



**THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL:**  
Charvil Primary

*'....to be a school which inspires and encourages the highest achievement'*

**POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN**

**Date last reviewed:** June 2020

**Responsibility:** Deputy Head (Primary) and the Lead Governor for Safeguarding

**Review Period:** Annually

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Ms L May

**Deputy Safeguarding Officers:** Mr K Hillerton, Mrs H Cherrett, Mrs L Page, Mr M Hamilton

**Designated Safeguarding Governor:** Mrs J Cowley - Lead Governor for Safeguarding

**THIS POLICY WILL HELP THE SCHOOL TO FULFIL ITS AIMS BY:**

1. Safeguarding all pupils in order to remain safe and free from harm.
2. Securing responsibilities and accountabilities through a wider safeguarding system for young people.

**THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY WILL BE TO PROMOTE AND SECURE:**

1. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
2. Annual statutory training for all staff in the school community.
3. Protection of children from maltreatment, prevent impairment of children's health and development, ensure that children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care and take action to enable children to have the best outcomes.
4. All staff in the school community have a secure understanding of policy and procedure in order to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

**TO FULFIL THIS POLICY THE LEAD GOVERNOR AND GOVERNORS OF THE SCHOOL WILL ENSURE THAT:**

1. All staff in the school read and sign to demonstrate a good understanding of Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part 1 and Annex A) and the Staff Code of Conduct.
2. The school will ensure that the Single Central Record is a robust procedure that ensures that appropriate checks and monitoring is completed regarding personnel.
3. The Designated Safeguarding Leads complete the appropriate level training every two years to ensure that an up to date, sound knowledge of safeguarding developments.
4. All staff complete the required annual training to ensure outstanding practice across the school.
5. All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.
6. All staff are prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help or intervention in order to safeguard their well being or meet any additional need.
7. All staff who may have a concern about a child's welfare should follow the referral process and ensure that their concern is effectively communicated.

8. DSLs should be clear how to refer and access guidance from external agencies in order to safeguard against any harm for an individual or group of children.
9. All staff should have a good understanding of how to recognise types of abuse or neglect and how to respond.
10. All staff should be clear as to how to report a safeguarding concern regarding a colleague or how to use the whistleblowing policy.
11. Governors and the SLT will ensure that safer recruitment requirements are met when recruiting for the school community.

The Piggott School recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding children and protecting them from harm.

This Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed by the [Safeguarding](#) Committee of the Governing Body.

Date of last review: June 2020

Date of next review: June 2021

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>	<b>Date Training Undertaken</b>
Designated Governor for Safeguarding	Joanna Cowley	0118 940 2357	08.09.2016
Senior Designated Person for Safeguarding	Louise May	0118 932 0033	11.09.2018
Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding	Ken Hillerton	0118 932 0033	11.02.2020
Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding	Helen Cherrett	0118 932 0033	22.04.2020
Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding	Lucy Page	0118 932 0033	23.04.2020
Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding	Mark Hamilton	0118 932 0033	19.05.2020
LA Safeguarding Contact/LADO ( Local Area Designated Officer)	Email; <a href="mailto:LADO@wokingham.gov.uk">LADO@wokingham.gov.uk</a>	0118 974 6141	
Referral and Assessment Team – WBC Children’s	Email: <a href="mailto:triage@wokingham.gov.uk">triage@wokingham.gov.uk</a>	0118 908 8002	
Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership	<a href="https://proceduresonline.com/berks/">https://proceduresonline.com/berks/</a>	<a href="http://www.wokinghamsafeguardingchildren.org.uk">www.wokinghamsafeguardingchildren.org.uk</a> . scp	
ARC Information	35 Reading Road Wokingham Berkshire RG41 1EG	<a href="http://www.arcweb.org.uk">http://www.arcweb.org.uk</a>	

and Counselling Service			
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All parents/carers are made aware of the school's responsibilities in regard to safeguarding procedures through publication of the school's safeguarding policy on the school's website. Reference will be made to it in the school prospectus and home school agreement and a copy can be obtained from the school office.

