



Fulham
SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Fulham School is committed to safeguarding and this policy has been created in line with Hammersmith and Fulham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

Reviewed by:	Neill Lunnon	September 2018
Confirmed by:	Executive Group	September 2018
Approved:	Board of Governors	Pending

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1. KEY CONTACTS FULHAM SCHOOL

DSL Fulham Prep and overall lead	Mr Ashley Vargas	avargas@fulham.school 020 7386 2468
Safeguarding Coordinator	Mrs Lesley Warrington	lwarrington@fulham.school 0207 386 2468
Fulham Senior	Miss Mekhla Barua (DSL)	mbarua@fulham.school
	Mr Will le Fleming (DDSL)	wle Fleming@fulham.school 020 7386 2427
	Mrs Lesley Warrington (DDSL)	lwarrington@fulham.school 0207 386 2468
Fulham Prep	Mr Ashley Vargas (DSL)	avargas@fulham.school 020 7386 2468
	Mr Neill Lunnon (DDSL)	nlunnon@fulham.school
	Mrs Storm Porter (DDSL)	sporter@fulham.school
	Mrs Lesley Warrington (DDSL)	lwarrington@fulham.school 0207 386 2468
Fulham Pre-Prep	Ms Di Steven (DSL)	dsteven@fulham.school 0207 471 4215
	Mrs Carrie Piper (DDSL)	cpiper@fulham.school
	Mrs Ali Reeve (DDSL)	areeve@fulham.school
	Miss Naomi Kershaw (DDSL)	nkershaw@fulham.school
Designated Teacher for 'looked-after children'	Mrs Lesley Warrington	lwarrington@fulham.school 020 7386 2468
Designated Governor for Child Protection	Mrs Jane Emmett	jemmett@fulham.school 020 7386 2444
Chair of Governors	Dr Stephen Spurr	stephen.spurr@inspirededu.co.uk 07733 012 073
Vice-Chair of Governors	Ms Clarissa Farr	clarissa.farr@inspirededu.co.uk 07810 836 563

DSL and DDSL refer to Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead respectively

2. SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION CONTACTS FOR SCHOOLS IN HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

For a discussion about any concerns you have regarding a child, please contact our Initial Contact and Advice Team (ICAT) where you will get straight through to a Social Worker on 020 8753 6610 (out of hours – 020 8748 8588).

For case consultations please contact the Child Protection Advisers:

Tricia Hunte, Charlotte Holt, Piyush Bhattacharya
020 8753 5125

For LADO consultations and referrals please contact the duty Child Protection Adviser on:

Telephone: 020 8753 5125
email: LADO@lbhf.gov.uk

If you cannot reach a duty CP Adviser you can reach:

Named LADO Anna Carpenter
Head of Safeguarding, Review and Quality Assurance
Telephone: 0208 753 5124
Email: anna.carpenter@lbhf.gov.uk

CSE Lead

Emily Harcombe
Family Support and Child Protection Adviser
(Monday to Wednesday only)
Telephone: 020 8753 6918
Mobile: 07467 734 648
Email: emily.harcombe@lbhf.gov.uk

Tri-borough FGM

Rochelle-Ann Naidoo
Tri-borough Senior Practitioner
Telephone: 020 7641 1610
Email: rnaidoo@westminster.gov.uk

Bi-borough PREVENT

Contact the local team on:
Telephone: 020 8753 5727
Email: prevent@lbhf.gov.uk

Tri-borough Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Karen Duncan
Tri-borough MASH Business Support Officer
Telephone: 020 7641 3991
Email: kduncan1@westminster.gov.uk

Hammersmith and Fulham School Admissions, Attendance, Child employment, Elective home education and children missing education (ACE) Team

Elizabeth (Liz) Spearman
Hammersmith and Fulham Head of ACE and Admissions
Telephone: 020 8753 6231
Email: elizabeth.spearman@lbhf.gov.uk

3. REPORTING SUMMARY

If you suspect a child is at risk of harm contact the DSL or DDSL:

Fulham Senior: contact Mekhla Barua or if she is unavailable, Will le Fleming or Lesley Warrington

Fulham Prep: contact Ashley Vargas or if he is unavailable, Neill Lunnon, Storm Porter or Lesley Warrington

Fulham Pre-Prep: contact Di Steven or if she is unavailable, Carrie Piper, Ali Reeve or Naomie Kershaw

If there are problems with availability you may make contact with any of the DSL or DDSL team at any school stage, particularly Lesley Warrington as Safeguarding Co-ordinator

If you cannot contact a DSL or DDSL and you think the child is at immediate risk:

Contact the H&F Initial Contact and Advice Team (ICAT) on 020 8753 6610 (out of hours: 020 8748 8588).

If you are concerned about the behaviour of a member of staff contact the Head:

Fulham Senior: contact Will le Fleming

Fulham Prep: contact Neill Lunnon

Fulham Pre-Prep: contact Di Steven

If Neill Lunnon or Di Steven are unavailable or the concern is about either of them: contact Will le Fleming

If Will le Fleming is unavailable or if the concern is about him: contact Stephen Spurr, Chair of Governors

If Stephen Spurr is unavailable: contact Clarissa Farr, Vice-Chair of Governors

A concern about a Governor should be reported to the Chair of Governors. A concern about the Chair of Governors should be reported to the LADO directly without informing the Headmaster or the Chair of Governors: 020 8753 5125 or LADO@lbhf.gov.uk

4. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

In line with the Government's vision for all services for children and young people 'Every Child Matters' and DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2018), the Governors, Heads, and all School staff recognise that children have a fundamental right to learn in a safe environment and to be protected from harm. Young people are less likely to learn effectively and go on to lead positive and independent lives if they are not kept healthy and safe. This School is therefore committed to providing an environment which is safe and where the welfare of each child is of paramount importance. This will include a commitment to ensuring that all pupils feel confident that any concerns they may have will be listened to and acted upon. Safeguarding is at the heart of our purpose.

To this end, the Governors, the Heads and school staff are committed to ensuring that all members of the School community are aware of the School's responsibilities and procedures in this area. This will include communicating policies and procedures effectively with parents/carers, ensuring all staff and relevant Governors attend appropriate training and work effectively with other professionals on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of child abuse.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as protecting children from maltreatment and radicalism, preventing impairment of health and/or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking actions to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

All children, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse regardless of disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation (Equality Act 2010). Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. It is better to help children as early as possible, before issues escalate and become more damaging.

This policy and its associated procedures address the Independent Schools' Standards Requirements (ISSRs) Part 3, and are in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures. This Safeguarding and Child Protection policy forms part of a set of documents and policies which relate to the safeguarding responsibilities of the School. In particular there are links with:

- Staff Code of Conduct;
- Behaviour, rewards and sanctions policies
- Missing Pupil Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

The implementation and effectiveness of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures are reviewed regularly by the Safeguarding Team (DSLs and DDSLs) and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). In addition the Policy is endorsed annually by the Governing Body. The Policy applies to all staff, Governors, volunteers and visitors. Parents are informed of the policy and procedures through the website and the Policy is available in hard copy on request to the School Office.

The Governing Body, teaching and support staff and volunteers take all concerns and allegations most seriously and will respond appropriately. This will normally involve immediate, informal, confidential referral to the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). In emergencies and cases involving suspected Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or radicalism the Police will be contacted. In the case of allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff, the local authority designated officer (LADO) will be contacted.

The School is committed to safe recruitment, including the selection and vetting of all staff and volunteers. The School takes all possible steps to ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children through its recruitment practices, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and induction procedures (see Safer Recruitment Policy). This adheres to the 2009, 2012, 2013 and March 2015 legislation regarding referrals to the DBS. Safe recruitment practice also includes the requirement to check that all those employed as teachers, head teachers or senior managers from April 2014 are not subject to the appropriate prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State. All staff who have contact with Early Years children and pupils up to the age of eight in before and after school care are subject to provisions regarding disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006. Disqualification by association ceased to apply to staff providing care in a school setting from September 2018 but all staff involved in such activities are subject to the rigours of the School's safer recruitment procedures and to the safeguarding arrangements laid out in this policy and related policies.

The School follows the procedures set out by the LSCB and also has regard to the guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) (September 2018) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (WTTSC) (July 2018) from the DfE. In addition the School has regard to the Prevent Duty (January 2018).

5. AIMS OF POLICY

- To raise awareness for all School staff of the importance of safeguarding and child protection, and in particular to make clear responsibilities for identifying and reporting actual or suspected abuse.
- To ensure pupils and parents are aware that the School takes child protection seriously and will follow the appropriate procedures for identifying and reporting abuse and for dealing with allegations against staff.
- To ensure consistent good practice across the School and among all those who interact with children as part of our community.
- To promote effective liaison with other agencies in order to work together for the protection and welfare of all pupils.

- To promote a positive, supportive, secure environment where all pupils share a sense of being valued and helped to fulfil their potential, regardless of their background or circumstances
- To ensure the early identification of pupils with additional needs and guide liaison and intervention with other agencies such as Social Services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, Education Welfare Service and Educational Psychology Service.
- To underpin systems including excellent pastoral care and an effective PSHE programme that identify and reduce risks of harm.
- To provide guidance on the safe use of electronic equipment, including access to the internet.

6. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR INTERVENTION TO PROTECT CHILDREN

The Governors will ensure that the principles identified below, many of which derive from the Children Act 1989, are followed by all staff.

- All children have a right to be kept safe and protected from abuse;
- Child abuse can occur in all cultures, religions and social classes;
- Staff must be sensitive to families' cultural and social background;
- Children must have the opportunity to express their views and be heard;
- If there is a conflict of interests between the child and parent, the interests of the child must be paramount;
- However, all staff must endeavour where possible to work in partnership with those who hold parental responsibility for a child;
- Information in the context of child protection must be treated as confidential and only shared with those who need to know;
- All children reporting concerns must be heard and their concerns acted upon; staff should never promise confidentiality since concerns regarding to safety must be shared appropriately;
- All staff should have access to regular training;
- School management must allow staff sufficient time to carry out their duties in relation to child protection and safeguarding.

7. THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNORS

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures meet legal and regulatory requirements and that the safety of pupils is the paramount

concern at all times. The Governors monitor the discharge of all statutory responsibilities regularly and robustly.

