



MALVERN ST JAMES
Girls' School

Safeguarding Pupils and Child Protection Policy

**including EYFS and Boarding
in consultation with Worcestershire County Council**

This is a live policy, updated throughout the year as necessary. It is also formally reviewed annually every October by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Senior Leadership Team, and the Governing Body.

Latest update: 1 September 2023

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Safeguarding Overview

The School recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils and always consider the best interests of the child. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where pupils are respected and valued. We recognise our duties both to children in need of additional support and to children at risk of harm. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and our procedures ensure that pupils receive effective support, protection and justice. Child protection forms part of the School's safeguarding responsibilities.

The School fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect and support its pupils. The aim of this policy is to safeguard and promote our pupils' welfare, safety, health and well-being by creating an honest, open, caring and supportive environment. The pupils' welfare is of paramount importance.

We aim to safeguard all pupils at Malvern St James by:

- **Prevention** e.g. positive school atmosphere, teaching and pastoral support for pupils, safer recruitment procedures;
- **Protection** by following agreed procedures, ensuring that staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to child protection concerns;
- **Support** for pupils and school staff, for pupils who may have been abused and by working with parents and guardians to ensure appropriate communication and action.

This policy applies to all staff, governors, volunteers and visitors to the school. Child protection is the responsibility of all staff. We ensure that all parents and working partners are aware of this policy by mentioning it in our school prospectus, displaying appropriate information in Reception, making the entire policy document available on the School website and by raising awareness at meetings with parents/guardians. The policy has been written in collaboration with several members of staff who have had safeguarding experience.

We adopt Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) (2023) in full. [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92242/Keeping-Children-Safe-in-Education-2023.pdf)

The School adopts an open and accepting attitude towards pupils as part of its responsibility for pastoral care. Staff encourage pupils and parents/guardians to feel free to talk about any concerns and to see school as a safe place when there are difficulties. Pupils' worries and fears will be taken seriously, and pupils are encouraged to seek help from members of staff. When concerns are raised or a disclosure is made, staff recognise that sensitivity is needed and that pupils are acting in good faith. The School will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
- Ensure that pupils know that there are adults in School whom they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty or to whom they can report concerns anonymously;
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities (specifically through PSHEEC/Computing) which equip pupils with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse (including online) and to know where to get help;
- Support the physical and mental health of pupils;
- Have regard to crime trends in our local community via <https://www.crime-statistics.co.uk> and adjust the PHSEEC curriculum as necessary;
- Ensure every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with parents/guardians and colleagues from other agencies;
- Operate safer recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on new staff and volunteers who will work with pupils including identity, right to work, enhanced DBS criminal record, childcare disqualification, and barred list (and overseas where

needed), references, and prohibition from teaching or managing in schools (s. 128).

Safeguarding in the Curriculum

Pupils are taught about safeguarding in school. The following areas are among those directly addressed in PSHEEC/RSHE and in the wider curriculum:

- Bullying/Cyberbullying;
- Drugs, alcohol and substance abuse;
- Online Safety / Mobile technologies;
- Stranger danger and keeping safe;
- Fire and water safety;
- Road safety;
- Domestic abuse;
- Healthy relationships/consent;
- Relationships and Sex Education;
- Health Education;
- Honour Based Abuse issues (HBA) e.g. Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM);
- Sexual exploitation of pupils (CSE) and sexual harassment;
- Extremism and Radicalisation in line with the DfE advice Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural education).

Support

The School recognises that pupils who are abused or who witness violence or abuse may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and view the world in a positive way. For such pupils, school may be one of the few stable, secure and predictable components of their lives. Other pupils may be vulnerable because, for instance, they have a disability, are in care, or are experiencing some form of neglect. The School seeks to remove any barriers that may exist in being able to recognize abuse or neglect in pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disability. We will seek to provide such pupils with the necessary support and to build their self-esteem and confidence.

Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils is defined as:

- protecting pupils from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- ensuring that pupils grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all pupils to have the best outcomes.

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

Staff refers to all those working for or on behalf of the School, full or part time, temporary or permanent, in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

Child includes everyone under the age of 18. However, this policy is applicable to all pupils enrolled at MSJ, irrespective of age.

Parents refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example stepparents, foster carers and guardians.

Victim refers to those who have been subjected to abuse. We recognise that not every victim will view themselves as such.

Alleged perpetrator/perpetrator refers to those who may have inflicted abuse. In some cases the abusive behaviour will have been harmful to the perpetrator as well.

Other Relevant Policies and Procedures

The Governing Body's statutory responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of pupils goes beyond compliance with child protection procedures. The safeguarding duty is relevant for the discharge of all functions and activities. This policy needs to be considered in conjunction with the following policies and procedures, all of which can be found on Microsoft Teams in the Staff Handbook:

- Anti-Bullying (including Cyberbullying)
- Complaints
- Digital Devices
- E Safety including Acceptable Use
- Educational Visits
- Equal Opportunities
- First Aid
- Health and Safety
- Induction of New Staff
- Medical Policy and Procedures
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Pastoral Care
- Physical Contact and Reasonable Force
- Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation
- Pupil Supervision
- Recruitment, Selection and Disclosures
- Rewards and Sanctions (including the MSJ Code of Conduct)
- Searching and Confiscation
- SEND
- Staff Behaviour and Code of Conduct
- Suicide Prevention
- Visiting Speakers
- Visitor
- Whistleblowing

This policy is consistent with:

- Section 157 of the Education Act 2002, and the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Pupils 2018;
- Keeping Pupils Safe in Education September 2023;
- [West Mercia Consortium inter-agency procedures](http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/) <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/> and the [WSCP Levels of Need Guidance.](#);
- The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009;
- Part 3 of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014;
- The Children Act 1989 (and 2004 amendment), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children and The Children and Families Act 2014;
- Section 5b (11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by Section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015;
- Statutory guidance on FGM, which sets out responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM;

- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children;
- Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which defines what 'regulated activity' is in relation to children;
- Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty, which explains schools' duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015;
- DfE statutory guidance Relationship's education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education June 2019 (updated September 2021);
- Charity Commission Guidance on charity and trustee duties to safeguard children.

Human Rights Act

The Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to and contains the Articles and protocols of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) (the Convention) that are deemed to apply in the UK. It compels public organisations to respect and protect an individual's human rights when they make individual decisions about them.

Being subjected to harassment, violence and or abuse, including that of a sexual nature, may breach any or all of these rights, depending on the nature of the conduct and the circumstances. Further information (including on absolute and qualified rights) can be found at:

[Home Page | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/)

Extended school activities.

Where the Governing Body provides services or activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for child protection will apply. Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, the Governing Body will seek assurance in writing that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures, in line with <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-out-of-school-settings-code-of-practice>, including relevant Safer Recruitment checks, are in place to safeguard and protect pupils and that there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate

Roles and Responsibilities

The staff listed below have specific roles in safeguarding the pupils at Malvern St James, but all adults have a responsibility to safeguard children and the ability to make a referral is not limited to senior staff, though the Designated Safeguarding Lead must be informed if a referral is made. Malvern St James works alongside, and with, the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) which comprises the Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council, the Chief Constable of West Mercia Police and an accountable Officer for NHS South Worcestershire. Staff are aware of [West Midlands procedures](#) and [Worcestershire's Levels of Need Guidance](#)

School Safeguarding Contact Details:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead
Responsibility for the welfare and progress of Looked-After children, and Child Exploitation GET SAFE lead

Mrs Zinnia Wilkinson, Deputy Head Pastoral Tel no 01684 892288 Ext. 2628 Mob no: 07841 775812:
wilkiz@malvernstjames.co.uk

Deputy Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)

Mrs Fiona Fowles, Senior Deputy Head

Tel no. 01684 584616 Mob. No: 07710 098021

fowlef@malvernstjames.co.uk

Miss Anouska van Ravenstein, Director of Boarding

ravena@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mob no: 07921 498 401

Mrs Olivera Raraty, Head

headspa@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mrs Belle Bedford **EYFS Designated Safeguarding Person**

bedfob@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mrs Katie Fisher, **Prevent Single Point of Contact**

fishkek@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mrs Alison Warne, **Safeguarding Governor and Anti-Bullying Governor**

Alison.Warne@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mrs Carolyn Aynsworth, **Online Safety Co-ordinator**

aynswc@malvernstjames.co.uk

Recruitment Safeguarding Team

Mrs Gemma Bruce, Chair of Governors, Gemma.Bruce@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mrs Olivera Raraty, Headmistress, headspa@malvernstjames.co.uk

Ms Amanda Allott, Director of Compliance and Operations, allota@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mrs Michelle Banton, HR Business Partner, bantom@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mrs Diana Walton, Governor, via headspa@malvernstjames.co.uk

External Contacts:

Safeguarding Training Provider: [Create Safer Organisations](#)

Educational Adviser for Safeguarding: Denise Hannibal dhannibal@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Telephone: [01905 844436](tel:01905844436)

To submit an online Cause for Concern:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20383/are_you_a_professional_worried_about_a_child,

Family Front Door: 01905 822666 (core working hours) Out of hours or at weekends: 01905 768020

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):

Tel: 01905 846221 or speak to the Head in the first instance

Channel/Prevent contacts:

Paul Kinsella: pkinsella@worcestershire.gov.uk or West Mercia Police 101

prevent@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk

This document can be used to assist the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies in understanding when to consider calling the police: [NSPCC - When to call the police](#)

Responsibilities of all adults

All adults working with or on behalf of pupils have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare. This includes a responsibility to be alert to possible abuse and to record and report concerns to staff identified with child protection responsibilities within the School (currently called Safeguarding Leads).

Staff should be aware that they may need to work with other services as needed and assist in making decisions about individual pupils. Staff should be mindful that early information sharing is vital for the effective identification, assessment, and allocation of appropriate service provision, whether this is

when problems first emerge, or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care. The Teachers' Standards July 2011 (updated December 2021) state that teachers, including Heads, should safeguard pupils' wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their decisions about individual pupils.

Every member of staff, including volunteers working with pupils at the School, is advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned and to 'think beyond the obvious'. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the interests of the child and have a responsibility to take action as outlined in this policy. They should take account of the 'one chance rule' in relation to honour abuse-based issues, that an adult may have only one opportunity to save a potential victim.

Staff should report concerns directly to a member of the Safeguarding Team and record their concerns on CPOMS.

All staff are encouraged to report any concerns that they have and not see these as insignificant. On occasions, a referral is justified by a single incident such as an injury or disclosure of abuse. More often however, concerns accumulate over a period of time and are evidenced by building up a picture of harm over time; this is particularly true in cases of emotional abuse and neglect. In these circumstances, it is crucial that staff record and pass on concerns in accordance with this policy to allow the Designated Safeguarding Lead to build up a picture and access support for the child at the earliest opportunity. A reliance on memory without accurate and contemporaneous records of concern could lead to a failure to protect.

All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the School and can occur between children outside the school environment. All staff, but especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead and her Deputies, should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harm takes a variety of different forms and pupils can be vulnerable to multiple harms including but not limited to sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and serious youth violence.

All staff should be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or be being threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. This should not prevent staff from having a professional curiosity and speaking to the DSL if they have concerns about a child. It is also important that staff determine how best to build trusted relationships with children and young people which facilitate communication.

All staff will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety which, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring – at induction.

All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the attitude or actions of colleagues using the School's confidential Whistleblowing Policy. Whistleblowing concerns about the Head should be raised with the Chair of Governors.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/whistleblowing-advice-line/> is a dedicated helpline available as an alternative route for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally, or who have concerns about the way a concern is being handled by Malvern St James. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 – the line is available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, Monday to Friday, or email: help@nspcc.org.uk

All staff should be mindful of the position of trust that they are in when working within an education setting. Moreover, all staff share responsibility for reflecting and promoting the MSJ Values as detailed in the Code of Conduct. Staff must comply with guidance about conduct and safe practice. This includes safe use of digital devices, details of which are outlined in the EYFS Policy and the E Safety and Acceptable Use Policy. The use of personal mobile devices is not permitted in our EYFS or Boarding settings in the presence of pupils.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

All Governors are expected to undertake appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training will equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place at MSJ are effective.

