



# **MAULDETH ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Safeguarding Policy (Child Protection)**

## Introduction

Safeguarding means protecting children from being hurt by another person or not having their health needs met. It is making sure that children grow up safe and cared for and have the best life chances.

This Child Protection Policy tells parents, staff and governors what they should be doing to keep the children protected in a place where they can learn safely.

All staff at Mauldeth Road Primary School are taught how to spot the signs that children need help or may be being treated badly.

At Mauldeth Road Primary School children should feel secure and be able to talk and be listened to when they have a worry.

At Mauldeth Road Primary School staff should feel secure and be able to talk and be listened to when they have a worry about a child.

Children should know that if they have a worry they can talk to any adult working in the school about it.

The school will keep up to date with all the laws about keeping children safe.

## THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

**Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that the school or college designates an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. This person should have the status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post including committing resources and, where appropriate, supporting and directing other staff.**

During term time the Designated Safeguarding Lead and / or a deputy will always be available (during school hours) for staff in the school to discuss any Safeguarding concerns.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection and the Deputy Designated Lead for Child Protection are listed at the end of the policy.

## **The broad areas of responsibility for the Designated Safeguarding Lead are:**

### **Managing referrals and cases**

- Refer all cases of suspected abuse or neglect to the Local Authority Children's Services (Safeguarding and Specialist Services), Police (cases where a crime may have been committed) and to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern
- Liaise with the Head Teacher to inform them of any issues- especially on-going enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety and Safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies
- Support staff who make referrals
- Share information with appropriate staff in relation to a child's Looked After (LAC) legal status (whether they are Looked After under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an Interim Care Order or Care Order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.
- Ensure they have details of the LAC's social worker and the name of the virtual school Head Teacher in the authority that looks after the child.

### **Training**

The Designated Safeguarding Leads should undergo formal training every two years. The DSP should also undertake Prevent awareness training. In addition to this training, their knowledge and skills should be refreshed (for example via e-bulletins, meeting other DSPs, or taking time to read and digest Safeguarding developments) at least annually to:

1. Understand the assessment process for providing Early Help and intervention, for example through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as Early Help Assessments
2. Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a Child Protection case conference and a Child Protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so
3. Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's or college's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff

4. Be alert to the specific needs of vulnerable children such as those with special educational needs, LGBT children and/or those that are perceived to be and young carers
5. Understand and support the school with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and be able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation
6. Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals
7. Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses
8. Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school may put in place to protect them

### **Raising Awareness**

- The Designated Safeguarding Leads should ensure the school's policies are known, understood and used appropriately by all staff.
- Ensure the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with the governing body regarding this.
- Ensure the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school in this.
- Link with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on Safeguarding.
- Where children leave the school, ensure the file for Safeguarding and any Child Protection information is sent to any new school as soon as possible but transferred separately from the main pupil file.
- Schools should obtain proof that the new school/education setting has received the Safeguarding file for any child transferring.

## THE GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must also have regard to this guidance to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in their schools or colleges are effective and comply with the law at all times.

The nominated Governor for Child Protection is listed at the end of the policy.

The responsibilities placed on the Governing Body include:

- to properly support the DSL role including reading the full DSL job description in Annex C of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2024)
- their contribution to inter-agency working, which includes providing a coordinated offer of Early Help when additional needs of children are identified
- ensuring that an effective Safeguarding policy is in place, together with a code of conduct policy
- ensuring staff are provided with Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2024) – Appendix 1 and are aware of specific Safeguarding issues
- ensuring that staff induction is in place with regards to Child Protection and Safeguarding
- appointing an appropriate senior member of staff to act as the Designated Safeguarding Lead. It is a matter for individual schools as to whether they choose to have one or more Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- ensuring that all of the Designated Safeguarding Leads (including deputies) should undergo formal Child Protection training every two years (in line with LCSB guidance) and receive regular (annual) Safeguarding refreshers (for example via e-bulletins, meeting other DSPs, or taking time to read and digest Safeguarding developments)
- prioritising the welfare of children and young people and creating a culture where staff are confident to challenge senior leaders over any Safeguarding concerns
- ensuring that children are taught about Safeguarding in an age appropriate way
- ensuring appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place to safeguard children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. Additional information to support governing bodies and proprietors is provided in Annex C of **Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2024)**- available at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/550511/Keeping\\_children\\_safe\\_in\\_education.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf)