The Governing Body ensures that:

1. An effective Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures are in place and such arrangements are implemented fully in practice.
2. The School follows safer recruitment procedures (see Safer Recruitment Policy) and the single central register of staff is in order, ensuring provision meets statutory requirements and advice.
3. Risks are properly assessed and areas requiring action are dealt with without delay.
4. The DSL and overall lead is of suitable 'status and authority' to take responsibility and carry out the role.
5. All DSLs and DDSLs have received higher level local authority training in safeguarding and the Prevent Duty.
6. All staff and volunteers attend relevant child protection training in line with local authority procedures, including training in the Prevent Duty, and are informed of any updates which occur during the year.
7. All staff know and understand how children can be radicalised, are aware of how to recognise changes in pupils' behaviour that could indicate such and know what to do if this happens.
8. All staff understand Female Genital Mutilation and know what to do if they suspect this may have taken place.
9. Allegations are managed swiftly, correctly and safely.
10. Concerns regarding the Head are handled directly by the Chair or Vice-Chair of Governors.
11. Safeguarding is a standing item at Governors' meeting, is reported in detail by the DSL and Governor responsible for safeguarding, and minuted accordingly.
12. Staff follow policy requirements, particularly those contained in this Policy and the Code of Conduct.

8. THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNOR RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFEGUARDING

While the Governors delegate a member of the Governing Body to be the specifically responsible for safeguarding it must be remembered that safeguarding duties as described above remain the responsibility of the Governing Body as a whole.

The Governor responsible for safeguarding will:

- Be familiar with local authority procedures relating to safeguarding and child protection and associated issues.
- Attend training specifically intended for Governors and ensure this training is kept up to date in line with statutory requirements.

- Be familiar with the most recent regulations regarding safeguarding, including safer recruitment of staff and requirements re the central register of staff.
- Be fully conversant regulations concerning EYFS staff.

When ensuring School provision meets requirements the Governor responsible for safeguarding will:

1. Meet regularly with the DSL and Safeguarding Co-ordinator and provide regular reports to the Governing Body as a whole.
2. Ensure that the appropriate systems and procedures are in place to cover all aspects of the safeguarding agenda and to meet the requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) (September 2018).
3. Monitor the Code of Conduct and recruitment procedures.
4. Ensure that the DSL and overall lead has sufficient time to perform his or her role adequately and that the safeguarding team as a whole and wider staff are adequately trained, including in the Prevent Duty, and records of training are kept up-to-date.
5. Ensure that the DSL and Safeguarding Co-ordinator maintain good relationships with external agencies supporting children and families and fulfil their multi-agency responsibilities.
6. Ensure that any necessary reports to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) are promptly made.
7. Ensure that any necessary reports to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) are promptly made.
8. Ensure the system for recording, storing and reviewing pastoral and safeguarding concerns is robust and secure.
9. Conduct regular reviews of the efficiency and implementation of safeguarding procedures and of staff training.
10. Regularly check in particular staff understanding of what to do if they have concerns about the safety of a child or concerns about a member of staff for handling allegations of abuse against members of staff, volunteers and the head.
11. Ensure the DSL and Safeguarding Co-ordinator disseminate regular updates to the wider staff including up-to-date information on how to recognise abuse
12. Ensure that specific provision is in place to oversee safeguarding for the Early Years.
13. Ensure all Governors are sufficiently trained to conduct their safeguarding responsibilities, including Safer Recruitment training as appropriate.
14. Take the lead with regard to the general governance requirement to oversee the School's safer recruitment procedures single central register.
15. Ensure that safeguarding is central to the general culture of the School.

9. THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEADMASTER AND LEADERSHIP AND SAFEGUARDING TEAMS

The Headmaster, Executive Group (EG), Senior Leadership Team (SLT), DSL and overall lead, Safeguarding Co-ordinator and wider safeguarding team will:

1. Maintain an overview of safeguarding within the School.
2. Ensure all staff implement the safeguarding policy effectively and know how to report and refer concerns.
3. Maintain their appropriate higher level training in line with LCSB procedures.
4. Keep open channels and communicate effectively with local statutory agencies including assessments for Early Help.
5. Communicate appropriately and to a high standard both within School and when dealing with external agencies and contribute effectively to multi-agency working.
6. Respond calmly and efficiently in emergency situations.
7. Follow procedures accurately, make informed decisions and keep records of the reasons why such decisions were made.
8. Stay abreast of changing regulations and requirements.
9. Ensure all staff are trained appropriately including training in the Prevent Duty.
10. Deal objectively, actively and non-judgementally with all concerns raised.
11. Work with the Governor responsible for safeguarding to undertake regular reviews of all aspects of safeguarding, including the Prevent Duty, and assist in reporting to the wider Governing Body.

10. THE SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DSL AND OVERALL LEAD, SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR, AND OTHER DSLS AND DDSLS

The DSL and overall lead oversees all aspects of safeguarding and ensures that the all members of the School's Executive Group (EG) and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are kept fully informed of matters relating to safeguarding and child protection. He or she works with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, DSLs and DDSLs (the Safeguarding Team) to:

1. Take lead responsibility for all safeguarding and child protection matters in the School.
2. Implement legislative frameworks and recommended guidance.
3. Support staff on matters of safeguarding, acting as a source of advice and expertise, and ensure relevant policies are known and implemented effectively including those regarding the Prevent Duty.
4. Ensure regular discussion and awareness of safeguarding issues among staff and pupils as appropriate.
5. Ensure consideration is given to safeguarding with the curriculum, for example in the areas of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Sex and Relationships Education (SRE).

6. Ensure staff are aware of signs of abuse and radicalisation and know how to follow up on such concerns.
7. Meet regularly and share knowledge among the team including awareness of specific issues regarding Early Years.
8. Refer any cases of suspected abuse to the relevant children's social care services:
 - a. Refer to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for cases involving child protection and concerns regarding staff;
 - b. Refer to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern;
 - c. Refer to the police in any cases where a crime may have been committed;
 - d. In consultation with the Headmaster and Governor responsible for safeguarding refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in cases where a person is dismissed or leaves due to risk/harm to a child.
 - e. In consultation with the Headmaster and Governor responsible for safeguarding refer to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as appropriate. Concerns that do not meet the threshold for referral to the DBS may still require referral to the TRA.
9. Support staff who make referrals to local authority children's social care and the Channel programme.
10. Liaise with the Headmaster regarding safeguarding issues, especially ongoing enquires under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and any police investigations.
11. Liaise with the 'case manager' (likely to be the Head, Headmaster, Chair or Vice-Chair of Governors), LADO or designated officer at the local authority as necessary, attending conferences or case reviews and contributing effectively to decision-making.
12. Keep parents informed as appropriate and in line with advice from other agencies.
13. Take the lead in ensuring the School's management and Governors are aware of changing regulations and requirements.
14. Understand the importance of acting on and referring the early signs of abuse and neglect for early help and intervention.
15. Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and young carers, ensuring that clear guidance is available in relation to responsibilities when working with children with intimate care needs.
16. Understand the particular risks associated with online safety and oversee arrangements to keep children safe online, recognising the additional risks for children with SEND.
17. Keep clear records of concerns and referrals, including all meetings and decisions, and follow up appropriately.
18. Ensure all records regarding safeguarding are comprehensive, updated, accurate and appropriately stored separately from the main pupil file.
19. Ensure child protection files are full, informative and contain all information (duly dated) appertaining to the child in question, including details of all communications with external agencies, parents and carers.
20. Ensure the records of any pupil who leaves the School and has a child protection file are copied for the new school and the child protection file is transferred separately from the main pupil file.
21. Consider sharing information in advance of the child leaving, for example to ensure appropriate support is in place when the child arrives at a new setting.
22. Ensure key staff are aware of concerns regarding new pupils, especially those with child protection files.

23. Ensure that parents and carers of pupils have an understanding of the responsibilities placed on the School and staff for safeguarding children. This will generally be carried out through information given prior to pupils commencing at the School and through the availability of this policy online and via the School Office.

These responsibilities are shared among the DSLs and DDSLs. DDSLs are trained to the appropriate standard and may carry out the functions of the DSL as required. However, the lead responsibility of the DSL will not be delegated.

11. THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAC (LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN) DESIGNATED TEACHER

The LAC Designated Teacher has responsibility for helping School staff understand what affects how 'looked after children' learn and achieve. He or she will:

1. Promote a culture of high expectations and aspirations for 'looked after children'.
2. Ensure the young person has a voice in setting learning targets.
3. Ensure that, where appropriate, 'looked after children' are prioritised in one-to-one tuition arrangements.
4. Ensure that carers understand the importance of supporting learning at home
5. Take lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the 'looked after' child's individual or personal education plan (IEP/EHC or PEP) within the School.

12. THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL SCHOOL STAFF

All staff are required to follow this policy and to have read and understood at least Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) (September 2018). In addition all staff should be familiar with the Staff Code of Conduct, whistleblowing procedures, procedures related to behaviour, rewards and sanctions and missing pupil procedures.

All staff will:

1. Provide a safe and caring environment in which children can develop the confidence to voice ideas, feelings and opinions
2. Treat children with respect within a framework of agreed and understood behaviour.
3. Be aware of signs of abuse and take appropriate action, seeking advice and support as necessary from the Safeguarding Team.
4. Follow the reporting summary in this policy, reporting concerns about child safety to the DSL, Safeguarding Co-ordinator or DDSL, and concerns about a member of staff to the Head.
5. Be aware of the relevant local procedures and guidelines

6. Monitor and report as required on the welfare, attendance and progress of all pupils and help identify children who may benefit from early help and intervention.
7. Keep clear and accurate records of concerns.
8. Respond appropriately to disclosures from children and young people (staying calm, reassuring without making unrealistic promises, listening, avoiding leading questions, not promising confidentiality).
9. Report concerns regarding to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) directly to the police, supported by the DSL.
10. If there is a risk of immediate harm and the DSL or DSL is unavailable refer immediately to the H&F Initial Contact and Advice Team (ICAT) on 020 8753 6610 (out of hours: 020 8748 8588).

13. STAFF TRAINING

Governors recognise the importance of training for the DSLs and DDSLs and all School staff who have contact with children.

Governors expect the Head and DSL to ensure that all School staff, including support and ancillary staff, receive training in child protection at the appropriate level and are made aware of the relevant school policies, procedures and guidelines. Training will take place in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines. Supplementary training will be provided at least annually and staff will be updated in changes to safeguarding requirements as and when they arise.

