



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is in accordance with the most recent version of the ISSRs and locally agreed inter-agency procedures, specifically in accordance with Milton Keynes local safeguarding partner guidance MK Together for dealing with any concerns about a child.

This policy is applicable to all staff and parents of children within the school, including the Early Years Foundation Stage.

This document is available in written format upon request and a copy can also be located on the school's website.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and anyone can make a referral to the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The school will not tolerate any form of abuse.

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY REVIEW

This policy is reviewed on an annual basis, when changes in official guidance require and following a safeguarding incident. The school will continually review this policy following updates and guidance from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) and any statutory and local authority guidance.

Review Date: September 2024

Next Review Date: September 2025

Reviewed and approved by the Body of Persons:

Mr Simon Driver (Chair) and Mrs Hilary Pauley

Date: 1st October 2024

Mr David Pye – Chair of Governors (Safeguarding and Child Protection)

Date: 31st October 2024



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1 INTRODUCTION

The safety and well-being of all children at the school, including those in the Early Years Foundation Stage, is the school's highest priority. The school aims to know every child as an individual and to provide them with a secure and caring environment, so that they can develop and learn in safety. All those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work, including practitioners who do not have a specific role in relation to safeguarding children, have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

All members of staff have a duty to act in the child's best interests at all times so that every child feels positive about themselves as an individual and is able to reach their full potential. The school expects respect, good manners and fair play to be shown by everyone. All children should care for and support each other.

The school recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and that all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. The school also understands that some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other needs.

All staff share the responsibility to ensure that the school provides a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

The school fosters a listening environment where children are encouraged to speak to any staff member about any concerns they may have and where staff understand the importance of listening to the child and placing the child's need first.

Parents and guardians have an important role to play in supporting the school. The school encourages parents and guardians to raise any issues or worries that they may have with the school.

The school will always respond immediately if there is a concern and/or allegation of child abuse/sexual abuse/sexual harassment/neglect/exploitation or where a child is identified as being at risk. Providing early help is vital to promoting the welfare of the child. Staff are trained to be alert to any potential concerns and risks to a child's welfare. All staff are trained to immediately inform the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or any one of the DDSLs (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads), if they have any concerns about a child's welfare.

Safeguarding is defined as protecting children from maltreatment (whether that is within or outside the home, including online), 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 and taking action to enable all children to have the best possible outcomes.

Contextual Safeguarding recognises that the different relationships that children and young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents/carers may have little influence over these contexts and children/young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is



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undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.



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The school's procedures for safeguarding children have regard and adhere to the following statutory and non-statutory guidance:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE, September 2024).
- KCSIE (Sept 24) Annex: Further Information
- KCSIE (Sept 24) Annex C: Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (Dec 2023)
- Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (Dec 2023)
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (England) Regulation 2019 (Annex A: updated September 2021)
- DfE: The Use of Social Media for On-line Radicalisation (July 2015)
- Working together to improve school attendance (Feb 2024).
- Children Missing Education (Sept 2024)
- Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (Sept 2018)
- GOV UK: Information Sharing (May 2024)
- Keeping children safe in and out of school settings (Sept 2023)
- Levels of Need when Working with Children, Young People and their Families in Milton Keynes (MKSCB – MK Together Team - October 2022).
- MK Together – Milton Keynes Inter-Agency Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures.
- GOV UK: What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (March 2015).
- UKCIS Education Group: Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people
- OFSTED: Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges (June 2021).
- Safer Recruitment in Schools - Toolkit (Milton Keynes Council).
- DfE Guidance: Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools (Nov 2018)
- GOV UK: Promoting children and young people's emotional health and well-being – a whole school approach.
- The Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations (2014).
- Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (Jan 2024)
- Teaching Regulation Agency: Teacher Misconduct: The Prohibition of Teachers (Feb 2022)
- When to call the police, non-statutory guidance from the National Police Chief's Council (information available from DSL - Mrs Hanley)
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying (July 2017)
- Behaviour in Schools (Feb 2024)
- Promoting children and young peoples' emotional health and well-being (Sept 2021)
- Teaching Online Safety in Schools (Jan 2023)
- *DfE Searching Screening and Confiscation Advice and the UK Council Child for Internet Safety (UKCIS): Sexting in Schools and Colleges.*
- The UK Safer Internet Centre (<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/about>)
- CEOP's Thinkuknow website (www.thinkuknow.co.uk)



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2 THE AIMS OF THIS POLICY

- To ensure that the Proprietorial Body, Head and Governors fulfil their obligations in respect of the governance of safeguarding and child protection and Prevent awareness, including the conduct of an annual review of safeguarding and the effectiveness of the implementation of this policy.
- To raise awareness in all staff of their responsibilities to safeguard children, including the requirement to prevent children from being radicalised or drawn into extremism and ensure that staff are able to identify and report possible cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation and children at risk.
- To provide a means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, including the risk of radicalisation and ensure that the school contributes to assessments of need and support plans for those children.
- To acknowledge the need for effective and appropriate communication between all members of staff in relation to safeguarding children.
- To develop structured procedures within the school which all members of the school will follow.
- To protect children from both online and offline risks, including online safety education and training, policies and procedures governing use of IT and procedures to manage any incidents which may occur; and filter and monitor online and offline activity.
- To ensure that all staff understands the particular vulnerabilities of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) including particular vulnerability to child-on-child abuse and the need of extra pastoral support.
- To develop effective working relationships with all other agencies involved in safeguarding children.
- To provide an environment in which children feel safe, secure, valued and respected and to support the children in ways that will foster confidence, resilience and ensure they know how to approach adults if they are in difficulties.
- To ensure that all adults within the school, who have access to children, have been checked as to their suitability to work in the school.
- Raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills needed to keep themselves safe and support their mental well-being.

3 PROCEDURES

- All members of staff, part-time staff, supply staff and volunteers are trained to identify and know how to respond to a child who discloses abuse, neglect and exploitation or who is possibly at risk of radicalisation and knows how to follow the procedures when sharing a concern of possible abuse, neglect and exploitation, the disclosure of abuse, neglect and exploitation or the risk of radicalisation.
All parents/carers are made aware of the school's responsibilities and safeguarding procedures through publication of the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- The school's Safer Recruitment Policy and related procedures include all checks on staff suitability including Barred List, Disclosure and Barring Service Enhanced Disclosures and Prohibition Order checks, as recommended by KCSIE (September 2024) and by the MKTP and in accordance with current legislation.



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- All new staff will be given a copy of the following, as part of their induction into the school:
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1 and Annex: Further Information (September 2024).
 - The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (including online safety and Children who are absent from Education and the names of the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and the DDSLs).
 - The school's Code of Conduct for Staff.
 - The school's Whistleblowing Policy.
 - The school's Behaviour, Sanctions and Rewards Policy
 - Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use of Technology Policy
 - Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedures
 - Health and Safety
 - Mobile Phone Policy
 - Anti-Bullying Policy

4 RESPONSIBILITIES

The school understands its responsibilities to safeguard children requires that all staff share any concerns they may have about children.

4.1 The Proprietorial Body, Head and Governors

The Proprietorial Body, Head and Lead Safeguarding Governor facilitate a whole-school approach to safeguarding, ensuring that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront of all systems, processes, and policies.

Safeguarding and Prevent responsibilities are achieved through the following:

- Comply with their duties under legislation and to ensure that there is a robust Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in place and that the policy is reviewed annually.
- Ensure that the key activities of the DSL and DDSL roles are included in the Job Descriptions.
- Ensure that DSL and DDSLs have additional time, funding, training, resources and supervision and support to fulfil their child welfare and safeguarding responsibilities effectively.
- Ensure there is an effective staff Code of Conduct policy in place.
- Record the efficiency with which any related duties have been discharged and ensure any deficiencies in the policy or practices are immediately rectified.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the implementation and compliance with the policy.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the procedures, follow them and know how to recognise and refer any concerns.
- Ensure that all staff knowledge and training is up to date for safeguarding and child protection and Prevent awareness training, including online safety training.
- Ensure that the Chair of Governors, as the lead Safeguarding Governor, liaises with the LADO and partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse made against the Head.
- Ensure that the DSL and DDSLs and the Safeguarding Governor contribute to inter-agency working as and when required to do so.



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- Ensure that all staff know that if there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to children's social care immediately.
- Ensure that all staff know that anybody can make a referral.
- Ensure the Head of EYFS oversees the safe use of technology, all electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities (mobile phones and cameras, etc.) in the setting.
- Ensure that there are safe and effective recruitment policies in place, which adhere to KCSIE statutory guidelines (September 2024).
- Ensure that all records pertaining to safeguarding and child protection are kept securely.
- Ensure that the school operates appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to safeguard children online and offline and review their effectiveness.

4.2 Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

- Mrs Emma Hanley, Director of Child Health and Welfare, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who understands the role as per Part 2/Annex C of KCSIE (September 2024) and understands the obligation to liaise with the local authority and work with other agencies in line with the Working Together to Safeguard Children (Dec 2023).
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are named in Appendix 1.
- The DSL and DDSLs will undergo child protection training every two years, in line with advice from the Milton Keynes local safeguarding partner guidance MK Together Partnership (MKTP) and this will incorporate Prevent awareness training. The DDSLs, as well as the DSL, will have overall responsibility for online and offline safety, including filtering and monitoring systems in place and review their effectiveness at the school.
- The school recognises the important role that the DSL and DDSLs have to play and will support them with the training necessary to carry out their roles effectively. In addition to their formal training, the knowledge and skills of the DDSLs will be updated regularly and at least annually. This can be in the form of referring to the most recent version of KCSIE, bulletins from the MKTP, on the publication of new DfE guidance and other safeguarding updates and communications via meetings.
- The DSL and DDSLs will refer a child to the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in accordance with the Milton Keynes local safeguarding partner (MKTP) guidance and procedures, if there are concerns about a child's welfare and/or possible abuse, neglect and exploitation, Police (cases where a crime may have been committed) and to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern.
- Allegations of abuse by a member of staff will be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). A written record of the referral will be emailed to the LADO as soon as possible within the school day.
- An allegation of abuse by someone outside of the school setting will be referred by the DSL to the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- The DSL will ensure that detailed and accurate written records of concerns about a child are kept even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.



