

**Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
including Appendix 3 Allegations about a member
of staff, governor or volunteer (including low-level
concerns) policy
September 2024**

St Laurence Church Infant School



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Ratified by the Governing Body:

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*“For I know the plans I have for
you, says the Lord. Plans to
prosper you and not to harm
you.” Jeremiah 29:11*

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy for Schools, Education Settings & Education Services

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Part One: Safeguarding Policy	Description
<p>1.0 Introduction</p> <p>Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting children from maltreatment • preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development • ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care • taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes <p>Children includes everyone under the age of 18.</p> <p>Please note that this policy and the statutory guidance behind it will now also be applicable to government funded post 16 Education; 16-19 Academies, Special Post-16 institutions and Independent Training Providers, who are now required to have regard to KCSiE following the enactment of The Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021.</p> <p>KCSiE now states that 'college' includes providers of post 16 Education as set out in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (as amended): 16-19 Academies, Special Post-16 institutions and Independent Training Providers.</p> <p>Please refer to KCSiE Part One</p> <p>Safeguarding information for all staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What school and college staff should know and do - A child centred and coordinated approach to safeguarding 	<p><i>This means that our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. We believe that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Our pupils have the right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect</i> • <i>Our pupils have the right to experience their optimum mental and physical health</i> • <i>Every child has the right to an education and pupils need to be safe and to feel safe in school</i> • <i>pupils need support that matches their individual needs, including those who may have experienced abuse</i> • <i>Our pupils have the right to express their views, feelings and wishes and voice their own values and beliefs</i> • <i>Our pupils should be encouraged to respect each other's values and support each other</i> • <i>Our pupils have the right to be supported to meet their emotional, social and mental health needs as well as their educational needs. Our school will ensure clear systems and processes are in place to enable identification of these needs. Including consideration of when mental health needs may become a safeguarding need.</i> • <i>Our school will contribute to the prevention of abuse, risk/involvement in serious violent crime, victimisation, bullying (including homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and cyber bullying), exploitation, extreme behaviours, discriminatory views and risk-taking behaviours</i> <p><i>All staff and visitors have an important role to play in safeguarding pupils and protecting them from abuse and considering when mental health may become a safeguarding issue.</i></p>

Schools will fulfil their local and national responsibilities as laid out in the following documents:

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE)**
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education**
- **West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures**
- **The Education Act 2002 S175**
- **[Data protection: The Data Protection Act - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)**
- **Mental Health & Behaviour in Schools**
- **Birmingham Criminal Exploitation & Gang Affiliation Practice Guidance (2018)**
- **Right Help, Right Time - Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (lscpbirmingham.org.uk)**
- **Multi-agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation**
- **Protecting children from radicalisation: the prevent duty 2021**
- **Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education**
- **Birmingham RSE Primary Offer**
- **Searching, screening and confiscation at school - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**
- **Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people**
- **Voyeurism Offences Act 2019**
- **[Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)**
- **Human Rights Act 1998**
- **Government publication equality act 2010 advice for schools**

In our school the following people will take the lead in these areas:

Our Data Protection officer is:
Jo Oughton

Our Rights Respecting link is:
Laura Sidoli

Our lead for Mental Health is:
Catherine Smith

Our Safeguarding governor is:
Moez Somani

Our Operation Encompass Key Adult is:
Catherine Smith

Part One: Safeguarding Policy	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> • <u>Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> • <u>Safeguarding disabled children - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> • <u>Keeping children safe during community activities, after-school clubs and tuition: non-statutory guidance for providers running out-of-school settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> • <u>Searching, screening and confiscation at school - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> • <u>Public sector equality duty guidance schools</u> • <u>Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage and multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of forced marriage (accessible version) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> 	

2.0 Overall aims

This policy will contribute to the protection and safeguarding of our **pupils** and promote their welfare by:

- Adopting a Whole school and college approach to safeguarding
- Making clear the need for ensuring that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development in schools and colleges
- Clarifying standards of behaviour for staff and **pupils**
- Contributing to the establishment of a safe, resilient and robust ethos in the school, built on mutual respect and shared values
- Introducing appropriate work within the curriculum
- Encouraging **pupils** and parents to participate
- Alerting staff to the signs and indicators that all may not be well
- Developing staff awareness of the causes of abuse
- Developing staff awareness of the risks and vulnerabilities their **pupils** face
- Addressing concerns at the earliest possible stage
- Reducing the potential risks **pupils** face of being exposed to multiple harms including violence, extremism, exploitation, discrimination or victimisation
- Recognising risk and supporting online safety for pupils in school and in the home

This means that in our school we will:

- *Identify and protect all pupils especially those identified as vulnerable **pupils***
- *Identify individual needs as early as possible; gain the voice and lived experience of vulnerable **pupils** and design plans to address those needs*
- *Work in partnership with **pupils**, parents/carers and other agencies*

*Our policy extends to any establishment our school commissions to deliver education to our **pupils** on our behalf including alternative provision settings.*

*Our **Governing Body** will ensure that any commissioned agency will reflect the values, philosophy and standards of our school. Confirmation should be sought from the school that appropriate risk assessments are completed, and ongoing monitoring is undertaken.*

3.0 Guiding Principles

These are the eight guiding principles of safeguarding, as stated by Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership Right Help Right Time:

- Provide effective help and support as early as possible
- Have conversations and listen to children and their families as early as possible
- Understand the child's lived experience
- Work collaboratively to improve children's life experience
- Be open, honest and transparent with families in our approach
- Empower families by working with them
- Work in a way that builds on families' strengths
- Build resilience in families to overcome difficulties

This means that in our school all staff and Governors and proprietors will be aware of the guidance issued by Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership Right Help Right Time, and procedures for Early Help.

All staff will be enabled to listen and understand the lived experience of pupils / students by facilitating solution focused conversations appropriate to the child/young person's preferred communication style. This includes with non-verbal children, for whom appropriate strategies should be identified.

It also means that where early help is appropriate, the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will liaise with other agencies and complete an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. If required to, all staff will support other agencies and professionals in an Early Help Assessment (EHA), in some cases acting as the lead practitioner.

Early help cases will be kept under constant review, and if the child's situation does not improve/is getting worse, consideration will be given to a referral to children's social care for assessment for statutory services in order to escalate the child's case.

4.0 Expectations

All staff and visitors will:

- Be familiar with this Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Understand their role in relation to safeguarding
- Be alert to signs and indicators of possible abuse (See Appendix 1 for current definitions and indicators)
- Record concerns and give the record to the DSL or deputy DSL
- Deal with disclosures of abuse from children in line with the guidance in Appendix 2, informing the DSL immediately and providing a written account as soon as possible
- Be involved, where appropriate, in the implementation of individual school-focused interventions, Early Help Assessments and Our Family Plans, Child in Need Plans and inter-agency Child Protection Plans

This means that in our school:

All staff will receive annual safeguarding training and update briefings as appropriate.

Key staff will undertake more specialist safeguarding training as agreed by the governing body.

In recognition of the impact of COVID-19, additional disclosure training will be undertaken by all staff.

*Our **Governors** will be subjected to an enhanced DBS check and 'Section 128' check.*

We will follow Safer Recruitment processes and checks for all staff including online checks.

5.0 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- The DSL will be a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSL. This responsibility should not be delegated.
- DSLs should help promote educational outcomes by working closely with teachers about children's welfare, safeguarding and child protection concerns.
- Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that the DSL role is explicit in the post-holder's job description and appropriate time is made available to the DSL and deputy DSL(s) to allow them to undertake their duties.
- Safeguarding and child protection information will be dealt with in a confidential manner.
- The DSL will ensure that the school is clear on parental responsibility for children on roll, and report all identified private fostering arrangements to the local authority.
- Safeguarding records will be stored securely in a central place separate from academic records. Individual files will be kept for each **pupil**: the school will not keep family files. Files will be kept for at least the period during which the **pupil** is attending the school, and beyond that in line with current data legislation and guidance.
- If a **pupil** moves from your school, child protection and safeguarding records will be forwarded on to the DSL at the new school, with due regard to their confidential

This means the DSL team in our school will be:

*Lead: **Catherine Smith***

*Deputies: **Christie Allchurch, Charlotte Holmes***

Any steps taken to support a child/young person who has a safeguarding vulnerability must be reported to the lead DSL.

