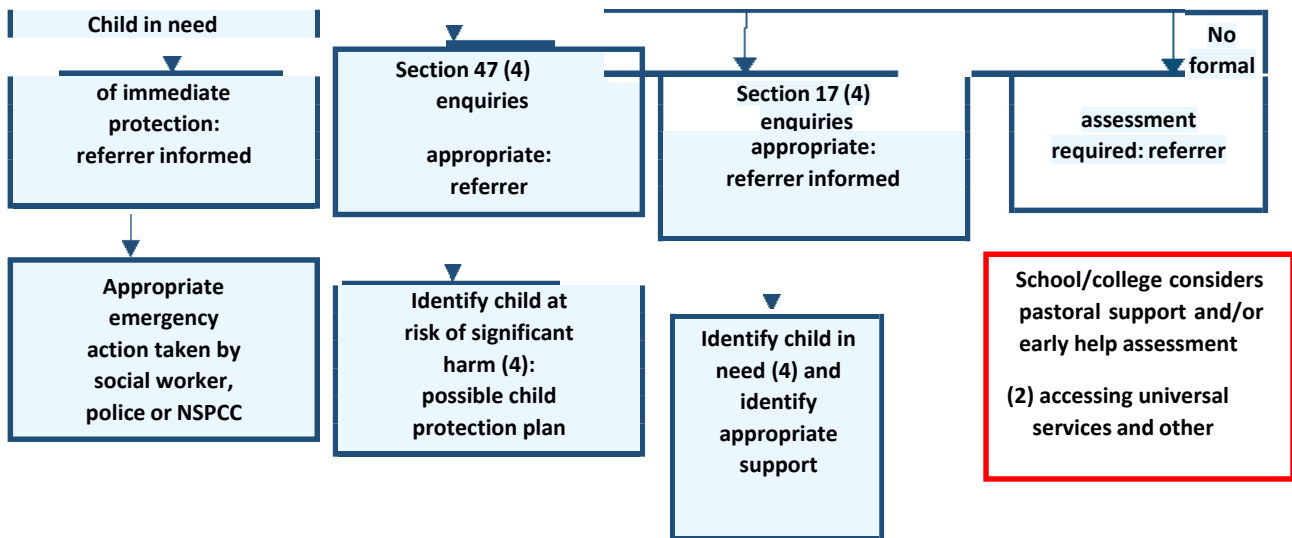
- General guidance on whistleblowing can be found via: [Advice on Whistleblowing](#).
- The [NSPCC whistleblowing helpline](#) is available as an alternative route for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally or have concerns about the way a concern is being handled by their school or college. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and [email: help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)¹⁰

¹⁰ Alternatively, staff can write to: National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Weston House, 42 Curtain, Road, London EC2A 3NH.

Actions where there are concerns about a child



Within 1 working day, social worker makes decision about the type of response that is required



Staff should do everything they can to support social workers.
 At all stages, staff should keep the child's circumstances under review (involving the designated safeguarding lead (or deputies) as required), and re-refer if appropriate, to ensure the child's circumstances improve – the child's best interests must always come first

- (1) In cases which also involve a concern or an allegation of abuse against a staff member, see Part Four of this guidance.
- (2) Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. Where a child would benefit from co-ordinated early help, an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter one of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) provides detailed guidance on the early help process.
- (3) Referrals should follow the process set out in the local threshold document and local protocol for assessment. Chapter one of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).
- (4) Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, it has a duty to make enquiries to decide whether to take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare. Full details are in Chapter one of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).
- (5) This could include applying for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).

Indicators of abuse and neglect

41. All school and college staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.
42. **Abuse:** a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.
43. **Physical abuse:** a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
44. **Emotional abuse:** the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from 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.
45. **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. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education (see paragraph 48).