New staff will receive training as part of their induction to include:

- This policy and their safeguarding responsibilities, including how to recognise signs of abuse
- Part 1 and Annex A of KCSIE (September 2018)
- The Staff Code of Conduct and Whistle-blowing Policy
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- The identity and roles of the DSLs and DDSLs
- Prevent training to help identify and support children at risk of radicalisation
- Policies regarding missing pupils and behaviour, rewards and sanctions

Staff sign to confirm understanding of the Code of Conduct and receipt and understanding of the relevant parts of KCSIE. Quizzes and spot checks are used to ensure thorough understanding of key procedures.

The DSLs and DDSLs receive appropriate training in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB): Tri-Borough Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster – <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/lscb/>.

The training will be repeated at least every two years. Informal training will occur at least annually through regular local authority meetings and e-bulletins. The training will ensure the DSLs and DDSLs:

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention
- Know how to work with local agencies effectively
- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference
- Have higher level understanding of the Prevent Duty to be able to assess the risk of children being radicalised and support children as appropriate in conjunction with local partners
- Are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
- Promote a culture of listening to children and one in which child safety is paramount

14. APPOINTMENT OF STAFF

The School is committed to the safer recruitment of competent, motivated staff members who form a diverse workforce comprising different backgrounds, skills and abilities. The recruitment and selection process is efficient, effective and equal, upholding legal obligations and national agreements, and free of discrimination on grounds of age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or creed.

Where staff from another organisation are working with our pupils, the School ensures it has received written confirmation that appropriate child protection checks and procedures apply to those staff and that any such checks do not raise any issues of concern in relation to the suitability of those staff members to work with children

When appointing staff, Governors will take account of the guidance issued by the Local Authority's Human Resources Section and Safer Recruitment procedures, observing the following principles:

- Documentation sent out to potential candidates will make it clear that child protection is a high priority of the school and that rigorous checks will be made of any candidate before appointments are confirmed.
- All references will be taken up and verified by telephoning referees.
- A reference will always be obtained from the last employer.
- At interview candidates will be asked to account for any gaps in their career/employment history.
- All candidates will be made aware that all staff are subject to an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.
- Evidence of relevant checks will be recorded and stored in a single, central location, easily accessible when appropriate and necessary.

See Safer Recruitment Policy for full details.

15. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Governors recognise that because of their daily contact with children in a variety of situations, including the caring role, teachers and other school staff are vulnerable to allegations of abuse. Regrettably, in some cases such accusations may be true. The Governors, therefore, expect all staff to follow the agreed procedures for dealing with allegations against staff. Refer also to the Reporting Summary (page 4).

In addition to the information below any member of staff may also refer to the Whistleblowing Policy or contact the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline on 0800 028 0285. For guidance watch video at www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/whistleblowing.

When it is alleged that a member of staff or volunteer who has contact with a child in their personal, professional or community life may have:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may harm a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against a child
- Behaved towards a child in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children

Then:

- The person to whom the allegation is first reported must inform the Head of Pre-Prep, Prep or Headmaster immediately.
- If the Head of Pre-Prep or Prep is absent report to the Headmaster.
- If the Headmaster is absent or the concern is about him or a Governor report to the Chair of Governors or in his absence the Vice-Chair.
- If the concern is about the Chair of Governors report directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- The Head/Headmaster/Chair of Governors/Vice-Chair ('case manager') will contact the LADO immediately and at the latest within one working day of allegations being reported.
- In the most serious of circumstances the Head/Headmaster/Chair of Governors/Vice-Chair ('case manager') will contact the police.
- Discussions with the LADO will be recorded in writing.
- The Head/Headmaster/Chair of Governors/Vice-Chair ('case manager') will not investigate the allegation itself, nor take written or detailed statements, before consulting the LADO, to assess the situation and agree the next steps.
- The Head/Headmaster/Chair of Governors/Vice-Chair ('case manager') will, as soon as possible, and following briefing from the LADO, inform the subject of the allegation, providing as much information as possible at the time. If the LADO advises that a strategy discussion is needed or other agencies need to be involved that must happen first.
- The parents or carers of the child[ren] involved will be informed of the allegation as soon as possible if they do not already know of it. They will also be kept informed of the progress of the case and the outcome where there is not a criminal prosecution, including the outcome

of any disciplinary process. The deliberations of a disciplinary hearing, and the information taken into account in reaching a decision, cannot normally be disclosed, but the parents or carers of the child should be told the outcome in confidence.

The recipient of the allegation must take the matter seriously and keep an open mind. They must not investigate, make assumptions or ask leading questions if seeking clarification. Confidentiality should not be promised and the person should be advised that the concern will be shared on a 'need to know' basis only. The recipient should make a written record of the allegation using the Record of Concern Form (Appendix 1), quoting the informant's words - including time, date and place where the alleged incident took place, what was said and anyone else present. The recipient of an allegation must not unilaterally determine its validity. Failure to report it in accordance with procedures is a potential disciplinary matter.

In all allegations the outcomes are defined as follows:

1. **Substantiated:** there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation;
2. **False:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation;
3. **Malicious:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive;
4. **Unsubstantiated:** there is insufficient evidence either to prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence;
5. **Unfounded:** to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis to support the allegation made.

All allegations are dealt with as a priority and without delay. Where it is clear immediately that the allegation is unsubstantiated or malicious, the case should be resolved within one week. It is expected that most cases of allegations of abuse against staff will be resolved within one month with exceptional cases being completed within 12 months. If the nature of the allegation does not require formal disciplinary action, the Head or Headmaster (as appropriate) should instigate appropriate action within three working days. If a disciplinary hearing is required and can be held without further investigation, as far as possible it should be held within 15 working days.

Being the subject of an allegation is traumatic for any member of staff, no matter how sensitively it is handled. Everyone who works with children is potentially at risk and must aim to minimise the risk. The School will act to minimise the stress inherent in allegations and disciplinary investigations and processes. The individual may be advised to contact their trade union representative, if they have one, or a colleague for support. They may also be given access to welfare counselling or medical advice if considered appropriate. They will be given clear advice on the need for confidentiality and responsibility to avoid contact with any pupils or families involved. A named representative will be allocated to keep the member of staff informed of progress in the case and to consider what other support might be appropriate.

Staff against whom an allegation is made are not automatically suspended and suspension will only be considered where there is cause to suspect children are at risk of serious harm or where the allegation is so serious it may be grounds for dismissal.

All alternatives to suspension will be considered before taking that step. If suspension is deemed appropriate, the reasons and justification will be recorded by the School and the individual notified within one working day. The School will follow, as appropriate, the Disciplinary and Dismissal Policy and Procedures.

In the case of return to work the School will consider how best to facilitate this, including the option of a phased return and the provision of specific support. The School will also review contact with the child or children who made the allegation.

If it is decided that the allegation is unsubstantiated and does not meet the threshold for further referral, the Head and the LADO will consider the appropriate course of action e.g. a joint evaluation meeting or an internal investigation. The Chair of Governors will be kept informed at each stage. Allegations found to be unsubstantiated, malicious or false will be removed from personnel records. Unsubstantiated, malicious and false allegations will not be referred to in employer references and every effort will be made to restore the good name of the member of staff.

Pupils found to have made malicious or false allegations may have breached the Behaviour Policy. The school will consider whether to apply an appropriate sanction, which could include temporary or permanent exclusion or, indeed, referral to the police if there are grounds for believing a criminal offence has been committed. Recognising that a false allegation may be a strong indicator of a pupil's problems elsewhere, further exploration may be required. The safeguarding team may, in liaison with the LADO, refer the matter to the Children's Social Care services to determine whether the child concerned is in need of services, or may have been abused by someone else. Appropriate counselling and support will be considered.

The member of staff who is the subject of the allegation will be informed orally and in writing that no further action is necessary and will be offered support which may take the form of counselling and/or professional advice. The child's parents will be informed in writing of the false allegation and the outcome.

If it is decided that the allegation is substantiated and meets the threshold for further action the Head must follow the guidance given by the LADO. If the member of staff is dismissed or the school no longer uses his/her services, then the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) must be informed as soon as possible and in line with guidance published by the DBS. Failure to make a referral to the DBS constitutes an offence. The address for referrals is PO Box 3963, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 4HH (03000 200 190). Referrals to the TRA may be required where the threshold for referral to the DBS is not met, for example in circumstances such as "unacceptable professional conduct", "conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute" or a "conviction, at any time, for a relevant offence".

For all allegations other than those found to be false or malicious, a clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation, details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved, and a note of any action taken and decisions reached, will be kept on the confidential personnel file of the accused, and a copy provided to the person concerned. Clear guidance is given in the DfE document on dealing with allegations.

(<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g0076914/dealing-with-allegations-of-abuse-against-teachers-and-other-staff>). Information regarding a substantiated allegation will be disclosed in references in accordance with safer recruitment procedures.

During the reporting and investigation of allegations the School will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and to guard against unwanted publicity. Parents and carers may be informed of the prohibition on reporting or publishing allegations about teachers. If they express a wish to apply to the court to have reporting restrictions removed they will be told to seek legal advice. Restrictions will continue until the point where an accused person is charged with an offence or the DfE/TRA publishes information about an investigation or decision in a disciplinary case.

The School adheres to the Early Years requirement that Ofsted is informed of any serious harm or abuse by any person living, working, or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegation relates to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere), or any abuse which is alleged to have taken place on the premises, and of the action taken in respect of these allegations. Ofsted will be informed of the above as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days.

16. CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES: CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD

The local Safeguarding Children board (LSCB) is Tri-Borough Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster: <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/lscb/>. A copy of the LSCB procedures is held in the School and can be found in the staff rooms. If staff prefer, they can access the full procedures at the web address.

It is our aim that all pupils receive the right help at the right time. It is important to act upon early concerns swiftly so that they do not escalate. We consider it vital to keep clear and full records, to listen actively to pupils' views, to reassess the situation regularly and take further actions when required.

All staff must be alert at all times to signs of possible abuse. If any member of staff is concerned about that a child is suffering significant harm or is at risk of significant harm he or she must:

1. Inform the relevant DSL or in their absence the DDSL without delay.
2. If there is immediate danger and the DSL or DDSL is not available refer to Children's Social Care directly – anyone can make such a referral.
3. In an emergency contact the police via 999.

If a child discloses information, the member of staff or volunteer should:

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock, disbelief, sadness or disappointment.
- Accept what is being said and allow the child to talk freely.
- Reassure the child, but not make promises which it might not be possible to keep.