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5 PROCEDURES FOR A CHILD REPORTING ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION

Children who have a problem may speak to someone whom they trust. It is important that the member of staff to whom the child wishes to speak about a concern, does not promise confidentiality.

All children will be reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A child will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. Nor will they ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report or have their experience minimised.

A child who is insistent upon confidentiality should be referred to an external source, such as ChildLine. A list of contacts is provided in Appendix 1. The contact details for ChildLine are displayed throughout the school.

Staff will be reminded 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.'

However, if there is a concern that the child is suffering or at risk from suffering significant harm, regardless of the fact they want to maintain confidentiality, the matter must be referred to the DSL who will in turn, refer the matter to the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Parental consent is not required to make a referral when there are grounds to believe the child may be at risk of significant harm.

- If the child is only prepared to speak if absolute confidentiality is guaranteed, the member of staff should terminate the conversation at that point. It should be explained to the child that confidentiality cannot be promised. Explain to the child that the member of staff is obliged to inform the DSL.
- The adult, to whom the child has spoken, should immediately provide the DSL with a written account of what has transpired.
- If a child decides to speak to a member of staff about the fact that either they, or a child known to them, is being bullied, harassed, exploited or abused, neglected and exploited, the member of staff should listen to the child's account and not ask leading or detailed questions. Allow the child to tell their own story.

All staff to note: It is important to understand that subsequent enquiries could be prejudiced by asking detailed and/or leading questions in school. Defendants have been acquitted where leading questioning or inappropriate investigations have been proven.

- The DSL will refer the concern immediately to Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which will decide how the matter will be investigated or assessed.
- The DSL will liaise with and receive guidance from the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) about how best to support and monitor the child concerned through any process of investigation and about any liaison with parents, carers or other agencies involved.
- Explain to the child that only those who have a professional 'need to know' will be told and, if appropriate, measures will be set up to protect the child from retaliation and further abuse.
- Reassure the child that they were right to tell, and that they are not to blame for having



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- being bullied or abused.
- The school will collaborate with MKTP in any investigations, assessments or planning processes.

Where there are evident signs of physical injury the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) must be immediately notified. In such a case, parental consent is not required to make a referral.

6 ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST TEACHERS AND OTHER STAFF, INCLUDING SUPPLY STAFF AND CONTRACTORS

The school makes reference to KCSIE (Sept 24) Part 4 - Section One: "Allegations that may meet the harms threshold" and Section Two "Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold" and the requirements of the most recent version of the Independent Schools Standards Regulations.

Any allegation received relating to an incident that may happen when an individual or organisation is using the school premises for the purposes of running activities for our pupils will be dealt with in line with the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, including informing the LADO as we would do with any safeguarding allegation.

6.1 Allegations that may meet the harm threshold

These are allegations that might indicate that a person would post a risk of harm if they continue to work in their present post, or in any capacity with children in a school or college.

The school understands that a child may make an allegation against any member of staff, including the Head, the DSL and DDSs, teaching and non-teaching staff, part-time, temporary, voluntary, supply staff, contractors, visiting staff such as musicians, religious ministers, sports coaches and Governors. The following should be followed where it is alleged that anyone working in the school has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child and/or;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children (including because of transferable risk).

Aspects to consider when an allegation is made:

- looking after the welfare of the child;
- investigating and supporting the person subject to the allegation.

When dealing with allegations, the school will:

- apply common sense and judgement;
- deal with allegations quickly, fairly and consistently; and
- provide effective protection for the child and support the person subject to the allegation.

If an allegation is made, then the member of staff receiving the allegation must inform the Case



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Manager, who will be either the DSL or Head and will lead any investigation. Where the Head is the subject of an allegation, the DSL and/or the chair of governors or Proprietorial Body will be the case manager.

Where an allegation is against the Head, the Head must not be informed of the allegation prior to contact with the DSL (chair of governors and/or Proprietorial Body) and the LADO. The LADO should be informed within one working day to discuss the allegation, consider the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action including any involvement of the Police. All discussions will be recorded in writing and the school will follow the procedures agreed with the LADO.

GDPR will not be allowed to stand in the way of safeguarding children.

In the absence of the DSL, the member of staff must inform the Chair of Governors. Contact details for the LADO and the Chair of Governors are contained in Appendix 1.

If the allegation made is concerned with the Proprietorial Body, the Head/DSL or one of the DDSLs, then the member of staff receiving the allegation must inform the Chair of Governors, without informing the Head. The Chair of Governors should immediately refer to the LADO. Should there be a conflict of interest, the LADO will be informed directly.

If the school finds that a child has been harmed; that there may be an immediate risk of harm to a child; if the situation is an emergency, children's social care should be contacted and as appropriate the police immediately in accordance with the processes set out in part one of KCSIE (September 2024).

The DSL/Head/DSLS are fully aware of the local authority arrangements for managing allegations, including contact details and the information the LADO will need. Prior to contacting the LADO, the school may – in line with local procedures – conduct basic enquiries to establish facts that will help determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation. The DSL will refer to KCSIE (September 2024) for sample questions to aid with the basic enquiries.

The DSL/DSLS understand and will refer to KCSIE (September 2024) for more detailed guidance on:

- The initial response to an allegation
- Where an initial discussion leads to no further action
- Where further enquiries are required to enable a decision about how to proceed
- Allegations against supply teachers and all contracted staff
- Governors
- Suspension
- Supporting those involved
- Confidentiality and information sharing
- Allegation outcomes
- Following a criminal investigation or prosecution
- Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious accusations
- Returning to work
- Resignations and settlement agreements
- Record keeping
- References



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- Learning lessons (expanded in 2023)
- Non-recent allegations.

Contact with the LADO will be made as soon as any basic enquiries are conducted.

When an allegation is made, the school will not undertake its own investigations of the allegations without prior consultation with the LADO or, in the most serious cases, the Police, so as not to jeopardise statutory investigations. In borderline cases, discussions with the LADO can be held informally and without naming the school or individual. Discussions will be recorded in writing, and any communication with both the individual and the parents of the child/children agreed.

The school will consider whether the circumstances of the case warrant suspension or whether alternative arrangements should be put in place. The school will act in accordance with plans derived through discussions with the LADO and/or the Police when making a decision about suspension, including the views of KCSIE (Sept 24) and WT (Dec 23).

The school will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity. These restrictions apply up to the point where the accused person is charged with an offence, or the Department for Education (DfE) and /or the Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA) publish information about an investigation or decision in a disciplinary case.

It is important to note the TRA took over the regulation of the teaching profession and the handling of misconduct hearings from the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) and is an executive agency of the DfE.

The school will promptly report to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) any person leaving the school (whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or student) whose no longer used for regulated activity or due to dismissal, non-renewal of a fixed-term contract, no longer engaging/refusing to engage a supply teacher provided by an employment agency, terminating the placement of a student teacher or other trainee, no longer using staff employed by contractors, no longer using volunteers, resignation, and voluntary withdrawal from supply teaching, contract working, a course of initial teacher training, or volunteering (or would have been, had the person not left the setting first) because they are considered unsuitable to work with children (that is, they have caused harm or posed a risk of harm to a child). Reports will include as much evidence about the circumstances of the case as possible. The school understands that failure to make a report constitutes a criminal offence.

Compromise agreements cannot be used to either prevent a referral being made to the DBS when it is legally required, nor can an individual's refusal to cooperate with an investigation.

The school will be required to keep detailed and accurate written records and preserve these for the term of the independent enquiry and at least until the accused has reached normal pension age or for 10 years from the date of the allegation if it that is longer.

The Proprietorial Body understands the legal duty to respond to requests from the DBS for information the school already hold.



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The school will consider making a referral to the Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA) for any teacher that has been dismissed (or would have been dismissed had he/she not resigned) and a Prohibition Order may be appropriate. The reasons such an order would be considered are 'unacceptable professional conduct, 'conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute' or a 'conviction, at any time, for a relevant offence'. Further guidance is published on the TRA website (Teacher Misconduct: The Prohibition of Teachers, February 2022).

As per the KCSIE (September 2024) guidance, the school will handle allegations against supply staff or contractor staff by taking the lead and keeping the supply agency fully informed and involved. Under no circumstances will the school cease to use supply staff for safeguarding reasons without involving the agency and/or other authorities.

The school understands its duty to confirm it has disclosed to inspectors all instances of safeguarding concerns.

6.2 Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold ('low-level concerns')

The school is committed to create and embed a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the school's values and expected behaviour as set out in the staff code of conduct are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff. This serves to enable the early identification of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour, minimise the risk of abuse, ensure that adults working in schools are clear about and act within professional boundaries in accordance with the values and ethos of the school, and protect those working in or on behalf of schools from potential false allegations or misunderstandings.

These may arise from a variety of sources, including suspicion, complaint, a disclosure (by child or adult) or during vetting checks. The school understands that a culture should be created in which all concerns about adults are shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with appropriately.

A low-level concern does not mean it is insignificant, a low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' – that an adult may have acted in a way that:

- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate contact outside of work; and
- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

These behaviours can exist on a wide spectrum, from inadvertent to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse. They include, for example:

- being over friendly with children;
- having favourites;
- taking photographs of children on their mobile phone or any electronic device with imaging and sharing capabilities;
- engaging with children on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door;
- using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language;
- humiliating pupils.