Staff will be informed of relevant details only when the DSL feels their having knowledge of a situation will improve their ability to support an individual child and/or family. A written record will be made of what information has been shared, with whom, and when.

*Because we use **My Concern** and store our records electronically we do not hold paper files.*

We will not disclose to a parent any information held on a child/young person if this would put the child at risk of significant harm

We will record where and to whom the records have been passed and the date.

*This will allow the new setting to continue supporting victims of abuse and have that support in place for when the **pupil** arrives.*

<p>6.0 Contextual Safeguarding</p> <p>Contextual safeguarding is about the impact of the public/social context on young people's lives, and consequently their safety. It seeks to identify and respond to harm and abuse posed to young people outside their home, either from adults or other young people. As an approach it looks at how interventions can change the processes and environments, to make them safer for all young people, as opposed to focussing on an individual.</p>	<p><i>DSLs will consider contextual safeguarding and give due regard to the effectiveness of the school safeguarding system within the wider system. This will be evidenced in:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Informal and formal assessments of need/ risk for the child</i> <i>• Case discussions in DSL supervision sessions</i>
<p>5.0 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DSL will be a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSL. This responsibility should not be delegated. DSLs should help promote educational outcomes by working closely with teachers about children's welfare, safeguarding and child protection concerns. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that the DSL role is explicit in the post-holder's job description and appropriate time is made available to the DSL and deputy DSL(s) to allow them to undertake their duties. <p>nature and in line with current government guidance on the transfer of such records.</p>	<p><i>This means the DSL team in our school will be:</i></p> <p><i>Lead: Catherine Smith</i></p> <p><i>Deputies: Christie Allchurch, Charlotte Holmes</i></p> <p><i>Any steps taken to support a child/ young person who has a safeguarding vulnerability must be reported to the lead DSL.</i></p> <p><i>Staff will be informed of relevant details only when the DSL feels their having knowledge of a situation will improve their ability to support an individual child and/or family. A written record will be made of what information has been shared, with whom, and when.</i></p>

7.0 Mental Health

KCSiE requires all staff to be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Mental health support

Additional information has been added to help schools prevent and tackle bullying and support pupils whose mental health problems manifest themselves in behaviour.

Department for Education (DfE) (2017) Preventing bullying.

Government publication preventing and tackling bullying

Department for Education (DfE) (2018) Mental health and behaviour in schools

Government publication mental health and behaviour in schools 2

Schools and colleges may choose to appoint a senior mental health lead, though this is not mandatory. The senior mental health lead should be supported by the senior leadership team and could be the pastoral lead, special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) or DSL.

In our school this means that:

- *All staff will be alert to signs of mental ill-health and be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation*
- *All staff will take immediate action and speak to a DSL if they have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern*
- *We take seriously our organisational and professional role in supporting and promoting mental health and wellbeing of children/young people through:*
 - ***Prevention:*** *creating a safe and calm environment where mental health problems are less likely, improving the mental health and wellbeing of the whole school population, and equipping pupils to be resilient so that they can manage the normal stress of life effectively. This will include teaching pupils about mental wellbeing through the curriculum and reinforcing this teaching through school activities and ethos;*
 - ***Identification:*** *recognising emerging issues as early and accurately as possible;*
 - ***Early support:*** *helping pupils to access evidence based early support and interventions; and*
 - ***Access to specialist support:*** *working effectively with external agencies to provide swift access or referrals to specialist support and treatment*

8.0 The Designated Teacher for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

- The governing body must appoint a designated teacher (in non-maintained schools and colleges an appropriately trained teacher should take the lead) and should work with local authorities to promote the educational achievement of registered pupils who are looked after.
- Designated teachers will have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of children/young people who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales.
- Birmingham Children's Trust has ongoing responsibilities to the young people who cease to be looked after and become care leavers. That includes keeping in touch with them, preparing an assessment of their needs and appointing a personal adviser who develops a pathway plan with the young person. This plan describes how Birmingham Children's Trust will support the care leaver to participate in education or training.

Promoting the educational outcomes of children with a social worker

Virtual school head role extension to children with a social worker - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- Children with a social worker may face barriers to education because of complex circumstances
- Effective support for children with a social worker needs education settings and local authorities to work together. All agencies can play a crucial role in establishing a culture where every child is able to make progress.
- Education settings and local authorities will have different responsibilities but establishing shared priorities can help to drive change for children.

Virtual school heads should identify and engage with key professionals such as designated Safeguarding Leads, social workers, headteachers, governors, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators, mental health leads, other local authority officers, including Designated Social Care Officers for SEND, where they exist. to help them to understand the role they have in improving outcomes for children.

*In our school the Designated Teacher is:
Name: **Christie Allchurch***

Our Designated Teacher will:

- *Work with the Virtual School to provide the most appropriate support utilising the pupil premium plus to ensure they meet the needs identified in the child's personal education plan.*
- *Work with the Virtual School headteacher to promote the educational achievement of previously looked after children.*
- *In non-maintained schools and colleges, an appropriately trained teacher should take the lead.*

Our school will work with partners to effectively identify the needs of children with a social worker and ensure they can access interventions that make a difference to their education

DSLs will keep the details of the Birmingham Children's Trust Personal Advisor appointed to guide and support the care leaver and will liaise with them as necessary regarding any issues of concern affecting the care leaver.

The Virtual School Head Teacher has non-statutory responsibility for the strategic oversight of the educational attendance, attainment and progress of children with a social worker

9.0 The Governing Body

Governing bodies and proprietors have strategic responsibility for the schools/colleges safeguarding arrangements and therefore should ensure that there are appropriate policies and procedures in place in order for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare:

- The school operates "Safer Recruitment" procedures and ensures that appropriate checks are carried out on all new staff and relevant volunteers (including members of the governing body)
- The **Head Teacher** and all other staff who work with **children** undertake safeguarding training on an annual basis with additional updates as necessary within a two-year framework and a training record maintained
- Temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the school's arrangements for safeguarding & child protection and their responsibilities
- The school remedies any deficiencies or weaknesses brought to its attention without delay
- All governors will be equipped at the point of induction with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to assure themselves that the schools safeguarding policy and procedures are effective and deliver a robust whole school approach to safeguarding
- The governing body has a written policy and procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff, visitors, volunteers or governors that complies with all BSCP procedures
- The Nominated Governor is responsible for liaising with the **Head Teacher** and DSL over all matters regarding safeguarding and child protection issues. The governor role is strategic rather than operational – they will not be involved in concerns about individual **pupils**

Governing bodies and proprietors should be aware of their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1988, the Equality Act 2010, (including the Public Sector Equality Duty), and their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

In our school this means that:

All governors must read and implement part 2 of 'KCSiE'

*Our nominated governor for safeguarding and child protection is:
Name: **Moez Somani***

This governor will receive safeguarding training relevant to the governance role and this will be updated every two years.

All our Governors will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction.

The governing body will review all policies/procedures that relate to safeguarding and child protection annually.

*A member of the governing body (usually the Chair) is nominated to be responsible for liaising with Birmingham Children's Trust – Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in the event of allegations of abuse being made against the **Head Teacher**.*

*The Nominated Governor will liaise with the **Head Teacher** and the DSL to produce a report at least annually for governors and ensure the annual Section 175 safeguarding self-assessment is completed and submitted on time.*

<p>10.0 Safer recruitment and selection</p> <p>The school should follow part 3 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSiE) and pay full regard to 'Safer Recruitment' requirements including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verifying candidates' identity and academic or vocational qualifications • online searches for short listed candidates • obtaining professional and character references • checking previous employment history and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job, • UK Right to Work • clear enhanced DBS check • any further checks as appropriate to gain all the relevant information to enable checks on suitability to work with children. <p>Evidence of these checks must be recorded on the Single Central Record.</p> <p>All recruitment materials will include reference to the school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of pupils.</p>	<p><i>This means that in our school:</i></p> <p><i>The following school staff have undertaken Safer Recruitment training:</i> 1 Catherine Smith 2 Jo Oughton</p> <p><i>The following members of the governing body have also been trained:</i> 1 Rick Hill</p> <p><i>One of these will be involved in all staff recruitment processes and sit on the recruitment panel.</i></p>
<p>10.1 Induction</p> <p>All staff, especially staff must be aware of systems within their setting which support safeguarding, and these should be explained to them as part of staff induction.</p> <p>10.2 Staff support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular safeguarding supervision will be offered to the Lead DSL within school • Usually offered half termly, safeguarding supervision may need to be offered more frequently and extended to other members of staff as deemed appropriate by the school. • DSLs will be supported to access training as appropriate including training in behaviour and mental health. • All DSLs will have access to the monthly Designated Safeguarding Lead case-consultation sessions organised by BCC's Education Safeguarding team. 	<p><i>Our staff induction process will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Safeguarding & Child Protection policy</i> • <i>The Behaviour Policy</i> • <i>The Staff Behaviour Policy (sometimes called a Code of Conduct)</i> • <i>Whistleblowing Policy</i> • <i>The safeguarding response to children who go missing from education</i> • <i>The role of the DSL (including the identity of the DSL and any deputies)</i> <p><i>Copies of policies and a copy of part one of KSCiE is provided to staff at induction.</i></p> <p><i>We recognise the importance of practice oversight and multiple perspectives in safeguarding and child protection work. We will support staff by providing opportunities for reflective practice including opportunity to talk through all aspects of safeguarding work within education with the DSL and to seek further support as appropriate.</i></p>

11.0 The use of reasonable force

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff in school to use reasonable force to safeguard children and young people. It is not illegal to touch a **child**.