- Not promise confidentiality – it might be necessary to refer to others who will be able to help. Use professional judgement as to when to clarify this to the child.
 - Reassure him or her that what has happened is not his or her fault.
 - Stress that it was the right thing to tell and do not criticise the child for not disclosing sooner.
 - Listen, rather than ask direct, or leading, questions.
 - Allow the child to continue at her/his own pace; do not be afraid of silences.
 - Ask questions for clarification only, and at all times avoid asking questions that suggest a particular answer.
-
- Tell the child what will happen next. It may be feasible to accompany the child to see the DSL or DDSL.
 - If the report includes an online element, be aware of searching screening and confiscation advice (for schools) and UKCCIS sexting advice (for schools and colleges). The key consideration is for staff not to view or forward illegal images of a child but to confiscate any device which they believe (with good reason) to have any such images stored on it, and pass the device immediately to the DSL or DDSL.
 - Information regarding the concern should be recorded on the same day using the. The record must be a clear, precise, factual account of the observations.
 - Record what was said using the Record of Concern Form (appendix 1).
 - Use the child’s own words – noting the date, time, any names mentioned, to whom the information was given and ensure that the record is signed and dated.
 - Also record any noticeable non-verbal behaviour.
 - Record statements and observations rather than interpretations or assumptions.
 - Draw a diagram to indicate the position of any bruising or other injury.
 - All records should be passed to the DSL or DDSL immediately. No copies should be retained by the member of staff or volunteer. This includes the original notes. Records should be kept by the DDSL in a secure, designated file separate from the child’s academic records.
 - Make no contact with the parents before taking advice from the DSL or DDSL.
 - It is important to remember that the person who first encounters a case of alleged abuse is not responsible for deciding whether abuse has occurred. That is a task for the safeguarding team and child protection agencies, following a referral from the DSL.
 - Dealing with a disclosure from a child, and a child protection case in general, is likely to be a stressful experience. The member of staff/volunteer should, therefore, consider seeking support for him/herself and discuss this with the Designated Senior Safeguarding Lead.

In the event that one pupil makes a disclosure about another pupil the member of staff or volunteer should refrain from criticising the alleged perpetrator. Many factors could lead to one pupil abusing another. On occasion they themselves are being abused. Each disclosure will be treated purely on the facts. See Section 18 below regarding peer on peer abuse.

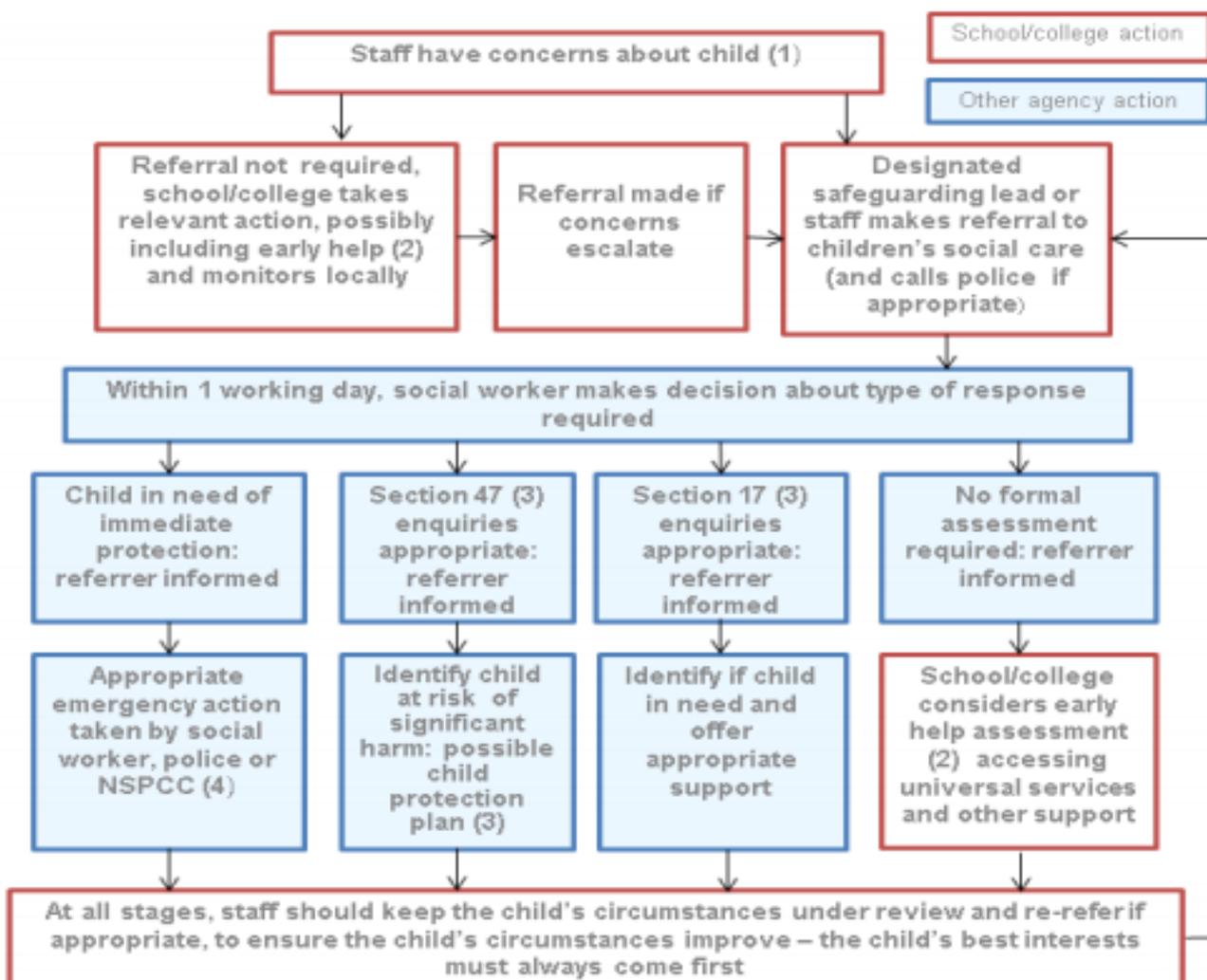
Following a disclosure or indication of harm or risk of harm the DSL or DDSL will contact the Children’s Social Care without delay and within 24 hours. The DSL or DDSL will then, under the guidance of the LADO or the Local Safeguarding Children Board, decide what action will be taken, including whether a formal referral should be made. Where there is room for doubt about

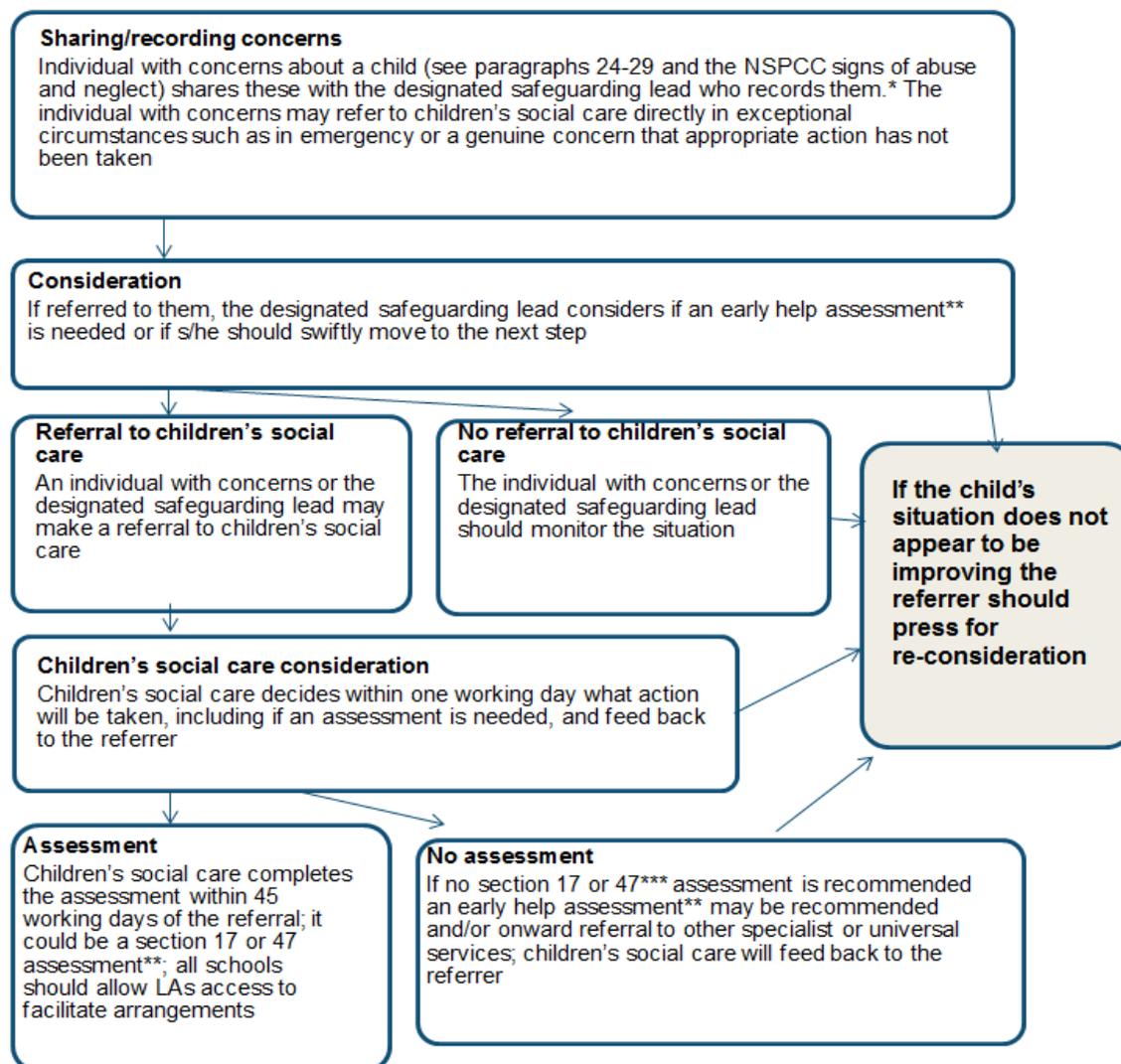
whether a referral is necessary the initial discussion with Children’s Social Care may be on a names basis.