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## 1 Introduction

### What is the difference between Safeguarding and Child Protection?

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's and learners' health or development
- ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

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

Effective child protection is essential as part of wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However, all agencies and individuals should aim to proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.

There are six main elements to our policy:

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

#### 1.1 School Commitment

The school is committed to creating and maintaining a safe learning environment for children and young people, identifying where there are child welfare concerns and taking action to address them, in partnership with other agencies. This policy reflects the policies of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) who are responsible for developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to :

- (i) the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
- (ii) training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
- (iii) recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
- (iv) investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
- (v) safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
- (vi) co-operation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;

- see page 2 for contact details.

The school will also contribute through the curriculum by developing children's understanding and awareness and promoting their resilience by providing a safe and secure environment within schools.

To create this safe environment the school has certain statutory duties and responsibilities set out within:

- The Education Act, 2002, HM Guidance;
- Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018;
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 – follow link

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/835733/Keeping children safe in education 2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835733/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2019.pdf)

All staff at The Piggott School: Charvil Primary will sign an annual register to confirm that they have read and understood the Keeping Children Safe in Education document – Part 1 and Annex A

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/828763/Inspecting safeguarding in early years education and skills.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/828763/Inspecting_safeguarding_in_early_years_education_and_skills.pdf)

These duties are listed below:

## **1.2 Duties**

To provide a safe learning environment the Governing Body, Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team of the school will:

- Ensure that all members of the school community including the Designated Safeguarding Governor, Designated Safeguarding Lead and all members of the school community have appropriate safeguarding procedures in place should they choose to raise safeguarding issues or concerns on any level.
- Secure an ethos within the school community where all adults feel confident, competent, comfortable and supported to draw safeguarding issues to the attention of the Head Teacher, DSL or the Designated Safeguarding Governor and are able to pose safeguarding questions with “respectful uncertainty” as part of their shared responsibility to safeguard children;
- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried;
- Ensure that every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies;
- Ensure all adults working with children are aware of the role of the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children’s Partnership
- Include opportunities in the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse;
- Take all reasonable measures to ensure risks of harm to children’s welfare are minimised;
- Take all appropriate actions to address concerns about the welfare of a child, working to local policies and procedures in full working partnership with agencies;
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements are in place and embedded in the daily life and practice of the school;
- Promote pupil health and safety;
- Promote safe practice and challenge unsafe practice;
- Ensure that procedures are in place to deal with allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers.
- Put in place and promote robust anti-bullying, including cyber bullying, strategies;
- Meet the health needs of children with medical conditions;
- Provide first aid;
- Maximise school security;
- Tackle drugs and substance misuse;
- Provide support and planning for young people in custody and their resettlement back into the community;
- Work with all agencies with regard to missing children, anti social behaviour/gang activity and violence/knife crime in the community.

## **2 School Responsibilities**

The school will identify harm and maintain safety by:

- Everybody having a duty to safeguard children inside and outside the school environment including school trips, extended schools, activities and vocational placements;
- Involving parents and providing advice and guidance regarding safeguarding;
- Maintaining a pupil centred focus and listening to young people;
- Recognising signs of concern, especially with children who may be vulnerable;
- Documenting and collating information on individual children to support early identification, referral and actions to safeguard;
- Taking appropriate actions to address concerns about a child's welfare in partnership with other organisations and safeguarding agencies;
- Informing all staff and volunteers with regard to the DSL and Deputy DSL in school.
- Providing PSHE including raising awareness with young people in what are and are not acceptable behaviours.

PSHE input will provide opportunities for children and young people to learn how to keep themselves safe, for example, by:

- The availability of advice and support in their local area and online;
- Recognising and managing risks in different situations, including on the internet;
- Judging what kind of physical contact is acceptable and unacceptable;
- Recognising when pressure from others, including people they know, threatens their personal safety and well-being (Reference Prevent Strategy, Safer internet use and CSE, FM, FGM)
- Developing effective ways of resisting pressure;
- Developing healthy relationships, including awareness of unhealthy relationships where domestic violence, bullying and abuse occur;
- Emphasising their personal safety and highlighting the risks of running away.