The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involves a degree of physical contact to control or restrain **children**.

This can range from guiding a **child** to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a **child** needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.

'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'. The use of force may involve either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of the classroom.

Government advice for 'Use of Reasonable Force in Schools' is available [here](#).

This means in our school:

By planning positive and proactive behaviour support, the occurrence of challenging behaviour and the need to use reasonable force will reduce.

*We will write individual behaviour plans and/or risk assessments for our more vulnerable **pupils** and agree them with parents and carers.*

We will not have a 'no contact' policy as this could leave our staff unable to fully support and protect their pupils and students.

*When using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving **pupils** including any with SEN or disabilities, or with medical conditions, our staff will consider the risks carefully and have appropriate safety plans and risk assessments in place that are reviewed.*

12.0 The school's role in the prevention of abuse

This Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy cannot be separated from the general ethos of the school, which should ensure that **pupils**:

- are treated with respect and dignity
- are taught to treat each other with respect
- feel safe
- have a voice and are listened to

Safeguarding issues, including online safety, child on child- abuse, sexual harassment and extra familial harm (multiple harms) will be addressed through the curriculum in an age-appropriate way.

This means that in our school:

All staff will be made aware of our school's unauthorised absence and children missing from education procedures.

*We will provide opportunities for **pupils** to develop skills, concepts, attitudes and knowledge that promote their safety and well-being.*

All our policies which address issues of power and potential harm will be inter-linked to ensure a whole school approach.

We recognise the particular vulnerability of children who have a social worker.

13.0 What we will do when we are concerned – Early Help response

Where unmet needs have been identified for a **child** utilising the **Right Help Right Time** (RHRT) model but there is no evidence of a significant risk, the DSL will oversee the delivery of an appropriate Early Help response.

The child/young person's voice must remain paramount within a solution focused practice framework.

The primary assessment document is **the Early Help Assessment (EHA)**.

If a social care response is needed to meet an unmet safeguarding need, the DSL will initiate a Request for Support, **seeking advice from Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) as required.**

The DSL will then oversee the agreed intervention from school as part of the multi-agency safeguarding response and ongoing school-focused support.

*This means that in our school we will: implement **Right Help Right Time***

All staff will notice and listen to children and young people, sharing their concerns with the DSL in writing.

Safeguarding leads will assess, plan, do and review plans.

Senior leaders will analyse safeguarding data and practice to inform strategic planning and staff CDP.

The DSL will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up the Our Family Plan. This multi-agency plan will then be reviewed regularly, and progress updated towards the goals until the unmet safeguarding needs have been addressed.

In our school although any member of staff can refer a situation to CASS, it is expected that the majority are passed through the DSL team.

14.0 Safeguarding students who are susceptible to radicalisation

From 1st July 2015, all schools are subject to the Prevent Duty and must have 'due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism' (section 26, Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015)

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable/susceptible people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation.

Definitions of radicalisation, terrorism and extremism, and indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation are in *Appendix 4*.

This means that in our school:

We value freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs and ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values.

***pupils** and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate those who are vulnerable and/or susceptible or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued.*

Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

14.1 Risk reduction

The school governors, **Head Teacher** and the DSL will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the school's RE curriculum, SEND policy, assembly policy, the use of school premises by external agencies, integration of **pupils** by gender and SEN, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy. To this end, open source due diligence checks will be undertaken on all external speakers invited to our school. An example of this can be found [here](#):

The setting is required to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism: this will normally be the DSL. The responsibilities of the SPOC are described in Appendix 5

The school will monitor online activity within the school to ensure that inappropriate sites are not accessed by **pupils** or staff.

The school has a duty to cooperate with the Channel programme in the carrying out of its functions, and with the Police in providing information about an individual who is referred to Channel (Section 38, Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015).

14.2 Channel

Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It is led by the West Midlands Police Counter-Terrorism Unit, and it aims to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

Further guidance about duties relating to the risk of radicalisation is available in the Advice for Schools on [The Prevent Duty](#).

We are clear that exploitation and radicalisation must be viewed as a safeguarding concern and that protecting children from the risk of radicalisation from any group (including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right/Neo-Nazi/White Supremacist, Domestic Terrorism, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights or Environmental movements) is part of our school's safeguarding duty.

*The SPOC for our school is:
Name: **Catherine Smith***

*All staff within our school will be on alert to changes in a **child's** behaviour or attitude which could indicate that they are in need of help or protection.*

*We will use specialist online monitoring and filtering software, which in this school is called **Securus**. This will be monitored by the DSL. All staff are responsible for ensuring that **pupils** are not accessing inappropriate online materials.*

Our school will make referrals to Channel if we are concerned that an individual might be susceptible/vulnerable to radicalisation.

Our school has a "no platform" policy and a prevent risk assessment.

15.0 Pupils/students who are vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking, or so-called ‘honour-based’ abuse (including female genital mutilation and forced marriage)

With effect from October 2015, all schools are subject to a mandatory reporting requirement in respect of female genital mutilation (FGM). When a teacher suspects or discovers that an act of FGM is going to be or has been carried out on a girl aged 18 or under, that teacher has a statutory duty to report it to the Police.

Failure to report such cases will result in disciplinary action.

The teacher will also discuss the situation with the DSL who will consult Birmingham Children’s Trust before a decision is made as to whether the mandatory reporting duty applies.

As of February 2023 it is now illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to marry or enter into a civil partnership, even where violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used.

This means that in our school we ensure:

Our staff are supported to talk to families and local communities about sensitive concerns in relation to their children and to find ways to address them together wherever possible.

All staff are up to date on the latest advice and guidance provided to assist in addressing specific vulnerabilities and forms of exploitation around;

- *Forced marriage*
- *FGM*
- *Honour based abuse*
- *Trafficking*
- *Criminal exploitation and gang affiliation*

Our staff will be supported to recognise warning signs and symptoms in relation to each specific issue, and include such issues, in an age appropriate way, in their lesson plans.

The right to choose: government guidance on forced marriage - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

16.0 Children who are “absent from education”

A child going missing and/or patterns of unauthorised absence, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding risks, including abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation; child criminal exploitation; mental health problems; substance abuse and other issues. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risks and to help prevent the risk of them going missing in future.

Work around attendance and children missing from education will be coordinated with safeguarding interventions.

The school must notify the local authority of any pupil/student who has been absent without the school’s permission for a continuous period of 5 days or more after making reasonable enquiries

The school (regardless of designation) must also notify the local authority of any pupil/student who is to be deleted from the admission register under any of the prescribed regulations outlined in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2016 amendments

This means that in our school we will:

Hold two or more emergency contact numbers for each pupil.

Ensure all our attendance work liaises closely with the DSL.

*Adapt our attendance monitoring on an individual basis to ensure the safety of each **child** at our school*

*Demonstrate that we have taken reasonable enquiries to ascertain the whereabouts of **pupils** that would be considered ‘missing’.*

Work closely with the CME Team, School Admissions Service, Education Legal Intervention Team, Elective Home Education Team and Birmingham Children’s Trust.