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Low-level concerns about a member of staff must be reported to the Head/DSL. Staff should feel confident to self-refer. Low-level concerns about someone employed by a supply agency or contractor should be shared with the Head, the concern recorded, and their employer notified so that potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified. Should patterns be identified, the Head/Case Manager will take appropriate action, depending on the severity of the behaviour.

Where a third party has raised the concern, the Head will collect as much evidence as possible by speaking:

- directly to the person who raised the concern (if known);
- to the individual involved and any witnesses.

The DSL/Head will record all low-level concerns in writing. This will include:

- details of the concern;
- the context in which it arose;
- evidence collected by the DSL where the concern has been raised via a third party;
- the decision categorising the type of behaviour;
- action taken;
- the rationale for decisions and action taken;
- the name of the individual sharing the concerns (respecting any wish to remain anonymous as far as possible).

The school will refer to KCSIE (September 2024) as to when a low-level concern should be referred to in a reference. The DSL/Head will make the final decision on all low-level concerns.

6.3 Record Keeping

Records are confidential, held securely and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. They are reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified. Where such a pattern is identified, the school will either take action through disciplinary procedures or, if it meets the harms threshold, refer to the LADO.

The school may also consider whether there are wider cultural issues within the school that enabled the inappropriate behaviour to occur and will therefore support staff where necessary, i.e., staff training. Information is kept at least until the individual leaves' employment.

For all allegations, other than those found to have been malicious or false, the following information will be kept on the file of the person accused:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation
- details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved
- a note of any action taken, and decisions reached and whether the outcome was substantiated, unsubstantiated or unfounded.
- a copy provided to the person concerned, where agreed by children's social care or the police
- a declaration on whether the information will be referred to in any future reference

Substantiated allegations will also be included in references, provided that the information is factual and does not include opinions.



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7 STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

The school's staff code of conduct policy is given to all staff upon induction to the school. The policy is given to provide clear guidance about behaviour and acceptable actions so as not to place pupils or staff at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to a pupil.

Please refer to the separate document: Staff Code of Conduct

8 WHISTLEBLOWING

Whistleblowing is a mechanism by which staff can voice their concerns, made in good faith, without fear or repercussion. The school's Whistleblowing Policy provides for:

- a culture of safety and raising concerns;
- a culture of valuing staff and or reflective practice;
- procedures for reporting and handling concerns, including about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime, provision for mediation and dispute resolution where necessary;
- training and support for staff;
- transparency and accountability in relation to how concerns are received and handled.

Please refer to the separate document: Whistleblowing Policy

9 CHILD-ON-CHILD ABUSE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This procedure is for dealing with abuse by one or more children against another child. All child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will never be tolerated – the school has a 'zero-tolerance' approach on any form of abuse. Child-on-child abuse can take many forms, for example, making abusive comments, which should not be passed off as 'banter' or 'having a laugh' or 'part of growing up', 'boys being boys' engaging in abusive interactions, making abusive comments and/or engaging in activity of a sexualised nature (including sexual activity without consent, sexual violence and harassment), physical abuse, initiation ceremonies or rituals or hazing-type violence, upskirting and sexting (youth-produced sexual imagery) or any type of bullying, including online bullying, prejudice-based bullying or discriminatory bullying, as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children.

The school understands that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex and within intimate personal relationships between peers. Sexual violence and sexual harassment can overlap and can happen outside of school or take place online and offline. When there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm' then any such abuse will be referred to the DSL and the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as a child protection concern.

The school recognises the importance that all staff must challenge any form of abusive behaviour between children. Staff are trained to recognise that children can abuse other children (including online and offline) and that all staff will be clear about the school's procedures with regard to child-on-child abuse. The School also recognises that even if there are no reported cases of child-on-child abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not being reported

Sexting, for the purposes of this policy, is defined as the generation and/or sharing of images or videos by children under the age of 18 where such images or videos are shared with another child or



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children or adult via a mobile phone, tablet, laptop, computer or website or any electronic device with imaging and sharing capabilities. Sexting is classed as illegal. *Further guidance can be sourced from the DfE Searching Screening and Confiscation Advice and the UK Council Child for Internet Safety (UKCIS): Sexting in Schools and Colleges.*

The school recognises the gendered nature of abuse i.e. that girls are more likely to be victims and boys more likely to be perpetrators. However, the school will always be clear that all child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. Staff recognise that children are capable of abusing other children (including online and offline) and therefore understand the importance of the school's policies and procedures with regard to child-on-child abuse.

Abuse that occurs online or outside of the school will not be downplayed and will be treated equally seriously.

Different forms of child-on-child abuse, child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment can be as follows:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- physical abuse which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
- sexual violence and sexual harassment (refer to Part 5 KCSIE September 2024);
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth-produced sexual imagery)(further guidance sourced from : *UKCIS guidance: Sharing nudes and semi-nudes advice for educational settings*;
- 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;
- upskirting (see definition at 13.16 below),; and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

9.1 Prevention of child-on-child abuse

The school recognises that child-on-child abuse (including online and offline) can occur even with the most robust policies and support processes in place. Even if there are no reported cases of child-on-child abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not being reported. Therefore, the school encourages an environment where children can feel safe to share information about anything which worries them or causes them to feel upset. Appropriate behaviour is regularly reinforced through assemblies, form time discussions, PSHE lessons and in the SMSC curriculum. Children are signposted to support such as ChildLine and the school's Anti-Bullying Poster is prominently displayed throughout the building.

9.2 Procedures for dealing with child-on-child abuse

Staff, to whom the concerns are reported, should listen to child's concerns and offer immediate support. Staff will not dismiss anything reported to them which appears to be 'banter' or 'just growing up' or 'boys will be boys'. Staff should refer the child immediately to the DSL, or, in their absence, a DDSL.



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- The DSL will reassure the child that they have done nothing wrong and that it was the right thing to report. If appropriate, immediate medical treatment/advice should be sought.
- If the concerns relate to sexting, then staff must not share or copy the images with other staff members.

The DSL will listen to the child and make a written record of the incident, identify evidence and seek witnesses. The DSL will not guarantee confidentiality of information and will inform the child that the school will be speaking to inter-agency bodies and the alleged abuser(s)

- The DSL will inform parents.
- The school will report to Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) within 24 hours of a disclosure or suspicion of abuse.

9.3 Procedures for dealing with Sexual Violence and/or Sexual Harassment:

Where there has been a report of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment, the DSL will make an immediate risk and needs assessment which should be recorded in writing, and which considers:

- The victim and their need for protection and support.
- The alleged perpetrator, their proximity to the victim and if steps need to be taken to keep them apart, if sharing a class or school transport, for example.
- All other children, where there is a need to protect them.

The immediate consideration will be what support to provide to the child, the alleged perpetrator and other children involved/impacted. The wishes of the victim, the nature of the allegations and the protection of all children in the school will be of paramount importance when considering immediate actions to take.

In the event of any disclosure about child-on-child abuse that all children involved, whether perpetrator or victim, will be treated as being “at risk” and placed on the school Watchlist record, which is help and reviewed by the Heads of Department. The DSL will follow guidance provided by the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Each case reported will be considered on an individual basis. The DSL, in conjunction with any guidance provided by the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), will consider the following options:

1. To manage the case of sexual harassment internally, if the children involved are not in need of early help or statutory intervention and that it would be appropriate to manage the incident internally.
2. To consider if multi-agency early help is the appropriate course of action.
3. If the child has been harmed, or is at risk of harm, or is in immediate danger, the DSL should make a referral to Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for advice or to make a referral, or out of hours Emergency Social work team. Such referrals will be made immediately.
4. To report to the Police. If this option is chosen, then a parallel report will be made to the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The school will inform parents unless, to do so, would put the child at additional risk.

The school will provide appropriate on-going support to the children involved, where appropriate



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and in conjunction with multi-agency professionals.

The DSL may consider referring to the departmental advice: *Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges*.

10 ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST PERSONS OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL, ONLINE AND OFFLINE

In the case of allegations of abuse by persons outside of the school where a child's welfare, possible abuse, neglect and exploitation is of concern, then the member of staff will refer the matter to the Head, the DSL or a DDSL if the Head is not available. The DSL will then liaise with the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in the first instance.

A written record of the referral will be e-mailed to the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as soon as possible within the same school day. The DSL will be required to keep detailed and accurate written records of all concerns about a child, even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.

11 GUIDANCE IF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR IS NOTICED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF STAFF

If a member of staff has concerns about the behaviour of another member of staff towards a child, they should report the concerns immediately to the DSL/Head. Any concerns will be thoroughly investigated. If there is evidence of criminal activity, the Police will always be informed. Wherever possible and subject to the rights of the child, the member of staff will be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

All staff are trained to report and manage a genuine concern with impunity.

12 INFORMATION SHARING

Sharing information is essential for effective safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All staff are reminded that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) introduced in May 2018 and the Data Protection Act 2018 are not barriers to justified information sharing to protect a child from harm or the risk of harm.

When a child moves school, in addition to handing over any child protection file securely within 5 days, the DSL may proactively share information with the new school to enable the new school to have support in place when a child arrives and to ensure that key staff, such as the SENCO, are aware of any needs.

The safeguarding of children at risk is a condition that allows safeguarding practitioners to share information legally without consent, if, to gain consent, could place a child at risk.

Relevant personal information can be shared lawfully if it is to keep a child safe from neglect or physical, emotional or mental harm, or if it is protecting their physical, mental or emotional well-being.

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, including the rationale for those decisions, will be



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recorded. These recordings will include instances where referrals were or were not made to an outside agency.