If it is decided to make a formal referral this will be done under advice from the LSCB and normally with prior discussion with the parents, unless to do so would place the child at further risk of harm. Children who are in need of additional support from one or more agencies will be reported to the LADO for inter-agency assessment using local processes, including use of The Common Assessment Framework and Team around the Child approaches (TAC).

Particular attention will be paid to the attendance and development of any child about whom the school has concerns, or who has been identified as being the subject of a Child Protection Plan (formerly referred to as the Child Protection Register) and a written record will be kept. All absences will be checked speedily and any concerns over repeated absence or other unusual absences will be followed up.

Refer to the flowcharts below to clarify the actions that follow the identification of a concern about a child.





17. 'EARLY HELP'

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 coordinated early help, an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018) provides detailed guidance on the early help process.

All staff should be aware of the early help process and understand their role in it. This includes identifying emerging problems, liaising with the DSL/DDSL, sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment and, in some cases, acting as the lead professional in undertaking an early help assessment.

Any child may benefit from early help, but all 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 and disabilities (SEND), 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 misusing drugs or alcohol;
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse;
- Has a family member in prison;
- Has returned home to their family from care;
- Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect;
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- Is a privately fostered child.

Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

- Identify children and families who would benefit from early help;
- Undertake an assessment of the need for early help; and
- Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child.

Where a child and family would benefit from coordinated support from more than one agency e.g. education, health, police, there should be an inter-agency early help assessment. This should identify what help the child and family require to prevent needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed via a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989. If Early Help is appropriate and where they are not taking the lead, the DSL will support the member of staff liaising with other agencies and setting up inter-agency Early Help assessment as appropriate.

The Early Help assessment will be undertaken by a lead professional who will provide support to the child of the family, act as an advocate on their behalf and coordinate the delivery of support services. The lead professional role may be undertaken by the DSL or a teacher (or a GP, family support worker, health visitor and/or special educational needs coordinator).

Decisions as to who performs this role will be taken on a case by case basis and will be informed by the child and their family. For an Early Help assessment to be effective:

- it should be undertaken with the agreement of the child and their parents or carers and should involve the child and their family as well as all of the professionals who are working with them;

- a teacher (or other relevant professional) should be able to discuss concerns they may have about a child and family with a social worker in the local authority; and
- if parents and/or the child do not consent to an early help assessment, then the lead professional should make a judgment as to whether, without help, the needs of the child will escalate. If so, a referral to children's social care may be necessary.

Effective early help in a school setting involves the School (under the guidance of the DSL) providing high quality support, in cooperation with or coordinating other agencies as appropriate, to help address the assessed needs of the child and their family early, in order to significantly improve the outcomes for the child. It is hoped that in each case, this should improve the welfare of the relevant child. However, each case should be kept under constant review, and consideration should be given to a referral to children's social care if the child's situation does not appear to be improving.

18. PEER ON PEER ABUSE, INCLUDING BULLYING, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT BETWEEN CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

Peer on peer abuse is most likely to include but is not limited to:

- Physical abuse of any kind
- Emotional abuse
- Sexually harmful behaviours
- Bullying (including cyber bullying)
- Gender based violence/sexual violence and sexual harassment
- Sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery)
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals
- Prejudiced behaviour
- Teenage relationship abuse

All staff should recognise the gendered nature of some types of peer on peer abuse (that it is, in certain situations more likely that girls will be victims and boys perpetrators). However, all peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

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 education attainment as well as their emotional well-being. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and offline (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.

Reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment are extremely complex to manage. It is essential that victims are protected, offered appropriate support and every effort is made to ensure their education is not disrupted. It is also important that other children, adult students and School staff are supported and protected as appropriate.

The [Brook Traffic Light Tool](#) uses a traffic light system to categorise the sexual behaviours of young people and is designed to help professionals:

- Make decisions about safeguarding children and young people
- Assess and respond appropriately to sexual behaviour in children and young people
- Understand healthy sexual development and distinguish it from harmful behaviour
- By categorising sexual behaviours, school can work with other agencies to the same standardised criteria when making decisions and can protect children and young people with a multi-agency approach.

The School recognises that it is vital that professionals agree on how behaviours should be categorised regardless of culture, faith, beliefs, and their own experiences or values. Further details of the Brook Traffic Light Tool can be found in the link above.

While a clear focus of peer on peer abuse is around sexual abuse and harassment, physical assaults and initiation violence and rituals between pupils may also be abusive.

These are equally not tolerated: if it is believed that a crime has been committed, it will be reported to the police.

Bullying is a subset of peer on peer abuse that can take different forms. A bullying incident should be treated as a child protection concern when there is ‘reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.’ The school’s anti-bullying policy and procedures should be followed in addition to the procedures in this policy. In particular pupils and parents should be aware that engaging in bullying behaviour or condoning or failing to challenge or report bullying could lead to the application of child protection procedures (including, as necessary, the involvement of other agencies such as the police and CSC).

The School is committed to seeking to prevent peer on peer abuse in all its forms and to ensuring that all staff, pupils and parents uphold this commitment. Staff should always be clear that abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”. We believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults and other children in school.

We will minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse by:

- Taking a whole school approach to safeguarding & child protection
- Providing training to staff
- Providing a clear set of values and standards, underpinned by the School’s behaviour policy and pastoral support; and by a planned programme of evidence-based content delivered through the curriculum.
- Engaging with specialist support and interventions.

Children making a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment will be taken seriously, kept safe and be well supported. Their disclosure will not be treated as normal behaviour or “banter”. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in Section 15 above: Child Protection Procedures: Concerns about a Child.

Following a report of peer on peer abuse the DSL/DDSL will make an immediate risk and needs assessment on a case-by-case basis. The Risk assessment will consider:

- The victim, especially their protection and support.
- The alleged perpetrator, their support needs and any disciplinary action.
- All other children at the School.
- The victim and the alleged perpetrator sharing classes and space at School.

The risk assessment will be recorded and kept under review. Where there has been other professional intervention and/or other specialist risk assessments, these professional assessments will be used to inform the school’s approach to supporting and protecting pupils.

Support regarding risk assessments can be accessed from the [Education Safeguarding Team](https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/lscb/) – <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/lscb/>

In taking action the DSL/DDSL will consider:

- The wishes of the victim
- The nature of the incident including whether a crime has been committed and the harm caused
- Ages of the children involved
- Developmental stages of the children
- Any power imbalance between the children
- Any previous incidents
- Ongoing risks
- Other related issues or wider context

The following options are likely to be the outcomes of a report of peer on peer abuse:

- Manage internally
- Early Help intervention
- Refer to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Report to the police (generally in parallel with a referral to MASH)

The DSL will manage each case individually and will ensure the risk assessment is reviewed regularly with relevant partner agencies, for example the Police and Children’s Social Care.

The School will take any disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator in accordance with the school behaviour policy. Where there is a criminal investigation into a rape, assault by

penetration or sexual assault, the alleged perpetrator should be removed from any classes they share with the victim. The DSL will consider how best to keep the victim and perpetrator a reasonable distance apart on School premises and on transport where appropriate.

Where a criminal investigation into a rape or assault by penetration leads to a conviction or caution, the school will take suitable action. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances, the rape or assault is likely to constitute a serious breach of discipline and may lead to the view that allowing the perpetrator to remain in the School would seriously harm the education or welfare of the victim (and potentially themselves and other pupils). The nature of the conviction or caution and wishes of the victim will be especially important in determining how to proceed in such cases.

The victim, alleged perpetrator and any other affected children and adults will receive appropriate support and safeguards on a case-by-case basis.

Further guidance can be found here: [DfE Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges May 2018](#)

19. TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO KEEP SAFE

The Governors believe that the School curriculum is central to the protection of children. The School aims to ensure that curriculum development meets the following objectives (these are often met through the PSHE and citizenship curriculum):

- Developing pupil self-esteem;
- Developing communication skills;
- Learning about all aspects of risk;
- Developing strategies for self-protection;
- Developing a sense of the boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour in adults;
- Developing non-abusive behaviour between pupils.

Specific attention is paid to developing pupil's knowledge and ability to adjust their behaviours in order to reduce risks and build resilience, especially to radicalisation. Pupils are helped to identify and understand the risks posed by adults or young people who use the internet and social media to bully, groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially young people and vulnerable adults. Internet safety is integral to the school's ICT curriculum and is also embedded in PSHE.

20. CHILDCARE

Staff responsible for before and after school care may be subject to provisions regarding disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006. These apply to any member of staff providing any

care for a child up to and including Reception age during the normal school day and outside school hours. They also apply to those providing care before or after school hours to children who have not attained the age of eight. However, those providing healthcare including speech and language therapy are excluded from the provisions.

Staff providing such care should note that disqualification by association ceased to apply to care in a school setting from September 2018. However, all such staff are subject to the rigours of the School's safer recruitment procedures and to the safeguarding arrangements laid out in this policy and related policies.

21. PHOTOGRAPHY, IMAGES AND USE OF MOBILE PHONES INCLUDING EYFS

In line with school policies on the use of ICT and pupil privacy staff may take photographs and make videos of pupils in the course of their daily work. Having made and used these records, in accordance with the professional discharge of their duties and responsibilities, they must delete them from any personal records, retaining them for the minimum time necessary. Should it be appropriate to make a permanent record, for example, of a dramatic performance, these should be retained centrally on the school's own server.

Photographs may be published on the School website and social media channels. For high profile or sensitive images specific consent will be sought from pupils and parents. Only first names will be used to accompany images published in this way.

Parents and carers are generally welcome to take photographs or videos of School events but should heed the guidance of staff responsible. These images should not be made publicly available on social networking sites or other areas of the internet.

Information and guidance on the use of mobile phones and cameras is contained in separate policies.

Under no circumstance should personal devices be used in the reception classrooms.

22. CONFIDENTIALITY

Child protection and safeguarding raises issues of confidentiality that must be clearly understood by all staff/volunteers in schools.

- All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals, particularly the investigative agencies (LSCB and the police) in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).

- If a child confides in a member of staff/volunteer and requests that the information is kept secret, it is important that the member of staff/volunteer tell the child in a manner appropriate to the child's age/stage of development that they cannot promise confidentiality – instead they must explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child or other children safe.
- Staff/volunteers who receive information about children and their families in the course of their work should share that information only within appropriate professional contexts.
- The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. 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.
- Where children leave the school or college, the DSL/DDSL should ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. For schools, this should be transferred separately from the main pupil file. Receiving schools and colleges should ensure key staff such as DSLs and SENCOs or the named person with oversight for SEND in a college, are aware as required.
- In addition to the child protection file, the DSL should also consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving: for example, information that would allow the new school or college to continue supporting victims of abuse and have that support in place for when the child arrives.