## **2.1 The roles and responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.**

Members of the School's Leadership Team have been assigned to the roles of DSL and Deputy DSL for Safeguarding children. They have received appropriate training and support for the roles. **Louise May; Ken Hillerton; Helen Cherrett; Lucy Page; Mark Hamilton**

The Deputy DSLs will provide additional support to ensure the responsibilities for safeguarding children are fully embedded within the school ethos and that specific duties are discharged. This will entail supporting the DSL in dealing with referrals, attending Case Conferences and supporting the child/children.

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

**A Safeguarding Concern form can be found on all desktops in the school.**

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead are responsible for the following:**

### **2.1.1 Referrals**

- Referring cases of suspected abuse or allegations to the relevant investigating agencies; Concerns about a child not involving allegations of abuse by a member of staff should be referred to the WBC Referral and Assessment Team at WBC Social Care – see page 1 for contact details.
- The DSL is not responsible for dealing with allegations made against members of staff. This is the responsibility of the Head Teacher who will inform the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- Acting as a source of support, advice and expertise within the school when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies;



- Liaising with the Head Teacher to inform him/her of any issues and ongoing investigations. The DSL will ensure there is always cover for this role
- Ensuring that a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, is in place and that the school contributes to assessments of need and supports multi agency plans for those children;

### 2.1.2 Raising Awareness

- Working with the governing body to ensure that the School's Safeguarding Policy is updated and reviewed annually;
- Ensuring that, in order to avoid conflict later, parents are aware that referrals may be made and of the role of the School;
- Ensuring that when children leave the school, their Child Protection File is discussed as soon as possible with the DSL at the new school;
- Making sure that the Child Protection File is transferred separately from the main pupil file; It should be posted recorded delivery to the DSL at the new school;
- Where the new school is not known, alerting the Education Welfare Officer at Wokingham Borough council (WBC) so that the child's name can be included on the data base for missing pupils;
- Cascading safeguarding advice and guidance issued by the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children's Partnership which can be found at: <https://www.wokinghamsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/scp>

### 2.1.3 Training

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training for DSLs in Child Protection training and a refresher will be completed every 2 years in order to:

- Recognise how to identify signs of abuse and when it is appropriate to make a referral;
- Have a working knowledge of:  
Wokingham Levels of Need and Intervention Thresholds Document  
<https://www.berkshirerwestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp/wokingham/wokinghams-levels-of-need-and-threshold-guidance>
  - How to make a referral to Wokingham Borough Council Referral and Assessment Team and what to include;
  - How a child protection case conference is conducted, how to provide a report and be able to attend and contribute effectively to these when required to do so;
  - Be able to keep detailed, accurate and secure written records of referrals/concerns.

The Senior and Deputy Designated Persons will ensure staff receive appropriate Safeguarding training annually. Safeguarding is a regular agenda item on all staff meetings to ensure that up to date information with regard to procedures such as the Prevent strategy are shared and discussed in open forums. On line training can also be used to further enhance knowledge and understanding.

**Free on line training** can be accessed at:

- PREVENT [http://course.ncalt.com/Channel\\_General\\_Awareness/01/index.html](http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html)
- CSE <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/resources/keep-them-safe/>
- FGM <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/resources/female-genital-mutilation->

All staff will be expected to undergo training on Safeguarding every year, to enable them to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities effectively:

All staff and volunteers, especially new or part-time staff who may work with different educational settings, will receive the same safeguarding training.

- safeguarding training will ensure that staff
  - have an overview of the organisation and its safeguarding accountabilities.
  - understand its purpose, values, services and structure
  - are able to recognise/identify signs of abuse which may include:
    - significant changes in children's behaviour;
    - deterioration in children's general well-being;
    - unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect;
    - children's comments which give cause for concern;
    - any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, for example in the child's home
    - inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any other person working with the children. For example, inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities; or inappropriate sharing of images.
  - know that they must report any concerns immediately to the DSL team.
  - understand confidentiality issues.