## WHEN TO BE CONCERNED

### **A child centred and coordinated approach to Safeguarding:**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility**. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is **child centred**. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

Schools and colleges and their staff form part of the wider Safeguarding system for children. This system is based on the principle of providing help for families to stay together where it is safe for the children to do so, and looking at alternatives where it is not, whilst acting in the **best interests** of the child at all times.

### **Children who may require Early Help**

Manchester City Council offer comprehensive Early Help services for families.

A directory of Early Help services is available at:

<https://hsm.manchester.gov.uk/kb5/manchester/directory/directory.page?directorychannel=1-10>

This site can help practitioners and families find information and support to prevent escalation of needs and crisis.

All staff should be aware of the **Early Help process**, and understand their role in identifying emerging problems, sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment of a child's needs. It is important for children to receive the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating. This also includes staff monitoring the situation and feeding back to a Designated Safeguarding Lead any on-going/escalating concerns so that consideration can be given to a referral to Children's Services (Safeguarding and Specialist Services) if the child's situation doesn't appear to be improving.

Staff and volunteers working within the School should be alert to the potential need for Early Help for children also who are more vulnerable. For example:

- **Children with a disability and/or specific additional needs**
- **Children with special educational needs**
- **Children who are acting as a young carer**
- **Children who are showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour**

- **Children whose family circumstances present challenges, such as substance abuse, adult mental health or learning disability, domestic violence**
- **Children who are showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect**
- **Children who identify as LGBTQ+**

School staff members should be aware of the main categories of maltreatment:

**physical abuse,  
emotional abuse,  
sexual abuse and  
neglect.**

They should also be aware of the indicators of maltreatment and **specific** Safeguarding **issues** so that they are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection. (See *Appendix 3 for information on indicators of abuse and Appendix 1 for specific Safeguarding issues.*)

### **Children with special educational needs and disabilities:**

Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children.

This can include:

- ❖ Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's impairment without further exploration;
- ❖ Assumptions that children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying- without outwardly showing any signs;
- ❖ Communication barriers and difficulties
- ❖ Reluctance to challenge carers, (professionals may over empathise with carers because of the perceived stress of caring for a disabled child)
- ❖ Disabled children often rely on a wide network of carers to meet their basic needs and therefore the potential risk of exposure to abusive behaviour can be increased
- ❖ A disabled child's understanding of abuse
- ❖ Lack of choice/participation
- ❖ Isolation

### **Child on child abuse**

---

Safeguarding Policy  
Reviewed by School Environment & Welfare Committee  
Review annually  
Last Reviewed: 26/06/25

Education settings are an important part of the inter-agency framework not only in terms of evaluating and referring concerns to Children's Services and the Police, but also in the assessment and management of risk that the child or young person may pose to themselves and others in the education setting.

If one child or young person causes harm to another, this should not necessarily be dealt with as abuse. When considering whether behaviour is abusive, it is important to consider:

- whether there is a large difference in power (for example age, size, ability, development) between the young people concerned; or
- whether the perpetrator has repeatedly tried to harm one or more other children; or
- whether there are concerns about the intention of the alleged perpetrator.

Child on child abuse can manifest itself in many ways and different gender issues can be prevalent. Severe harm may be caused to children by abusive and bullying behaviour of other children, which may be physical, sexual or emotional and can include gender based violence/ sexual assaults, sexting, peer-on-peer exploitation, serious youth violence, sexual bullying or harmful sexual behaviour.

Guidance on responding to and managing sexting incidents can be found at:

<http://www.manchesterhealthyschools.nhs.uk/ViewResources.aspx?Category=SRE>

Staff should recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers and this should not be tolerated or passed off as "banter" or "part of growing up".