In accordance with the Statutory Guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education, the Governing Body will ensure that:

- The School has a Child Protection/Safeguarding policy, procedures and training in place which are effective and comply with the law. The policy is made available publicly on the School website;
- The policy is reviewed at least annually or more often, for example in the event of new guidance or a significant incident;
- Operate safer recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on new staff, governors and volunteers who will work with children; these include identity, right to work, enhanced DBS criminal record, childcare disqualification, and barred list (and overseas where needed), references, and prohibition from teaching or managing in schools (s128);
- The Head, a nominated Governor and other staff involved in the recruitment process have undertaken Safer Recruitment Training;
- There are procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers/ people in a position of trust;
- There is a senior member of the School's Leadership team who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection (the Designated Safeguarding Lead) and there is always cover for this role (at least one deputy) with appropriate arrangements for before/after school and out of term activities;
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies, including the Head, undertake effective training (in addition to basic child protection training) and this is refreshed every two years or every year for the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In addition to this formal training, their knowledge and skills are updated at regular intervals (at least annually) via safeguarding e-briefings etc. This training includes inter-agency working and the Local Authority's approach to Prevent duties such that they can provide support and advice to others;
- All other staff and volunteers who work with pupils (including Early Years practitioners within settings on the school site), undertake appropriate training which is regularly updated at least annually, and a complete renewal of training is undertaken every three years. New staff and volunteers who work with pupils are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities including this policy and Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023). Training includes indicators of FGM; early signs of radicalisation and extremism; indicators of vulnerability to sexual violence and radicalisation;
- Any deficiencies or weaknesses in these arrangements brought to the attention of the Governing Body will be rectified without delay;
- The Chair of Governors (or, in the absence of a Chair, the Vice Chair) deals with any

allegations of abuse made against the Head, with advice and guidance from the Local Authority Designated Officer(LADO);

- Effective policies and procedures are in place and updated annually including the Staff Behaviour and Code of Conduct Policy and Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those who work with children in education settings October 2019 (Addendum 2020);
- Pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online safety as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum and curriculum activities and opportunities (specifically PHSEEC/ ICT/RSE) equip pupils with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse (including online) and to know where to get help;
- Information is provided to the Local Authority on behalf of the WSCP when requested, for example through the Section 175 audit;
- All Governors recognise the importance of information sharing between practitioners and local agencies. This should include ensuring arrangements are in place that set out clearly the processes and principles for sharing information within the School and with the three safeguarding partners (Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief of Police for the relevant authority), other organisations, agencies and practitioners, as required;
- Appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place to protect pupils Online and these are regularly reviewed for effectiveness;
- The Governors should ensure online safety is a running and interrelated theme within all School policies and procedures. This includes curriculum planning, teacher training and parental engagement;
- Governors should ensure relevant staff have due regard to the relevant data protection principles, which allow them to share (and withhold) personal information;
- There is an individual member of the Governing Body (the Safeguarding Governor) who will champion issues to do with safeguarding pupils and child protection within the school, liaise with the DSL, and provide information and reports to the Governing Body;
- All Governors attend regular safeguarding training, as well as the staff, either via the whole school safeguarding training sessions, within Council meetings or separately as appropriate;
- The School contributes to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, including providing a co-ordinated offer of Early Help for pupils who require it. This Early Help may be offered directly through school provision or via referral to an external support agency. Safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practice of the local authority and the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP);
- The School complies with all legislative safeguarding duties, including the duty to report suspected or known cases of FGM and the duty to prevent young people from being drawn into terrorism, that the level of risk is assessed within the school actions that are in place to reduce that risk;
- There is an ethos where pupils feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are listened to, that pupils know that there are adults in the School whom they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty.

Responsibilities of the Head

The Head of the School will ensure that:

- the Safeguarding policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body are effectively implemented, and followed by all staff;
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy

discussions and other inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of pupils;

- Allegations of abuse or concerns that a member of staff or adult working at School may pose a risk of harm to a child or young person are notified to the Local Authority Designated Officer in a timely manner, and that guidance in Part 4 of KCSIE 2023 is followed;
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to pupils, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner. The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline number is also available (0800 028 0285);
- All staff are made aware that they have an individual responsibility to pass on safeguarding concerns and that if all else fails, to report these directly to Children's Services or the Police.

Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead are found in Annex C of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) which includes:

- Provision of information to the WSCP/Local Authority on safeguarding and child protection in compliance with section 14b of the Pupils Act 2004;
- Liaison with the Governing Body and the Local Authority on any deficiencies brought to the attention of the Governing Body, and how these should be rectified without delay;
- Management and Referral of cases of suspected abuse to Family Front Door (and/or Police where a crime may have been committed), and the Disclosure and Barring Service;
- Provide for a report to be sent promptly to the Disclosure and Barring Service if the School dispenses with a person's services because of unsuitability to work with children or would have done so had the person not resigned;
- Contact the Disclosure and Barring Service immediately if a member of staff is suspended or redeployed because of concerns that they pose a risk of harm, is dismissed or when they have resigned;
- Discuss with the Head whether consideration is given to making a referral to the Teaching Regulation Agency where a teacher has been dismissed (or would have been dismissed had he/she not resigned), and whether a prohibition order may be appropriate, because of the belief that they have:
 - engaged in relevant conduct in relation to children and/or adults,
 - satisfied the harm test in relation to children and/or vulnerable adults; or
 - been cautioned or convicted of a relevant (automatic barring either with or without the right to make representations) offence.
- Where the School dismisses or ceases to use the services of a teacher because of serious misconduct, or might have dismissed them or ceased to use their services had they not left first, the DSL and Head must consider whether to refer the case to the Secretary of State;
- Liaise with the Head to inform her of issues;
- Understand the assessment process for providing early help, and make use of the Levels of Need guidance when making a decision about whether or not the threshold for Early Help or Social Care intervention is met;
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise within the School;
- Liaising with the three safeguarding partners and work with other services, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children, to provide effective Multi-Agency working;
- Attend and contribute to child protection conferences and other key partnership risk management meetings when required and understand the role of the Appropriate Adult within a police investigation;
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with educational needs, those who have a social worker or are young carers, and liaise with relevant staff to support

such pupils as necessary;

- Hold the responsibility to ensure that children who have or have had a social worker maintain academic and attendance standards;
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the School's child protection policy, especially new or part-time staff who may work with different educational establishments;
- Ensure all new staff, temporary staff and volunteers have induction training which includes being given the school Safeguarding Policy, the Staff Behaviour and Code of Conduct Policy, the Pupil Code of Conduct, safeguarding response to those children who go missing from education, the Whistleblowing Policy, details of the identity and function of the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) and a copy of Part 1 of KCSIE (2023), (and Part 5 for those working directly with children), the online safety/acceptable use of technologies policy; and report any concerns immediately they arise including a report of child-on-child sexual violence or sexual harassment;
- Ensure that all staff are trained to manage a report of child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment and that they are able to reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe;
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the local early help process and understand their role in the process for making referrals to Children's Social Care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, especially section 17 (children in need) and section 47 (a child suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm) that may follow a referral, along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments;
- Provide basic safeguarding training and a safeguarding leaflet for all contractors regularly in School;
- Ensure that all staff read the relevant sections of Keeping Children Safe in Education every time it changes and that they sign to say they have done so ;
- Ensure that the Head, members of staff and volunteers in regulated activity receive on-line safety training and that informal supplementary training is kept up to date at least annually;
- Ensure that all staff receive safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, and staff meetings), as required, and at least annually, to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.
- Keeping detailed, accurate and secure written records of concerns and referrals;
- Ensure that there are resources and effective training for all staff, including training for the Deputy Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) and appropriate training for the Prevent Lead;
- Have responsibility for online safety;
- Keep up to date with new developments in safeguarding by accessing briefings and Journals and attending refresher training every year;
- Ensure compliance with relevant procedures and policies, for example in relation to safe record keeping and transfer;
- Carry out, in conjunction with the Head and Safeguarding Governor, an annual audit of safeguarding procedures, and ensure that any returns requested by the LA/WSCP (e.g. s 175/157 audit, CSE audit) are completed in a timely manner to enable the WSCP to meet its statutory duties;
- Ensure that the school provides appropriate support for staff who may feel distressed when dealing with safeguarding concerns;

The DSL is expected to be onsite during operational hours. However, as a Boarding School this is not practical. The DSL will nominate a named DDSL to take the role of DSL when they are offsite. In addition, there is always a DDSL on call (365-days pa).

Records, Monitoring and Transfer

Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. All staff are clear about the need to record and report concerns (big and small) about a child or pupils within the school.

Records should include a summary of the concern, details of how it has been followed up and resolved, and a note of actions taken, decisions reached and the outcome. Perceived small concerns, such as a change in behaviour or appearance, should be logged on CPOMS to enable the Safeguarding Team to build up a picture.

Disclosures and more serious concerns should be recorded on the appropriate form (Appendix 1) found in the Shared Staff Resources Team in Microsoft Teams or via safeguarding packs in Department offices and staff rooms. The record should include the child's words as far as possible and should be timed, dated and signed. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for such records and for deciding at what point these records should be passed over to other agencies. The entries on CPOMS are reviewed daily by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and pupils causing concern trends etc. are discussed at the weekly Monday pastoral meeting by the Safeguarding Team, unless action is required more immediately.

Child protection records are stored securely, with access confined to specific staff, i.e. Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Head and the Head

Child protection records are reviewed regularly to check whether any action or updating is needed via the weekly pastoral meeting. This includes monitoring patterns of complaints or concerns about any individuals and ensuring these are acted upon.

When children leave MSJ, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college within 5-days of their enrolment at a new setting. These should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. If it is appropriate to do so, and in the interests of the pupil (for example, to ensure that in the case of continuing abuse, support can be put in place) the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the new school or college in advance of the pupil leaving. When a child protection file is received from another school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will pass on relevant information to the SENCO and relevant staff, such as the Head of Year, if necessary.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead keeps a confidential record of low-level concerns regarding staff. A record of any allegations (proven) made against staff is kept in a confidential file by the Head

Raising concerns/complaints

We respond robustly when concerns are raised, or complaints are made (from any relevant party) as we recognise that this promotes a safer environment and we seek to learn from complaints and comments. The School will take action and seek to resolve the concerns in a timely way, keeping people informed as to progress wherever possible. The School's complaints procedures are available on Microsoft Teams (for Staff) and the Parent Portal.

Boarding

As a Boarding School we comply with the requirements set out by the National Minimum Standards 2023.

Security

All pupils must sign in and out of the Boarding Houses on the sheets provided and must inform staff of any plans that take them off the School site. During the week, the pupils are registered in the morning and afternoon in School. Boarders are additionally checked in at supper and at night.

During the weekends, additional checks are made throughout the day. Should a boarder be found to be missing, then staff would follow the procedure for when a boarder is missing which can be found in the Boarding Drive and is displayed in all the House duty offices.

Boarders may go off the School grounds with permission from their Housemistress. Pupils in Year 11 and below must always be in groups of three (or more). Pupils in the Sixth Form may go out in Malvern during the day alone, but must be in groups of two (or more) if they are going out in the evening or to Worcester, and in groups of three if they are going further. Exceptions to this will only be made for unique situations and must be authorised by the pupil's parents or guardians.

Each Boarding House has its own digital door lock with a unique code that is changed each term or more frequently as necessary. Additionally, there is a night watchman who works throughout the night, making regular checks of the buildings/grounds, who can be called upon in an emergency.

The School requires an enhanced DBS with barred list certificate, completed in advance, for all adults who live on the School site or are regular overnight visitors. The partners of staff, as well as any regular visitors over the age of 18, must also undergo safeguarding training provided by the School. Any other visitors, including outside delivery, housekeeping and maintenance personnel are provided with staff supervision when visiting boarding accommodation to prevent any substantial unsupervised access to boarders or their accommodation. Residential staff may have personal visitors to their accommodation; the responsibility for such visitors rests with the member of staff being visited and they must be signed into the Boarding Staff Visitor Log. It is important that the host ensures that guests are aware of the fact that certain restrictions apply because they are visiting a school. Any of these visitors who regularly stay overnight must be DBS checked and be made aware of their safeguarding responsibilities by the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Transport

The School uses specified taxi companies for boarders' transport who have put in place DBS checks for all their drivers. Additionally, a Heathrow coach operates at the beginning and end of each holiday with School escorts to accompany and supervise the pupils. House staff will occasionally take pupils to appointments in their own cars.

Exeats and Holidays

Before each holiday and exeat, parents or guardians complete a form with the boarding pupil's destination and how they will travel to it. All of this information is monitored and stored in the Houses. If a pupil does not return to School at the expected time, parents and guardians are contacted. Occasionally a pupil may be invited to a friend's house overnight; in these cases, an invitation must always be received by the school from the host family and notification to the school of permission granted by the pupil's parents/guardian.