### 3 Roles and Responsibilities of the Head Teacher

The Head Teacher will ensure that:

- The policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body are fully implemented, and followed by all staff so that everyone knows what to do if concerned about a child;
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Senior DSL and Deputy DSLs and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of children;
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies;
- The Headteacher and other senior leaders undertake safer recruitment training in order to comply with the statutory requirement to have a trained person on every recruitment panel.
- Allegations against a member of staff are investigated, and referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) if appropriate.

### 4 Roles and Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The Governing body is collectively responsible for the school's safeguarding arrangements. The Designated Safeguarding Governor **Joanna Cowley** will undertake initial Safeguarding training and refresher training every year. Ideally, all governors will undertake the Safeguarding training or appropriate e-learning training. All Governors will undertake an enhanced DBS check and Prevent training.

Allegations of abuse made against the Head Teacher are reported to the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors, and referred to the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO).

The Governing Body will ensure that:

- Safeguarding arrangements are fully embedded within the school's ethos and reflected in the school's day to day safeguarding practices;
- Sufficient governors are trained in safer recruitment practices that appointments to the senior leadership team can be adequately supported;
- The school has effective policies and procedures in place in accordance with this policy, and school's compliance with them is monitored;

- There are policies and procedures in place for dealing with complaints and/or allegations against staff and any subsequent staff disciplinary hearings.
- There is a Designated Safeguarding Governor to champion safeguarding issues within the school, to liaise with the Head Teacher, and to provide information and reports to the Governing Body. The Designated Safeguarding Governor is able to confide in and be supported by the Chair of Governors;
- The Head Teacher, and all staff who work with children, will undertake a detailed Safeguarding training session with a refresher training every year.
- The Senior and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are trained and attend a one day refresher course every two years
- Temporary staff, volunteers and other regular visitors to the school who work with children are made aware of the school's arrangements for safeguarding and their responsibilities.

## 5 Identifying Concerns

All members of staff, volunteers and governors must know how to identify and respond to safeguarding or child protection concerns whether they are the result of a direct disclosure or not.

Where a child discloses abuse, they must be familiar with procedures to be followed as below:

If a child chooses to tell someone in school about alleged abuse, that person will support the child as follows:

- Establish the key facts in language that the child understands, using the child's words;
- Clarify that no promises will be made to the child e.g. to keep secrets and inform the child that this information will now have to be passed on;
- Stay calm and be available to listen with the utmost care to what the child is saying;
- Question normally, without pressurising, using only open questions. **Leading questions should be avoided. Particularly if it is believed a crime may have been committed any questioning should be limited to establishing whether immediate protection is required and the next course of action to be taken.**
- Avoid putting words into the child's mouth but note the main points carefully;
- Re-assure the child that they were right to inform you;
- Write a full record – signed, dated, timed - of what the child did, said etc.;
- Immediately inform the Senior or one of the Deputy DSLs unless the disclosure has been made to them, following agreed procedures and referrals as appropriate.

## 6 Confidentiality

While it is recognised that all matters relating to safeguarding individual children are confidential, a member of staff, governor or volunteer, if confided in by a pupil, must never guarantee confidentiality to that pupil.

Where there is a Child Protection concern it will be passed immediately to the DSL who will contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) if appropriate- see page 1 for contact details

The parents of the child should be informed immediately unless it is felt that this would not be in the best interests of the child, would place them at further risk or where it is believed a crime may have been committed

The Head Teacher or Senior or Deputy DSL will disclose personal information about a pupil, including the level of involvement of other agencies, to other members of staff only on a 'need to know' basis.

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

## **7 Records and Monitoring**

Any concerns about a child will be recorded in writing within 24 hours. All records must provide a factual, evidence-based account. Accurate recording of actions should be made. Records will be signed, dated and where appropriate witnessed.

An electronic copy of all concern forms, records and chronologies will be kept in a confidential file on the network. Authorisation to access these electronic records will be controlled by the Senior DSL. Hard copies of records or reports relating to Child Protection concerns will be kept in a separate, confidential file, securely stored away from the main pupil file.

The school will keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately. These records will be kept within the separate confidential file.

Records will be kept up to date and reviewed regularly. Original notes will be retained as evidence if there are criminal proceedings arising from current or historical allegations of abuse or neglect.