In order to minimise the risk of child on child abuse the school:

- provides a developmentally appropriate PSHE curriculum which develops students understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe.
- has systems in place for any student to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued.
- develops robust risk assessments
- has relevant policies in place (e.g. behaviour policy).

See more detail in Appendix 4.

## **PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

Mauldeth Road Primary School values the fundamental rights of freedom of speech, expression of beliefs and ideology and tolerance of others, which are the core values of our democratic society. However, all rights come with responsibilities and free speech or beliefs designed to manipulate the vulnerable or which advocate harm or hatred towards others will not be tolerated (see Prevent Strategy). Mauldeth Road Primary School seeks to protect its students and staff from all messages and forms of violent extremism and ideologies including those linked, but not restricted, to the following: Far Right/Neo Nazi, White Supremacist ideology, Islamist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups and extremist Animal Rights groups.

Mauldeth Road Primary School is clear that exploitation and radicalisation will be viewed as a Safeguarding concern and will be referred to the appropriate Safeguarding agencies. See further information on preventing radicalisation in Appendix 1.

## **E-SAFETY**

Mauldeth Road Primary School has a Computing Policy, which recognises that E-safety is a Safeguarding issue not an ICT issue. The purpose of Internet use in school is to help raise educational standards, promote pupil achievement, and support the professional work of staff as well as enhance the school's management information and business administration.

Mauldeth Road Primary School has a duty to provide children and young people with quality access as part of their learning experience.

It is the duty of Mauldeth Road Primary School to ensure that every child and young person is in its care is safe and this applies equally to the 'virtual' or digital world.

Mauldeth Road Primary School will ensure that appropriate filtering methods are in place to ensure that pupils are safe from all types of inappropriate and unacceptable materials, including terrorist and extremist material.

## DEALING WITH A DISCLOSURE

If a child discloses that he or she has been abused in some way, the member of staff / volunteer should:

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief
- Accept what is being said
- Allow the child to talk freely
- Reassure the child, but not make promises which it might not be possible to keep
- Never promise a child that they will not tell anyone - as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.
- Reassure him or her that what has happened is not his or her fault
- Stress that telling us was the right thing to do
- Listen, only asking questions when necessary to clarify
- Not criticise the alleged perpetrator
- Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told
- Make a written record (see Record Keeping)
- Pass the information to a Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay

### Support

Dealing with a disclosure from a child, and Safeguarding issues can be stressful. The member of staff/volunteer should, therefore, consider seeking support for him/herself and discuss this with a Designated Safeguarding Lead.

**If a school staff member receives a disclosure about potential harm caused by another staff member, they should see section 11 of this policy– *Allegations involving school staff/volunteers.***

## RECORD KEEPING

All concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for those decisions should be recorded in writing. If in doubt about recording requirements staff should discuss with the designated Safeguarding lead.

When a child has made a disclosure, the member of staff/volunteer should:

- Record as soon as possible after the conversation. Use the school Record of Concern sheet wherever possible (available under Safeguarding Network Resources on school system).
- Do not destroy the original notes in case they are needed by a court
- Record the date, time, place and any noticeable non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the child
- Draw a diagram to indicate the position of any injuries
- Record statements and observations rather than interpretations or assumptions

All records need to be given to a Designated Safeguarding Lead promptly. No copies should be retained by the member of staff or volunteer.

If a pupil who is/or has been the subject of a Child Protection plan changes school, a Designated Safeguarding Lead will inform the social worker responsible for the case and transfer the appropriate records to a Designated Safeguarding Lead at the receiving school, in a secure manner, and separate from the child's academic file.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Safeguarding children raises issues of confidentiality that must be clearly understood by all staff/volunteers in schools.

- All staff in schools, both teaching and non-teaching staff, have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals, particularly the investigative agencies (Children's Services: Safeguarding and Specialist Services and the Police).

- 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 complete confidentiality – instead they must explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child or other children safe. This may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.
- 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.