Guardians

All pupils whose parents do not reside in Great Britain or who may be abroad for a period of time on business or holiday are required to have a guardian in Great Britain. This person must be available at all times to act on their behalf and respond to the needs of both the pupil and the School. It is the parental responsibility to arrange a suitable guardian. Whilst the School is not responsible for appointing or recommending guardians, parents are sent the School's Guidelines for Guardians at the beginning of the year and a Guardian Charter is in place to set out expectations and responsibilities. If House Staff are concerned about a pupil's guardian, they will discuss it with the Director of Boarding who may contact the pupil's parents, the guardian or the Guardianship company.

Child-on-child Abuse

All staff, and particularly those involved in the pastoral care of our boarders, are highly conscious of pupil relationships, and in particular the potential for child-on-child abuse in the boarding community. We recognise that boarders suffering child-on-child abuse may not be able to escape their abuser for prolonged periods of time if they are living onsite together. When dealing with abuse by young people on peers, the School will follow the key safeguarding documents, even when the alleged perpetrator is a child. Sexual relationships between pupils are not permitted on School premises or on School trips. The School will implement its usual safeguarding and anti-bullying policies and recognises that sexualised abuse by peers, including verbal abuse, is a potential safeguarding issue.

Arrangements for alternative accommodation should a member of staff be suspended pending an investigation

Where a member of boarding staff is suspended pending an investigation of a child protection nature, immediate arrangements for alternative accommodation away from children will be made for the member of staff.

Procedure for managing concerns about a pupil

The School adheres to child protection procedures that have been agreed locally through the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership:

<https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/>

Where we identify pupils and families in need of support, we will carry out our responsibilities in accordance with the [West Mercia Consortium inter-agency procedures](#) and the [WSCP Levels of Need Guidance](#).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead should be used as a first point of contact for concerns and queries regarding any safeguarding concern in our School. Any member of staff or visitor to the School who receives a disclosure of abuse or suspects that a child is at risk of harm must report it immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or, if unavailable, to the Deputy Designated Lead. In the absence of either of the above, the matter should be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff. Confidentiality must not be promised, and the pupil must be told that information will be passed on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or her Deputy. It is vital that the person receiving the disclosure does not ask leading questions nor tries to investigate the matter. In the case of child-on-child abuse and sexual violence or sexual harassment illegal images of a child should not be viewed or forwarded.

All concerns about a pupil should be reported without delay and recorded on CPOMS or in writing using the agreed template (see Appendix 1 for pro-forma) and the pupil's own words should be used as far as possible. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider what action to take and have appropriate discussions with parents/guardians prior to referral to social care or another agency unless to do so would place the girl at risk of harm or compromise an investigation.

All referrals will be made in line with local procedures as detailed at: [Early Help family support | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Once a concern has been raised, options will then include managing any support for the child internally via the School's own pastoral support processes, undertaking an early help assessment; or making a referral to statutory services if the child might be in need, is in need or suffering, or is likely to suffer harm.

If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to Children's Services immediately. Anybody can make a referral. If the pupil's situation does not appear to be improving, the staff member with concerns should press for re-consideration by raising concerns again with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or the Head. Concerns should always lead to help for the pupil at some point.

Staff should always follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy in the first instance, however, they may also share information directly with Children's Services, or the police if:

- the situation is an emergency and the designated senior person, their deputy and the Head are all unavailable;
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the pupil's safety.

Any member of staff who does not feel that concerns about a child have been responded to appropriately and in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy should raise their concerns with the Head or the Chair of Governors. If any member of staff does not feel the situation has been addressed appropriately, at this point they should contact Children's Services directly with their concerns.

Early Help

Any child may benefit from Early Help. The Safeguarding Team and pastoral staff are experienced and appropriately trained to identify the potential need for early help for a child who:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs;
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan);
- has a mental health need;
- 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 or county lines;
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual or criminal exploitation;
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- has a family member in prison, or is affected by parental offending;
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse;
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- has returned home to their family from care;
- is at risk of 'honour'-based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage;
- is a privately fostered child; and
- is persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day.

Mental Health

At Malvern St James Girls' School we aim to promote positive mental health for every member of our community. We pursue this aim using whole-school proactive approaches, alongside targeted support for more vulnerable pupils and staff. We recognise that there is a link between mental health and safeguarding and use the designated referral routes to support pupils with mental health needs.

Key principles used to foster good mental health at Malvern St James Girls' School are:

- Creating a community where all feel a sense of belonging; all are known and valued
- Taking a person-centred approach, treating everyone as an individual
- Proactive resilience building & problem solving
- Pastoral care and the wellbeing of pupils is everyone's responsibility

All staff should also be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriately trained

professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. All staff however, are well placed to observe pupils day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, they must contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a Deputy who will work with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Team to offer appropriate support.

Pupils with additional vulnerabilities

There will be pupils who have additional needs or whose living arrangements may mean that they are more vulnerable to harm, for example pupils with protected characteristics. It is essential that key staff know who these pupils are, who has parental responsibility for these pupils and that effective relationships with partner agencies are developed in relation to these pupils.

The fact that a child or a young person may be lesbian, gay, bi, trans or queer (LGBTQ+) is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm. However, children who are LGBTQ+ could be targeted by other children. In some cases, a child who is perceived by other children to be LGBTQ+ (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as children who identify as LGBTQ+.

It is vital that we endeavour to reduce additional barriers faced and provide a safe space for these pupils to speak out or share their concerns with trusted members of staff. LGBTQ+ inclusion is part of the statutory Relationship and Sex Education and PSHEEC curriculum.

The School will ensure that staff have sufficient knowledge and guidance so that they are aware of the challenges faced by pupils with additional vulnerabilities. These can include: assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to a pupil's disability without further exploration; multiple points of contact for the School, as the pupil has a number of care-givers and involved professionals; assumptions that state approved care-givers are providing safe care for the pupil and the communication needs of a pupil, which can lead to over reliance on parental accounts and interpretations.

Reporting concerns about adults

Safer Recruitment and Selection of Staff

The School's safer recruitment processes follow the Statutory Guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, Part Three. The School has a written recruitment and selection policy statement and procedures linking explicitly to this policy. The statement is included in all job advertisements, publicity material, recruitment websites, and candidate information packs.

The recruitment process is robust in seeking to establish the commitment of candidates to support the School's measures to safeguard pupils and to identify, deter or reject people who might pose a risk of harm to pupils or are otherwise unsuited to work with them (Teachers are checked using the Teacher Services website).

In line with KCSIE 2023, the school may choose to carry out online checks on shortlisted candidates for employment. If this is the case, the candidate(s) will be informed accordingly.

In line with statutory requirements, every interview panel for School staff will have at least one member (teacher/manager or governor) who has undertaken a one-day safer recruitment training

course.

Our governors are subject to an enhanced DBS check without barred list check and Section 128 check.

The School maintains a single central record of recruitment checks for audit purposes.

All staff working within our School who have substantial access to pupils have been checked as to their suitability, including verification of their identity, qualifications and a satisfactory barred list check, enhanced DBS check and a right to work in the UK.

Any member of staff working in regulated activity prior to receipt of a satisfactory DBS check will not be left unsupervised and will be subject to a risk assessment.

Volunteers who are working in regulated activity will be supervised at all times.

Staff and volunteers who provide early years or later years childcare, and any managers of such childcare, are covered by the disqualification regulations of the Childcare Act 2006 and are required to declare relevant information - see statutory guidance: *Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (February 2015)*.

The School will provide all the relevant information in references for a member of staff about whom there have been concerns about child protection / inappropriate conduct. Cases in which an allegation has been proven to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious will not be included in employer references. A history of repeated concerns or allegations which have all been found to be unsubstantiated, malicious etc. will also not be included in a reference.

New starters, including volunteers, receive a safeguarding induction and are briefed on the Staff Behaviour and Code of Conduct Policy, relevant behaviour policies for pupils e.g. Attendance including Children Missing from Education, Whistleblowing Policy and the Safeguarding Policy. Access to all policies and a copy of Part One (or Annex A in Keeping Children Safe if appropriate) is part of the Induction process.

All staff will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) at induction. The training is regularly updated. In addition, all staff receive safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) updates (for example, via e-bulletins and weekly briefing meetings), as required, and at least termly, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

Low level concerns

A Low-Level concern can be classified as any concern – no matter how small, even if no more than a ‘nagging doubt’ - that an adult may have acted in a manner which is not consistent with the School’s Staff Behaviour and Code of Conduct Policy and/or relates to their conduct outside of work which, even if not linked to a particular act or omission, has caused a sense of unease about that adult’s suitability to work with children. If a member of Staff or pupil has a low-level concern this must be raised with the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately. Examples of such concerns could include being over friendly with pupils, inappropriate language and having favourites.

Potential patterns of concerning, inappropriate, problematic, or concerning behaviour should be identified. Where a pattern of such behaviour is identified, the Head should decide on the course of action, either through disciplinary procedures or where a pattern of behaviour moves from a low-level concern to meeting the harm threshold in which case it should be referred to the LADO.

Any suspected low-level concern which is raised with the DSL will be addressed via a face-to-face meeting with the staff member concerned and if found to be applicable, will be followed up with a formal letter to the staff member concerned. Multiple examples of low-level concerns related to one staff member, could lead to disciplinary action.

Low-level concerns are recorded by the DSL on a confidential log, shared only with the Head.

Allegations against staff (including volunteers, and contractors)

An allegation can be classified as behaviour which indicates that an adult who works with children has behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child, possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

Pupils' allegations or concerns about staff conduct will be taken seriously and followed up in a transparent and timely way. If the allegation is made against staff including the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a volunteer it should be reported to the Head, or in her absence the Chair of Governors or nominated Safeguarding Governor.

If an allegation is made against a residential member of the Boarding Staff, the staff member concerned will be moved to alternative accommodation whilst the case is being investigated.

If an allegation is made which meets any of the 4 criteria as identified in Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, the member of staff receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Head, unless the allegation concerns the Head in which case the Chair of Governors will be informed immediately but the Head will not be informed.

The Head or Chair of Governors, as appropriate, on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with the LADO, prior to undertaking any investigation.

The school will follow the DfE and West Mercia procedures [LA procedures](#) for managing allegations against staff, a copy of which is available in School. All allegations are reported to the LADO immediately and within one working day at the latest; in the most serious of cases and if a crime has been committed, the police must be informed.

The Head (or Chair of Governors) will be guided by the LADO and a HR consultant when considering suspension or other neutral protective steps.

There is a legal requirement for schools to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service where they remove an individual from regulated activity (or would have removed an individual had they not left), and they believe the individual has:

- engaged in relevant conduct in relation to children and/or adults,
- satisfied the harm test in relation to children and/or vulnerable adults; or
- been cautioned or convicted of a relevant (automatic barring either with or without the right to make representations) offence.

Where the School dismisses or ceases to use the services of a teacher because of serious misconduct, or might have dismissed them or ceased to use their services had they not left first, we will consider whether to make a referral of serious misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA)

Where an allegation relates to a member of supply staff provided by an agency, the agency will be fully involved.

Publication of material that may lead to the identification of a teacher who is the subject of an allegation is prohibited by law; this includes verbal conversations or written material including content placed on social media sites.

Managing Professional Disagreements

On occasions there will be disagreements between professionals as to how concerns are handled, and these can impact on effective working relationships. The School will support staff to promote positive partnerships within School and with other agencies and will ensure that staff are aware of how to escalate concerns and disagreements if appropriate and use the WSCP escalation procedures if necessary.

**APPENDIX 1
SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

LOGGING A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD'S SAFETY AND WELFARE - all staff and visitors. The default is that information should be recorded on CPOMS and put under the Safeguarding tab where possible.

Pupil's name:		D.o.B.	Yr. group.
Date:		Time:	
Name:	
Print		Signature	
Position:			
Note the reason(s) for recording the incident.			
Details of concern/incident - record the who/what/where/when factually (use reverse or continuation sheet if necessary):			

Any other relevant information (witnesses, immediate action taken)

Action taken

Reporting staff signature Date

DSL – Response/Outcome

DSL signature Date

Check to make sure your report is clear now - and will also be clear to a stranger reading it next year.

PLEASE PASS THIS FORM DIRECTLY TO THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

ABUSE OVERVIEW

Taken from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Appendix A

What is abuse?

Abuse and neglect are forms 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 a stranger for example, via the internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse

Indicators of Abuse

Caution should be used when referring to lists of signs and symptoms of abuse. Although the signs and symptoms listed below may be indicative of abuse there may be alternative explanations. In assessing the circumstances of any child any of these indicators should be viewed within the overall context of the child's individual situation including any disability.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

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, 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 the 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 cyber-bullying), 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, though it may occur alone.

Emotional abuse is difficult to:

- Define;
- identify/recognise;
- prove.