17.0 Child on child abuse

The KCSiE guidance requires that additional information about child on child abuse should be included in schools' and colleges' child protection policies, including the statement which makes clear there should be a zero-tolerance approach to abuse,"

It is important that schools and colleges can recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers, and that this abuse can include bullying, physical abuse, sharing nudes and semi-nudes, initiation/hazing, upskirting, sexual violence and harassment.

Part 5 of KCSiE includes links that may be useful to schools when dealing with sexual violence and sexual harassment including when it occurs online.

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

The school's values, ethos and behaviour policies provide the platform for staff and students to clearly recognise that abuse is abuse and it should never be tolerated or diminished in significance. It should be recognised that there is a gendered nature to child on child abuse i.e. that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys' perpetrators.

Schools should recognise the impact of sexual violence and the fact **children** can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way. When referring to sexual violence this policy is referring to sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as described below:

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

This means that in our school:

All staff will receive training on child on child abuse.

We will adopt the 'whole school approach' to tackling sexism.

*We fully understand that even if there are no reports of child on child abuse in school it may be happening. As such all our staff and **children** are supported to:*

- *be alert to child on child abuse (including sexual harassment);*
- *understand how the school views and responds to child on child abuse*
- *stay safe and be confident that reports of such abuse will be taken seriously.*

We will ensure that children/young people have access to a trusted adult with whom they can be open within a safe space where they can share their concerns. We will help them to understand that the law on child on child abuse is there to protect them rather than criminalise them

We will not tolerate instances of child on child abuse and will not pass it off as "banter", or "part of growing up".

We will recognise that "child on child abuse" can occur between and across different age ranges.

*We will follow both national and local guidance and policies to support any **children** subject to child on child abuse.*

We will follow the guidance on managing reports of child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment in schools.

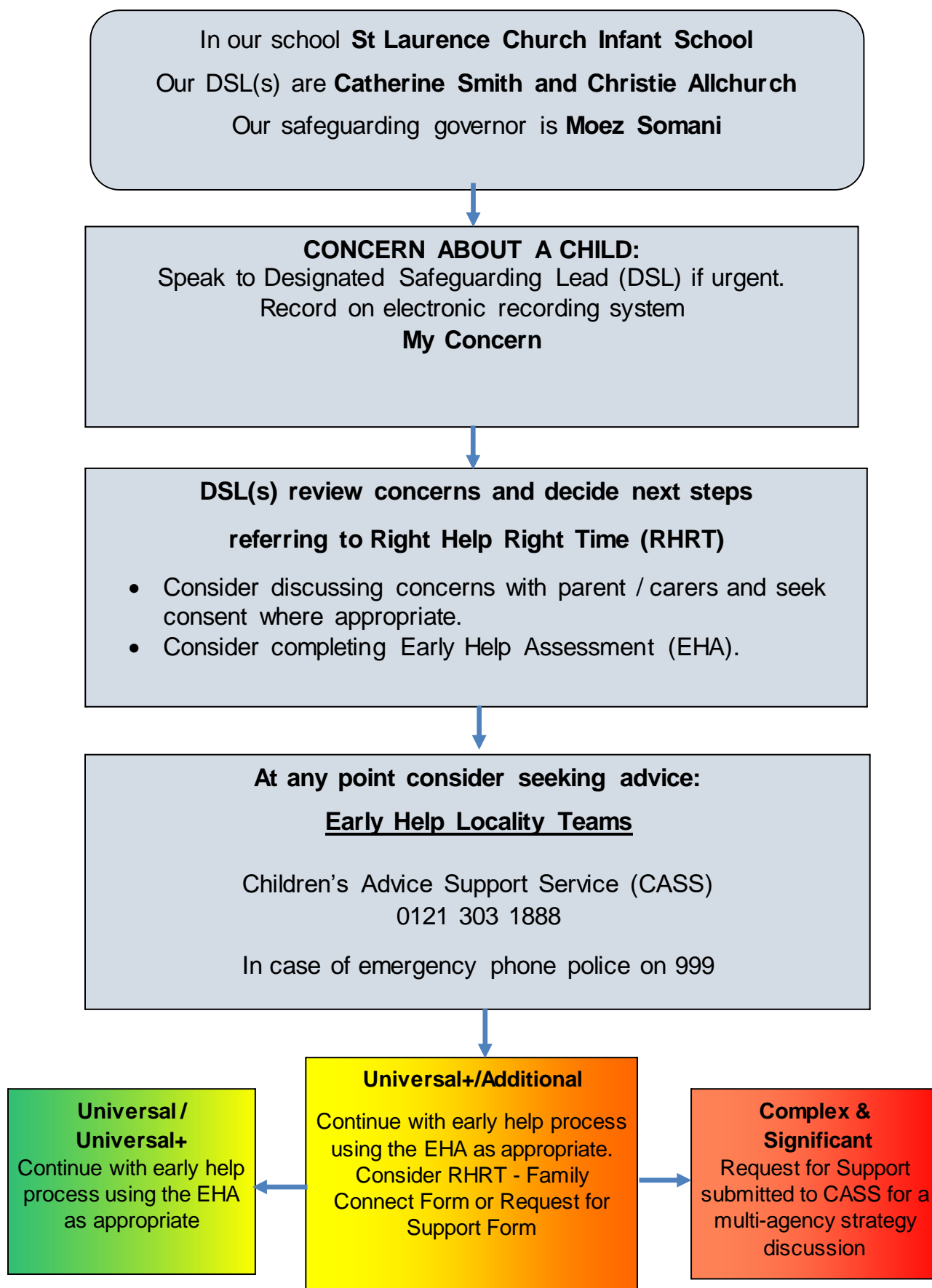
We will work with statutory safeguarding partners to implement local arrangements for Early Help Assessment and ensure our DSL is familiar with the process.

<p>anus or mouth of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, (B) does not consent to the penetration and (A) does not reasonably believe that (B) consents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual assault: A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, (B) does not consent to the touching and (A) does not reasonably believe that (B) consents. 	<p>We will utilise the <u>Children who pose a Risk to Children School Safety Plan</u> produced by the local authority.</p> <p>In assessing and responding to harmful sexualised behaviour, we will follow the local good practice guidance <u>Safeguarding-guidance/children who abuse others including child on child abuse harmful sexual behaviour</u> to enable provision of effective support to any child affected by this type of abuse.</p>
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<p>18.0 Criminal exploitation</p> <p>Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity.</p> <p>This means that in our school we will:</p> <p>Notice and listen to children/young people showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, use the risk assessment screening tool and government guidance to support our referrals to CASS for any children in our school we are concerned about.</p>	<p><i>Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</i> <u>Home Office County Lines Guidance</u></p> <p><i>Be aware of and work with the Police and local organisations to disrupt as much as possible criminal exploitation activity within our school.</i></p>
<p>19.0 Domestic Abuse</p> <p>KCSiE states that Domestic Abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single or a pattern of incidents. Children can be victims of abuse by seeing, hearing or experiencing the effects of abuse at home. They may also experience domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships.</p>	<p><i>This means that in our school we will:</i></p> <p><i>Sign up to Operation Encompass to receive notices of domestic abuse and swiftly act to support the child.</i></p> <p><i>Utilise the Birmingham Approach to Relationships and Health Education in Primary Schools</i></p>

Part Two: Key procedures

Responding to concerns about a child



20.0 Involving parents/carers

- 20.1 In general, we will discuss any safeguarding or child protection concerns with parents/carers before approaching other schools or agencies and will seek their consent to making a referral to another agency. Appropriate staff will approach parents/carers after consultation with the DSL.

However, there may be occasions when the school will contact another school or agency before informing parents/carers because it considers that contacting them may increase the risk of significant harm to the child.

- 20.2 Parents/carers will be informed about our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy through **School website**.
- 20.3 Child protection information will be stored separately from the pupil's school file. It will be stored and handled in line with the Data Protection Policy.