## SCHOOL PROCEDURES

*Please see Appendix 2: What to do if you are worried a child is being abused: flowchart.*

If any member of staff is concerned about a child he or she must inform a Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide whether the concerns should be referred to Children's Services. If it is decided to make a referral to Children's Services this will be discussed with the parents, unless to do so would place the child at further risk of harm.

While it is the DSP's role to make referrals, any staff member can make a referral to Children's Services. If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm (e.g. concern that a family might have plans to carry out FGM), a referral should be made to Children's Services and/or the Police immediately. Where referrals are not made by the DSP, the DSP should be informed as soon as possible.

If a **teacher** (persons employed or engaged to carry out teaching work at schools and other institutions in England), in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18 the **teacher** must report this to the police. **This is a mandatory reporting duty.** See Appendix 1- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2024): Annex A for further details.

Manchester Children's Services 0161 234 5001

The member of staff must record information regarding the concerns on the same day. The recording must be a clear, precise, factual account of the observations. 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 and a written record will be kept.

If a pupil who is (or has been) the subject of a Child Protection plan changes school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will inform the social worker responsible for the case and

transfer the appropriate records to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the receiving school, in a secure manner, and separate from the child's academic file.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for making the senior leadership team aware of trends in behaviour that may affect pupil welfare. If necessary, training will be arranged.

## COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

**Mauldeth Road Primary School** will ensure the Safeguarding Policy is available publicly on the school website.

Parents should be informed prior to referral, unless it is considered to do so might place the child at increased risk of significant harm by:

- The behavioural response it prompts e.g. a child being subjected to abuse, maltreatment or threats / forced to remain silent if alleged abuser informed;
- Leading to an unreasonable delay;
- Leading to the risk of loss of evidential material;

(The school may also consider not informing parent(s) where it would place a member of staff at risk.)

Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibilities placed on the school and staff for Safeguarding children.

## ALLEGATIONS INVOLVING SCHOOL STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

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

- Behaved in a way that has, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against/related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way which indicates s/he would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children

This applies to any child the member of staff/volunteer has contact within their personal, professional or community life.

### **What school staff should do if they have concerns about Safeguarding practices within the school:**

All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school or education setting's Safeguarding arrangements. Appropriate whistle-blowing procedures, which are suitably reflected in staff training and staff behaviour policies, should be in place for such concerns to be raised with the school or college's senior leadership team.

If staff members have concerns about another staff member then this should be referred to the Head Teacher. Where there are concerns about the Head Teacher, this should be referred to the Chair of Governors.

The Chair of Governors and the Vice Chair of Governors are listed at the end of the policy.

In the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Head Teacher, where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with the Chair of Governors, allegations should be reported directly to the Manchester City Council Designated Officer.

(See Keeping Children Safe in Education: Part Four, DfE 2024, for further information).

The person to whom an allegation is first reported should take the matter seriously and keep an open mind. S/he should not investigate or ask leading questions if seeking clarification; it is important not to make assumptions. Confidentiality should not be promised and the person should be advised that the concern will be shared on a 'need to know' basis only.

Actions to be taken include making an immediate written record of the allegation using the informant's words – including time, date and place where the alleged incident took place, brief details of what happened, what was said and who was present. This record should be signed, dated and immediately passed on to the Head Teacher.

The recipient of an allegation must **not** unilaterally determine its validity, and failure to report it in accordance with procedures is a potential disciplinary matter.

The Head Teacher/Chair of Governors will not investigate the allegation itself, or take written or detailed statements, but will assess whether it is necessary to refer the concern to the Designated Officer:

If the allegation meets any of the three criteria set out at the start of this section, contact should always be made with the Designated Officer without delay.

If it is decided that the allegation does not meet the threshold for Safeguarding, it will be handed back to the Head Teacher for consideration via the school's internal procedures.

The Head Teacher should, as soon as possible, **following briefing** from the Designated Officer, inform the subject of the allegation.

Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer/through the whistle-blowing procedure or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistle-blowing channels may be open to them:

- Children's Services 0161 234 5001
- NSPCC whistle-blowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding Child Protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

### Safer working practice

To reduce the risk of allegations, all staff should be aware of safer working practice and should be familiar with the guidance contained in the staff handbook/ school code of conduct / staff behaviour policy and Safer Recruitment Consortium document **Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings (September 2015)** available at <https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Guidance-for-Safer-Working-Practices-2015-final1.pdf>

The document seeks to ensure that the responsibilities of school leaders towards children and staff are discharged by raising awareness of illegal, unsafe, unprofessional and unwise behaviour. This includes guidelines for staff on positive behaviour management in line with the ban on corporal punishment (School Standards and Framework Act 1998).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection	Andy Kilcoyne
The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection	Zoe Cain
The Nominated Governor for Child Protection	Ruth Taylor

Reviewed by	School Environment & Welfare Committee
Review	Annually
Last Reviewed	June 2025
Next Review	June 2026

## APPENDIX 1: KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION (DfE 2022)

### Part One: Information for all school and college staff

#### Annex A: Further information

It is **essential** that **all** staff have access to this online document and read Part 1 and Annex, which provides further information on:

- children missing from education
- child sexual exploitation
- 'honour based' violence
- FGM mandatory reporting duty
- forced marriage
- preventing radicalisation

This is to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in this guidance.

### Link to Keeping Children Safe in Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

**APPENDIX 2: WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED: ADVICE FOR PRACTITIONERS (DfE 2015)**

**Flowchart**

**Be alert**

- Be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect
- Identify concerns early to prevent escalation.
- Know what systems the school have in place regarding support for safeguarding e.g. induction training , staff behaviour policy / code of conduct and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead ( DSP ) .

**Question behaviours**

- Talk and listen to the views of children, be non - judgemental.
- Observe any change in behaviours and question any unexplained marks / injuries
- To raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice , refer to the HT or principal, if the concerns is about the HT or Principal, report to Chair of Governors. Utilise whistleblowing procedure.

**Ask for help**

- Record and share information appropriately with regard to confidentiality
- If staff members have concerns, raise these with the school's or college's Designated Safeguarding Lead ( DSP)
- Responsibility to take appropriate action, do not delay.

**Refer**

- DSP will make referrals to children services but in an emergency or a genuine concern that appropriate action has not been taken, staff members can speak directly to Children's Services on 03001234043 .

**The framework for understanding children's needs:**



## Working Together to Safeguard Children (DFE, 2015)

<b>Physical abuse</b>	
<i>Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.</i>	
<b>Child</b>	
Bruises – shape, grouping, site, repeat or multiple	Withdrawal from physical contact
Bite-marks – site and size Burns and Scalds – shape, definition, size, depth, scars	Aggression towards others, emotional and behaviour problems
Improbable, conflicting explanations for injuries or unexplained injuries	Frequently absent from school
Untreated injuries	Admission of punishment which appears excessive
Injuries on parts of body where accidental injury is unlikely	Fractures
Repeated or multiple injury	Fabricated or induced illness -
<b>Parent</b>	<b>Family/environment</b>
Parent with injuries	History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
Evasive or aggressive towards child or others	Past history in the family of childhood abuse, self-harm, somatization disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault
Explanation inconsistent with injury	Marginalised or isolated by the community.
Fear of medical help / parents not seeking medical help	Physical or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.
Over chastisement of child	

<b>Emotional abuse</b>	
<i>Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, not giving the child opportunities to express their views, 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate - hearing the ill-treatment of another and serious bullying (including cyber bullying).</i>	
<b>Child</b>	
Self-harm	Over-reaction to mistakes / Inappropriate emotional responses
Chronic running away	Abnormal or indiscriminate attachment
Drug/solvent abuse	Low self-esteem
Compulsive stealing	Extremes of passivity or aggression
Makes a disclosure	Social isolation – withdrawn, a 'loner' Frozen watchfulness particularly pre school
Developmental delay	Depression