Emotional abuse is chronic and cumulative and has a long-term impact. Indicators may include:

- Physical, mental and emotional development lags;
- Sudden speech disorders;
- Continual self-depreciation ('I'm stupid, ugly, worthless, etc.');
- Overreaction to mistakes;
- Extreme fear of any new situation;
- Inappropriate response to pain ('I deserve this');
- Unusual physical behaviour (rocking, hair twisting, self-mutilation) - consider within the context of any form of disability such as autism;
- Extremes of passivity or aggression;
- Children suffering from emotional abuse may be withdrawn and emotionally flat. One reaction is for the child to seek attention constantly or to be over-familiar. Lack of self-esteem and developmental delay are again likely to be present;

- Toddler/Pre-School – head banging, rocking, bad temper, ‘violent’, clingy. From overactive to apathetic, noisy to quiet. Developmental delay – especially language and social skills;
- School age – Wetting and soiling, relationship difficulties, poor performance at school, non-attendance, antisocial behaviour. Feels worthless, unloved, inadequate, frightened, isolated, corrupted and terrorised;
- Adolescent – depression, self-harm, substance abuse, eating disorder, poor self-esteem, oppositional, aggressive and delinquent behaviour;
- Child may be underweight and/or stunted;
- Child may fail to achieve milestones, fail to thrive, experience academic failure or under achievement. Also consider a child's difficulties in expressing their emotions and what they are experiencing and whether this has been impacted on by factors such as age, language barriers or disability.

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. 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), failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers) or failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

There are occasions when nearly all parents find it difficult to cope with the many demands of caring for children, but this does not mean that their children are being neglected. Neglect involves ongoing failure to meet a child's needs.

Neglect can often fit into six forms which are:

- Medical – the withholding of medical care including health and dental.
- Emotional – lack of emotional warmth, touch and nurture
- Nutritional – through lack of access to a proper diet which can affect development.
- Educational – failing to ensure regular school attendance that prevents the child reaching their full potential academically
- Physical – failure to meet the child's physical needs
- Lack of supervision and guidance – meaning the child is in dangerous situations without the ability to risk assess the danger.

Common Concerns:

With regard to the child, some of the regular concerns are:

- The child's development in all areas including educational attainment
- Cleanliness
- Health
- Children left at home alone and accidents related to this
- Taking on unreasonable care for others
- Young carers

Neglect can often be an indicator of further maltreatment and is often identified as an issue in serious case reviews as being present in the lead up to the death of the child or young person. It is important to recognise that the most frequent issues and concerns regarding the family in relation to neglect relate to parental capability.

This can be a consequence of:

- Poor health, including mental health or mental illness;
- Disability, including learning difficulties;
- Substance misuse and addiction;
- Domestic abuse.

School staff need to consider both acts of commission (where a parent/carer deliberately neglects the child) and acts of omission (where a parent's failure to act is causing the neglect). This is a key consideration with regard to school attendance where parents are not ensuring their child attend school regularly.

Many of the signs of neglect are visible. However, School staff may not instinctively know how to recognise signs of neglect or know how to respond effectively when they suspect a pupil is being neglected. Children spend considerable time in school, so staff have opportunities to identify patterns over time and recognise and respond to concerns about their safety and welfare. All concerns should be recorded and reflected upon, not simply placed in a file.

Here are some signs of possible neglect:

Physical signs:

- Constant hunger;
- Poor personal hygiene;
- Constant tiredness;
- Emaciation;
- Untreated medical problems;
- The child seems underweight and is very small for their age;
- The child is poorly clothed, with inadequate protection from the weather;
- Neglect can lead to failure to thrive, manifest by a fall away from initial centile lines in weight, height and head circumference. Repeated growth measurements are crucially important;
- Signs of malnutrition include wasted muscles and poor condition of skin and hair. It is important not to miss an organic cause of failure to thrive; if this is suspected, further investigations will be required;
- Infants and children with neglect often show rapid growth catch-up and improved emotional response in a hospital environment;
- Failure to thrive through lack of understanding of dietary needs of a child or inability to provide an appropriate diet; or may present with obesity through inadequate attention to the child's diet;
- Being too hot or too cold – red, swollen and cold hands and feet or they may be dressed in inappropriate clothing;
- Consequences arising from situations of danger – accidents, assaults, poisoning;
- Unusually severe but preventable physical conditions owing to lack of awareness of preventative health care or failure to treat minor conditions;
- Health problems associated with lack of basic facilities such as heating;
- Neglect can also include failure to care for the individual needs of the child including any additional support the child may need as a result of any disability.

Behavioural signs:

- No social relationships;
- Compulsive scavenging;
- Destructive tendencies;

- Often absent from school for no apparent reason;
- If they are regularly left alone, or in charge of younger brothers or sisters;
- Lack of stimulation can result in developmental delay, for example, speech delay, and this may be picked up opportunistically or at formal development checks;
- Craving attention or ambivalent towards adults, or may be very withdrawn;
- Delayed development and failing at school (poor stimulation and opportunity to learn);
- Difficult or challenging behaviour.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse 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.

When dealing with concerns regarding physical abuse, refer any suspected non-accidental injury to the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay so that they are able to seek appropriate guidance from the police and/or Children's Services in order to safeguard the child.

Staff must be alert to:

- Unexplained recurrent injuries or burns; improbable excuses or refusal to explain injuries;
- Injuries that are not consistent with the story: too many, too severe, wrong place or pattern, child too young for the activity described;
- Physical signs: Bald patches, bruises, black eyes;
- Untreated or inadequately treated injuries;
- Injuries to parts of the body where accidents are unlikely, such as thighs, back, abdomen;
- Scalds and burns;
- General appearance and behaviour of the child may include:
 - Concurrent failure to thrive: measure height, weight and, in the younger child, head circumference;
 - Frozen watchfulness: impassive facial appearance of the abused child who carefully tracks the examiner with his eyes;
 - Bruising: Bruising patterns can suggest gripping (finger marks), slapping or beating with an object. Bruising on the cheeks, head or around the ear and black eyes can be the result of non-accidental injury.

Other injuries:

- Bite marks may be evident from an impression of teeth;
- Small circular burns on the skin suggest cigarette burns;
- Scalding inflicted by immersion in hot water often affects buttocks or feet and legs symmetrically;
- Red lines occur with ligature injuries;
- Retinal haemorrhages can occur with head injury and vigorous shaking of a baby;
- Tearing of the frenulum of the upper lip can occur with force-feeding. However, any injury of this type must be assessed in the context of the explanation given, the child's developmental stage, a full examination and other relevant investigations as appropriate;
- Fractured ribs: rib fractures in a young child are suggestive of non-accidental injury;
- Other fractures: spiral fractures of the long bones are suggestive of non-accidental injury.

Behavioural signs:

- Wearing clothes to cover injuries, even in hot weather;
- Refusal to undress for gym;
- Chronic running away;

- Fear of medical help or examination;
- Self-destructive tendencies;
- Fear of physical contact - shrinking back if touched;
- Admitting that they are punished, but the punishment is excessive (such as a child being beaten every night to 'make him study');
- Fear of suspected abuser being contacted;
- Injuries that the child cannot explain or explains unconvincingly;
- Become sad, withdrawn or depressed;
- Having trouble sleeping;
- Behaving aggressively or being disruptive;
- Showing fear of certain adults;
- Having a lack of confidence and low self-esteem;
- Using drugs or alcohol;
- Repetitive pattern of attendance: recurrent visits, repeated injuries;
- Excessive compliance;
- Hyper-vigilance.

SEXUAL ABUSE (see also Appendix 11)

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving 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 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.

Sexual abuse is usually perpetrated by people who are known to and trusted by the child – e.g. relatives, family friends, neighbours, people working with the child in school or through other activities but can also be perpetrated by other children.

Characteristics of child sexual abuse:

It is usually planned and systematic – people do not sexually abuse children by accident, though sexual abuse can be opportunistic.

Grooming the child – people who abuse children take care to choose a vulnerable child and often spend time making them dependent. This can be done in person or via the internet through chatrooms and social networking sites;

Grooming the child's environment – abusers try to ensure that potential adult protectors (parents and other guardians especially) are not suspicious of their motives. Again, this can be done in person or via the internet through chatrooms and social networking sites.

In young children behavioural changes may include:

- Regressing to younger behaviour patterns such as thumb sucking or bringing out discarded cuddly toys;
- Being overly affectionate - desiring high levels of physical contact and signs of affection such as hugs and kisses;
- Lack of trust or fear of someone they know well, such as not wanting to be alone with a babysitter or child minder;
- They may start using sexually explicit behaviour or language, particularly if the behaviour

- or language is not appropriate for their age;
- Starting to wet again, day or night/nightmares.

In older children behavioural changes may include:

- Extreme reactions, such as depression, self-mutilation, suicide attempts, running away, overdoses, anorexia;
- Personality changes such as becoming insecure or clinging;
- Sudden loss of appetite or compulsive eating;
- Being isolated or withdrawn;
- Inability to concentrate;
- Become worried about clothing being removed;
- Suddenly drawing sexually explicit pictures;
- Trying to be 'ultra-good' or perfect; overreacting to criticism;
- Genital discharge or urinary tract infections;
- Marked changes in the child's general behaviour. For example, they may become unusually quiet and withdrawn, or unusually aggressive. Or they may start suffering from what may seem to be physical ailments, but which can't be explained medically;
- The child may refuse to attend school or start to have difficulty concentrating so that their schoolwork is affected;
- They may show unexpected fear or distrust of a particular adult or refuse to continue with their usual social activities;
- The child may describe receiving special attention from a particular adult, or refer to a new, "secret" friendship with an adult or young person;
- Children who have been sexually abused may demonstrate inappropriate sexualised knowledge and behaviour;
- Low self-esteem, depression and self-harm are all associated with sexual abuse.

Physical signs and symptoms for any age child could be:

- Medical problems such as chronic itching, pain in the genitals, venereal diseases;
- Stomach pains or discomfort walking or sitting;
- Sexually transmitted infections;
- Any features that suggest interference with the genitalia. These may include bruising, swelling, abrasions or tears;
- Soreness, itching or unexplained bleeding from penis, vagina or anus;
- Sexual abuse may lead to secondary enuresis or faecal soiling and retention;
- Symptoms of a sexually transmitted disease such as vaginal discharge or genital warts, or pregnancy in adolescent girls.

Sexual Abuse by Young People

The boundary between what is abusive and what is part of normal childhood or youthful experimentation can be blurred. The determination of whether behaviour is developmental, inappropriate or abusive will hinge around the related concepts of true consent, power imbalance and exploitation. This may include children and young people who exhibit a range of sexually problematic behaviour such as indecent exposure, obscene telephone calls, fetishism, bestiality and sexual abuse against adults, peers or children.

Developmental Sexual Activity encompasses those actions that are to be expected from children and young people as they move from infancy through to an adult understanding of their physical, emotional and behavioural relationships with each other. Such sexual activity is essentially information gathering and experience testing. It is characterised by mutuality and of the seeking of consent. Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour can be inappropriate socially, inappropriate to development, or both.

In considering whether behaviour fits into this category, it is important to consider what negative effects it has on any of the parties involved and what concerns it raises about a child or young person. It should be recognised that some actions may be motivated by information seeking, but still cause significant upset, confusion, worry, physical damage, etc. It may also be that the behaviour is “acting out” which may derive from other sexual situations to which the child or young person has been exposed.

If an act appears to have been inappropriate, there may still be a need for some form of behaviour management or intervention. For some children, educative inputs may be enough to address the behaviour. Abusive sexual activity includes any behaviour involving coercion, threats, aggression together with secrecy, or where one participant relies on an unequal power base.

Assessment

In order to more fully determine the nature of the incident the following factors should be given consideration:

- The presence of exploitation in terms of:
 - Equality – consider differentials of physical, cognitive and emotional development, power and control and authority, passive and assertive tendencies
 - Consent – agreement including all the following:
 - Understanding what is proposed based on age, maturity, development level, functioning and experience
 - Knowledge of society’s standards for what is being proposed
 - Awareness of potential consequences and alternatives
 - Assumption that agreements or disagreements will be respected equally
 - Voluntary decision
 - Mental competence
 - Coercion – the young perpetrator who abuses may use techniques like bribing, manipulation and emotional threats of secondary gains and losses that is loss of love, friendship, etc. Some may use physical force, brutality or the threat of these regardless of victim resistance.

In evaluating sexual behaviour of children and young people, the above information should be used only as a guide.

CHILDREN LIVING OUTSIDE THE FAMILY HOME

Looked After Children

The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and/or neglect. The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Head Pastoral has the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep Looked After Children safe and ensure that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status. They have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after her as well as details of the child's social worker so are best able to support these pupils to do well.

Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement occurs when someone other than a parent or a close relative cares for a child for a period of 28 days or more, with the agreement of the child's parents. It applies to children under the age of 16 or aged under 18 if the child is disabled. Private fostering occurs in all cultures, including British culture and children may be privately fostered at any age. Most privately fostered children remain safe and well but safeguarding concerns have been raised in some cases, so it is important that schools are alert to possible safeguarding issues, including the possibility that a child has been trafficked into the country. By law, a parent, private foster carer or other persons involved in making a private fostering arrangement must notify Children's Services as soon as possible. The Designated Safeguarding Lead works with the Director of Boarding to track the whereabouts of boarders in relation to potential private fostering. If we become aware of a privately fostering arrangement, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will check that Children's Services have been informed.

Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should be aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Whilst referrals and/or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, and in accordance with local procedures, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into Children's Social Care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm. In most cases staff will consider homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it should also be recognised in some cases 16- and 17-year-olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Children's Services will be the lead agency for these young people and the Designated Safeguarding Lead should ensure appropriate referrals are on the provision of accommodation for 16- and 17-year-olds who may be homeless and/or require accommodation.

CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (CCE), CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AND COUNTY LINES

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (county lines), forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.

Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools, further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, special educational needs schools, children’s homes and care homes. Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations and are known to be exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging’, where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network. One of the ways of identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes (both from home and school), when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism 103 should be considered. If a child is suspected to be at risk of or involved in county lines, a safeguarding referral should be considered alongside consideration of availability of local services/third sector providers who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16- and 17-year-olds who can legally consent to have sex. It can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person’s immediate knowledge (e.g., through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media). Child sexual exploitation can happen to any young person from

any background. Although research suggests that the females are more vulnerable to CSE, boys and young men are also victims of this type of abuse.

The characteristics common to all victims of Child Sexual Exploitation are not those of age, ethnicity or gender, rather their powerlessness and vulnerability. Victims often do not recognise that they are being exploited because they will have been groomed by their abuser(s). As a result, victims do not make informed choices to enter into, or remain involved in, sexually exploitative situations but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or fear. Sexual exploitation can happen face to face and it can happen online. It can also occur between young people. In all its forms, CSE is child abuse and should be treated as a child protection issue.

The following are typical vulnerabilities in children prior to abuse:

- Living in a chaotic or dysfunctional household (including parental substance use, domestic violence, parental mental health issues, parental criminality)
- History of abuse (including familial child sexual abuse, risk of forced marriage, risk of 'honour'- based violence, physical and emotional abuse and neglect)
- Recent bereavement or loss
- Gang association either through relatives, peers or intimate relationships (in cases of gang- associated CSE only)
- Attending school with young people who are sexually exploited
- Learning disabilities
- Unsure about their sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their families
- Friends with young people who are sexually exploited
- Homeless
- Lacking friends from the same age group
- Living in a gang neighbourhood
- Living in residential care
- Living in hostel, bed and breakfast accommodation or a foyer
- Low self-esteem or self-confidence
- Young carer

The following signs and behaviour are generally seen in children who are **already being sexually exploited**:

- Missing from home or care
- Physical injuries
- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Involvement in offending
- Repeat sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations
- Absent from school
- Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking sites
- Estranged from their family
- Receipt of gifts from unknown sources
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations
- Poor mental health
- Self-harm
- Thoughts of or attempts at suicide

Evidence shows that any child displaying several vulnerabilities from the above lists should be

considered to be at high risk of sexual exploitation.

All staff are made aware of the indicators of sexual exploitation. It is sexual abuse involving criminal behaviours against pupils and young people which can have a long-lasting adverse impact on a child's physical and emotional health. Sexual exploitation involves an individual or group of adults taking advantage of the vulnerability of an individual or groups of pupils or young people. Victims can be boys or girls. Pupils and young people are often unwittingly drawn into sexual exploitation through the offer of friendship and care, gifts, drugs and alcohol, and sometimes accommodation. It may also be linked to child trafficking. A common feature of sexual exploitation is that the child often does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim. The child may initially resent what they perceive as interference by staff, but staff must act on their concerns, as they would for any other type of abuse.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will use the Worcester Safeguarding Children's Partnership CSE Screening Tool on all occasions when there is a concern that a child is being or is at risk of being sexually exploited or where indicators have been observed that are consistent with a child who is being or who is at risk of being sexually exploited. In all cases if the tool identifies any level of concern the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact their local Missing and Child Sexual Exploitation Forum and email the completed CSE Screening Tool.

EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The impact of domestic abuse on the quality of a child's or young person's life is significant. Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result

The impact of domestic abuse on children and young people can be wide-ranging and may include effects in any or all of the following areas:

Physical:

Children and young people can be hurt either by trying to intervene and stopping the violence or by being injured themselves by the abuser. They may develop self-harming behaviour or eating disorders. Their health could be affected, as they may not be being cared for appropriately. They may have suicidal thoughts or try to escape or blank out the abuse by using drugs, alcohol or by running away.

Sexual: There is a high risk that children and young people will be abused themselves where there is domestic abuse. In homes where living in fear is the norm, and situations are not discussed, an atmosphere of secrecy develops, and this creates a climate in which sexual abuse could occur. In addition to this children and young people may sometimes be forced to watch the sexual abuse of their mother/carer. This can have long-lasting effects on the sexual and emotional development of the child/young person.

Economic: The parent or carer of the child or young person may have limited control over the family finances. Therefore, there might be little or no money available for extra-curricular activities, clothing or even food, impacting on their health and development.

Emotional: Children and young people will often be very confused about their feelings – for example, loving both parents/carers but not wanting the abuse to continue. They may be given negative messages about their own worth, which may lead to them developing low self-esteem. Many children and young people feel guilty, believing that the abuse is their fault. They are often pessimistic about their basic needs being met and can develop suicidal thoughts. Some children and young people may internalise feelings and appear passive and withdrawn or externalise their feelings in a disruptive manner.

Isolation: Children and young people may become withdrawn and isolated; they may not be allowed out to play; and if there is abuse in the home they are less likely to invite their friends round. Schooling may be disrupted in many ways, and this may contribute to their growing isolation. They may frequently be absent from school as they may be too scared to leave their mother alone. They may have to move away from existing friends and family – e.g., into a refuge or other safe or temporary accommodation.

Threats: Children and young people are likely to have heard threats to harm their mother/father. They may have been directly threatened with harm or heard threats to harm their pet. They also live under the constant and unpredictable threat of violence, resulting in feelings of intimidation, fear and vulnerability, which can lead to high anxiety, tension, confusion and stress.

This clearly highlights that living with domestic abuse has a significant impact on a child's ability to achieve the five outcomes as outlined in the Every Child Matters agenda:

- be healthy;
- stay safe;
- enjoy and achieve;
- make a positive contribution;
- achieve economic well-being.

What you might see in School

- Unexplained absences or lateness – either from staying at home to protect their parent or hide their injuries, or because they are prevented from attending school;
- Children and young people attending school when ill rather than staying at home;
- Children and young people not completing their homework, or making constant excuses, because of what is happening at home;
- Children and young people who are constantly tired, on edge and unable to concentrate through disturbed sleep or worrying about what is happening at home;
- Children and young people displaying difficulties in their cognitive and school performance;
- Children and young people whose behaviour and personality changes dramatically;
- Children and young people who become quiet and withdrawn and have difficulty in developing positive peer relations;
- Children and young people displaying disruptive behaviour or acting out violent thoughts with little empathy for victims;
- Children and young people who are no trouble at all.

Research shows that the repeated use of physical, sexual, psychological and financial abuse is one of the ways in which power is used to control the opposite sex. The underlying attitudes which legitimate and perpetuate violence against women should be challenged by schools as part of the whole school ethos.

The School supports individual pupils by:

- Introducing a **whole-school philosophy** that domestic abuse is unacceptable;
- **Responding to disclosures** and potential child protection concerns; recognising that domestic abuse and forced marriage may be a child protection concern; policies and procedures must include domestic abuse;
- **Giving emotional support** – the child or young person might need referral to a more specialist service or need additional support to complete coursework, exams etc.;
- **Facilitating a peer support network** – children and young people can become isolated but often welcome talking to friends about their problems;
- **Offering practical support** – if children or young people are new to the School they may not yet have a uniform, they may also need financial help with extra-curricular activities, or they may be unfamiliar with the syllabus, the area, where to hang out, etc.;
- **Providing somewhere safe and quiet** to do their homework or just to sit and think;
- **Improving the self-esteem and confidence** of children and young people by:
 - offering them opportunities to take on new roles and responsibilities;

- offering tasks which are achievable and giving praise and encouragement;
- monitoring their behaviour and setting clear limits;
- criticising the action, not the person;
- helping them to feel a sense of control in their school lives;
- involving them in decision making;
- helping them to be more assertive;
- respecting them as individuals;
- encouraging involvement in extra-curricular activities.

From the 'Expect Respect' Education Toolkit – Women's Aid

Advice for schools on receiving notification of a Domestic Abuse incident

Background

Following a call to a domestic abuse incident where children are involved, Police notify Social Care and Health. The school Designated Safeguarding Lead will receive an e-mail via their secure communications system on the Children's Services Portal from the Operation Encompass informing them that an incident has taken place and giving them a copy of the Police log. For high-risk cases, they will also be contacted by telephone and asked whether they have any concerns about the children at school. Social Care will also inform parents that the notification has been received and shared with other agencies and that the information will be treated confidentially.

On receiving a Domestic Abuse notification, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the Operation Encompass referral record, notify the relevant Head of Year and form tutor (but not give details regarding the perpetrator), and monitor/offer support to the pupil as needed.

[Home : Operation Encompass](#)

School action

On receiving this information, the Designated Safeguarding Lead must:

- Log the information and keep the record alongside other information/concerns that the school has on this child/family, with all other confidential CP records in a secure place. This will allow the School to recognise any pattern and/or frequency of notifications and take appropriate action. **Please note that School may receive further communication about this same incident once further assessment of the situation has been undertaken by Police – be careful not to log this as a separate incident;**
- Inform any staff of notification on a 'need to know' only basis – e.g. class teacher/form tutor;
- Alert all staff who teach pupil with minimum of information – e.g. 'This pupil may need extra support / may need extra time to complete homework';
- Monitor pupil behaviour in School (including attendance) and should concerns arise which may be attributed to the impact of the incident, consult with Social Care through the Family Front Door as the concerns may be significant and lead to new safeguarding action, or to seek advice on how to proceed;
- Provide appropriate support for child, **if required** – do not question pupil about the incident. Respect the child's decision on whether or not they wish to discuss the situation;
- Provide appropriate support for adult, **if asked** – e.g. helpline number (0800 980 3331) or website address:

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_violence_and_sexual_abuse

Bear in mind:

- Victim of incident may be anxious that the information will be shared inappropriately.
- Notification may not give details as to which parent is the perpetrator/victim – any disclosure to the ‘wrong’ parent could heighten risk.
- Need to be aware who is ‘connected’ to the child – e.g. TA/lunchtime supervisor may be child’s relative/ friend of the family.
- Inappropriate sharing of information could heighten the risk for the victim and/or the child.

If in doubt, consult with the Family Front Door (01905 822666).

HONOUR BASED ABUSE INCLUDING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM) AND FORCED MARRIAGE

So-called ‘honour-based’ abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving “honour” often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. We are aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and are handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA. Honour based abuse (HBA) can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such abuse can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. It is a violation of human rights and may constitute domestic and/or sexual abuse.

Honour based abuse 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

What is FGM?

FGM includes procedures that intentionally alter or injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. There are four known types of FGM, all of which have been found in the UK:

Type 1 – clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris and, in very rare cases, only the prepuce (the fold of skin surrounding the clitoris);

Type 2 – excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (the labia are the ‘lips’ that surround the vagina);

Type 3 – infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and repositioning the inner, or outer, labia, with or without removal of the clitoris;

Type 4 – other: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g., pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterising the genital area.

FGM is sometimes known as ‘female genital cutting’ or female circumcision. Communities tend to use local names for this practice, including ‘sunna’.

Why is FGM carried out?

It is believed that:

- it brings status and respect to the girl and that it gives a girl social acceptance, especially for marriage;

- it preserves a girl's virginity/chastity;
- it is part of being a woman as a rite of passage;
- it upholds the family honour;
- it cleanses and purifies the girl;
- it gives the girl and her family a sense of belonging to the community;
- it fulfils a religious requirement believed to exist;
- it perpetuates a custom/tradition;
- it helps girls and women to be clean and hygienic;
- it is cosmetically desirable;
- it is mistakenly believed to make childbirth safer for the infant.