Timely and accurate recording will take place when there are any issues regarding a child. A record of each and every episode/incident/concern/activity regarding that child, including telephone calls to other professionals, needs to be recorded in chronological order and kept within the confidential file for that child. Support and advice will be sought from Social Care or the Local Area Designated Officer, whenever necessary.

If the child moves to another setting the Child Protection file should be sent, by registered post immediately to the Senior DSL at the new setting, making sure that the Child Protection file is transferred separately from the main pupil file. There must be liaison between the two Senior Designated Persons in order to ensure a smooth and safe transition for the child.

Where the new school is not known the Educational Welfare Officer at WBC should be informed so that the child can be included on the data base for missing pupils.

## **8 Supporting children**

We recognise that the school plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our children by providing good lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends and an ethos of protection. We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame and that their behaviour may be challenging or defiant, or they may be withdrawn. We appreciate that school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk.

We will endeavour to support our pupils through:

- Working to establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to;
  - Ensuring that all pupils know there is an adult in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty;
  - 1:1 nurture work and the opportunity to talk to an adult of their choice at any time;
  - Regular consultation with children e.g. through questionnaires, participation in anti-bullying assemblies and presentations, monitor playground incidents;
  - Safeguarding across the curriculum, including PSHE, provides opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn for help. In particular this will include anti-bullying work, e-safety, road safety, pedestrian and cycle training. Also focussed work in Year 6 and Year 11 to prepare for transition to secondary school and further education with regard to independence;
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil, such as Social Services, Foundry College and Education Psychology Service;
- Ensuring all staff are aware of school guidance for their use of mobile technology and have discussed safeguarding issues around the use of mobile technologies and their associated risks.

- Ensuring that, where a pupil subject to a child protection plan leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

## **8.1 Radicalisation and Extremism**

Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology which is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

Our school values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning society's values. Both pupils and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, with freedom of speech comes responsibility. Speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. The school is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and seeks to protect children against the messages of all violent extremism.

### **Response**

When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak to the Headteacher or to the Designated Safeguarding Officers who will follow safeguarding procedures in the Prevent Policy. If the matter is urgent then Thames Valley Police must be contacted by dialling 999. In non-urgent cases where police advice is sought then contact should be via 101. The Department of Education has also set up a dedicated telephone helpline for staff and governors to raise concerns around Prevent (020 7340 7264).

Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most young people do not become involved in extremist action. For this reason the appropriate interventions in any particular case may not have any specific connection to the threat of radicalisation, for example they may address mental health, relationship or drug/alcohol issues.

## **8.2 Forced Marriage (FM)**

This is an entirely separate issue from arranged marriage. It is a human rights abuse and falls within the Crown Prosecution Service definition of domestic violence. Young men and women can be at risk in affected ethnic groups. Whistle-blowing may come from younger siblings. Other indicators may be detected by changes in adolescent behaviours. Never attempt to intervene directly as a school or through a third party. Always call either the Contact Centre or the Forced Marriage Unit 020 7008 0151.

## **8.3 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in England and Wales under the FGM Act (2003). It is a form of child abuse and violence against women. From 31 October 2015 a mandatory reporting duty requires teachers to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s, which are identified in the course of their professional work, to the police.

The duty applies to all persons employed or engaged to carry out 'teaching work' in the school, whether or not they have qualified teacher status. Please refer to the Home Office and Department for Education's procedural

information for full details: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information>

If a teacher is informed by a pupil that an act of FGM has been carried out on her or a teacher observes physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out the teacher should call 101 and make a report to the police force in which the girl resides.

The duty applies to the individual who becomes aware of the case to make a report. It should not be transferred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. However, the DSL should be informed and a report to the police should be made by the close of the next working day.

Where there is a risk to life or likelihood of serious immediate harm the teacher should report the case immediately to the police, including dialling 999 if appropriate.

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

#### **8.4 Domestic Abuse**

Domestic abuse represents one quarter of all violent crime. It is actual or threatened physical, emotional, psychological or sexual abuse. It involves the use of power and control by one person over another. It occurs regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, age, religious beliefs, mental or physical ability. Domestic abuse can also involve other types of abuse. We use the term domestic abuse to reflect that a number of abusive and controlling behaviours can be present, not only the act of violence.