Neurotic behaviour (e.g. rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking)	Desperate attention-seeking behaviour
<b>Parent</b>	<b>Family/environment</b>
Observed to be aggressive towards child or others	Marginalised or isolated by the community.
Intensely involved with their children, never allowing anyone else to undertake their child's care.	History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
Previous domestic violence	History of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents and/or siblings of the family
History of abuse or mental health problems	Past history in the care of childhood abuse, self harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault
Mental health, drug or alcohol difficulties	Wider parenting difficulties
Cold and unresponsive to the child's emotional needs	Physical or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.
Overly critical of the child	Lack of support from family or social network.

### Neglect

***Neglect is 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.***

#### Child

Failure to thrive - underweight, small stature	Low self-esteem
Dirty and unkempt condition	Inadequate social skills and poor socialisation
Inadequately clothed	Frequent lateness or non-attendance at school
Dry sparse hair	Abnormal voracious appetite at school or nursery
Untreated medical problems	Self-harming behaviour
Red/purple mottled skin, particularly on the hands and feet, seen in the winter due to cold	Constant tiredness
Swollen limbs with sores that are slow to heal, usually associated with cold injury	Disturbed peer relationships
<b>Parent</b>	<b>Family/environment</b>
Failure to meet the child's basic essential needs including health needs	Marginalised or isolated by the community.
Leaving a child alone	History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
Failure to provide adequate caretakers	History of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents and/or siblings of the family
Keeping an unhygienic dangerous or hazardous home environment	Past history in the family of childhood abuse, self harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault
Unkempt presentation	Lack of opportunities for child to play and learn
Unable to meet child's emotional needs	Dangerous or hazardous home environment including failure to use home safety equipment; risk from animals
Mental health, alcohol or drug difficulties	

### Sexual abuse

*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 or non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at sexual images or being groomed on line / child exploitation.*

#### Child

Self-harm - eating disorders, self-mutilation and suicide attempts	Poor self-image, self-harm, self-hatred
Running away from home	Inappropriate sexualised conduct
Reluctant to undress for PE	Withdrawal, isolation or excessive worrying
Pregnancy	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	Poor attention / concentration (world of their own)
Pain, bleeding, bruising or itching in genital and /or anal area	Sudden changes in school work habits, become truant
Sexually exploited or indiscriminate choice of sexual partners	
Parent	Family/environment
History of sexual abuse	Marginalised or isolated by the community.
Excessively interested in the child.	History of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence.
Parent displays inappropriate behaviour towards the child or other children	History of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents and/or siblings of the family
Conviction for sexual offences	Past history in the care of childhood abuse, self harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical or sexual assault
Comments made by the parent/carer about the child.	Grooming behaviour
Lack of sexual boundaries	Physical or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.

## APPENDIX 4: CHILD ON CHILD ABUSE

Through training we ensure that all staff recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. The senior leadership team and governing body are responsible for ensuring that procedures exist to minimise the risk of child on child abuse and consider how allegations of child on child abuse will be investigated and dealt with. There is a clear procedure on how victims of child on child abuse will be supported.

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

All staff are expected to refer to HM Government guidance 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused – Advice for practitioners' for further help in identifying signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect. This guidance can be found in Appendix 2. Staff members who are concerned that a child might have been / being abused by another child should follow Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures and report to the DSL.

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

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

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

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

Robust systems have been established in school for dealing with Safeguarding concerns. All allegations of abuse and neglect, whether suspected or known will be treated seriously and confidentially. Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”. We will respond and manage any reports of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment in line with guidance added to KCSIE 2024 and within the MSP website.

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

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

School leaders are aware that detailed advice to support schools has been published. The advice is available and includes, what sexual violence and sexual harassment look like, important context to be aware of, related legal responsibilities for schools and advice on a whole school approach to preventing child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment.

The school adopts the UK Council for Child Internet Safety guidance ‘Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: How to respond to incidents and Safeguarding young people’ in respect of our response to sexting. This guidance clearly sets out how to handle incidents, should they occur and what preventative steps can be taken to educate young people.