Religion is sometimes given as a justification for FGM. For example, some people from Muslim communities argue that the Sunna (traditions or practices undertaken or approved by the prophet Mohammed) recommends that women undergo FGM, and some women have been told that having FGM will make them 'a better Muslim'. However, senior Muslim clerics at an international conference on FGM in Egypt in 2006 pronounced that FGM is not Islamic, and the London Central Mosque has spoken out against FGM on the grounds that it constitutes doing harm to oneself or to others, which is forbidden by Islam.

Within which communities is FGM known to be practised?

According to the Home Office it is estimated that up to 24,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM. UK communities that are most at risk of FGM include Kenyan, Somali, Sudanese, Sierra Leone, Egyptian, Nigerian and Eritrean, as well as non-African communities including Yemeni, Afghani, Kurdish, Indonesian and Pakistani.

Obviously, this not to say that all families from the communities listed above practise FGM, and many parents will refuse to have their daughters subjected to this procedure. However, in some communities a great deal of pressure can be put on parents to follow what is seen as a cultural or religious practice.

Is FGM harmful?

FGM is extremely harmful and is often described as brutal because of the way it is carried out, and its short- and long-term effects on physical and psychological health.

FGM is carried out on children between the ages of 0 and 15, depending on the community in which they live. It is often carried out without any form of sedation and without sterile conditions. The girl or young woman is held down while the procedure of cutting takes place and survivors describe extreme pain, fear and feelings of abandonment.

Where the vagina is cut and then sewn up, only a very small opening may be left. This is often seen as a way to ensure that when the girl enters marriage, she is a virgin. In some communities the mother of the future husband and the girl's own mother will take the girl to be cut open before the wedding night.

Repeat urinary tract infections are a common problem for women who have undergone FGM, and for some, infections come from menstruation being restricted. Many women have problems during pregnancy and childbirth. The removal of the clitoris denies women physical pleasure during sexual activity and some groups will practise complete removal to ensure chastity.

Is it illegal?

FGM is internationally recognised as a violation of the human rights of girls and women and is illegal in most countries – including the UK. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 came into force in 2004:

The act makes it illegal to:

- practise FGM in the UK;
- take girls who are British nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM, whether or not it is lawful in that country;
- aid and abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad. The offence carries a penalty of up to 14 years in prison, and/or a fine.

Signs, symptoms and indicators

The following list of possible signs and indicators are not diagnostic but are offered as a guide as to what kind of things should alert professionals to the possibility of FGM.

Things that may point to FGM happening:

- a child talking about getting ready for a special ceremony;
- a family arranging a long break abroad;
- a child's family being from one of the 'at-risk' communities for FGM (see above);
- knowledge that an older sibling has undergone FGM;
- a young person talks of going abroad to be 'cut' or to get ready for marriage.

Things that may indicate a child has undergone FGM:

- prolonged absence from school or other activities;
- behaviour change on return from a holiday abroad, such as the child being withdrawn and appearing subdued;
- bladder or menstrual problems;
- finding it difficult to sit still, and looking uncomfortable;
- complaining about pain between their 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.

What should schools do?

Where schools have a concern about a child, they should contact Children's Social Care Services. If the concerns are based on more concrete indicators – i.e., the young person says this is going to happen to them, or disclosure that it has happened to them or to an older sister – schools should make a child protection referral.

Schools should **not**:

- contact the parents before seeking advice from Children's Social Care;
- make any attempt to mediate between the child/young person and parents.

It is important to keep in mind that the parents may not see FGM as a form of abuse. However, they may be under a great deal of pressure from their community and or family to subject their daughters to it.

Some parents from identified communities may seek advice and support as to how to resist and prevent FGM for their daughters, and education about the harmful effects of FGM may help to make parents feel stronger in resisting the pressure of others in the community. Remember that religious teaching does not support FGM.

The 'one chance' rule

In the same way that we talk about the 'one chance rule' in respect to young people coming forward

with fears that they may be forced into marriage, young people disclosing fears that they are going to be sent abroad for FGM are taking the 'one chance', of seeking help. It is essential that we take such concerns seriously and act without delay. Never underestimate the determination of parents who have decided that it is right for their daughter to undergo FGM. Attempts to mediate may place the child/young person at greater risk, and the family may feel so threatened at the news of their child's disclosure that they bring forward their plans or take action to silence her.

FGM mandatory reporting duty for teachers

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

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

If staff have a concern regarding a child that might be at risk of HBA or who has suffered from HBA, they should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy). As appropriate, they will activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and Children's Social Care. Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty placed on teachers.

Forced Marriage

Forced Marriage should be recognised as a human rights abuse – and should always invoke child protection procedures within the school.

A forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the full consent of both parties, and one where duress is a factor. A forced marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage – in an arranged marriage the families take a leading role in choosing the marriage partner. The marriage is entered into freely by both people. 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 perpetrators use perceived cultural practices as a way to coerce a person into marriage. Staff understand we could potentially play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

Warning signs

Warning signs can include a sudden drop in performance, truancy from lessons and conflicts with parents over continuation of the pupil's education. There may be excessive parental restrictions and control, a history of domestic abuse within the family, or extended absence through sickness or overseas commitments. Pupils may also show signs of depression or self-harming, and there may be a history of older siblings leaving education early to get married.

The justifications

Most cases of forced marriage in the UK involve South Asian families. This is partially a reflection of the fact that there is a large established South Asian population in the UK. It is clear, however, that forced marriage is not a solely South Asian phenomenon — there have been cases involving families from East Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa. Some forced marriages take place in the UK with no overseas element, while others involve a partner coming from overseas, or a British citizen being sent abroad. Parents who force their children to marry often justify it as protecting them, building stronger families and preserving cultural or religious traditions. They may not see it as wrong.

Forced marriage can never be justified on religious grounds: every major faith condemns it and freely given consent is a pre-requisite of Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh marriage.

Culture

Often parents believe that they are upholding the cultural traditions of their home countries, when in fact practices and values there have changed. Some parents come under significant pressure from their extended families to get their children married.

The law

Sexual intercourse without consent is rape, regardless of whether this occurs within the confines of a marriage. A girl who is forced into marriage is likely to be raped and may be raped until she becomes pregnant. In addition, the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act (2007) makes provision for protecting children, young people and adults from being forced into marriage without their full and free consent through Forced Marriage Protection Orders. Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is a criminal offence.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it a criminal offence, with effect from 16 June 2014, to force someone to marry. This includes:

- Taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the marriage takes place);
- Marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they are pressured into it or not).
-

In addition, since February 2023 it has also been a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday, even if violence threats or another form of coercion are not used. As with the existing forced marriage law, this applies to non-binding, unofficial 'marriages' as well as legal marriages.

What to do if a pupil seeks help

- The pupil should be seen immediately in a private place, where the conversation cannot be overheard;
- The pupil should be seen on her own, even if she attends with others;
- Develop a safety plan in case the pupil is seen i.e. prepare another reason why you are meeting;

- Explain all options to the pupil and recognise and respect her wishes. If the pupil does not want to be referred to Children's Services, you will need to consider whether to respect the pupil's wishes — or whether the pupil's safety requires further action to be taken. If you take action against the pupil's wishes you must inform the pupil;
- Establish whether there is a family history of forced marriage — i.e. siblings forced to marry;
- Advise the pupil not to travel overseas and discuss the difficulties she may face;
- Seek advice from the Forced Marriage Unit;
- Liaise with Police and Children's Services to establish if any incidents concerning the family have been reported;
- Refer to the local Police Child Protection Unit if there is any suspicion that there has been a crime or that one may be committed;
- Refer the pupil with her consent to the appropriate local and national support groups, and counselling services.

What to do if the pupil is going abroad imminently

The Forced Marriage Unit advises education professionals to gather the following information if at all possible — it will help the unit to locate the pupil and to repatriate her:

- a photocopy of the pupil's passport for retention — encourage her to keep details of her passport number and the place and date of issue;
- as much information as possible about the family (this may need to be gathered discretely);
- full name and date of birth of pupil under threat;
- pupil's father's name;
- any addresses where the pupil may be staying overseas;
- potential spouse's name;
- date of the proposed wedding;
- the name of the potential spouse's father if known;
- addresses of the extended family in the UK and overseas.

Specific information

It is also useful to take information that only the pupil would know, as this may be helpful during any interview at an embassy or British High Commission — in case another person of the same age is produced pretending to be the pupil.

Professionals should also take details of any travel plans and people likely to accompany the pupil. Note also the names and addresses of any close relatives remaining in the UK and a safe means to contact the pupil — a secret mobile telephone, for example, that will function abroad.

Forced marriage: what educators should not do

- treat such allegations merely as domestic issues and send the pupil back to the family home;
- ignore what the pupil has told you or dismiss the need for immediate protection;
- approach the pupil's family or those with influence within the community, without the express consent of the pupil, as this will alert them to your concern and may place the pupil in danger;
- contact the family in advance of any enquires by the Police, Children's Services or the Forced Marriage Unit, either by telephone or letter;
- share information outside child protection information sharing protocols without the express consent of the pupil;
- breach confidentiality except where necessary in order to ensure the pupil's safety;

- attempt to be a mediator.

Further guidance is available from The Forced Marriage Unit:

Tel: (+44) (0)20 7008 0151 between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday

Emergency Duty Officer (out of hours): (+44) (0)20 7008 1500

Email: fmf@fco.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage>

FMU publication: 'Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Handling Cases of Forced Marriage' June 09

See also: 'The Right to Choose – Multi-Agency Guidance in relation to Forced Marriage' Government Office - November 2008 and Interagency Guidance on Forced Marriage on the WSCP website.

Ref: WSCB regional procedures Worcestershire's Forced Marriage, Honour- Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation Protocol – January 2016.

MODERN SLAVERY

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 places a new statutory duty on public authorities, including schools, to notify the National Crime Agency (NCA) (section 52 of the Act) on observing signs or receiving intelligence relating to modern slavery. The public authority (including schools) bears this obligation where it has 'reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of modern slavery or human trafficking'. Staff need to be aware of this duty and inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead should they suspect or receive information that either parents or their children may be victims of modern slavery. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will then contact the NCA

ONLINE SAFETY

It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. An effective whole school approach to online safety empowers us to protect and educate pupils and staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate. All staff are aware that abuse can take place solely online.

The Digital Device Policy covers use of mobile and smart technology at MSJ. We understand the fact many children have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks (i.e. 3G, 4G and 5G). This access means some children, whilst at school, sexually harass, bully, and control others via their mobile and smart technology.

There is a separate E Safety and Acceptable Use policy in relation to online safety and the use of internet on the School site. The School has a robust approach to promoting safety through the curriculum

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable and ever evolving, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation, and extremism.

Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.

Conduct: online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying, and

Commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams. If you feel your pupils, students or staff are at risk, please report it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group (<https://apwg.org/>).

Considering the 4Cs (above) will provide the basis of an effective online policy. The school has a clear policy on the use of mobile and smart technology, which will also reflect the fact many children have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks (i.e. 3G, 4G and 5G). This access means some children, whilst at school or college, sexually harass, bully, and control others via their mobile and smart technology, share indecent images consensually and non-consensually (often via large chat groups) and view and share pornography and other harmful content.

We recognise our responsibility to ensure that members of the community have the appropriate level of security protection in place to safeguard our systems, staff and learners and are committed to reviewing the effectiveness of these procedures periodically to keep up with evolving cyber-crime technologies.

The practice of sharing images and videos via text message, email, social media or mobile messaging apps has become commonplace in society. However, this online technology has also given pupils the opportunity to produce and distribute nude and semi-nude images 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;
- a person under the age of 18 creates and shares sexual images of themselves with adults;
- a person under the age of 18 creates and shares sexual images of others (who are under the age of 18) with others (under or over 18).

All incidents of this nature should be treated as a safeguarding concern and in line with the UKCCIS guidance "Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people" December 2020. 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 with a child is child sexual abuse and should be responded to accordingly.

If a member of staff becomes aware of an incident involving young people produced sexual imagery they should follow the child protection procedures and refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible. 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 images.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead should hold an initial review meeting with appropriate School staff and subsequent interviews with the pupils 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.

Immediate referral at the initial review stage should be made to Family Front Door/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 these factors are not present, then the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact Family Front Door for advice at least in the first instance and will follow their advice.

In applying judgement as to management within School or referral in line with child protection procedures, the following factors may be relevant.

- 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 in the imagery;
- the child is more vulnerable than usual i.e. at risk;
- there is a significant impact on the pupils involved;
- the image is of a severe or extreme nature;
- capacity of child and understanding of 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;
- there are previous similar incidents.

CHILD-ON-CHILD ABUSE

Children can abuse other children (often referred to as child-on-child abuse and it can happen both inside and outside of school and online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of child-on-child abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports. Staff have an important role to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it.