21.0 Multi-agency work

- 21.1 We work in partnership with other agencies in line with **Right Help Right Time** to promote the best interests of our **pupils** and keep them as a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect them. Our school will, where necessary, liaise with these agencies to implement or contribute to an Early Help Assessment and Our Family Plan and make requests for support from Birmingham Children's Trust. These requests will be made by the DSL to the Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) - 0121 303 1888 or Early Help Locality Teams to complete a **Family Connect Form** Where the **pupils** already has a safeguarding social worker or family support worker, concerns around escalation of risks must be reported immediately to the social/ family support worker, or in their absence, to their team manager.
- 21.2 When invited, the DSL will participate in a MASH strategy meeting, usually by Microsoft Teams, adding school-held data and intelligence to the discussion so that the best interests of the **child** are met.
- 21.3 We will co-operate with any child protection enquiries conducted by Birmingham Children's Trust: the school will ensure representation at appropriate inter-agency meetings such as Our Family Plan, Children in Need, Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences, and Core Group meetings.
- 21.4 We will provide reports as required for these meetings. If the school is unable to attend, a written report will be sent and shared with Birmingham Children's Trust at least 24 hours prior to the meeting and will plan for DSL cover during school holiday periods.
- 21.5 Where a pupil/student is subject to an inter-agency Child Protection Plan or a multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) meeting, the school will contribute to the preparation, implementation and review of the plan as appropriate.

22.0 Our role in supporting children

- 22.1 Our school staff will offer appropriate support to individual pupils/students who have experienced abuse, who have abused others (child on child abuse) or who act as Young Carers in their home situation. Our school's contribution to the Local Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2024+ will be through the adoption and implementation of Operation Encompass.
- 22.2 An Our Family Plan will be devised, implemented and reviewed regularly for these children. This Plan will detail areas of support, who will be involved, and the child's wishes and feelings. A copy of the Plan will be kept in the child's safeguarding record.
- 22.3 Children and young people who abuse others will be responded to in a way that meets their needs as well as protecting others within the school community through a multi-agency risk

assessment. Within our school we will ensure that the needs of children and young people who abuse others will be considered separately from the needs of their victims.

- 22.4 We will ensure that the school works in partnership with parents/carers and other agencies as appropriate.

23.0 Responding to an allegations/concerns raised about a member of staff, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors

See also Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures on **allegations against staff and volunteers**.

- 23.1 This procedure must be used in any case in which it is alleged that a member of staff, **Governor**, visiting professional or volunteer has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a **child** or may have harmed a **child**;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a **child**; or
- Behaved in a way that indicates s/he may not be suitable to work with **children**.
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicated s/he may pose a risk of harm to children.
- Behaved, **in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children**.

- 23.2 Although it is an uncomfortable thought, it needs to be acknowledged that there is the potential for staff in school to abuse **pupils**. In our school we also recognise that concerns may be apparent before an allegation is made.

- 23.3 The school's low-level concerns policy provides a clear procedure for sharing confidentially such concerns.

- 23.4 All staff working within our organisation must report any potential safeguarding concerns about an individual's behaviour towards children and young people immediately.

23.4.1 Allegations or concerns about staff, colleagues and visitors (recognising that schools hold the responsibility to fully explore concerns about supply staff) must be reported directly to the **Head Teacher** who will liaise with the Birmingham Children's Trust Designated Officer (LADO) Team who will decide on any action required. (Where a Head Teacher is also the sole proprietor of an independent school it is mandatory to report to the LADO).

23.4.2 If the concern relates to the **Head Teacher**, it must be reported immediately to the Chair of the Governing Body, who will liaise with the Designated Officer in Birmingham Children's Trust (LADO) and they will decide on any action required.

23.4.3 If the safeguarding concern relates to the proprietor of the setting then the concern must be made directly to the Birmingham Children's Trust Designated Officer (LADO) Team who will decide on any action required.

24.0 Children with additional needs

- 24.1 Our school recognises that all **pupils** have a right to be safe. Some **pupils** may be more vulnerable to abuse, for example those with a disability or special educational need, those living with domestic violence or drug/alcohol abusing parents, etc.

- 24.2 When the school is considering excluding, either for a fixed term or permanently, a vulnerable pupil or one who is the subject of a Child Protection Plan, or where there is an existing child protection file, we will conduct a holistic multi-agency risk-assessment prior to making the decision to exclude. In the event of a one-off serious incident resulting in an immediate decision to exclude, the risk assessment should be completed prior to convening a meeting of the governing body.

25.0 Children in specific circumstances

25.1 Private Fostering

25.1 Many adults find themselves looking after someone else's child without realising that they may be involved in private fostering. A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (that is to say without the involvement of Birmingham Children's Trust) for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or immediate relative. If the arrangement is to last, or has lasted, for 28 days or more, it is categorised as private fostering.

25.2 The Children Act 1989 defines an immediate relative as a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership), or a step-parent.

25.3 People become involved in private fostering for all kinds of reasons. Examples of private fostering include:

- Children/young people who need alternative care because of parental illness;
- Children/young people whose parents cannot care for them because their work or study involves long or antisocial hours;
- Children/young people sent from abroad to stay with another family, usually to improve their educational opportunities;
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children/young people;
- Teenagers who stay with friends (or other non-relatives) because they have fallen out with their parents;
- Children/young people staying with families while attending a school away from their home area.

25.4 There is a mandatory duty on the school to inform Birmingham Children's Trust of a private fostering arrangement - this is done by contacting CASS (0121 303 1888). The Trust then has a duty to check that the child/young person is being properly cared for and that the arrangement is satisfactory.

25.5 The school may make arrangements for pupils to stay with host families, for example during a foreign exchange trip or sports tour. Procedures set out in the statutory guidance must be followed to ensure hosting arrangements are as safe as possible.

25.6 Schools cannot obtain criminal record information from the Disclosure and Barring Service about adults abroad. Where pupils stay with host families abroad, there will be an agreement and shared understanding of the safeguarding arrangements. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure the arrangements are sufficient to safeguard pupils and include ensuring pupils understand who to contact should an emergency occur or a situation arise which makes them feel uncomfortable.

26.0 Children and the Court System

26.1 What is the purpose of the children's court:

The role of the Children's Court is to ensure that the best interests of children are paramount to any proceedings. The court only deals with children and young people. If an adult - a parent, for example - is charged with a crime against a child, they go to a different court.

26.2 Children with Family Members in Prison

Around 200,000 children in England and Wales are affected by the imprisonment of a parent or family member each year. Grandparents and other members of the extended family often step in to look after the children when a parent, especially where a mother, is in prison. The sudden and unexpected imprisonment of a parent often causes great difficulties for the whole family. Children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health.

27.0 Links to additional information about safeguarding issues and forms of abuse

- 27.1 Staff who work directly with children/young people, and their leadership team should refer to this information
- 27.2 Guidance on children in specific circumstances found in Annex A of KCSiE (latest version) and additional resources as listed below:

Issue	Guidance	Source
Abuse	<p><u>Safeguarding guidance - abuse linked to faith or belief</u></p> <p><u>Safeguarding Guidance Domestic Violence and Abuse</u></p> <p><u>Safeguarding guidance - neglect</u></p> <p><u>Children who abuse others West Midlands Safeguarding Children Link 74Group</u></p>	West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures
Child on child abuse	<u>http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/pkphh/regional-safeguarding-guidance/bullying#</u>	West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures
Children and the Courts	<p><u>Young witness booklet age 5-11</u></p> <p><u>Young witness booklet age 12-17</u></p>	Ministry of Justice (MoJ) advice
Missing from Education, Home or Care	<p><u>Children missing from care home and education</u></p> <p><u>Regional safeguarding guidance children missing education</u></p> <p><u>Working together to improve school attendance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</u></p>	West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures
Family Members in Prison	<u>Family members in prison</u>	Barnardo's in partnership with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)
Drugs	<p><u>PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES policeandschools.org.uk</u></p> <p><u>ALCOHOL policeandschools.org.uk</u></p> <p><u>West Midlands Procedures Children with Substance Misusing Parents</u></p>	Birmingham Police and Schools Panels
Domestic Abuse	<p><u>West Midlands Procedures Domestic Violence and Abuse</u></p> <p><u>Operation Encompass</u></p>	<p>West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures</p> <p>Operation Encompass</p>