13 PREVENTION

The school recognises that it plays a significant role in preventing harm to children in the following ways:

- Across the curriculum, opportunities are provided that equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn to for help.
 - The school will ensure children are taught about how to stay safe, based on a wide view of what may happen to pupils, not only in schools but also beyond it. This will include staying safe online and offline and the dangers of cyberbullying and sexting – even if pupils in a particular faith community are not meant to use mobile phones, or any other electronic device with imaging and sharing capabilities, or have limited access to the internet.
 - The topics will be conveyed through the curriculum, IT, PSHE lessons and Relationships and Sex Education. Particular attention will be paid to the school's practices to help children to adjust their behaviours in order to build resilience and reduce risks, including those of radicalisation. They will also be taught about the importance of telling a teacher/other member of staff if they come across something online or offline which makes them uncomfortable, especially staying safe online and the dangers of cyberbullying or sexting, even in cases where children only have limited internet or electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities access.
 - Ensure that all children know there is an adult in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
 - Establish and maintain an ethos, which is understood by all staff, which enables children to feel secure and encourages them to talk knowing that they will be listened to.
 - All children have access to a public telephone should they need to call a helpline (ChildLine) for support.
 - Leadership training is provided to Head Boys and Girls, Deputies and House Captains, which specifically covers the importance of offering support and assistance to younger children.
-
- The school has an appropriate policy in place when dealing with abuse by one or more children against another child when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm' including that any such abuse will be referred to the local authority as a child protection concern. The school will ensure that in the event of any disclosures about child on child abuse that all children involved, whether perpetrator or victim, are treated as being 'at risk'.

Any school decision to seek support for a child in need or at risk, or about whom there are concerns (including concerns relating to radicalisation) would normally be taken in consultation with parents. Parent consent would not be required where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child is a risk of significant harm.

13.1 Anti-Bullying

The school will not tolerate any kind of bullying, harassment, victimisation or discrimination. The school takes any kind of bullying, both physical and emotional (which may cause psychological



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damage) very seriously, including any bullying on the basis of a protected characteristic (grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities), or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities. The school will have a zero tolerance towards transphobia. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. The school will treat all children and parents fairly and with consideration and we expect them to reciprocate towards each other, the staff and the school. Any kind of bullying is unacceptable. The school's Anti-Bullying Statement is displayed publicly and provides advice on where children can seek help.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Anti-Bullying Policy.*

13.2 Children who are Absent from Education (CME)

It is recognised that one of the signs of children being at risk of or being harmed is when the child is absent from school without explanation, particularly on a regular basis. The school works with parents to ensure that it is able to account for every child who is absent from school. Parents are asked to telephone the school on the first and every successive day of illness. In exceptional circumstances, the Heads may authorise absence from school during term-time and only where the absence will have an educational value.

When a child is not in school without an explanation, then the school will contact parents for an explanation. The school will hold a minimum of two emergency contacts for each child. Where a child is absent from school and contact cannot be made with parents, then the Head or the DSL will contact Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for further advice. Failure to report a child absent in education regularly or where the child is absent without authorisation for a continuous period of 10 school days or more would be non-compliance with the duty to have regard to KCSIE (September 2024).

When working with the local authority children's services where school absence indicates safeguarding concerns the School will have regard to the DfE guidance *'Working together to improve school attendance: statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities (February 2024)*

- *Please refer to the separate document: Children who are Absent from Education.*

13.3 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

This is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young children are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation can include both contact and non-contact sexual activity and can also occur through the use of technology. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point.

As part of their safeguarding training, staff are taught to recognise possible signs of sexual abuse. If a member of staff suspects that a child may be at risk or suffering from child sexual abuse, he/she must immediately report this to the DSL who will liaise with the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and follow its procedures for notification of child sexual exploitation.



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13.4 Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

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 in exchange for something the victim needs or wants. 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, forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

As part of their safeguarding training, staff are taught to recognise possible signs of criminal exploitation. If a member of staff suspects that a child may be at risk or suffering from child criminal exploitation, he/she must immediately report this to the DSL who will liaise with the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and follow its procedures for notification of child criminal exploitation.

13.5 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

As the school has female pupils, when a member of staff discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, he/she must immediately report this to the DSL. It is mandatory for the DSL to inform the Police. Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) will be involved as appropriate.

13.6 Online Safety

Children will be taught through the wider curriculum, PSHE and RSE on how to stay safe online and offline.

The school ensures that robust monitoring and filtering systems are in place to safeguard children online. All devices on the school premises are networked and do not use 3G, 4G or 5G to establish a connection to the internet. This is to protect children from:

- Being exposed to inappropriate, harmful, extremist or illegal material.
- Being subjected to harmful online interactions with other users.
- Potentially harmful online behaviour that may expose them to harm.

Children are regularly taught, in an age-appropriate way, about how to keep themselves safe online and offline, how to recognise inappropriate material and are taught about the importance of raising any concerns they may have to staff.

All staff have received Online Safety Training, which includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring.

Filtering and monitoring

The School has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place to safeguard children from potentially harmful and inappropriate material online when using the Schools IT system. The School's system is Securus.

The aim of this system is to reduce the risk of children being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful materials online (content risk); reduce the risk of children being subjected to harmful online



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interaction with others including commercial advertising and grooming (contact risk); restrict access to online risks such as online gambling, phishing or financial scams (commerce risk); and help manage online behaviour that can increase a child's likelihood of, or causes, harm for example making, sending and receiving explicit images.

The School recognises however that children may have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks (i.e. 3G, 4G and 5G) outside of school which means that children may consensually and/or non-consensually share indecent images, sexually harass their peers via mobile and smart technology, and view and share pornography and other harmful content whilst at school undetected.

The School ensures compliance with the DfE's 'filtering and monitoring standards for schools' by;

- Identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems.
- Reviewing the filtering and monitoring provision at least annually.
- Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- Having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet our safeguarding needs.

The School will liaise with parents to reinforce the importance of children being safe online and the systems the School uses to filter and monitor online use. Parents and carers will be made aware of what their children are being asked to do online when undertaking remote learning, including the sites they will be asked to access and who from the School their child is going to be interacting with online.

Access to the Internet is only permitted during lesson-time and is always supervised by a member of staff.

Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones or any other electronic device with imaging and sharing capabilities into school. They are however, taught about the safe use of these devices during IT and PSHE lessons, assemblies and during form time.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Policy for Online Safety.*
- *Please refer to the separate document: Acceptable Use of Technology Policy*
- *Please refer to The UK Safer Internet Centre (<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/about>)*
- *Please refer to CEOP's Thinkuknow (www.thinkuknow.co.uk)*

13.7 One to One Teaching

When children receive one-to-one specialist teaching, for example, music lessons or dyslexia coaching, the child will be collected from their class with the permission of the class teacher. The school gives special attention to the safeguarding of children arrangements where certain children are engaged in one to one teaching.

- *Please refer to separate document: One to One Teaching Policy*



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13.8 Prevent Awareness (Radicalisation)

The school will adhere to the obligations and guidance from the Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (Dec 2023). Protecting children from the risks of radicalisation is part of the school's wider safeguarding duties. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and other of extremism. The school will build children's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values throughout the curriculum and through the provision of PSHE, form time and assemblies.

It is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Staff should be alert to changes in behaviour in children that may indicate that the child might be in need of help or protection. Where a staff member identifies a concern, then the staff member must consult with the DSL.

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 groups.

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.

When there are significant concerns about a child, the DSL may seek advice and/or make a referral to the most appropriate body, either Channel, Children's Social Care or Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Further contacts are provided in Appendix 1.

The Prevent Duty requires the school to ensure that any visiting speakers are suitable and appropriately supervised. A member of staff will always be present when any visiting speaker addresses children. It is the responsibility of the member of staff inviting the visitor, to ensure that references are sought prior to the visit and that the member of staff is assured as to the suitability of the speaker to address children.

13.9 Taking Photographs of Children

The school will use photographs as a way to share and celebrate achievements in school. Parents will themselves often enjoy seeing their children's photographs in school. The school wishes to ensure that everyone can continue to enjoy these activities safely. Only school cameras are to be used to take photographs of approved activities in school. Mobile phones or any other electronic devices with imaging and sharing devices are not to be used. This applies to the whole school, including EYFS.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Policy on Taking, Storing and Using Images of Children.*

13.10 Use of Mobile Phones or any other electronic devices with imaging and sharing devices

Mobile phones provide staff with important contact with their families and, therefore, it is accepted



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that staff will have the devices in school. However, they must only be used in the staff room and restricted office areas.

Parents are requested not to use their mobile phones or any other electronic devices with imaging and sharing devices in school.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Mobile Phone Policy.*

13.11 Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of violence or the threat of violence, intimidating or threatening behaviour or abuse between persons aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can include, but is not limited to physical, psychological, sexual, emotional and financial. It is recognised that domestic abuse can have long-lasting and damaging effects on a child's health, well-being, development and ability to learn (emotional and psychological development).

The harm done to children by living in an environment where domestic abuse occurs may be caused 'where they see, hear or experience it effects' and may extend beyond signs of physical harm.

All staff should be alert to any sign or symptom that a child may be vulnerable to, experiencing, witnessing or at risk of domestic abuse. Where a staff member identifies that a child may be at risk or is exposed to domestic abuse, then they must immediately inform the DSL. The school will follow guidance from the MKTP. The priority will be to support the child and follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

13.12 Gangs

All staff should be alert to any changes in a child's behaviour which give cause for concern, including anti-social behaviour and indicators that the child may be exposed to or involved in gang-related activity. If a member of staff identifies any person or child to be at risk, they should immediately inform the DSL, who will then follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

13.13 Serious Violence

All staff should be aware of indicators which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime such as knife or gun crime and homicide. 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 CCE.