## **Responding to reports of sexual violence/harassment**

**It is crucial that school leaders are confident in responding to any reports of sexual violence or harassment.**

There are four likely scenarios for schools to consider when managing any reports of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment.

### **1. Manage internally**

In some cases of sexual harassment, for example, one-off incidents, the school may take the view that the children concerned are not in need of Early Help or statutory intervention and that it would be appropriate to handle the incident internally, perhaps through utilising their behaviour policy and by providing pastoral support.

- Whatever the school's response, it should be underpinned by the principle that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- All concerns, discussions, decisions and reasons for decisions should be recorded (written or electronic).

### **2. Early help**

- In line with 1 above, the school may decide that the children involved do not require statutory interventions, but may benefit from Early Help. Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Providing Early Help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early Help can be particularly useful to address non-violent harmful sexual behaviour and may prevent escalation of sexual violence.
- Full details of the Early Help process are in Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- Multi-agency Early Help will work best when placed alongside strong school policies, preventative education and engagement with parents and carers.
- Whatever the response, it should be under-pinned by the principle that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- All concerns, discussions, decisions and reasons for decisions should be recorded (written or electronic).

### **3. Referrals to children's social care**

- Where a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm, or is in immediate danger, schools should make a referral to local children's social care.
- At the referral to children's social care stage, schools will generally inform parents or

carers, unless there are compelling reasons not to (if informing a parent or carer is going to put the child at additional risk). Any such decision should be made with the support of children's social care.

- If a referral is made, children's social care will then make enquiries to determine whether any of the children involved are in need of protection or other services.
- Where statutory assessments are appropriate, the school (especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a deputy) should be working alongside, and cooperating with, the relevant lead social worker. Collaborative working will help ensure the best possible package of coordinated support is implemented for the victim and, where appropriate, the alleged perpetrator and any other children that require support.
- Schools should not wait for the outcome (or even the start) of a children's social care investigation before protecting the victim and other children in the school. It will be important for the designated Safeguarding lead (or a deputy) to work closely with children's social care (and other agencies as required) to ensure any actions the school takes do not jeopardise a statutory investigation. The risk assessment as per paragraph 275 will help inform any decision. Consideration of Safeguarding the victim, alleged perpetrator, any other children directly involved in the Safeguarding report and all children at the school should be immediate.
- In some cases, children's social care will review the evidence and decide a statutory intervention is not appropriate. The school (generally led by the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a deputy) should be prepared to refer again if they believe the child remains in immediate danger or at risk of harm. If a statutory assessment is not appropriate, the designated Safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should consider other support mechanisms such as Early Help, specialist support and pastoral support.
- Whatever the response, it should be under-pinned by the principle that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- All concerns, discussions, decisions and reasons for decisions should be recorded (written or electronic).

#### **4. Reporting to the Police**

- Any report to the police will generally be in parallel with a referral to children's social care (as above).
- It is important that the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and their deputies) are clear about the local process for referrals and follow that process.
- Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, the starting point is this should be passed on to the police. Whilst the age of criminal responsibility is ten, if the alleged perpetrator is under ten, the starting principle of reporting to the police remains. The police will take a welfare, rather than a criminal justice approach.
- At this stage, schools will generally inform parents or carers unless

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

- Where a report has been made to the police, the school should consult the police and agree what information can be disclosed to staff and others, in particular, the alleged perpetrator and their parents or carers. They should also discuss the best way to protect the victim and their anonymity.
- All police forces in England have specialist units that investigate child abuse. The names and structures of these units are matters for local forces. It will be important that the designated Safeguarding lead (and their deputies) are aware of their local arrangements.
- In some cases, it may become clear very quickly that the police (for whatever reason) will not take further action. In such circumstances, it is important that the School continue to engage with specialist support for the victim as required.
- Whatever the response, it should be under-pinned by the principle that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- All concerns, discussions, decisions and reasons for decisions should be recorded (written or electronic).

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