Child Exploitation	<p><u>West Midlands Police Safeguarding Guidance - Children affected by Exploitation and Trafficking</u></p> <p><u>Birmingham Criminal Exploitation & Gang Affiliation Practice Guidance (2018)</u></p> <p><u>Birmingham Criminal Exploitation & Gang Affiliation Practice Guidance 2018</u></p>	<p>West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures</p> <p>WMP, BCSP, BCT</p>
Homelessness	<u>Government Homelessness publication</u>	HCLG
Health & Wellbeing	<u>Self-harm and suicide procedures</u>	West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures
Online	<p><u>Searching, screening and confiscation (policeandschools.org.uk)</u></p> <p><u>Online safety: Children exposed to abuse through digital media West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group</u></p> <p><u>Teaching online safety in school</u></p>	<p>Birmingham Police and Schools Panels</p> <p>West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures</p> <p>DfE</p>
Private Fostering	<u>Information about private fostering and how to report</u>	BCC
Radicalisation	<u>Safeguarding children and young people against radicalisation and violence</u>	West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures
Violence	<p><u>Safeguarding guidance on sexually active children and young people</u></p> <p><u>HSB School guidance</u></p> <p><u>Children who pose a risk to children</u></p> <p><u>SECONDARY MENU policeandschools.org.uk</u></p> <p><u>Children affected by gang activity and youth violence</u></p> <p><u>Violence against women and girls</u></p> <p><u>Honour-based violence West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group</u></p>	<p>West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures</p> <p>BCC Education Safeguarding</p> <p>Birmingham Police and Schools Panels</p>

Part 3: Quality Assurance, Learning from Cases and Continuous Improvement

Quality assurance

Quality assurance is about assessing the quality of the work we undertake in safeguarding children and understanding the impact of this work in terms of its effectiveness in helping children and young people feel safe.

- This Quality Assurance Framework is aimed at: Ensuring that data and quality assurance outputs are regularly reviewed through s.175/157 audits and related governance and challenge arrangements.
- Ensuring that the safeguarding data schools generate is of good quality and contributes to a culture of continuous learning and improvement whereby key learning is embedded into practice, policies and guidance (see Appendix 7).

The BSCP has recommended that “in reviewing the safeguarding data safeguarding governors and governors should be given reports detailing the number of early help interventions in school and multi-agency early help interventions, the number of requests for support being made and the number being accepted.”

This means that in our school:

We will complete the s175/157 audits on time, implement and review the resulting Action Plan with a view to reporting to relevant governance and challenge arrangements.

We will contribute quality data to inform multi-agency audits and practice reviews.

We will participate in activities that demonstrate the strength of partnership working and contribute our data to identify aspects that could have been better.

Safeguarding leads will not only assess, plan, do and review plans but also regularly audit the quality of these against the agreed quality assurance framework:

- 1. How much did we do? (Numbers)*
- 2. How well did we do it? (Whole school; File and themed audits, partner agency, pupil/parent feedback)*
- 3. Are there opportunities to learn and improve? (Could Do Better Still; reflective-learning case studies; local Safeguarding-Practice-Reviews, complaints; inspections)*
- 4. Is anyone better off? (Impact)*

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and Lessons Learnt Reviews

We will ensure that the DSL updates all staff at least annually about the relevant outcomes and findings of local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and Lessons Learnt Reviews.

We will collaborate with Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership to share information.

This means that in our school:

Senior leaders will analyse safeguarding data and practice to ensure that all staff receive updates about the relevant outcomes and findings of local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and Lessons Learnt Reviews at least once per year.

Where a case is relevant to our school, we will ensure that we fully support Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and Lessons Learnt Reviews with all necessary information and implement the resulting actions and learning.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Definitions and indicators of abuse

1. Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

The following may be indicators of neglect (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- Constant hunger
- Stealing, scavenging and/or hoarding food
- Frequent tiredness or listlessness
- Frequently dirty or unkempt
- Often poorly or inappropriately clad for the weather
- Poor school attendance or often late for school
- Poor concentration
- Affection or attention seeking behaviour
- Illnesses or injuries that are left untreated
- Failure to achieve developmental milestones, for example growth, weight
- Failure to develop intellectually or socially
- Responsibility for activity that is not age appropriate such as cooking, ironing, caring for siblings
- The child is regularly not collected or received from school
- The child is left at home alone or with inappropriate carers

2. Physical abuse

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

The following may be indicators of physical abuse (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- Multiple bruises in clusters, or of uniform shape
- Bruises that carry an imprint, such as a hand or a belt
- Bite marks
- Round burn marks
- Multiple burn marks and burns on unusual areas of the body such as the back, shoulders or buttocks;

- An injury that is not consistent with the account given
- Changing or different accounts of how an injury occurred
- Bald patches
- Symptoms of drug or alcohol intoxication or poisoning
- Unaccountable covering of limbs, even in hot weather
- Fear of going home or parents being contacted
- Fear of medical help
- Fear of changing for PE
- Inexplicable fear of adults or over-compliance
- Violence or aggression towards others including bullying
- Isolation from peers

3. Sexual abuse

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

The following may be indicators of sexual abuse (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- Sexually explicit play or behaviour or age-inappropriate knowledge
- Anal or vaginal discharge, soreness or scratching
- Reluctance to go home
- Inability to concentrate, tiredness
- Refusal to communicate
- Thrush, persistent complaints of stomach disorders or pains
- Eating disorders, for example anorexia nervosa and bulimia
- Attention seeking behaviour, self-mutilation, substance abuse
- Aggressive behaviour including sexual harassment or molestation
- Unusual compliance
- Regressive behaviour, enuresis, soiling
- Frequent or openly masturbating, touching others inappropriately
- Depression, withdrawal, isolation from peer group
- Reluctance to undress for PE or swimming
- Bruises or scratches in the genital area

4. Sexual exploitation

Child sexual exploitation occurs when a child or young person, or another person, receives “something” (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of the child/young person performing sexual activities, or another person performing sexual activities on the child/young person.

The presence of any significant indicator for sexual exploitation should trigger a referral to Birmingham Children's Trust. The significant indicators are:

- Having a relationship of concern with a controlling adult or young person (this may involve physical and/or emotional abuse and/or gang activity)
- Entering and/or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults
- Possessing unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items

- Frequenting areas known for risky activities
- Being groomed or abused via the Internet and mobile technology; and
- Having unexplained contact with hotels, taxi companies or fast food outlets.
- Missing for periods of time (CSE and county lines)

5. Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child/young person such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child/young person's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children/young people 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/young person opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child/young person's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child/young person participating in normal social interaction. It may also involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another person. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children/young people frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children/young people. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment.

The following may be indicators of emotional abuse (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- The child consistently describes him/herself in very negative ways – as stupid, naughty, hopeless, ugly
- Over-reaction to mistakes
- Delayed physical, mental or emotional development
- Sudden speech or sensory disorders
- Inappropriate emotional responses, fantasies
- Neurotic behaviour: rocking, banging head, regression, tics and twitches
- Self-harming, drug or solvent abuse
- Fear of parents being contacted
- Running away
- Compulsive stealing
- Appetite disorders - anorexia nervosa, bulimia; or
- Soiling, smearing faeces, enuresis.

N.B: Some situations where children stop communicating suddenly (known as “traumatic mutism”) can indicate maltreatment.

6. Responses from Parents/Carers

Research and experience indicate that the following responses from parents may suggest a cause for concern across all five categories:

- Delay in seeking treatment that is obviously needed
- Unawareness or denial of any injury, pain or loss of function (for example, a fractured limb)
- Incompatible explanations offered, several different explanations or the child is said to have acted in a way that is inappropriate to her/his age and development
- Reluctance to give information or failure to mention other known relevant injuries
- Frequent presentation of minor injuries
- A persistently negative attitude towards the child
- Unrealistic expectations or constant complaints about the child
- Alcohol misuse or other drug/substance misuse
- Parents request removal of the child from home; or
- Violence between adults in the household
- Evidence of coercion and control.

7. Children with Disabilities.

It is recognised that children and young adults with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) can present additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children.

These can include: assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury, relate to the child's impairment without further exploration; children with SEND can be disproportionately impacted by issues such as bullying, without necessarily showing outward signs.

Why are disabled children at greater risk of abuse?

There are several factors that contribute to disabled children and young people being at a greater risk of abuse.

Empowering our Learners

Social attitudes and assumptions about disability can have an impact on children's self-confidence.