A range of risk factors increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence. These include;

- being male;
- having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school;
- having experienced child maltreatment;
- having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery.

Early intervention is about recognising and responding to the indicators of potential vulnerability, providing early support that is effective. When a young person begins to show



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signs of exploitation or vulnerability to exploitation, and thus at increased risk from serious violence, we should be able to intervene as early as possible to help reduce the risk factors and increase the protective factors.

13.14 Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is defined as one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or other forms of coercion are used to cause the person to enter into a marriage. Forcing a person, especially a child under the age of 18, to marry, even if violence, threats or coercion are not used, is a crime in England and Wales. If a member of staff identifies any person or child to be at risk, they should immediately inform the DSL, who will then follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

13.15 Honour based violence (HBV)

Honour based violence involved incidents or crimes carried out to protect the honour of the family and/or the community and can include female genital mutilation (see Section 13.5) and breast ironing. Such honour-based violence can often involve the wider family or community. Staff will be alert to any child being at risk of honour based violence and will treat any such risk as a safeguarding concern and report their concerns to the DSL immediately. The DSL will follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

13.16 Upskirting

Upskirting involves taking a picture under a person's clothing and without them knowing in order to cause humiliation, distress or alarm of the victim. This is a form of an abuse and now considered a criminal offence. If a member of staff identifies any person or child to be at risk, they should immediately inform the DSL, who will then follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

13.17 County Lines

A County Line is used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. If a member of staff identifies any person or child to be at risk, they should immediately inform the DSL, who will then follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

13.18 Child Abduction and Community Safety Incidents

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers.

13.19 Children and the Court System

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two age-appropriate guides to support children [5-11-year olds](#) and [12-17 year olds](#). The guides explain each step of the process, support and special measures that are available.



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13.20 Children with Family Members in Prison

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

13.21 Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs.

13.22 Cybercrime

Cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either 'cyber-enabled' (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer). Children with particular skills and interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime. If there are concerns about a child in this area, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy), will consider referring into the Cyber Choices programme, a national police programme, supported by the Home Office and led by the National Crime Agency.

13.23 Channel

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from the school may be asked to attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. The designated safeguarding lead will consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving.

13.24 Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. Children's social care will be the lead agency for these children and the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child's circumstances.

13.25 Organisations or Individuals using School Premises

Any allegation received relating to an incident that may happen when an individual or organisation is using the school premises for the purposes of running activities for our pupils will be dealt with in line with the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, including informing the LADO as we would do with any safeguarding allegation.



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13.26 Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. The school recognises that the different relationships young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. We understand parents/guardians have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent/child relationships. The school will share as much information with local agencies as possible as part of the referral process to enable consideration of all the available evidence and the full context of any abuse. Contextual Safeguarding expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.

13.27 Early Help

Any child may benefit from early help, but all staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Is disabled 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 as association with organised crime groups or county lines
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care
- Has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from schools, or in Alternative Provision or a Pupil Referral Unit
- Is misusing drugs and other alcohol themselves
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, and/or sexual or criminal exploitation
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Has a parent or carer in custody, or is affected by parental offending
- Is a privately fostered child
- Is at risk of so-called 'honour'-based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage

Early help is providing help and support to meet the needs of children, of all ages, as soon as problems emerge. Early help improves resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse. Early help may be appropriate for children who have several needs, or whose circumstances might make them more vulnerable.

The School has effective measures in place to identify emerging problems and potential unmet needs of individual pupils. All staff undertake appropriate training to ensure that they know when to share information with other agencies and what action to take to support early identification and assessments.



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In the first instance, staff identify a pupil who may benefit from early help will discuss this with the DSL. If appropriate, the DSL will work with the Children's Social Care or Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to undertake an assessment of the need for early help. The DSL will support staff in liaising with external agencies and professionals in an inter-agency assessment, as appropriate.

Further guidance on effective assessment of the need for early help can be found in Working Together to Safeguard Children (December 2023) ("WT").

If early help is appropriate, the matter will be kept under review and consideration given to a referral to children's social care if the pupil's situation does not appear to be improving.

13.27 Mental Health

The School has an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of its pupils. 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.

Staff can access a range of advice to help them identify children in need of extra mental health support, this includes working with external agencies. More information can be found in the DfE *Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools* guidance.

14 THE USE OF RESTRAINT

School has clear and precise policy on using the restraint on children on the premises of the school and during school hours and will only use reasonable force and when applicable as per DfE guidance on 'Use of Reasonable force', 2013. Physical contact with pupils may occur under other circumstances such as providing physical prompts, giving support in PE and supplying reassurance. The term restraint does not extend to these situations. Staff should not be inhibited in providing such contact when it is professional and appropriate to do so. School will never use force as a punishment. It is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

As per the DfE guidance, locking pupils in rooms for any reason (including pupil or staff safety) is potentially illegal; it is not just a breach of the standards. The use of isolation booths/units has also been found potentially to give rise to safeguarding and human rights issues.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Restraint Policy.*

15 SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Staff are trained to listen to children and be alert to any signs and symptoms which could indicate that a child needs early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. Early intervention can also help prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. (KCSIE, September 2024).

The school recognises that disabled children and children with special educational needs may face additional safeguarding challenges. Therefore, the school will review and undertake regular monitoring of these children.

Children who have suffered or are likely to suffer significant harm will be referred immediately to the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the school will follow Milton Keynes



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Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) procedures. Where decisions to seek support for a child in need or at risk would normally be taken in consultation with parents, no consent is required for a referral when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child may be at risk of significant harm.

Where a child needs additional support from one or more agencies, the school will invoke inter-agency assessment using local inter-agency procedures:

- The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is designed to enable early and effective assessment of children who might need additional support.
- The Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF) is designed to enable a non-urgent referral to be made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Where Child Protection or Child in Need procedures are invoked, the school will follow inter-agency practices and recommendations from the MKTP with regard to specific support to be put in place by the school for the child.

Where a child is identified as being at risk of radicalisation, the DSL will identify the most appropriate source of support for the child and the family. This could be via Channel or Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The relevant contacts are contained in Appendix 1.

15.1 Looked After Children

The school will ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep safe any children on roll who are looked after, or have been looked after, by the local authority.

This would include ensuring that a designated member of staff has responsibility for their welfare and progress and has up-to-date assessment information from the relevant local authority, the most recent care plan and contact arrangements with parents, and delegated authority to carers.

The school currently has 0 children on roll who are classed as looked after children.

15.2 Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can face additional safeguarding challenges, including particular vulnerability to child-on-child abuse. Staff must be alert to the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These may include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further explanation;
- Being more prone to peer group isolation than other children;
- The potential for children with SEN and disabilities to be disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

To address these additional challenges, children with SEND may require extra pastoral support. The additional vulnerabilities of pupils with SEND and the school's duty to make reasonable adjustments should be particularly carefully considered in situations where the use of reasonable force may be needed in response to risks presented by incidents involving children with SEND or medical conditions.



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16 STRESS AND MENTAL WELLBEING

The School is committed to providing a system to support good mental health for all children and to help minimise and alleviate stress and poor mental health. It is the school's intention to deal constructively and sympathetically with stress and poor mental health. Stress or poor mental health will not be treated as a sign of weakness.

We believe that all staff have a responsibility to promote positive mental health, and to understand about protective and risk factors for mental health. Some children will require additional help and all staff should have the skills to look out for any early warning signs of mental health problems and ensure that children with mental health needs get early intervention and the support they need.

All staff are aware that mental health problems can be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

All staff also understand about possible risk factors that might make some children more likely to experience problems, such as: physical long-term illness, having a parent who has a mental health problem, death and loss, including loss of friendships, family breakdown and bullying. They should also understand the factors that protect children from adversity, such as self-esteem, communication and problem-solving skills, a sense of worth and belonging and emotional literacy.

Through PSHE the school teaches knowledge and social and emotional skills that will help children to be more resilient, understand about mental health and be less affected by the stigma of mental health problems.

All concerns are reported to the Head, Mr Driver, and the DSL, Emma Hanley, and recorded. The school will then assess each concern on a case by case basis and ensure that children get the support they need, either from within the School or from an external specialist service. The school's aim is to put in place interventions as early as possible to prevent problems escalating.

The school also recognises that support for mental health and wellbeing is equally important for members of staff and staff trained in Mental Health First Aid are listed in Annex 1

17 SUPPORTING STAFF

Staff working in the school who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm or appears to be likely to suffer harm may find the situation stressful and upsetting. The school will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the Head, DSL or DDSL and to seek further support.

Staff are also made aware of guidance to ensure that their behaviour and actions do not place children or themselves at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to a child (for example, in one-to-one tuition, performing arts, sports coaching, conveying a child by car, engaging in inappropriate electronic communication with a child, and so on).

Please refer to separate document: Code of Conduct Policy

18 CONFIDENTIALITY

The school recognises that all matters regarding the safeguarding of children are confidential.



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- The Head, the DSL and or DDSLs will disclose personal information about a child to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.
 - All staff have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children, following MKTP inter-agency protocols for communication.
 - All staff must not promise a child to keep any secrets that may compromise the child's safety or well-being or that of another child.
 - Staff must not promise a child confidentiality when a child raises a safeguarding concern with them.
 - The school will always undertake to share its intention to refer a child to the Milton Keynes Together Partnership (MKTP) with their parent's/carer's permission, unless to do so, could put the child at greater risk of harm, or impede a criminal investigation.
-
- A member of staff who reports another member of staff for inappropriate behaviour is entitled to have his/her name protected from being disclosed by the Head to the alleged perpetrator, without his/her prior approval. However, it has to be recognised that his/her evidence may be required by the Police to be used in any criminal proceedings.