- 46. 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, for example, as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Specific safeguarding issues

- 47. All staff** should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking, alcohol abuse, deliberately missing education and sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery) put children in danger.
- 48. All staff** should be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:
- bullying (including cyberbullying);
 - physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
 - sexual violence and sexual harassment;
 - sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
 - initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.
- 49. All staff** should be clear as to the school's or college's policy and procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse.
- 50.** Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school or college and/or can occur between children outside the school or college. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) should be considering the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur. This is known as contextual safeguarding, which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. Children's social care assessments should consider

such factors so it is important that schools and colleges provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and the full context of any abuse. Additional information regarding contextual safeguarding is available here: [Contextual Safeguarding](#).

51. **Annex A** contains important additional information about specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues. School and college leaders and those staff who work directly with children should read the annex.

Annex A: Further information

Annex A contains important additional information about specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues. School and college leaders and those staff who work directly with children should read this annex.

As per Part 1 of this guidance, if staff have any concerns about a child's welfare, they should act on them immediately. They should follow their own organisation's child protection policy and speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy).

Where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from harm, it is important that a referral to children's social care (and if appropriate the police) is made immediately.

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Children and the court system

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

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

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

Children missing from education

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

Children with family members in prison

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

Child sexual exploitation

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

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex;
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;
- can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media);
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

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

- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;

- children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant;
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

Child criminal exploitation: county lines

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism¹¹ should be considered. Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

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

Domestic abuse

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

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

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

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result. Domestic abuse affecting young people can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life.

Advice on identifying children who are affected by domestic abuse and how they can be helped is available at:¹¹ [national crime agency human-trafficking](#)

[NSPCC- UK domestic-abuse Signs Symptoms Effects](#)

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

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

Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes in to the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. Indicators that a family may be at risk

of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Whilst referrals and or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, and in accordance with local procedures, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

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

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

So-called 'honour-based' violence

So-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors

when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV, or already having suffered HBV.

Actions

If staff have a concern regarding a child that might be at risk of HBV or who has suffered from HBV, they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). As appropriate, they will activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children's social care. Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty placed on **teachers**¹² that requires a different approach (see following section).

FGM

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

FGM mandatory reporting duty for teachers

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon **teachers** along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should **not** be examining pupils or students, but the same definition of what is meant by "to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out" is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies. Information on when and how to make a report can be found at: [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information](#).

Teachers **must** personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out.¹³ Unless the teacher has good reason not to, they should still consider and discuss any such case with the school's or college's designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) and involve children's social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers should follow local safeguarding procedures. The following is a useful summary of the FGM mandatory reporting duty: [FGM Fact Sheet](#).

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). Nevertheless, some communities use religion and culture as a way to coerce a person into marriage. Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

The Forced Marriage Unit has published [statutory guidance](#) and [Multi-agency guidelines](#), with pages 35-36 of which focus on the role of schools and colleges. School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email_fm_u@fco.gov.uk.

Preventing radicalisation

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

[Extremism¹⁴](#) is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces. [Radicalisation¹⁵](#) refers to the process by which a person

comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

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

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

The Prevent duty

All schools and colleges are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard¹⁶ to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".¹⁷ This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

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

Additional support

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

¹⁵ As defined in the Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales.

¹⁶ According to the Prevent duty guidance 'having due regard' means that the authorities should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.

¹⁷ "Terrorism" for these purposes has the same meaning as for the Terrorism Act 2000 (section 1(1) to (4) of that Act).

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

[Educate Against Hate](#), a website launched by the Her Majesty's Government has been developed to support and equip school and college leaders, teachers, and parents with information, tools and resources (including on the promotion of fundamental British values) to help recognise and address extremism and radicalisation in young people. The platform provides information on and access to training resources for teachers, staff and school and college leaders, some of which are free such as Prevent e-learning, via the Prevent Training catalogue.

Channel

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. Guidance on Channel is available at: [Channel guidance](#), and a Channel awareness e-learning programme is available for staff at: [Channel General Awareness](#).