Getting to know a child or young person with SEND and finding the best way to communicate with them is a positive way of building a child's self-esteem. This can show the child that there is someone they can trust and communicate with and help them feel confident about letting someone know if they experience something that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Help empower Learners with SEND by:

- providing them with communication support and opportunities to express themselves
- helping them to build a supportive relationship with a trusted person
- consulting them on their views and wishes about their life and care in order to meet their needs
- providing accessible education on topics such as keeping safe, sex and relationships and online safety (NSPCC programmes "stay safe, speak out" and the O2 online safety programme)
- providing information in accessible formats
- providing opportunities for peer support and social activities
- giving them opportunities to express themselves creatively through activities like art and music
- giving them access to advocacy services (Malachi, Advocacy Matters)

Communication barriers

Adults may not have the knowledge and skills to communicate non-verbally with a child, which can make it harder for children to share their thoughts and feelings.

Communicating solely with parents or carers may pose a risk if the child is being abused by their parent or carer.

It can be difficult to teach messages about what abuse is or how to keep safe to children with communication needs.

Without this knowledge children may not recognise that they are being abused or won't know how to describe what's happening to them.

Some learners can even have no capacity to communicate at the level required to express themselves around any safeguarding issues or concerns. Staff will need to be very vigilant and observe any changes that could be a sign of abuse or neglect.

Changes could be:

- The way the learner feels (sad, redrawn, agitated, scared, etc)
- The way they present (injuries, clothes, hygiene, etc)
- Their behaviour (not as usual, aggressive, new inappropriate touch, etc)
- Eating habits (Not eating anymore or very hungry)
- Third party account (parents, siblings, other professionals, etc)
- Parental engagement (attendance to meetings, consultations with specialist and medical, lack of communication)

Misunderstanding the signs of abuse

It's not always easy to spot the signs of abuse. In some cases, adults may mistake the indicators of abuse for signs of a child's disability.

A child experiencing abuse or attempting to disclose abuse may self-harm or display inappropriate sexual behaviour or other repetitive and challenging behaviours. If this is misinterpreted as part of a child's disability or health condition rather than an indicator of abuse, it can prevent adults from taking action.

Injuries such as bruising may not raise the same level of concern as they would if seen on a non-disabled child. Adults may assume that bruising was self-inflicted or caused by disability equipment or problems with mobility.

Lack of understanding on staying safe

Personal safety programmes and relationships and sex education (RSE) are not always made accessible to children with SEND. This can be for a number of reasons:

- parents and professionals may think young people with learning disabilities shouldn't have relationships or sex
- sex and relationships education may not be taught in a way that makes sense to young people with learning disabilities.

Increased isolation

Disabled children may have less contact with other people than non-disabled children because they have:

- fewer out of school opportunities than their peers
- fewer opportunities for spontaneous fun with friends
- difficulty finding out about accessible events/places

Dependency on others

- Children with disabilities may have regular contact with a wide network of carers and other adults for practical assistance in daily living including personal intimate care. This can increase the opportunity for an abusive adult to be alone with a child.
- If a child is abused by a carer they rely on, they may be more reluctant to disclose abuse for fear that the support service will stop.
- Caring for a child with little or no support can put families under stress. This can make it difficult for parents to provide the care their child needs and can lead to a child being abused or neglected.

Inadequate support

- It can be difficult for any child who has experienced abuse to get the support they need, but disabled children may face extra problems.
- Disabled children are less likely to tell someone about experiencing abuse and more likely to delay telling someone than their non-disabled peers
- Some adults may not focus on a disabled child's views.
- If abuse is reported to the police and/or children's social care, the response may be affected if professionals lack skills or experience in working with disabled children.

When working with children with disabilities, practitioners need to be aware that additional possible indicators of abuse and/or neglect may also include:

- A bruise in a site that may not be of concern on an ambulant child such as the shin, maybe of concern on a non-mobile child
- Not getting enough help with feeding leading to malnourishment
- Poor toileting arrangements
- Lack of stimulation
- Unjustified and/or excessive use of restraint
- Rough handling, extreme behaviour modification such as deprivation of medication, food or clothing, disabling wheelchair batteries
- Unwillingness to try to learn a child's means of communication
- Ill-fitting equipment, for example, callipers, sleep boards, inappropriate splinting
- Misappropriation of a child's finances; or
- Inappropriate invasive procedures.

[Calthorpe Safeguarding Policy](#)

Homelessness

The definition of homelessness means not having a home. People are classed as homeless if they have nowhere to stay and are living on the streets, but can be homeless even if they have a roof over their head.

People are classed as homeless if they are:

- staying with friends or family
- staying in a hostel, night shelter or B&B
- squatting (because they have no legal right to stay)
- at risk of [violence or abuse in their home](#)
- living in poor conditions that affect their health
- living apart from their family because you don't have a place to live together

There are many reasons that homelessness may occur.

- People become homeless for lots of different reasons. There are social causes of homelessness, such as a lack of affordable housing, poverty and unemployment; and life events which push people into homelessness.
- Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless is a significant risk to a child's welfare. Whilst referrals and/or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, and in accordance with local procedures, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into local authority children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.
- The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a legal duty on councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to meaningful help.

Young Carers

A young carer is someone who helps care for someone within their family. The support they give is usually regular or ongoing for another family member, usually a parent or sibling. A young carer may provide care or support for another person due to them having an illness, a physical disability, a barrier that prevents them from having independence, a mental health condition, or a drug or alcohol problem. Young carers often have to assume a level of responsibility that would normally only be asked of an adult.

Some people start giving care at a very young age and don't really realise they are carers. Other young people can become carers following an accident or diagnosis of illness. The BBC estimates that there are about 700,000 young carers in the UK.

Young carers may undertake some or all of the following for another person:

- Practical tasks such as cooking, housework or shopping
- Physical care such as lifting or helping up the stairs
- Personal care such as dressing, washing or attending to toileting needs
- Emotional support such as listening, calming or being there
- Household management such as paying bills or managing finances
- Looking after siblings for example, putting them to bed, walking them to school or general parenting
- Interpretation such as translating for someone with English as an additional language or communicating for someone with a hearing or speech impairment

Many young carers can suffer from:

- Anxiety and exhaustion because of the pressure of taking on adult responsibilities
- Worry that they may let family members down if they can't keep up or feel the need to ask for help
- Social issues – their time at school and social time with their friends can be affected

Staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who is a young carer¹. This is part of the broader responsibility to identify children who may benefit from early help and provide support as soon as a problem emerges.

Appendix 2

Dealing with a disclosure of abuse

When a pupil tells me about abuse, they have suffered, what should I remember?

- Stay calm.
- Do not communicate shock, anger or embarrassment.
- Reassure the child. Tell them you are pleased that they are speaking to you.
- Never enter into a pact of secrecy with the child. Assure her/him that you will try to help but let the child know that you will have to tell other people in order to do this. State who this will be and why.
- Say you'll take them seriously - They may have kept the abuse secret because they were scared they wouldn't be believed. Make sure they know they can trust you and you'll listen and support them.
- Tell the child that it is not her/his fault.
- Encourage the child to talk but do not ask "leading questions" or press for information.
- Listen and remember.
- Check that you have understood correctly what the child is trying to tell you.
- Praise the child for telling you. Communicate that s/he has a right to be safe and protected.
- Do not tell the child that what they have experienced is dirty, naughty or bad.
- It is inappropriate to make any comments about the alleged offender.
- Be aware that the child may retract what s/he has told you. It is essential to record in writing, all you have heard, though not necessarily at the time of disclosure.

- At the end of the conversation, tell the child again who you are going to tell and why that person or those people need to know.
- As soon as you can afterwards, make a detailed record of the conversation using the child's own language. Include any questions you may have asked. Do not add any opinions or interpretations.
- If the disclosure relates to a physical injury do not photograph the injury but record in writing as much detail as possible.

NB

It is not education staff's role to seek disclosures. Their role is to observe that something may be wrong, ask about it, listen, be available and try to make time to talk.

Staff should be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful

Immediately after a disclosure

You should not deal with this yourself. Clear indications or disclosure of abuse must be reported to Birmingham Children's Trust without delay, by the **Head Teacher**, DSL or in exceptional circumstances by the staff member who has raised the concern.

Children making a disclosure may do so with difficulty, having chosen carefully to whom they will speak. Listening to and supporting a **child** who has been abused can be traumatic for the adults involved. Support for you will be available from your DSL or **Head Teacher**.

Appendix 3

Allegations about a member of staff, governor or volunteer

Section 1: allegations that may meet the harms threshold

This section is based on 'Section 1: Allegations that may meet the harms threshold' in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

This section applies to all cases in which it is alleged that a current member of staff, including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor, 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 – this includes behaviour taking place both inside and outside of school

If we're in any doubt as to whether a concern meets the harm threshold, we will consult our local authority designated officer (LADO).