Abuse perpetrated by pupils can be just as harmful as that perpetrated by an adult, so it is important to remember the impact on the victim of the abuse as well as to focus on the support for the child or young person exhibiting the harmful behaviour. Such abuse will not be tolerated or passed off as 'part of growing up'. Pupils may be at risk from serious violence or be associated with criminal networks or gangs (including county lines) and any change in behaviour or new relationships with older individuals should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Where the abuse is physical, verbal, bullying or cyber-bullying, recording of such incidents and sanctions will be applied in line with our Code of Conduct and Anti-Bullying policies.

Where a pupil discloses safeguarding allegations against another pupil in the same setting, the Designated Safeguarding Lead should refer to the local procedures via WSCP and seek advice from the Family Front Door or the Community Social Worker before commencing an own investigation or contacting parents.

Even if there are no reports in School it does not mean it is not happening: it may be the case that it is just not being reported. As such, it is important if staff have **any** concerns regarding child-on-child abuse, they should speak to a member of the Safeguarding team.

All staff should recognise the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers, many of which are listed below, that are actually abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

Child on child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers.
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse).
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault;(this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence);
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse.
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party;
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery);
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm; and

- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).

All staff should be aware of the indicators, which may signal children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from School, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation

There is a range of risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, such as being male, having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school, having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery.

We will ensure, through training, that staff, volunteers and governors will have an understanding of the range of child-on-child abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment, and will be made aware of how to recognise and manage such issues. Relevant staff are given the skills to identify and manage harmful sexual behaviour using resources such as the [Brook Traffic Light Tool](#). Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Staff should be aware that such incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and can occur between pupils outside the school. Staff, and particularly the Designated Safeguarding Lead, should always consider the context in which such incidents and/or behaviours occur

It is important to understand that children may not find it easy to tell staff about their abuse verbally. Children can show signs or act in ways that they hope adults will notice and react to. In some cases, the victim may not make a direct report. For example, a friend may make a report, or a member of staff may overhear a conversation that suggests a child has been harmed or a child's own behaviour might indicate that something is wrong. If staff have any concerns about a child's welfare, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told.

The initial response by a school or college to a report from a child is incredibly important. How the school responds to a report can encourage or undermine the confidence of future victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment to report or come forward.

It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward, and that they will be supported and kept safe. Abuse that occurs online or outside of the school should not be downplayed and should be treated equally seriously. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

It is important to explain that the law is in place to protect children and young people rather than criminalise them, and this should be explained in such a way that avoids alarming or distressing them.

Where a child discloses safeguarding allegations of a sexual nature against another pupil in the same setting, the Designated Safeguarding Lead should refer to the West Midlands Safeguarding Children procedures website and seek advice from the Family Front Door or Community Social Worker before commencing an own investigation or contacting parents. This may mean, on occasions, that the School is unable to conduct its own investigation into such incidents. All such incidents will be recorded using our child protection recording forms.

PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, DISABILITIES OR HEALTH ISSUES

Children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or certain medical or physical health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges both online and offline. We ensure their child protection policy reflects the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children

These can include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's condition without further exploration;
- These children being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children;
- The potential for children with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs;
- Communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges; and
- Cognitive understanding – being unable to understand the difference between fact and fiction in online content and then repeating the content/behaviours in schools or colleges or the consequences of doing so.

Any reports of abuse involving children with SEND will therefore require close liaison with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a Deputy) and the SENCO or the named person with oversight for SEND in a college.

We consider extra pastoral support and attention for these children, along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place:

[SEND Code of Practice 0 to 25 years](#) and [Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions](#).

And from specialist organisations such as:

- The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information and Support Services (SENDIASS). SENDIASS offer information, advice and support for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. All local authorities have such a service: [Find your local IAS service \(councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk\)](#)
- [Mencap](#) - Represents people with learning disabilities, with specific advice and information for people who work with children and young people

PUPILS MISSING EDUCATION

The Law requires children between 5-16 years to be in full time education. Attendance, absence and exclusions are closely monitored by the Designated Safeguarding Lead/ Deputy Head Pastoral and the Attendance Officer who communicate on a daily basis. Attendance registers are reviewed regularly, and patterns of attendance are monitored. The School holds at least two emergency contact numbers for each pupil. The Attendance and Registration Policy Including Children Missing Education gives further details.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Head Pastoral will monitor unauthorised absences and take appropriate action, including notifying the local authority particularly where pupils go missing on repeat occasions and/or are missing for periods during the school day in conjunction with 'Working together to improve school attendance' and 'Pupils Missing Education: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities`.

The School alerts the local authority to any pupils who join or leave the school at non-standard transition points. [Worcestershire children first children missing from education guidance](#)

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and sexual exploitation or could be linked to trafficking. Staff must be alert to signs of pupils at risk of travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage and the particular vulnerabilities of looked after pupils who go missing. Pupils who do not return to school immediately after a holiday are followed up promptly and are monitored closely on their return.

If a parent chooses to home educate their child, the Local Authority is informed when the pupil is taken off roll.

General information and advice for schools and colleges can be found in the Government's:

- [Missing Children and Adults Strategy](#)
- [Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings](#)

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

Child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment

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. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.

Staff are advised to read **Part five of KCSIE 2023 alongside the Departmental advice: Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges**. This contains further detailed information on:

- what sexual violence and sexual harassment constitutes,
- important context to be aware of, including what is consent, power imbalances, and developmental stages,
- harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), including that a child displaying HSB may be an indication that they are a victim of abuse themselves,
- related legal responsibilities for schools and colleges,
- advice on a whole school approach to preventing child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment, and
- more detailed advice on responding to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment, including safeguarding and supporting both the victim(s) and alleged perpetrator(s).

Staff are aware of the importance of:

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

What is sexual violence and sexual harassment?

It is important that staff are aware of sexual violence and the fact children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way. When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual violence offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as described below:

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

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

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

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

Sexual harassment

When referring to sexual harassment we mean 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline. When we reference sexual harassment, we do so in the context of child-on-child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded, or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment. Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexual harassment can include:

- sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names.
- sexual "jokes" or taunting.
- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone's clothes (schools should be considering when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence - it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim) and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature; and
- online sexual harassment. This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence.
 - It may include non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos.
- sexualised online bullying.
- unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media.
- sexual exploitation; coercion and threats; and upskirting.

Upskirting

The Voyeurism (Offences) Act, which is commonly known as the Upskirting Act, came into force on 12 April 2019. 'Upskirting' is where someone takes a picture under a person's clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission and or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.

The response to a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment.

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

Action following a report of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment

We carefully consider any report of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment. sexual violence and sexual harassment and will respond in line with guidance set out in Part five of [KCSIE] and the [Advice on SV and SH]; The Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy) is likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and be the most appropriate person to advise on the school's initial response. Important considerations will include:

- the wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed. This is especially important in the context of sexual violence and sexual harassment. We will support victims to be given as much control as is reasonably possible over decisions regarding how any investigation will be progressed and any support that they will be offered. This will however need to be balanced with the School's duty and responsibilities to protect other children;

- the nature of the alleged incident(s), including whether a crime may have been committed and consideration of harmful sexual behaviour;
- the ages of the children involved;
- the developmental stages of the children involved;
- any power imbalance between the children. For example, is the alleged perpetrator(s) significantly older, more mature or more confident? Does the victim have a disability or learning difficulty?
- if the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse (sexual abuse can be accompanied by other forms of abuse and a sustained pattern may not just be of a sexual nature).

We understand the importance that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. Staff are aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. We know that evidence shows children with SEND and LGBTQ+ children are at greater risk.

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

- the victim, especially their protection and support.
- whether there may have been other victims,
- the alleged perpetrator(s); and
- all the other children, (and, if appropriate, staff) at the school, especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them from the alleged perpetrator(s), or from future harms.

Risk assessments should be recorded (written or electronic) and should be kept under review. At all times, the School should be actively considering the risks posed to all pupils and put adequate measures in place to protect them and keep them safe.

Children sharing a classroom: Initial considerations when the report is made

Any report of sexual violence is likely to be traumatic for the victim. However, reports of rape and assault by penetration are likely to be especially difficult with regard to the victim, and close proximity with the alleged perpetrator(s) is likely to be especially distressing. Whilst the School establishes the facts of the case and starts the process of liaising with Children's Social Care and the police, the alleged perpetrator(s) should be removed from any classes they share with the victim. The School should also consider how best to keep the victim and alleged perpetrator(s) a reasonable distance apart on School premises (including during any before or after School-based activities) and on transport to and from the School where appropriate. These actions are in the best interests of all children involved and should not be perceived to be a judgment on the guilt of the alleged perpetrator(s).

For other reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment, the proximity of the victim and alleged perpetrator(s) and considerations regarding shared classes, sharing School premises and transport, should be considered immediately.

In all cases, the initial report should be carefully evaluated reflecting the considerations set out at paragraph 391 of KCSIE 2023, the wishes of the victim, the nature of the allegations and the protection of all children in the School will be especially important when considering any immediate actions.

Options to manage the report

We will consider every report on a case-by-case basis as per paragraph 448 of KCSIE.. When to inform the alleged perpetrator(s) will be a decision that should be carefully considered. Where a report is going to be made to Children's Social Care and/or the police, then, as a general rule, we will speak to

the relevant agency and discuss next steps and how the alleged perpetrator(s) will be informed of the allegations. However, as per general safeguarding principles, this does not and should not prevent us from taking immediate action to safeguard children, where required. It is likely that we will involve CAMHS to support emotional and mental wellbeing. There are four likely scenarios to consider when managing any reports of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment.

- that sexual violence and sexual harassment can take place within intimate personal relationships between peers.
- are there ongoing risks to the victim, other children, or staff; and
- other related issues and wider context, including any links to child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation.

Safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator(s)

The following principles are based on effective safeguarding practice and should help shape any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator(s):

- We have a difficult balancing act to consider. On one hand, we need to safeguard the victim (and the wider pupil/student body) and on the other hand provide the alleged perpetrator(s) with an education: we will safeguard and support as appropriate and implement any disciplinary sanctions.
- We will consider the age and the developmental stage of the alleged perpetrator(s) and nature of the allegations. Any child will likely experience stress as a result of being the subject of allegations and/or negative reactions by their peers to the allegations against them.
- We will consider the proportionality of the response. Support (and sanctions) should be considered on a case-by-case basis. The alleged perpetrator(s) may potentially have unmet needs (in some cases these may be considerable) as well as potentially posing a risk of harm to other children. Harmful sexual behaviours in young children may be (and often are) a symptom of either their own abuse or exposure to abusive practices and or materials. Advice will be taken, as appropriate, from Children's Social Care, specialist sexual violence services and the police.
- If an alleged perpetrator does move to another educational institution (for any reason), we will inform the new educational institution of any ongoing support needs and where appropriate, potential risks to other children and staff. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will take responsibility to ensure this happens as well as transferring the child protection file.
- The National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers (NOTA) provides support for professionals involved in work with, or related to, sexual offending.
- 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.

Response

It is important to note that children may not find it easy to tell staff about their abuse verbally. Children can show signs or act in ways that they hope adults will notice and react to. In some cases, the victim may not make a direct report. For example, a friend may make a report, or a member of school staff may overhear a conversation that suggests a child has been harmed or a child's own behaviour might indicate that something is wrong. If staff have **any** concerns about a child's welfare, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told.

The School's initial response to a report from a child is incredibly important. How the School responds to a report can encourage or undermine the confidence of future victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment to report or come forward.

It is essential that **all** victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward and that they will be supported and kept safe. Abuse that occurs online or outside of School should not be downplayed and should be treated equally seriously. A victim should never be given the impression they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report or their experience minimised.

Where the report includes an online element, be aware of searching screening and confiscation advice (for schools) and UKCIS Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people. **The key consideration is for staff not to view or forward illegal images of a child.**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a deputy) should ensure they are engaging with Children's Social Care and specialist services as required. Where there has been a report of sexual violence, it is likely that professional risk assessments by social workers and or sexual violence specialists will be required. The above school risk assessment is not intended to replace the detailed assessments of expert professionals. Any such professional assessments should be used to inform the School's approach to supporting and protecting their pupils and updating their own risk assessment.

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. Records should be reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified, and addressed.

Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious reports

If a report is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the Designated Safeguarding Lead should consider whether the child and/or the person who has made the allegation is in need of help or may have been abused by someone else and this is a cry for help. In such circumstances, a referral to Children's Social Care maybe appropriate.