23. MONITORING PUPILS ON THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER

Governors expect the Head to ensure that teachers monitor closely the welfare, progress and attendance of all pupils. Relevant and pertinent information relating to children either subject to a Child Protection Plan or deemed Children in Need will be provided in a timely fashion to Children's Services staff.

24. TYPES OF ABUSE

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

Abuse is 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 (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

All staff and volunteers should be aware that the main categories of abuse are:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse

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

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

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

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

Child abuse can and does occur both within a child's family and in institutional or community settings. School staff are in contact with children all day and are in a strong position to detect possible abuse. They must not think that by voicing concern they are necessarily starting procedures. The criteria should be that they have 'reasonable suspicion' of harm and under the

Children's Act (1989), this definition has been extended to include harm that children 'may suffer in future'.

All staff need to note that generally, in an abusive relationship the child may begin to:

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

Further guidance for recognising signs of abuse can be found in Appendix 4.

APPENDIX 1: RECORD OF CONCERN FORM

Child's name:
Your name:
Your position in School:
Date & time of concern:
Account of the concern (what was said, observed, reported and by whom). Use the child's own words and record any noticeable non-verbal behaviour. Record statements and observations rather than interpretations or assumptions:
Additional information (your opinion, context of concern/disclosure):
Date & time of record:
Date & time sent to DSL/DDSL (Head if a concern about staff):

Action and response of DSL/DDSL (Head):

Name of DSL/DDSL (Head):

Date:

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES

- All members of staff and all Governors have been checked and cleared with an enhanced check by other DBS in line with the school Safer Recruitment Policy.
- The DSL/DDSL receive regular training from the Local Authority (at least once every two years) and also attends relevant courses run by other recognised bodies to ensure the school procedures meet legal requirements and keep children safe
- The DSL/DDSL receives Prevent Duty training at a higher level from the local authority
- All staff are required to read the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and KCSIE Part 1 and Annex A and complete a related questionnaire each year to ensure they know, understand and implement all school procedures correctly.
- Staff receive specific Prevent Duty training.
- A pupil concerns list is updated regularly. Staff are vigilant in reporting concerns to the DSL/DDSL.
- New members of staff receive comprehensive Induction Training with regard to child protection and the Prevent Duty
- Child Line posters are on display throughout the school
- The School operates an effective Anti-Bullying Policy which includes the risks involved in cyber-bullying.
- PSHE lessons offer opportunities to discuss matters such as personal relationships and safety, bullying, personal and cyber safety
- The School's internet access is filtered and pupils and parents are made aware of the dangers of the Internet. See e-Safety Policy and ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- The School has clear policies and procedures regarding health, first-aid and the giving of medication. There is a medical room and fully trained first aiders on site at all times.
- The School has clear policies and procedures regarding checking safety concerns when taking pupils on school visits. See Educational Visits Procedure
- The School has comprehensive Risk Assessments for different areas and activities.
- The School has clear Health and Safety policies and procedures. The school buildings are secure.
- The School has a Missing Pupil Policy.
- The School has clear procedures in the case of fire, and regular fire drills are undertaken. See Fire Prevention Procedure
- All visitors report to reception upon arrival, sign in and are issued with an appropriate identity badge.
- All visitors have the school's fire procedure and basic safeguarding procedures explained to them.
- All visitors are shown the appropriate access to toilets allocated for their use.
- Visitors do not spend time alone with any child (unless authorised) and must report immediately any incidents in which they and the children are involved.
- Any visitor involved in work that involves dangerous machinery or substances must observe any necessary safety precautions and/or stop work when children come into close proximity.
- Visitors deemed to have contravened these guidelines and/or whose presence is considered detrimental to the safety and well-being of any of the school community will be told to leave.

APPENDIX 3: SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues, some of which are listed below. Staff should be aware that behaviours linked to the likes of drug taking, alcohol abuse, truanting and sexting (youth-produced sexual imagery) put children in danger.

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), gender based violence/sexual assaults and sexting. Staff should be clear as to the school policy and procedures with regards to these issues.

Expert and professional organisations provide up-to-date guidance and practical support on specific safeguarding issues. For example NSPCC offers information for schools on the TES website and also at <http://www.nspcc.org.uk>. Staff can also access broad government guidance on the issues listed below via the GOV.UK website:

▪ child sexual exploitation (CSE)	▪ gangs and youth violence
▪ bullying including cyberbullying	▪ gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG)
▪ domestic violence	▪ mental health
▪ drugs	▪ private fostering
▪ fabricated or induced illness	▪ radicalisation
▪ faith abuse	▪ sexting
▪ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	▪ teenage relationship abuse
▪ forced marriage	▪ trafficking

Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Consent cannot be given, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point. Some of the following signs may be indicators of sexual exploitation:

- Unexplained gifts or new possessions or expensive habits (alcohol, drugs)
- Changes in dress
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Suffering sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant
- Suffering changes in emotional well-being
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late

- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education
- Underage sexual activity
- Inappropriate sexual or sexualised behaviour
- Sexually risky behaviour, 'swapping' sex
- Having multiple mobile phones and worrying about losing contact via mobile
- Online safety concerns such as youth produced sexual imagery or being coerced into sharing explicit images
- Going to hotels or other unusual locations to meet friends
- Seen at known places of concern
- Moving around the country, appearing in new towns or cities, not knowing where they are
- Getting in/out of different cars driven by unknown adults
- Contact with known perpetrators
- Involved in abusive relationships, intimidated and fearful of certain people or situations
- Hanging out with groups of older people, or anti-social groups, or with other vulnerable peers
- Recruiting other young people to exploitative situations
- Unexplained changes in behaviour or personality (chaotic, aggressive, sexual)
- Mood swings, volatile behaviour, emotional distress
- Self-harming, suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, overdosing, eating disorders
- Getting involved in crime
- Police involvement, police records
- Involved in gangs, gang fights, gang membership
- Injuries from physical assault, physical restraint, sexual assault.

Staff should refer to Part A of 'Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation' (2017)¹ for comprehensive guidance on CSE.

Child criminal exploitation and gangs: county lines

There are a number of areas in which young people are put at risk by gang activity, both through participation in, and as victims of, gang violence which can be in relation to their peers or to a gang-involved adult in their household.

A child who is affected by gang activity or serious youth violence may have suffered, or may be likely to suffer, significant harm through physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect. The risk or potential risk of harm to the child may be as a victim, a gang member or both - in relation to their peers or to a gang-involved adult in their household. Teenagers can be particularly vulnerable to recruitment into gangs and involvement in gang violence. This vulnerability may be exacerbated by risk factors in an individual's background, including violence in the family, involvement of siblings in gangs, poor educational attainment, or poverty or mental health problems. Criminal exploitation of children is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity.

¹https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CSE_Guidance_Core_Document_13.02.2017.pdf

A child who is affected by gang activity, criminal exploitation or serious youth violence can be at risk of significant harm through physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Girls may be particularly at risk of sexual exploitation.

Any concerns that a child is being or is at risk of being criminally exploited will be passed without delay to the DSL. The School is aware there is a clear link between regular non-attendance at school and exploitation. Staff will consider a child to be at potential risk in the case of regular non-attendance at school and make reasonable enquiries with the child and parents to assess this risk.

A referral to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) will be made when any concern of harm to a child as a consequence of gang activity including child criminal exploitation becomes known. Any member of staff who has concerns that a child may be at risk of harm should immediately inform the DSL. The DSL will contact the MASH. If there is concern about a child's immediate safety, the Police should be contacted on 999.

Anti-bullying/cyberbullying

The School policy on anti-bullying is set out in a separate document and acknowledges that some bullying incidents may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. This includes all forms e.g. cyber, racist, homophobic and gender related bullying. We keep a record of known bullying incidents which is shared with and analysed by the governing body. All staff are aware that children with SEND and/or differences/perceived differences are more susceptible to being bullied and victims of child abuse. The subject of bullying is addressed at regular intervals in PSHE education and assemblies.

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.

School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fmf@fco.gov.uk.

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. 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 and DSL immediately, who will involve children's social care.

The duty applies to all persons in Fulham School who are employed or engaged to carry out 'teaching work' in the school, whether or not they have qualified teacher status. The duty applies

to the individual who becomes aware of the case to make a report. It should not be transferred to the DSL; however, the DSL should be informed.

Further information about indicators can be found in Appendix 5.

Preventing pupils from being targeted to participate in radicalism or terrorism

The school will, in response to section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015), have due regard to the need to prevent pupils and staff from being drawn into terrorism. This is known, in brief, as the Prevent Duty. The school takes the following actions:

- At the beginning of every term the DSL, DDSLs, the Governor responsible for safeguarding and senior managers, in partnership with the LADO, assess the influences and risks to which pupils may be exposed within the school, the locality, the social media, the internet and their homes. The results of the risk assessment will be recorded by the DSL.
- If any risks or influences are discovered the above team formulate strategies to eliminate them and inform all staff of such strategies and dangers immediately.
- Staff receive training in how to identify signs of radicalism in pupils through observing changes in behaviour etc. Staff are advised on actions to take should they identify such changes (reporting to DSL immediately).
- The DSL and senior managers ensure the school SMSC policy and programme incorporates specific sections that assist the pupils to understand the dangers of extremist arguments.
- The DSL and senior managers ensure the school ICT Acceptable Use and eSafety policies have safety procedures in place to block any possible route for pupils to be targeted online or through the internet where they may be susceptible to terrorist or extremist material.
- The Head of ICT is responsible for checking that no terrorist or ‘grooming’ organisations contact or are able to access pupils and ensures parents are regularly warned of the dangers of their children being targeted through the internet on home computers.
- If the DSL suspects a pupil is being radicalised they may discuss the matter with parents. If the DSL considers the child to be at risk of significant harm they may contact the LADO immediately without informing the parents, and then act accordingly.

Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse represents one quarter of all violent crime. It is a threat of 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, and religion, 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 are involved beyond violence. Slapping, punching, kicking, bruising, rape, ridicule, constant criticism, threats, manipulation, sleep deprivation, social isolation, and other controlling behaviours all count as abuse.