Slapping, punching, kicking, bruising, rape, ridicule, constant criticism, threats, manipulation, sleep deprivation, social isolation, and other controlling behaviours all count as abuse.

If a member of staff is concerned that a pupil is the subject of or witness to domestic abuse then this should be reported to the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead.

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

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the young person (or third person/s) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterized by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice, as a result of their social, economic or emotional vulnerability.

A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.

If a member of staff is concerned that a pupil is the subject of CSE then this should be reported to the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Officer.

### **9 Recruitment**

In order to ensure that children are protected whilst at this school, we will ensure that staff and volunteers are carefully selected, screened, trained and supervised.

We accept that it is our responsibility to follow the guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016.

All recruitment panels will include a member of the Senior Leadership team who has completed the Safer Recruitment training. The schools commitment to Safeguarding will be explicit throughout the recruitment process.

## **10 Volunteers**

We understand that some people otherwise unsuitable for working with children may use volunteering to gain access to children; for this reason, any volunteers in the school, in whatever capacity, are expected to follow the policies and procedures in the same way as paid staff.

Where a parent or other volunteer helps on a one-off basis, he/she will only work under the direct supervision of a member of staff, and at no time have one to one contact with children. However, if a parent or other volunteer is to be in school regularly or over a longer period then they will be checked to ensure their suitability to work with children.

## **11 Safe Staff**

Checks will be undertaken corresponding to Safer Recruitment procedures on all adults working in the school to establish their suitability to work with children. Records of these checks will be kept in accordance with Part 3 - Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016.

All school staff will take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted with or in view of other adults.

If an allegation is made against another member of staff, the member of staff receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Head Teacher or relevant member of the Senior Leadership team. The Head Teacher or relevant member of SLT will then consult with the Local Area Designated Officer.

Allegations against the Head Teacher are reported to the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors, and referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) - see page 1 for contact details.

## **12 Conduct of Staff**

The school has a duty to ensure that professional behaviour applies to relationships between staff and children, and that all members of staff are clear about what constitutes appropriate behaviour and professional boundaries. All staff in the school will read and sign the Staff Code of Conduct annually.

If any member of staff has reasonable suspicion that a child is suffering harm or at risk, and fails to act in accordance with this policy, this will be viewed as misconduct or gross misconduct, and appropriate action will be taken.

## **13 Supporting staff**

We recognise that staff working in the school who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or who appears likely to suffer harm, may find this situation stressful and upsetting.

We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through anxieties with the Senior Designated Person or Head Teacher and to seek further support, if necessary.

The Senior and Deputy Designated Persons and the Head teacher can seek personal support through ARC counselling services-see page 1 for contact details, or other appropriate counselling services.

Staff will have access to The Guidance for Safer Working Practices for Adults who work with Children and Young People <http://www.saferrecruitmentconsortium.org/GSWP%20Oct%202015.pdf>

This provides advice on the boundaries of appropriate behaviour and the circumstances that should be avoided in order to limit complaints against staff of the abuse of trust and/or allegations of abuse.

## 14 Images of Children and Young People

The use of digital images in schools is a complex area.

- **School Policy** – The school has a clear and sufficiently detailed policy which covers the taking and use of digital images and video of pupils and takes steps to ensure that it is understood and enforced. Particular care will be taken when images of pupils may pass beyond the direct control of the school and into the public domain, e.g. on the school website, social networking. Guidance will include reference to the storage and deletion of images of pupils, including the policy on the use of devices with a facility to store or transfer data to other locations (e.g. 'cloud' storage) to ensure the school is in line with ICO (Information Commission's Office) guidance.
- **Acceptable Use Agreements** – Staff and pupils sign ICT Acceptable Use Agreements. For staff this includes a section on the use of digital images and clarification about the position regarding the use of personal mobile phones/cameras for taking pictures. Where volunteers are supporting school staff, they should abide by the same rules as school staff as far as is reasonable.
- **Parental Permission** – The school will ensure that appropriate written permissions are obtained before any photographs or videos are used. Where parental permission has not been obtained, or it is known that a pupil should not be photographed or filmed, every reasonable effort should be made to ensure that a pupil's image is not recorded.
- **Parents taking photographs or video** – Where the school chooses to allow the recording of images at events it will be made clear that images may only be recorded for personal use and can only be shared with immediate family and friends. Images must not be shared on social networking sites or other websites that are accessible by the general public.
- **Events/Activities involving multiple schools** – When taking part in events organised by other schools or organisations, the schools involved will consider what image guidelines should apply. For larger events it is reasonable to expect that specific image guidelines should be in place. Consideration should be given as to how those attending the event will be informed of the image guidelines that apply. Although the school will make reasonable efforts to safeguard the digital images of pupils, parents should be made aware that at some types of event it is not always realistic to strictly enforce image guidelines. The school cannot therefore be held accountable for the use of images taken by parents or members of the public at events.