19 DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Mrs Emma Hanley, member of the Senior Management Team, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and has overall responsibility and sufficient independence for the school's safeguarding, prevent and online/offline safety responsibilities including an understanding of the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place at the school. The DSL undergoes refresher training every two years.

The DSL's responsibility is to maintain an overview of safeguarding, manage referrals, prevent and on-line practices within the school, to open channels of communication with local agencies (including the local authority children's services, the DBS, Channel and the Police) and to support staff in carrying out their safeguarding duties to monitor the effectiveness of policies and procedures in practice, share relevant information where necessary, keep child protection files up to date, advise on training requirements and raise awareness when necessary. The DSL will also take lead responsibility for online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes the School have in place. The DSL works with the proprietorial body to review and update the School's safeguarding policy.

Safeguarding concerns for children should be referred, in the first instance, to Mrs Hanley, as the DSL. If Mrs Hanley is away from the school site, during normal school hours, she can be contacted via the school telephone number, 01908 642111 or ehanley@mkps.co.uk. In the absence of Mrs Hanley, safeguarding concerns should be referred to Mr Simon Driver, Headmaster, who is also the school's Prevent Officer. In the absence of Mr Driver, safeguarding concerns should be referred to the DDSLs as follows: Mrs Hart, Mrs Foulger, Mrs Homer, Mrs Pauley, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Robson, Mr Shepherd, Mrs Fowler, Mrs O'Neill or Miss Kerslake.

Safeguarding concerns for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), should be referred to Mrs Emma Hanley, Director of Child Health and Welfare, in the first instance. If Mrs Hanley is not available, then safeguarding concerns should be referred to Mr Driver, Headmaster. If the DSL and Head are not available, then staff should refer the concern to another DDSL.



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The DSL and DDSs receive updated child protection training every two years. All training will be in line with the local requirements and will include local inter-agency working protocols and training in Prevent duties.

The DSL is aware of the requirement for children to have an Appropriate Adult in relation to ongoing enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.

The DSL is aware of the provisions relating to the role in KCSIE Sept 2024 – Annex C

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies are named in Appendix 1.

Where a pupil leaves the School, including for in-year transfers, the DSL will also ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school (separately from the main pupil file) as soon as possible and within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term. The DSL will ensure secure transit and obtain confirmation of receipt. In addition to the child protection file, the DSL should also consider if it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new school in advance of a child leaving to help them put in place the right support to safeguard this child and to help the child thrive in the school.

Access to the school's records on Child Protection is restricted to the Head, the DSL and other DDSs.

20 EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

The DSL with the lead responsibility for safeguarding is Mrs Emma Hanley, Head of EYFS.

The DSL with the lead responsibility for the EYFS recognises that specific guidance for staff that teach in the EYFS is required. All EYFS staff are made aware of the school's safeguarding policy and procedures and regular staff training enables staff to identify signs of abuse and respond in a timely and appropriate way.

Ofsted will be informed of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person working or looking after children on the school premises (whether that allegation relates to harm or abuse committed on the school premises or elsewhere), or any other abuse which is alleged to have taken place on the premises and of the action taken in respect of these allegations.

These notifications will be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days of the allegations being made. The school understands that as a registered provider who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with this requirement, commits an offence.

The school has very specific guidelines on the use of mobile phones or any other electronic devices with imaging and sharing devices in the school. Staff are not permitted to use their mobile phone or any other electronic devices with imaging and sharing devices while in the presence of children nor



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are they permitted to take photographs of children with their mobile phones. Only school cameras may be used for that purpose.

In line with current EYFS statutory requirements at least one member of staff, on our premises, will hold an up to date paediatric first aid certificate when children are present. We also ensure that at least one member of staff present on all school trips holds an appropriate paediatric first aid certificate.

All EYFS staff who are Level 2 and/or Level 3 qualified since June 2016 will hold a valid paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate. Certificates are made available to parents if requested.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Mobile Phone Policy.*
- *Please refer to the First Aid Policy*
- *Please refer to the separate document: Policy on Taking, Storing and Using Images of Children.*

21 SAFER RECRUITMENT

The school is committed to ensuring all appropriate safer recruitment checks and procedures are applied to any member of staff employed by the school before they begin their employment. This will include any staff employed by another organisation and working with the school's children in school or on any other site.

All potential candidates are made aware that references will be taken up prior to appointment and that it is an offence to apply for any post if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity with children. All applicants will also be referred to the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which can be located on the school's website.

All candidates will be made aware that we will consider carrying out an online search on shortlisted candidates to help identify any incidents or issues that are publicly available online. Shortlisted candidates will be informed that we will carry out these checks as part of our due diligence process.

All members of staff will be supervised at all times until all Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks have been completed.

All new teaching staff will be Prohibition from Teaching checked.

All staff appointed to a management position from 12 August 2015 will be subject to a Prohibition from Management Check. This applies to internal appointments as well as external appointments.

All necessary staff details and recruitment checks will be entered onto the school's Single Central Record (SCR) and will be reviewed regularly by the school's senior management team, including the Proprietorial Body, Head and Chair of Governors.

Visiting speakers, whether invited by staff or by the school's pupils themselves, shall be suitably and appropriately supervised at all times whilst on the school premises (*Prevent*). Checks on visiting speakers will include obtaining approval by the Head, with a clear understanding of why the speaker has been chosen. The school will also conduct appropriate checks on the suitability of the person, which may include internet searches and/or contacting other schools where the person may have



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spoken previously. A Visiting Speaker Risk Assessment and Agreement will be completed and received prior to the visitor being onsite.

Members of the Senior Management Team and the HR Manager have completed a course on Safer Recruitment. At least 1 person conducting any interview for any post at the school will have undertaken safer recruitment training.

21.1 Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006

The school will not knowingly employ people to work in the setting or be directly concerned with its management if they themselves are directly disqualified from childcare.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Safer Recruitment Policy.*

22 TRAINING

22.1 Induction Training

Every new member of staff receives induction training on their responsibilities to be alert to the signs of abuse, neglect, exploitation and bullying. They will be informed of the names of the DSL and DDSLs to whom any safeguarding concerns should be referred. They will also receive induction training on the procedures for recording and referring any safeguarding concerns to the DSL and/or DDSLs.

During induction, new employees will be given copies of the following:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1 and Annex: Further Information (September 2024).
- The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (including online and offline safety and Children who are absent from Education and the names of the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and the DDSLs).
- The school's Code of Conduct for Staff.
- The school's Whistleblowing Policy.
- The school's Behaviour, Sanctions and Rewards Policy
- Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use of Technology Policy
- Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- Health and Safety
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy – Staff are allowed to bring their personal phones to school for their own use but must limit such use to non-contact time when pupils are not present. Staff understand they must not take pictures or recordings of pupils on their personal phones or cameras.

22.2 Training for the Heads, the DSL and DDSLs

The Head, the DSL, DDSLs and the Chair of Governors attend refresher training in safeguarding and child protection and Prevent awareness training every two years (as determined by the MKTP), covering the following areas:

- The assessment process for providing early help and intervention.
- The MKTP practices for child protection case conferences and child protection review



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conferences and how to contribute effectively to these.

- Inter-agency working practices.
- How to support children in need or at risk.
- Online and offline safety, including an understanding of the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place.
- Identifying children at risk of radicalisation (prevent)
- Record keeping protocols.
- Continuing to ensure that the school culture is one based on listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings.
- Understanding the impact on a child of adversity and trauma and how to promote educational outcomes in response to it.

As the local authority develops its services to support the Prevent Duty, it is anticipated that the DSL and DDSs will undergo higher levels of training on how to be able to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including being drawn into support for extremist views.

The DSL and DDSs are given copies of KCSIE (September 2024) including Annex: Further Information, Annex C: Role of the Designated Lead.

The Head will ensure that the DSL and DDSs are given sufficient time, funding and supervision to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities effectively.

22.3 Staff Training

All members of staff, including part time, regular contractors and visitors, receive annual safeguarding training, prevent and on-line safety awareness training annually in order to:

- Develop their understanding of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Recognise the differences between a safeguarding concern and a child who is at risk of immediate harm.
- Understand online safety, including an understanding of the expectations, roles and responsibilities for staff around filtering and monitoring.
- Recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse at the earliest opportunity. This includes:
 - Significant changes in a child's behaviour.
 - Signs of deterioration in a child's well-being.
 - Unexplained bruising, marks or other sign of possible abuse, neglect and exploitation.
 - Parent comments which may give cause for concern.
- Any reasons to suspect abuse, neglect and exploitation outside the school setting, for example, the child's home.
- Understanding the particular vulnerabilities of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) who are at risk of greater harm.
- Child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Inappropriate behaviour displayed by staff or other persons working with children, for example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond that which would be expected in the role or sharing of inappropriate images.
- To not promise confidentiality, to listen, to be non-judgemental, not lead, takes notes and report to the DSL or one of the DDSs.



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- Identify children who may be at risk of being exposed to extremism, how to challenge extremist ideas and how to refer children for further help.

A Training Register is maintained which records the Basic Safeguarding Training, Prevent and On-Line Safety awareness training provided to staff.

Each time KCSIE is updated, staff will receive the updated version, to read and keep, along with Annex: Further Information.

Staff who have English as a foreign language may be provided with Annex A, the condensed version of Part 1.

The school will follow advice from the MKTP with regard to determining the most appropriate level and focus for safeguarding training for staff.

Staff are also made aware of guidance to ensure that their behaviour and actions do not place children or themselves at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to a child (for example, in one-to-one tuition, sports coaching, conveying a child by car, engaging in inappropriate electronic communication with a child, and so on).