Living in a home where domestic abuse takes place is harmful to children and can have a serious impact on their behaviour, wellbeing and understanding of healthy, positive relationships. Children who witness domestic abuse are at risk of significant harm and staff are alert to the signs and symptoms of a child suffering or witnessing domestic abuse.

Honour-Based Violence (HBV)

Honour based violence (HBV) can be described as a collection of practices used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

Honour based violence might be committed against people who:

- become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion;
- want to get out of an arranged marriage;
- want to get out of a forced marriage;
- wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture.

It is a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual abuse. There is no, and cannot be, honour or justification for abusing the human rights of others.

One Chance Rule

All staff should be aware of the 'One Chance' rule in relation to forced marriage, FGM and HBV. Staff should recognise they may only have 'one chance' to speak to a pupil who is a potential victim and have just one chance to save a life. Fulham School is aware that if the victim is not offered support following disclosure that the 'One Chance' opportunity may be lost; therefore, all staff are aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they become aware of potential forced marriage, FGM and HBV cases.

Children missing from education

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to an efficient, full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) they may have. The school recognises that children missing education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of abuse and harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life. Where possible the school will hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil.

The school will ensure that there is a record of joiners and leavers as defined in [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) 2006](#).

When removing a child's name, the School will notify the Local Authority of: (a) the full name of the child, (b) the full name and address of any parent with whom the child normally resides, (c) at least one telephone number of the parent, (d) the child's future address and destination school, if applicable, and (e) the ground in regulation 8 under which the child's name is to be removed from the school register.

The School will make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of a child jointly with the Local Authority, before deleting the child's name from the school register if the deletion is

under regulation 8(1), sub-paragraphs (f) (iii) and (h) (iii) of [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) 2006](#).

The School will:

- Enter pupils on the admissions register on the first day on which the school has agreed, or has been notified, that the pupil will attend the school.
- Notify the Local Authority within five days of adding a child's name to the admission register. The notification must include all the details contained in the admission register for the new pupil.
- Monitor each child's attendance through their daily register and follow the LBHF procedure in cases of unauthorised absence.
- Remove a child's name from the admissions register on the date that the child leaves the school.
- The school will notify the Local Authority when they are about to remove a child's name from the school register under any of the fifteen grounds listed in the regulations, no later than the date that the child's name is due to be removed.
- Where parents notify the school, in writing, of their intention to electively home educate the school will forward a copy of the letter to the Elective Home Education Team / Education Welfare. Where parents orally indicate that they intend to withdraw their child to be home educated and no letter has been received, the school will not remove the child from roll and will notify Education Welfare at the earliest opportunity.

For further guidance see the Missing Pupil Policy.

Online Safety

Our pupils increasingly use electronic equipment on a daily basis to access the internet and share content and images via social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snap Chat.

Unfortunately, some adults and other children use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts or emails, to grooming and enticing children to engage in sexual behaviour such as webcam photography or face-to-face meetings. Pupils may also be distressed or harmed by accessing inappropriate material such as pornographic websites or those which promote extremist behaviour, criminal activity, suicide or eating disorders

Fulham School has E-Safety and ICT Acceptable Use policies which explain how we try to keep pupils safe in school and how we respond to online safety incidents. Pupils are taught about online safety through the curriculum and all staff receive annual E-Safety and Social Media training which is regularly updated.

Youth produced sexual imagery (sexting)

The practice of children sharing images and videos via text message, email, social media or mobile messaging apps has become commonplace; however, this online technology has also

given children the opportunity to produce and distribute sexual imagery in the form of photos and videos. Such imagery involving anyone under the age of 18 is illegal.

Youth produced sexual imagery refers to both images and videos where:

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

All incidents of this nature should be treated as a safeguarding concern and in line with the UKCCIS guidance. Cases where sexual imagery of people under 18 has been shared by adults and where sexual imagery of a person of any age has been shared by an adult to a child is child sexual abuse and should be responded to accordingly.

If a member of staff becomes aware of an incident involving youth produced sexual imagery they should follow the child protection procedures and refer to a member of the DSL/DDSL within 24 hours. The member of staff should confiscate the device involved and set it to flight mode or, if this is not possible, turn it off. Staff should not view, copy or print the youth produced sexual imagery.

A member of the DSL/DDSL team should hold an initial review meeting with appropriate school staff and subsequent interviews with the children involved (if appropriate). Parents should be informed at an early stage and involved in the process unless there is reason to believe that involving parents would put the child at risk of harm. At any point in the process if there is concern a young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm a referral should be made to Children's Social Care or the Police as appropriate.

Immediate referral at the initial review stage should be made to Children's Social Care/Police if:

- The incident involves an adult;
- There is good reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example, owing to special education needs);
- What you know about the imagery suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the child's development stage or are violent;
- The imagery involves sexual acts;
- The imagery involves anyone aged 12 or under;
- There is reason to believe a child is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of the imagery, for example the child is presenting as suicidal or self-harming.

If none of the above applies, then the DSL will use their professional judgement to assess the risk to pupils involved and may decide to respond to the incident without escalation to Children's Social Care or the police. In applying judgement the DSL will consider if:

- there is a significant age difference between the sender/receiver;
- there is any coercion or encouragement beyond the sender/receiver;
- the imagery was shared and received with the knowledge of the child imagery;
- the child is more vulnerable than usual i.e. at risk;
- there is a significant impact on the children involved;
- the image is of a severe or extreme nature;
- the child involved understands consent;
- the situation is isolated or if the image been more widely distributed;
- there other circumstances relating to either the sender or recipient that may add cause for concern i.e. difficult home circumstances;
- the children have been involved in incidents relating to youth produced imagery before.

If any of these circumstances are present the situation will be escalated according to our child protection procedures, including reporting to the police or children's social care. Otherwise, the situation will be managed within the School.

The DSL will record all incidents of youth produced sexual imagery, including both the actions taken, actions not taken, reasons for doing so and the resolution in line with safeguarding recording procedures.

APPENDIX 4: INDICATORS OF ABUSE

In addition to all the below signs a child may disclose an experience in which he/she may have been harmed, or there may be any other cause to believe that a child may be suffering harm. The NSPCC website offers full information about signs of various forms of abuse.

1. Physical Abuse: indicators in the child

Bruising

- Commonly on the head but also on the ear or neck or soft areas - the abdomen, back and buttocks
- Defensive wounds commonly on the forearm, upper arm, back of the leg, hands or feet
- Clusters of bruises on the upper arm, outside of the thigh or on the body
- Bruises with dots of blood under the skin
- A bruised scalp and swollen eyes from hair being pulled violently
- Bruises in the shape of a hand or object

It is often possible to differentiate between accidental and inflicted bruises. The following must be considered as non-accidental unless there is evidence or an adequate explanation provided:

- Bruising in or around the mouth
- Two simultaneous bruised eyes, without bruising to the forehead, (rarely accidental, though a single bruised eye can be accidental or abusive)
- Repeated or multiple bruising on the head or on sites unlikely to be injured accidentally, for example the back, mouth, cheek, ear, stomach, chest, under the arm, neck, genital and rectal areas
- Variation in colour possibly indicating injuries caused at different times
- The outline of an object used e.g. belt marks, hand prints or a hair brush
- Linear bruising at any site, particularly on the buttocks, back or face
- Bruising or tears around, or behind, the earlobe/s indicating injury by pulling or twisting
- Bruising around the face
- Grasp marks to the upper arms, forearms or leg
- Petechae haemorrhages (pinpoint blood spots under the skin.) Commonly associated with slapping, smothering/suffocation, strangling and squeezing

Fractures

Fractures may cause pain, swelling and discolouration over a bone or joint. It is unlikely that a child will have had a fracture without the carers being aware of the child's distress. If the child is not using a limb, has pain on movement and/or swelling of the limb, there may be a fracture.

There are grounds for concern if:

- The history provided is vague, non-existent or inconsistent
- There are associated old fractures
- Medical attention is sought after a period of delay when the fracture has caused symptoms such as swelling, pain or loss of movement

- Rib fractures are only caused in major trauma such as in a road traffic accident, a severe shaking injury or a direct injury such as a kick.
- Skull fractures are uncommon in ordinary falls, i.e. from three feet or less. The injury is usually witnessed, the child will cry and if there is a fracture, there is likely to be swelling on the skull developing over 2 to 3 hours. All fractures of the skull should be taken seriously.

Mouth Injuries

Tears to the frenulum (tissue attaching upper lip to gum) often indicates force feeding of a baby or a child with a disability. There is often finger bruising to the cheeks and around the mouth. Rarely, there may also be grazing on the palate.

Poisoning

Ingestion of tablets or domestic poisoning in children under 5 is usually due to the carelessness of a parent or carer, but it may be self-harm even in young children.

Fabricated or Induced Illness

Professionals may be concerned at the possibility of a child suffering significant harm as a result of having illness fabricated or induced by their carer. Possible concerns are:

- Discrepancies between reported and observed medical conditions, such as the incidence of fits
- Attendance at various hospitals, in different geographical areas
- Development of feeding / eating disorders, as a result of unpleasant feeding interactions
- The child developing abnormal attitudes to their own health
- Non organic failure to thrive - a child does not put on weight and grow and there is no underlying medical cause
- Speech, language or motor developmental delays
- Dislike of close physical contact
- Attachment disorders
- Low self esteem
- Poor quality or no relationships with peers because social interactions are restricted
- Poor attendance at school and under-achievement

Bite Marks

Bite marks can leave clear impressions of the teeth when seen shortly after the injury has been inflicted. The shape then becomes a more defused ring bruise or oval or crescent shaped. Those over 3cm in diameter are more likely to have been caused by an adult or older child. A medical/dental opinion, preferably within the first 24 hours, should be sought where there is any doubt over the origin of the bite.

Burns and Scalds

- Can be from hot liquids, hot objects, flames, chemicals or electricity
- On the hands, back, shoulders or buttocks; scalds may be on lower limbs, both arms and/or both legs
- A clear edge to the burn or scald
- Sometimes in the shape of an implement for example, a circular cigarette burn

- Multiple burns or scalds

It can be difficult to distinguish between accidental and non-accidental burns and scalds. Scalds are the most common intentional burn injury recorded. Any burn with a clear outline may be suspicious e.g. circular burns from cigarettes, linear burns from hot metal rods or electrical fire elements, burns of uniform depth over a large area, scalds that have a line indicating immersion or poured liquid.