## 15 Before and After School Activities and Contracted Services

Where the Governing Body transfers control or otherwise allows the use of school premises to external bodies (such as sports clubs) or service providers during or out of school hours, we will encourage these bodies or providers to have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures, and suggest that there are arrangements in place to co-ordinate with the school on such matters.

## 16 Links to other School policies

This Policy will be read in conjunction with other policies regarding the safety and welfare of children. These together make up the suite of policies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in this school.

***Please find below the relevant policies and procedures to support safeguarding.***

***Acceptable Internet usage***

***Acceptable use of mobile technology***

***Anti Bullying***

***Attendance***

***Behaviour leadership***

***Community cohesion***

***Code of Conduct for staff***



***Emergency procedures***

***Lockdown procedures***

***Medical needs***

***Prevent strategy***

***Racist Incident***

***SEND***

***Relationships and Sex Education***

***SMSC***

***Substance abuse***

***Whistleblowing***

## Appendix 1 Safeguarding Children – Key Points

Staff and volunteers in charge of children or young people should know what to do if they suspect that someone is being physically, emotionally or sexually abused, or if someone tells them that this is happening. Ensure that you are familiar with the Safeguarding policy; copies of which are located in the staffroom and on the school's web-site. On request you will be provided with a printed copy.

In addition, the following key points give you a guide on what to do and not to do.

1. Always stop and listen straight away to someone who wants to tell you about incidents or suspicions of abuse.
2. If you can, write brief notes of what they are telling you while they are speaking. These may help later if you have to remember exactly what was said. Keep your original notes, however rough and even if you wrote on the back of something else. It's what you wrote at the time that may be important later, not a tidier and improved version you wrote up afterwards. If you don't have the means to write at the time, make notes of what was said or observed as soon as possible afterwards.
3. Never make a promise that you will keep what is said confidential or secret. If you are told about abuse you have a responsibility to tell the right people to get something done about it. If asked, explain that if you are going to be told something very important that needs to be sorted out, you will need to tell the people who can sort it out, but that you will only tell the people who absolutely have to know.
4. Do not ask leading questions that might give your own ideas of what might have happened, e.g. "did he do X to you?" Just ask, "what do you want to tell me?" or "Is there anything else you want to say?"
5. Immediately tell the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead, unless they are the subject of the accusation. In this case, tell the Headteacher. Don't tell other adults or young people what you have been told. If someone has made an accusation to you about the Head Teacher, you should report your concerns to the Chair of Governors.
6. Never attempt to carry out an investigation of suspected or alleged abuse by interviewing people etc. The Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) or the Referral and Assessment team, WBC Social Care and police officers are the people trained to do this. You could cause more damage and endanger possible criminal proceedings.

It is your duty to refer concerns on, not investigate.

7. As soon as possible (and certainly the same day) the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Chair of Governors where the allegation is against the Head Teacher, should refer the matter to the LADO or the Referral and Assessment Team WBC Social Care (helped by your notes). Follow their instructions about what to do next. They will set up any necessary investigations. That is their statutory job.
8. Never think abuse is impossible in your organisation or that an accusation against someone you know well and trust is bound to be wrong.
9. Children and young people often tell other young people, rather than staff or other adults about abuse. Therefore you may hear an allegation from another child.