Staff will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including on online safety, as required but at least annually (for example, through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

The school considers the above training schedule to be of adequate frequency. However, the school will consult regularly with MKTP to determine the most appropriate schedule for training and will review annually, the level and focus of training required.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Code of Conduct for Staff.*

The Head will ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep safe children who are looked after by a local authority. This will include ensuring the appropriate staff have up to date assessment information from the relevant local authority, the most recent care plan and contact arrangements with parents, and delegated authority to carers, and information available to the DSL and DDSs.

The school will ensure that all staff working with children will have regular reviews of their own practice (*Annual Supervision Meetings/Performance Reviews*) and have opportunities to discuss any concerns they may have about safeguarding matters. This will include the personal and professional duty to report welfare and safeguarding concerns to the Headmaster and/or the DSL in the school, or, in their absence, directly to MKTP.

The school will ensure that all staff receive copies of the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy when updated. Staff who do not have a clear understanding of the most recent version of KCSIE should seek further guidance from the Head who will in turn inform the DSL and have the member of staff re-train in the necessary areas.



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23 REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND THE MANAGEMENT OF SAFEGUARDING

The Proprietorial Body is responsible for ensuring that the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures are reviewed annually. The review will ensure that the policy is up-to-date with any guidance and advice provided by the Independent Schools Standards Regulations, statutory regulations and MKTP policy and procedures and will consider the efficiency with which the child protection duties have been discharged.

The review will include the contribution to inter-agency working through effective communication and good cooperation with local agencies in line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (December 2023) and KCSIE (September 2024). The review will be carried out in conjunction with the nominated Safeguarding Governor.

The Proprietorial Body understands that responsibility for the annual review cannot be delegated. However, the Proprietorial Body may make appropriate arrangements for the review to be carried out by suitable others. The review will then be reported to the Proprietorial Body, the Head and the Chair of Governors.

The implementation of these policy provisions will be checked through discussion with the Proprietorial Body, the Head and the DSL and by scrutiny of the minutes of Governor meetings and available evidence underpinning the review. The review will also take into account, but is not limited to:

- Any written report or information presented to Governors to support the review.
- Training records.
- Referral information in respect of requests for help and support for individual children.
- Issues and themes which may have emerged in school and how these have been handled.
- The contribution the school is making to multi-agency working in individual cases.
- Local discussions on safeguarding matters.

Information will be sufficiently detailed to demonstrate both breadth and depth of the review.

The Proprietorial Body and the Chair of Governors are responsible for overseeing the annual review and implementation of Safeguarding and Child Protection matters. They will carry out regular monitoring checks on safeguarding procedures and known practice amongst different cross sections of staff within the school to ensure that staff know who to go to in the case of suspected abuse and what they might do in terms of communicating with a child in this context.

Each time the Safeguarding/Prevent Duty Governor visits the school for this purpose, the findings will be recorded in written format and retained in the Safeguarding and Child Protection file.

The Proprietorial Body and the Chair of Governors are also responsible for:

- Approving amendments to safeguarding and child protection procedures in the light of changing regulations or recommended best practice.
- Ensuring safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant



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aspects of process and policy development. Ensure all policies operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

- Review the child protection and safeguarding policy, including online safety, annually and ensure the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly
 - Ensuring children are taught on 'how to keep themselves and others safe'.
 - Ensuring the DSL has the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post, including taking lead responsibility for understanding the filtering and monitoring of systems in place as part of their role.
 - Ensuring that any identified deficiencies or weaknesses in safeguarding and child protection procedures are immediately remedied.
 - Ensuring the school works with the LADO to determine whether there are any improvements to be made to the school's procedures or practice following a substantiated allegation against a member of staff.
 - Ensuring the school's commitment to report promptly to the DBS any person (whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or student) whose services are no longer used because they are considered unsuitable to work with children. Ceasing to use a person's services includes: dismissal; non-renewal of a fixed-term contract; no longer engaging or refusing to engage a supply teacher provided by an employment agency; terminating the placement of a student teacher or other trainee; no longer using staff employed by contractors; no longer using volunteers; resignation and voluntary withdrawal from supply teaching, contract working, a course of initial teacher training or volunteering.
 - The school will fully take the lead while keeping supply agencies fully informed and involved. In no circumstances will the school simply cease to use supply staff for safeguarding reasons.
 - Ensuring staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
 - Creating an environment where staff feel supported in their safeguarding role and able to raise concerns.
 - Ensuring 'practitioners' (such as those who work directly with children) have regular reviews of their own practice so that they have knowledge, skills and experience which improve over time.
 - Ensuring all governors receive regular, appropriate, safeguarding and child protection (including online and offline) training.
-
- Ensuring all staff undergo 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. Ensuring that such training is regularly updated and in line with advice from the safeguarding partners.
 - Ensure the effectiveness of the school's online filters and monitoring systems in place, ensuring the leadership team and staff have an awareness and understanding of the provisions in place, including their expectations, roles and responsibilities and manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns when identified.
 - Ensuring online and offline safety is a running and interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing the whole school approach to safeguarding and related policies and procedures.
 - Ensuring regular contact with parents/carers is kept regarding the importance of children



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being safe online and offline.

- Ensuring the review (at least annually) of the DfE's filtering and monitoring standards, and discuss this with IT staff and service providers about what needs to be done to support the school to meet these standards.
- Ensuring all governors are aware of all provisions of KCSIE (September 2024) Annex C
- Ensuring all governors are aware of their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 (*in particular subjection to harassment, violence and/or abuse, including of a sexual nature*), the Equality Act 2010 (*supporting the pupils with regard to particular protected characteristics, given the need to not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of any protected characteristic*) and their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The Proprietorial Body and the Chair of Governors understand that:

- Failure to make a report constitutes an offence and as a consequence could lead to the school being removed from the register of independent schools.
- 'Compromise agreements' cannot apply in this connection.
- The legal duty to respond to requests from the DBS for information that the school already holds and that the school does not have to find it from other sources.

The school will follow appropriate regulations for all peripatetic teaching staff and shall ensure the necessary safeguarding checks, as detailed in the most recent Independent School Standards Regulations are actioned.

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APPENDIX 1 CONTACTS

SCHOOL CONTACTS

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and DSL for EYFS:**
 - Mrs Emma Hanley - Tel: 01908 642111 or email ehanley@mkps.co.uk.
- **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs):**
 - Mr Simon Driver - Tel: 01908 642111 (sdriver@mkps.co.uk)
 - Mrs Katherine Foulger - Tel: 01908 642111 (kfoulger@mkps.co.uk)
 - Mrs Sam Pauley - Tel: 01908 642111 (spauley@mkps.co.uk)



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- Mrs Lucy Homer - Tel: 01908 642111 (lhomer@mkps.co.uk)
- Mrs Louise Hart - Tel: 01908 642111 (lhart@mkps.co.uk)
- Mrs Nicola Wilson – Tel: 01908 642111 (nwilson@mkps.co.uk)
- Mrs Sam Robson - Tel: 01908 642111 (srobson@mkps.co.uk)
- Mr Matthew Shepherd - Tel: 01908 642111 (mshepherd@mkps.co.uk)
- Miss Natalie Fowler - Tel: 01908 642111 (nfowler@mkps.co.uk)
- Mrs Catherine O'Neill – Tel: 01908 642111 (coneill@mkps.co.uk)
- Miss Laura Kerslake – Tel: 01908 642111 (lkerslake@mkps.co.uk)
- **Proprietorial Body:**
 - Mr Simon Driver, (CHAIR) Milton Keynes Preparatory School, Tattenhoe Lane, Milton Keynes, MK3 7EG. Tel: 01908 642111
 - Mrs Hilary Pauley, Milton Keynes Preparatory School, Tattenhoe Lane, Milton Keynes, MK3 7EG. Tel: 01908 642111
- **Chair of Governors and nominated Safeguarding and Prevent Governor:**
 - Mr David Pye, c/o Milton Keynes Preparatory School, Tattenhoe Lane, Milton Keynes MK3 7EG. Any correspondence should be marked as Strictly Confidential. Tel: 01908 642111.
- **Prevent Officer:**
 - Mr Simon Driver - Tel: 01908 642111 or email sdriver@mkps.co.uk
- **Mental Health First Aid Trained Staff:**
 - Mrs Emma Hanley - Tel: 01908 642111 or email ehanley@mkps.co.uk
 - Mrs Katherine Foulger - Tel: 01908 642111 (kfoulger@mkps.co.uk)
 - Mrs Lucy Homer - Tel: 01908 642111 (lhomer@mkps.co.uk)

INTER-AGENCY CONTACTS

Milton Keynes Council
MK Together Partnership

01908 691691
01908 253169/253170
mktogether@milton-keynes.gov.uk
01908 253169/70
01908 265545
children@milton-keynes.gov.uk
01908 254300
jo.clifford@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
Emergency Social Work Team (out of office hours)

LADO: Jo Clifford

If the LADO is not available, refer to Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01908 253169/253170.

For further guidance please see the Milton Keynes local safeguarding partner MK Together Partnership (MKTP) website: www.mktogether.co.uk

OTHER CONTACTS

DBS Barring (DBS), PO Box 3963, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 4HH.
Internet Watch Foundation
Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD
Ofsted

03000 200 190
www.iwf.org.uk
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
0300 123 1231



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NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000
NSPCC 18 or under	0800 1111
NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line	0800 800 5000
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection)	0800 1111
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, 33 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 2W	
CEOP's Thinkuknow website	www.thinkuknow.co.uk
Teacher Regulation Agency	0370 000 2288
The UK Safer Internet Centre	www.saferinternet.org.uk
LGFL Undressed	https://undressed.lgfl.net
Forced Marriage Unit	020 7008 0151 or fmu@fco.gov.uk

The Prevent Duty:

DfE Non-emergency advice for staff and governors 020 7340 7264
For local advice: preventreferrals@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
counter.extremism@education.gov.uk
Contact local police force on 0845 8505 505 or dial 101 (the non-emergency telephone number)

APPENDIX 2 INDICATORS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION

All school and college staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and exploitation and safeguarding



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issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

ABUSE: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse, neglect and exploitation a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children. Exploitation can include instances where a child or young person may be groomed to become involved in sexual or criminal activity.