Old scars indicating previous burns/scalds which did not have appropriate treatment or adequate explanation. Scalds to the buttocks of a child, particularly in the absence of burns to the feet, are indicative of dipping into a hot liquid or bath.

The following points are also worth remembering:

- A responsible adult checks the temperature of the bath before the child gets in.
- A child is unlikely to sit down voluntarily in a hot bath and cannot accidentally scald his or her bottom without also scalding his or her feet.
- A child getting into too hot water of his or her own accord will struggle to get out and there will be splash marks

Scars

A large number of scars or scars of different sizes or ages, or on different parts of the body, or unusually shaped, may suggest abuse.

Behavioural presentation

- Refusal to discuss injuries.
- Admission of punishment which appears excessive
- Fear of parents being contacted and fear of returning home
- Withdrawal from physical contact.
- Arms and legs kept covered in hot weather
- Fear of medical help.
- Aggression towards others
- Frequently absent from school.
- An explanation which is inconsistent with an injury
- Several different explanations provided for an injury

2. Physical Abuse: indicators in the parent and family

- They may have injuries themselves that suggest domestic violence.
- Not seeking medical help/unexplained delay in seeking treatment.
- Reluctant to give information or mention previous injuries.
- Absent without good reason when their child is presented for treatment.
- Disinterested or undisturbed by accident or injury.
- Aggressive towards child or others.
- Unauthorised attempts to administer medication.

- Tries to draw the child into their own illness.
- Past history of childhood abuse, self-harm, or false allegations of physical or sexual assault
- Parent/carer may be over involved in participating in medical tests, taking temperatures and measuring bodily fluids
- Observed to be intensely involved with their children, never taking a much needed break nor allowing anyone else to undertake their child's care.
- May appear unusually concerned about the results of investigations which may indicate physical illness in the child
- Wider parenting difficulties that may (or may not) be associated with this form of abuse.
- Parent/carer has convictions for violent crimes.
- Marginalised or isolated by the community. History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic History of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents and/or siblings of the family.
- Past history of childhood abuse, self-harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.

3. Emotional abuse: indicators in the child

- Developmental delay
- Abnormal attachment between a child and parent/carer e.g. anxious, indiscriminate or no attachment
- Aggressive behaviour towards others
- Child scapegoated within the family
- Frozen watchfulness, particularly in pre-school children
- Low self-esteem and lack of confidence
- Withdrawn or seen as a 'loner' - difficulty relating to others
- Over-reaction to mistakes
- Fear of new situations
- Inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations
- Neurotic behaviour (e.g. rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking). Self-harm
- Fear of parents being contacted
- Extremes of passivity or aggression
- Drug/solvent abuse
- Chronic running away
- Compulsive stealing
- Low self-esteem. Air of detachment – ‘don’t care’ attitude
- Social isolation – does not join in and has few friends
- Depression, withdrawal
- Behavioural problems e.g. aggression, attention seeking, hyperactivity, poor attention
- Low self-esteem, lack of confidence, fearful, distressed, anxious
- Poor peer relationships including withdrawn or isolated behaviour

4. Emotional Abuse: indicators in the parent and family

- Domestic abuse, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may be features in families where children are exposed to abuse.
- Abnormal attachment to child e.g. overly anxious or disinterest in the child
- Scapegoats one child in the family
- Imposes inappropriate expectations on the child e.g. prevents the child’s developmental exploration or learning, or normal social interaction through overprotection.
- Wider parenting difficulties that may (or may not) be associated with this form of abuse.

Parents may:

- Be emotionally unavailable, because they're not around or too tired
- Forget to offer praise and encouragement
- Expect a child to take on too much responsibility for their age, for example caring for other family members
- Be over-protective, limiting opportunities to explore, learn and make friends
- Expect a child to meet their own emotional needs
- Take out their anger and frustration on their child.

If a parent had a bad experience when they were a child or has bad role models around them now then this can affect the way they look after their own children. Some parents may find it difficult to understand why their child is behaving in a certain way, and they can react badly. For example, they might think that their baby is crying to annoy them.

- Lack of support from family or social network.
- Marginalised or isolated by the community.
- History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
- History of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents and/or siblings of the family
- Past history of childhood abuse, self-harm, or false allegations of physical or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.

5. Neglect: indicators in the child

Neglected children may:

- Be smelly or dirty
- Have unwashed clothes
- Have inadequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat
- Seem hungry or turn up to school without having breakfast or any lunch money
- Have frequent and untreated nappy rash in infants.

Physical presentation:

- Failure to thrive or, in older children, short stature
- Underweight. frequent hunger, dirty, unkempt condition. Inadequately clothed, clothing in a poor state of repair
- Red/purple mottled skin, particularly on the hands and feet, seen in the winter due to cold
- Swollen limbs with sores that are slow to heal, usually associated with cold injury
- Abnormal voracious appetite
- Dry, sparse hair
- Recurrent / untreated infections or skin conditions e.g. severe nappy rash, eczema or persistent head lice / scabies/ diarrhoea
- Unmanaged / untreated health / medical conditions including poor dental health. Frequent accidents or injuries

Development:

- General delay, especially speech and language delay
- Inadequate social skills and poor socialization

Emotional/behavioural presentation:

- Attachment disorders
- Absence of normal social responsiveness
- Indiscriminate behaviour in relationships with adults
- Emotionally needy. Compulsive stealing. Constant tiredness
- Frequently absent or late at school. Poor self-esteem. Destructive tendencies
- Thrives away from home environment
- Aggressive and impulsive behaviour. Disturbed peer to peer relationships. Self-harming behaviour.

6. Neglect: indicators in the parent and family

- Dirty, unkempt presentation.
- Inadequately clothed.
- Inadequate social skills and poor socialisation
- Abnormal attachment to the child .e.g. anxious.
- Low self-esteem and lack of confidence
- Failure to meet the basic essential needs e.g. adequate food, clothes, warmth, hygiene.

- Failure to meet the child's health and medical needs e.g. poor dental health; failure to attend or keep appointments with health visitor, GP or hospital; lack of GP registration; failure to seek or comply with appropriate medical treatment; failure to address parental substance misuse during pregnancy
- Child left with adults who are intoxicated or violent. Child abandoned or left alone for excessive periods
- Wider parenting difficulties, may (or may not) be associated with this form of abuse
- History of neglect in the family. Family marginalised or isolated by the community.
- Family has history of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
- History of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgeries in parents and/or siblings of the family
- Family has a past history of childhood abuse, self-harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.
- Dangerous or hazardous home environment including failure to use home safety equipment; risk from animals
- Poor state of home environment e.g. unhygienic facilities, lack of appropriate sleeping arrangements, inadequate ventilation (including passive smoking) and lack of adequate heating
- Lack of opportunities for child to play and learn

7. Sexual Abuse: indicators in the child

Physical presentation:

- Urinary infections, bleeding or soreness in the genital or anal areas
- Recurrent pain on passing urine or faeces
- Blood on underclothes
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Vaginal soreness or bleeding
- Pregnancy in a younger girl where the identity of the father is not disclosed and/or there is secrecy or vagueness about the identity of the father
- Physical symptoms such as injuries to the genital or anal area, bruising to buttocks, abdomen and thighs, sexually transmitted disease, presence of semen on vagina, anus, external genitalia or clothing

Emotional/behavioural presentation:

- Makes a disclosure.
- Demonstrates sexual knowledge or behaviour inappropriate to age/stage of development, or that is unusually explicit
- Inexplicable changes in behaviour, such as becoming aggressive or withdrawn
- Self-harm - eating disorders, self-mutilation and suicide attempts
- Poor self-image, self-harm, self-hatred. Depression
- Reluctant to undress for PE
- Running away from home
- Poor attention / concentration (world of their own). Sudden changes in school work habits, become truant
- Withdrawal, isolation or excessive worrying
- Inappropriate sexualised conduct, sexually exploited or indiscriminate choice of sexual partners. Draws sexually explicit pictures
- Wetting or other regressive behaviours e.g. thumb sucking

8. Sexual Abuse: indicators in the parents and family

- Comments made by the parent/carer about the child.
- Lack of sexual boundaries
- Wider parenting difficulties or vulnerabilities, may (or may not) be associated with this form of abuse
- Grooming behaviour
- Parent is a sex offender
- Marginalised or isolated by the community.
- History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
- History of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents and/or siblings of the family
- Past history of childhood abuse, self-harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.
- Family member is a sex offender

APPENDIX 6: FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

It is essential that staff are aware of FGM practices and the need to look for signs, symptoms and other indicators of FGM. **FGM** involves procedures that intentionally alter/injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Why is it carried out?

Belief that:

- FGM brings status/respect to the girl – social acceptance for marriage
- Preserves a girl's virginity
- Part of being a woman / rite of passage
- Upholds family honour
- Cleanses and purifies the girl
- Gives a sense of belonging to the community
- Fulfils a religious requirement
- Perpetuates a custom/tradition
- Helps girls be clean / hygienic
- Is cosmetically desirable
- Mistakenly believed to make childbirth easier

Is FGM legal? FGM is internationally recognised as a violation of human rights of girls and women. It is **illegal** in most countries including the UK.

Circumstances and occurrences that may point to FGM happening are:

- Child talking about getting ready for a special ceremony
- Family taking a long trip abroad
- Child's family being from one of the 'at risk' communities for FGM (Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Sierra Leon, Egypt, Nigeria, Eritrea as well as non-African communities including Yemeni, Afghani, Kurdistan, Indonesia and Pakistan)
- Knowledge that the child's sibling has undergone FGM
- Child talks about going abroad to be 'cut' or to prepare for marriage

Signs that may indicate a child has undergone FGM:

- Prolonged absence from school and other activities
- Behaviour change on return from a holiday abroad, such as being withdrawn and appearing subdued
- Bladder or menstrual problems
- Finding it difficult to sit still and looking uncomfortable
- Complaining about pain between the legs
- Mentioning something somebody did to them that they are not allowed to talk about
- Secretive behaviour, including isolating themselves from the group
- Reluctance to take part in physical activity
- Repeated urinal tract infection
- Disclosure

The 'One Chance' rule

As with Forced Marriage there is the 'One Chance' rule. It is essential that settings/schools/colleges take action **without delay** and make a referral to children's services or to police if the circumstances come under the mandatory reporting duty for those employed or engaged to carry out 'teaching work' in the school.