The school's or college's designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Channel referral. As a Channel partner, the school or college may be asked to attend a Channel panel to discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required.

Peer on peer abuse

Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as peer on peer abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexting and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges

Context

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

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the

experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable. It is important that **all** victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at greater risk.

Staff should be aware of the importance of:

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

What is Sexual violence and sexual harassment?

Sexual violence

It is important that school and college staff are aware of sexual violence and the fact children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way. When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003¹⁸ as described below:

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

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

Sexual Assault: A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

What is consent?¹⁹ Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g. to vaginal but not anal sex or penetration with conditions, such as wearing a condom. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs. Someone consents to vaginal, anal or oral penetration only if s/he agrees by choice to that penetration and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice.²⁰

Sexual harassment

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

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

- sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names;
- sexual "jokes" or taunting;
- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone's clothes (schools and colleges should be considering when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence - it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim) and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature; and
- online sexual harassment. This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence.²¹

It may include:

- non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos;
- sexualised online bullying;
- unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media; and
- sexual exploitation; coercion and threats

The response to a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment

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

If staff have a concern about a child or a child makes a report to them, they should follow the referral process as set out from paragraph 22 in Part 1 of this guidance. As is always the case, if staff are in any doubt as to what to do they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy).

Additional advice and support

Abuse or Safeguarding issue	Link to Guidance/Advice	Source
Abuse	What to do if you're worried a child is being abused	DfE advice
	Domestic abuse: Various Information/Guidance	Home Office
	Faith based abuse: National Action Plan	DfE advice
	Relationship abuse: disrespect nobody	Home Office website
Bullying	Preventing bullying including cyberbullying	DfE advice

Children and the courts	Advice for 5-11-year olds witnesses in criminal courts	MoJ advice
	Advice for 12-17 year old witnesses in criminal courts	MoJ advice
Children missing from education, home or care	Children missing education	DfE statutory guidance
	Child missing from home or care	DfE statutory guidance
	Children and adults missing strategy	Home Office strategy
Children with family members in prison	National Information Centre on Children of Offenders	Barnardo's in partnership with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) advice
Child Exploitation	County Lines: criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults	Home Office guidance
	Child sexual exploitation: guide for practitioners	DfE
	Trafficking: safeguarding children	DfE and HO guidance
Drugs	Drugs: advice for schools	DfE and ACPO advice
	Drug strategy 2017	Home Office strategy
	Information and advice on drugs	Talk to Frank website

Abuse or Safeguarding issue	Link to Guidance/Advice	Source
	ADEPIS platform sharing information and resources for schools: covering drug (& alcohol) prevention	Website developed by Mentor UK
"Honour Based Violence" (so called)	Female genital mutilation: information and resources	Home Office
	Female genital mutilation: multi agency statutory guidance	DfE, DH, and HO statutory guidance
	Forced marriage: information and practice guidelines	Foreign Commonwealth Office and Home Office
Health and Well-being	Fabricated or induced illness: safeguarding children	DfE, Department for Health and Home Office
	Rise Above: Free PSHE resources on health, wellbeing and resilience	Public Health England resources
	Medical-conditions: supporting pupils at school	DfE statutory guidance
	Mental health and behaviour	DfE advice
Homelessness	Homelessness: How local authorities should exercise their functions	HCLG
Online	Sexting: responding to incidents and safeguarding children	UK Council for Child Internet Safety
Private fostering	Private fostering: local authorities	DfE - statutory guidance
Radicalisation	Prevent duty guidance	Home Office guidance
	Prevent duty advice for schools	DfE advice
	Educate Against Hate Website	DfE and Home Office
	Gangs and youth violence: for schools and colleges	Home Office advice
	Ending violence against women and girls 2016-2020 strategy	Home Office strategy
	Violence against women and girls: national statement of	

Violence	expectations for victims	Home Office guidance
	Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges	DfE advice
	Serious violence strategy	Home Office Strategy

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