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

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

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

NEGLECT: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy, for example, as a result of maternal substance abuse.

Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing



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

GENERAL SIGNS OF ABUSE:

Abused children may be afraid to tell anybody about the abuse. They may struggle with feelings of guilt, shame or confusion, particularly if the abuser is a parent, caregiver or other close family member or friend. Anyone working with children needs to be vigilant to the signs listed below.

Whilst these signs do not necessarily mean that a child is being abused, they probably indicate that the child or family is having some problems that should be investigated.

- Regularly experiencing nightmares or sleeping problems.
- Changes in personality.
- Outbursts of anger.
- Changes in eating habits.
- Showing an inexplicable fear of particular places or making excuses to avoid particular people.
- Self-harming (includes Head banging, scratching, cutting).
- Not receiving adequate medical attention after injuries.
- Showing violence to animals, toys, peers or adults.
- Knowledge of 'adult issues' e.g. alcohol, drugs, sexual behaviour.
- Lacking in confidence or often wary/anxious.
- Regressing to the behaviour of younger children.
- Regular flinching in response to sudden but harmless actions, e.g. someone raising a hand quickly.

Whether or not a child's behaviour or appearance is concerning depends on their age or stage of development.

All staff should be aware that children with learning difficulties and/or special educational needs and/or physical disabilities may be particularly vulnerable to abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The school will refer to MKTP's guidance on 'Levels of Need' and also refer to guidance and practical support found in KCSIE (September 2024), including advice on Children who are absent from Education, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Preventing Radicalisation.



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APPENDIX 3 WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

For support on specific mental health needs:

Anxiety UK www.anxietyuk.org.uk

OCD UK www.ocduk.org

Depression Alliance www.depressoinalliance.org

Eating Disorders www.b-eat.co.uk and www.inourhands.com

National Self-Harm Network www.nshn.co.uk www.selfharm.co.uk

Suicidal thoughts Prevention of young suicide UK – PAPYRUS: www.papyrus-uk.org

For general information and support

www.youngminds.org.uk champions young people's mental health and wellbeing www.mind.org.uk
advice and support on mental health problems

www.minded.org.uk (e-learning)

www.time-to-change.org.uk tackles the stigma of mental health

www.rethink.org challenges attitudes towards mental health



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APPENDIX 4 DSL JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Location	Milton Keynes Preparatory School, Tattenhoe Lane, Milton Keynes, MK3 7EG

Role Summary	<p>The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the first point of contact for any member of the school staff who has a concern about the safety and well-being of a pupil.</p> <p>The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), has the status and authority within our school leadership structure to carry out the duties of the post including committing resources and, where appropriate, supporting and directing other staff.</p> <p>The DSL will provide support to staff members to carry out their safeguarding duties and will liaise closely with other services such as children's social care.</p>
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Role of the DSL	<p>KCSIE: (Sept 24): Annex C (Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead) summarises the main areas of responsibility of the safeguarding lead. These include duties of managing referrals, raising awareness, information sharing, providing support to staff and training, as explained below. The Headteacher ensures that the DSL has the appropriate status, authority, time, funding, training, supervision, resources and support to fulfil their child welfare and safeguarding responsibilities effectively and to provide direction and advice to staff on child protection matters.</p> <p>The Designated Safeguarding Lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online and offline safety). This should be explicit in the post holder's job description. This person should have the appropriate status and authority within the School to carry out the duties of the post. They should be given the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters, to take part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings – and/or to support other staff to do so – and to contribute to the assessment of children.</p> <p>If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to children's social care immediately although we recognise that anybody can make a referral.</p> <p>The DSL should undergo child protection training every two years.</p> <p>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) will receive the same training, to the same standard, as the DSL and will be given the time, status and authority to be responsible for such matters to deputise for the Designated Safeguarding Lead where appropriate.</p>
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Whilst the activities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for child protection, as set out above, remains with the Designated Safeguarding Lead; this lead responsibility should not be delegated.

<p>Key Responsibilities</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of Milton Keynes Preparatory School to ensure that there is a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example, through locally agreed assessment processes; • have a working knowledge of how the MASH conducts child protection case conferences and case review conferences, and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively; • ensure that each member of staff has access to and understands the school's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part-time staff; • be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and young carers; • be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals; • obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses and • encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school or college may put in place to protect them; • notify parents/guardians/carers of our concerns, and provide them with opportunities to change the situation, where this does not place the child at greater risk having sought advice from the local authority; • act as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff and volunteers and families within the school; • ensure all staff have a minimum of level one child protection and where appropriate, level two; • attend refresher training every two years including inter-agency training and provide refresher training every three years so that staff can fulfil their child protection responsibilities effectively and to comply with the requirements set out in 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education' guidance along with any subsequent directives and guidance); • ensure that all staff and volunteers be given a statement (either written or electronically) on the school's policy and procedures and that they understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns first verbally, and then in writing, to the designated safeguarding lead responsible for child safeguarding; • ensure that referrals, where appropriate, are made to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within 24 hours of receiving an allegation; • ensure that copies of child protection records and/or records of concern are transferred accordingly (separate from pupil files) when a child leaves the
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school and that a written receipt is obtained;



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- ensure that, where a pupil on a child protection plan, or is a child looked after, leaves the school, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's Social Worker is informed;
- ensure that, where there are deficiencies or weaknesses recognised in arrangements or procedures, these are remedied immediately and without delay.

Managing Referrals

It is the responsibility of the DSL or the alternate, in their absence, to refer all cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care as required and:

- Support staff who make referrals to the local authority children's social care
- Refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required
- Support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme.
- Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required
- Refer cases where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required.

Work with Others

It is the responsibility of the DSL to

- Liaise with the Head/Principal to inform them of issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations. This should include being aware of the requirement for children to have an Appropriate Adult.
- As required, liaise with the 'case manager' and the designated officer(s) at the local authority for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member.
- Liaise with staff (especially pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians and SENDCOs) on matters of safety and safeguarding (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral with relevant agencies.
- Liaise with the mental health support team where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health
- Promote supportive engagement with Parents and Carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances
- Know those children with a social worker and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort and;
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff.



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Information Sharing and Managing Child Protection Files	<p>The DSL is responsible for ensuring that child protection files are kept up to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information should be kept confidential and kept securely. • It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate child protection file for each child. • Records should include a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern, details of how it was followed up and resolved, a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome. • Where children leave the School (including in-year transfers) the DSL should ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school as soon as possible and within 5 days for an in year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term. • This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. • In addition to the child protection file, the DSL should also consider if it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new school in advance of a child leaving to help them put in place the right support to safeguard this child and to help the child thrive.
Training	<p>The Designated Safeguarding Lead (and any deputies) should undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training should be updated at least every two years.</p> <p>The Designated Safeguarding Lead should undertake Prevent awareness training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the formal training set out above, their knowledge and skills should be refreshed (this might be via e-bulletins, meeting other designated safeguarding leads, or simply taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals, as required, but at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role so they: • Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, including local criteria for action and local referral arrangements • Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so • Understand the importance of the role the DSL has in providing information and support to children social care in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children ▪ Understand the lasting impact that trauma and adversity can have, including on children's behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, and what is needed in responding to this in promoting educational outcomes • Are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers • Understand the importance of information sharing, both within the School and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners <p>Understand and support the School with regard to the requirements of the</p>



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	<p>Prevent duty and are able to provide advice on and support to staff in protecting children from the risk of radicalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the unique risks associated with online and offline safety and are confident they have the relevant up to date knowledge to keep children safe • Can recognise the additional risks that children with SEN face online, for example from online bullying, grooming and radicalization • Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses and; • Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the School may put in place to protect them.
Providing Support to Staff	<p>Training should support the DSL in developing expertise, so they can support and advise staff and help them to feel confident on welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters. This includes specifically to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that staff are supported during the referrals processes and; • support staff to consider how safeguarding welfare and educational outcomes are linked, including to inform the provision of academic and pastoral support.
Understanding the views of the Children	<p>It is important that all children feel heard and understood. Therefore, DSLs (and deputies) should be supported in developing knowledge and skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feeling, among all staff, and in any measures the School may put in place to protect them, and; • understand the difficulties that children may have in approaching staff about their circumstances and consider how to build trusted relationships which facilitate communication.
Raising Awareness	<p>The Designated Safeguarding Lead should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the School's child protection policies are known, understood and used appropriately by staff • Ensure the School's Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies or Proprietorial Body regarding this • Ensure the School's Safeguarding Policy is available publicly and Parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation may be made and the role of the School in this • Link with the local Safeguarding Partnerships to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding • Promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children who have or have had a social worker are experiencing with teachers and School leadership staff



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Holding and Sharing Information	<p>The Designated Safeguarding Lead should be equipped to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the importance of information sharing, both within the School, and with other schools and colleges on transfer including in-year and between primary and secondary education, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners• Understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)• Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals and understand the purpose of this record- keeping.
Availability	<p>During term time the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should always be available (during school hours) for staff in the school to discuss any safeguarding concerns.</p> <p>Whilst the designated safeguarding lead (or deputies) would be expected to be available in person, under exceptional circumstances, the DSL (or deputies) should be available via phone and other such media when possible.</p>