If a report is shown to be deliberately invented or malicious, the School should consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual who made it as per their own behaviour policy.

Ongoing response: Safeguarding and supporting the victim

The following principles are based on effective safeguarding practice and should help shape any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the victim.

- The needs and wishes of the victim should be paramount (along with protecting the child) in any response. It is important they feel in as much control of the process as is reasonably possible. Wherever possible, the victim, if they wish, should be able to continue in their normal routine. Overall, the priority should be to make the victim's daily experience as normal as possible, so that School is a safe space for them.
- Consider the age and the developmental stage of the victim, the nature of the allegations and the potential risk of further abuse. Schools and colleges should beware that, by the very nature of sexual violence and sexual harassment, a power imbalance is likely to have been created between the victim and alleged perpetrator(s).
- The victim should never be made to feel they are the problem for making a report or made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- Consider the proportionality of the response. Support should be tailored on a case-by-case basis. The support required regarding a one-off incident of sexualised name-calling is likely to be vastly different from that for a report of rape.
- Schools should be aware that sexual assault can result in a range of health needs, including physical, mental, and sexual health problems and unwanted pregnancy.

Children and young people that have a health need arising from sexual assault or abuse can access specialist NHS support from a Sexual Assault Referral Centre

- Childline provides free and confidential advice for children and young people.
- Internet Watch Foundation works internationally to remove child sexual abuse online images and videos and offers a place for the public to report them anonymously.
- Childline / IWF: Remove a nude image shared online Report Remove is a free tool that allows children to report nude or sexual images and videos of themselves that they think might have been shared online, to see if they can be removed from the internet.

Victims may not talk about the whole picture immediately. They may be more comfortable providing information on a piecemeal basis. It is essential that dialogue is kept open and encouraged. When it is clear that ongoing support will be required, schools and colleges should ask the victim if they would find it helpful to have a designated trusted adult (for example, their form tutor or Designated Safeguarding Lead) to talk to about their needs. The choice of any such adult should be the victim's (as far as reasonably possible). Schools and colleges should respect and support this choice.

A victim of sexual violence is likely to be traumatised and, in some cases, may struggle in a normal classroom environment. While schools and colleges should avoid any action that would have the effect of isolating the victim, in particular from supportive peer groups, there may be times when the victim finds it difficult to maintain a full-time timetable and may express a wish to withdraw from lessons and activities. This should be because the victim wants to, not because it makes it easier to manage the situation. If required, schools and colleges should provide a physical space for victims to withdraw.

It may be necessary for schools and colleges to maintain arrangements to protect and support the victim for a long time. Schools and colleges should be prepared for this and should work with Children's Social Care and other agencies as required. It is therefore important that the Designated Safeguarding Lead knows how and where to seek support.

It is important that School does everything it reasonably can to protect a victim from bullying and harassment as a result of any report they have made. Whilst they should be given all the necessary support to remain in School, if the trauma results in the victim being unable to do this, alternative provision or a move to another school should be considered to enable them to continue to receive suitable education. This should only be at the request of the victim (and following discussion with their parents or guardians).

It is important that if the victim does move to another educational institution (for any reason), that the new educational institution is made aware of any ongoing support needs. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should take responsibility to ensure this happens (and should discuss with the victim and, where appropriate their parents or guardians as to the most suitable way of doing this) as well as transferring the child protection file.

Ongoing Considerations: Victim and alleged perpetrator(s) sharing classes

Once the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a deputy) has decided what the next steps will be in terms of progressing the report, they should carefully consider again the question of the victim and alleged perpetrator(s) sharing classes and sharing space at school. This will inevitably involve complex and difficult professional decisions, including considering their duty to safeguard children and their duty to educate them.

It is important each report is considered on a case-by-case basis and risk assessments are updated as appropriate. As always when concerned about the welfare of a child, the best interests of the child

should come first. In all cases, schools and colleges should follow general safeguarding principles as per this guidance.

Where there is a criminal investigation into a rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault, the alleged perpetrator(s) should be removed from any classes they share with the victim. The school should also consider how best to keep the victim and alleged perpetrator(s) a reasonable distance apart on school premises (including during before and after school-based activities) and on transport to and from school where appropriate. This is in the best interests of both children and should not be perceived to be a judgement on the guilt of the alleged perpetrator(s). Close liaison with the police is essential.

Where a criminal investigation into a rape or assault by penetration leads to a conviction or caution, the school should take suitable action, if they have not already done so. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances, the rape or assault is likely to constitute a serious breach of discipline and lead to the view that allowing the perpetrator(s) to remain in the same school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the victim (and potentially other pupils or students).

Where a criminal investigation into sexual assault leads to a conviction or caution, the school should, if it has not already, consider any suitable sanctions in light of their behaviour policy, including consideration of permanent exclusion. Where the perpetrator(s) is going to remain at the school, the principle would be to continue keeping the victim and perpetrator(s) in separate classes and continue to consider the most appropriate way to manage potential contact on school premises and transport. The nature of the conviction or caution and wishes of the victim will be especially important in determining how to proceed in such cases.

In all cases, schools and colleges should record and be able to justify their decision-making. Reports of sexual assault and sexual harassment will, in some cases, not lead to a report to the police (for a variety of reasons). In some cases, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault or sexual harassment are reported to the police and the case is not progressed or are reported to the police and ultimately result in a not guilty verdict. None of this means the offence did not happen or that the victim lied. The process will have affected both victim and alleged perpetrator(s). Appropriate support should be provided to both as required and consideration given to sharing classes and potential contact as required on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, schools and colleges should record and be able to justify their decision-making.

All of the above should be considered with the needs and wishes of the victim at the heart of the process (supported by parents and guardians as required). Any arrangements should be kept under review.

Safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator(s) and children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour

Advice about safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrators is also set out in departmental advice: Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children at schools and colleges. The following principles are based on effective safeguarding practice and should help shape any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator(s):

- The school will have a difficult balancing act to consider. On one hand, they need to safeguard the victim (and the wider pupil/student body) and on the other hand provide the alleged perpetrator(s) with an education, safeguarding support as appropriate and implement any disciplinary sanctions. Taking disciplinary action and still providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions. They can, and should, occur at the same time if necessary.

- Consider the age and the developmental stage of the alleged perpetrator(s), the nature of the allegations and frequency of allegations. Any child will likely experience stress as a result of being the subject of allegations and/or negative reactions by their peers to the allegations against them.

School can be a significant protective factor for children who have displayed HSB, and continued access to school, with a comprehensive safeguarding management plan in place, is an important factor to consider before final decisions are made. It is important that if an alleged perpetrator does move to another educational institution (for any reason), that the new educational institution is made aware of any ongoing support needs and where appropriate, potential risks to other children and staff. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should take responsibility to ensure this happens as well as transferring the child protection file.

Stop it now - professionals looking for advice provides support for professionals in child sexual abuse prevention, so that they're well equipped to keep children safe.

THE PREVENT DUTY

Radicalisation, Terrorism and Extremism. What is Prevent?

Prevent is the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, **in all its forms**. Prevent works at the pre-criminal stage by using early intervention to encourage individuals and communities to challenge extremist and terrorist ideology and behaviour.

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist group.

Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015), places a duty on specified authorities, including schools, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ("the Prevent duty"). The Prevent duty reinforces existing duties placed upon educational establishments for keeping children safe by:

- Ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum is in place schools to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils;
- Assessing the risk of pupils being drawn into extremist views;
- Ensuring safeguarding arrangements by working in partnership with local authorities, police and communities;
- Training staff to provide them with the knowledge and ability to identify pupils at risk;
- Keeping pupils safe online, using effective filtering and usage policies.

Some pupils are at risk of being radicalised; adopting beliefs and engaging in activities which are harmful, criminal or dangerous. There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home).

Warning Signs/Indicators of Concern

There is no such thing as a "typical extremist": those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity. Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

Factors which may make pupils more vulnerable may include:

Identity Crisis: the pupil is distanced from their cultural/religious heritage and experiences discomfort

about their place in society;

Personal Crisis: the pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;

Personal Circumstances: migration; local community tensions and events affecting the pupil's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.

Unmet Aspirations: the pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life.

Experiences of Criminality: involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, poor resettlement or reintegration.

Special Educational Need: pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

Pupils who are vulnerable to radicalisation may also be experiencing:

- Substance and alcohol misuse;
- Pressure;
- Influence from older people or via the Internet;
- Bullying;
- Domestic violence;
- Race/hate crime.

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

Behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extremist views could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and/or spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists;
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites;
- Possessing or accessing materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives, this may include justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images;
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group;

- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause;
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group;
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include:
 - physical or verbal assault
 - provocative behaviour
 - damage to property
 - derogatory name calling
 - possession of prejudice-related materials
 - prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 - inappropriate forms of address
 - refusal to co-operate
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others
 - Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance;
 - Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools.

The School is clear that exploitation of vulnerable pupils and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and follows the Department for Education guidance for schools and childcare providers on preventing pupils and young people from being drawn into terrorism

The School seeks to protect pupils and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

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

Full details of our process for risk assessing visiting speakers are accessible under the policy documents on the Microsoft Teams staff area. Visiting speakers are checked carefully before they are permitted to address pupils and a member of staff is always present when they are on site.

Referral Process

All concerns about young people vulnerable to radicalisation should be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the first instance. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will follow safeguarding procedures including:

- Talking to the young person about their behaviour/views/on-line activity/friends etc;
- Discussion with parents/guardians about the concerns;
- Checking out on-line activity, including social media if possible;
- Providing in-house support, if available;
- Providing Early Help targeted support if necessary.

If concerns persist, then the Designated Safeguarding Lead should complete the Channel Referral Form (available from the WSCP website) and submit to the Family Front Door via a Cause for Concern Notification, normally with the knowledge and consent of the young person.

The referral will then be subject to a triage process to decide whether or not it meets the threshold for a referral to Channel. If it does, the Designated Safeguarding Lead should be prepared to attend the Channel Panel meeting to share the concerns and help identify any intervention required. Further feedback to the Channel Panel will be expected following intervention to decide whether there are still concerns. Further information can be found in the WSCP regional local procedures.

Malvern St James risk assesses our pupils in the light of the Prevent Duty and a copy of the latest risk assessment can be found in the Staff Shared Resources Team in Microsoft Teams. It is reviewed at least annually by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Prevent Lead.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

USE OF MSJ PREMISES FOR NON-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

MSJ Enterprise follows government guidance on safeguarding according to [Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/keeping-children-safe-in-out-of-school-settings)

Activity providers are required to complete the following agreement prior to attending and company safeguarding policies will be reviewed by the DSL prior to attendance.



MALVERN ST JAMES
ENTERPRISES

Safeguarding checklist

1. Introduction

Definition of safeguarding

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

UK Department for education Published March 2015, updated 1 July 2022

- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.
- Where governing bodies or proprietors hire or rent out school or college facilities/premises to organisations or individuals (for example to community groups, sports associations, and service providers to run community or extra-curricular activities) they should ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to keep children safe.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 1 September 2023

2. Requirements of Hirers prior to arrival, where children are on site

- Safeguarding Lead Appointed
 - Nominated person responsible for safeguarding and child protection, DBS checked to attend safeguarding briefing prior to event (briefing may be carried out over the phone if appropriate)
 - Contact details to be sent to all group delegates, parents/guardians/carers, volunteers and staff
- DBS checks
 - Copies of leaders enhanced DBS checks available on request for those supervising groups/individuals in regulated activity with people under 18 years of age or in full time education and vulnerable adults
- Safeguarding Risk Assessment
 - Event specific
- MSJ E-safety acceptable use policy
 - Signed by group leader and those authorised to use School IT equipment
 - Briefed to all staff
- Safeguarding briefing
 - For all staff and volunteers
- Alcohol
 - Procedure in place to reduce risk of underage consumption



MALVERN ST JAMES ENTERPRISES

3. Declaration

I can confirm that the person who is responsible for the safeguarding of our group is _____ and he/she can be reached on _____

I can confirm that the safeguarding policy (attached) is up to date and reflects current practice

I can confirm that _____ (company name) has checked that each of the supervising adults working on site at MSJ in possession of a current DBS

Signed _____

Date _____

4. Further links

[Keeping children safe: code of practice \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)


[Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[What is Regulated Activity with Children? - DBS Guidance Explained \(ddc.uk.net\)](https://www.ddc.uk.net)

[Eligibility guidance for standard DBS checks - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Department for Education \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)

Effective date of the Policy:	1 September 2023
Review date:	LIVE POLICY
Circulation	Governors / all staff / parents / pupils via website

Authorised by	Governors of Malvern St James
Signature	
Chair of Governors	Gemma Bruce (Mrs)