We will deal with any allegation of abuse quickly, in a fair and consistent way that provides effective child protection while also supporting the individual who is the subject of the allegation.

A 'case manager' will lead any investigation. This will be the headteacher, or the chair of governors where the headteacher is the subject of the allegation. The case manager will be identified at the earliest opportunity.

Our procedures for dealing with allegations will be applied with common sense and judgement.

If we receive an allegation of an incident happening while an individual or organisation was using the school premises to run activities for children, we will follow our safeguarding policies and procedures and inform our LADO.

Suspension of the accused until the case is resolved

Suspension of the accused will not be the default position, and will only be considered in cases where there is reason to suspect that a child or other children is/are at risk of harm, or the case is so serious that there might be grounds for dismissal. In such cases, we will only suspend an individual if we have considered all other options available and there is no reasonable alternative.

Based on an assessment of risk, we will consider alternatives such as:

- › Redeployment within the school so that the individual does not have direct contact with the child or children concerned
- › Providing an assistant to be present when the individual has contact with children
- › Redeploying the individual to alternative work in the school so that they do not have unsupervised access to children
- › Moving the child or children to classes where they will not come into contact with the individual, making it clear that this is not a punishment and parents/carers have been consulted

If in doubt, the case manager will seek views from the school's personnel adviser and the designated officer at the local authority, as well as the police and children's social care where they have been involved.

Definitions for outcomes of allegation investigations

- › **Substantiated:** there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation
- › **Malicious:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive, or to cause harm to the subject of the allegation
- › **False:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation
- › **Unsubstantiated:** there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation (this does not imply guilt or innocence)
- › **Unfounded:** to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made

Procedure for dealing with allegations

In the event of an allegation that meets the criteria above, the case manager will take the following steps:

- › Conduct basic enquiries in line with local procedures to establish the facts to help determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation before carrying on with the steps below
- › Discuss the allegation with the designated officer at the local authority. This is to consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action, including whether further enquiries are necessary to enable a decision on how to proceed, and whether it is necessary to involve the police and/or children's social care services. (The case manager may, on occasion, consider it necessary to involve the police *before* consulting the designated officer – for example, if the accused individual is deemed to be an immediate risk to children or there is evidence of a possible criminal offence. In such cases, the case manager will notify the designated officer as soon as practicably possible after contacting the police)
- › Inform the accused individual of the concerns or allegations and likely course of action as soon as possible after speaking to the designated officer (and the police or children's social care services, where necessary). Where the police and/or children's social care services are involved, the case manager will only share such information with the individual as has been agreed with those agencies
- › Where appropriate (in the circumstances described above), carefully consider whether suspension of the individual from contact with children at the school is justified or whether alternative

arrangements such as those outlined above can be put in place. Advice will be sought from the designated officer, police and/or children's social care services, as appropriate

- › Where the case manager is concerned about the welfare of other children in the community or the individual's family, they will discuss these concerns with the DSL and make a risk assessment of the situation. If necessary, the DSL may make a referral to children's social care
- › **If immediate suspension is considered necessary**, agree and record the rationale for this with the designated officer. The record will include information about the alternatives to suspension that have been considered, and why they were rejected. Written confirmation of the suspension will be provided to the individual facing the allegation or concern within 1 working day, and the individual will be given a named contact at the school and their contact details
- › **If it is decided that no further action is to be taken** in regard to the subject of the allegation or concern, record this decision and the justification for it and agree with the designated officer what information should be put in writing to the individual and by whom, as well as what action should follow both in respect of the individual and those who made the initial allegation
- › **If it is decided that further action is needed**, take steps as agreed with the designated officer to initiate the appropriate action in school and/or liaise with the police and/or children's social care services as appropriate
- › Provide effective support for the individual facing the allegation or concern, including appointing a named representative to keep them informed of the progress of the case and considering what other support is appropriate. Other forms of support may include, but is not limited to: trade union representatives and access to the Employee Assist Programme.
- › Inform the parents or carers of the child/children involved about the allegation as soon as possible if they do not already know (following agreement with children's social care services and/or the police, if applicable). The case manager will also inform the parents or carers of the requirement to maintain confidentiality about any allegations made against teachers (where this applies) while investigations are ongoing. Any parent or carer who wishes to have the confidentiality restrictions removed in respect of a teacher will be advised to seek legal advice
- › Keep the parents or carers of the child/children involved informed of the progress of the case (only in relation to their child – no information will be shared regarding the staff member)
- › Make a referral to the DBS where it is thought that the individual facing the allegation or concern has engaged in conduct that harmed or is likely to harm a child, or if the individual otherwise poses a risk of harm to a child

If the school is made aware that the secretary of state has made an interim prohibition order in respect of an individual, we will immediately suspend that individual from teaching, pending the findings of the investigation by the Teaching Regulation Agency.

Where the police are involved, wherever possible the school will ask the police at the start of the investigation to obtain consent from the individuals involved to share their statements and evidence for use in the school's disciplinary process, should this be required at a later point.

Additional considerations for supply teachers and all contracted staff

If there are concerns or an allegation is made against someone not directly employed by the school, such as a supply teacher or contracted staff member provided by an agency, we will take the actions below in addition to our standard procedures.

- › We will not decide to stop using an individual due to safeguarding concerns without finding out the facts and liaising with our LADO to determine a suitable outcome
- › The governing board will discuss with the agency whether it is appropriate to suspend the individual, or redeploy them to another part of the school, while the school carries out the investigation
- › We will involve the agency fully, but the school will take the lead in collecting the necessary information and providing it to the LADO as required
- › We will address issues such as information sharing, to ensure any previous concerns or allegations known to the agency are taken into account (we will do this, for example, as part of the allegations management meeting or by liaising directly with the agency where necessary)

When using an agency, we will inform them of our process for managing allegations, and keep them updated about our policies as necessary, and will invite the agency's HR manager or equivalent to meetings as appropriate.

Timescales

We will deal with all allegations as quickly and effectively as possible and will endeavour to comply with the following timescales, where reasonably practicable:

- › Any cases where it is clear immediately that the allegation is unsubstantiated or malicious should be resolved within 1 week
- › If the nature of an allegation does not require formal disciplinary action, appropriate action should be taken within 3 working days
- › If a disciplinary hearing is required and can be held without further investigation, this should be held within 15 working days

However, these are objectives only and where they are not met, we will endeavour to take the required action as soon as possible thereafter.

Specific actions

Action following a criminal investigation or prosecution

The case manager will discuss with the local authority's designated officer whether any further action, including disciplinary action, is appropriate and, if so, how to proceed, taking into account information provided by the police and/or children's social care services.

Conclusion of a case where the allegation is substantiated

If the allegation is substantiated and the individual is dismissed or the school ceases to use their services, or the individual resigns or otherwise ceases to provide their services, the school will make a referral to the DBS for consideration of whether inclusion on the barred lists is required.

If the individual concerned is a member of teaching staff, the school will consider whether to refer the matter to the Teaching Regulation Agency to consider prohibiting the individual from teaching.

Individuals returning to work after suspension

If it is decided on the conclusion of a case that an individual who has been suspended can return to work, the case manager will consider how best to facilitate this.

The case manager will also consider how best to manage the individual's contact with the child or children who made the allegation, if they are still attending the school.

Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious reports

If a report is:

- › Determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the DSL will consider the appropriate next steps. If they consider that the child and/or person who made the allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate
- › Shown to be deliberately invented, or malicious, the school will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual(s) who made it

Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious allegations

If an allegation is:

- › Determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the LADO and case manager will consider the appropriate next steps. If they consider that the child and/or person who made the allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate
- › Shown to be deliberately invented, or malicious, the school will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual(s) who made it

Confidentiality and information sharing

The school will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity while an allegation is being investigated or considered.

The case manager will take advice from the LADO, police and children's social care services, as appropriate, to agree:

- Who needs to know about the allegation and what information can be shared
- How to manage speculation, leaks and gossip, including how to make parents or carers of a child/children involved aware of their obligations with respect to confidentiality
- What, if any, information can be reasonably given to the wider community to reduce speculation
- How to manage press interest if, and when, it arises

Record-keeping

The case manager will maintain clear records about any case where the allegation or concern meets the criteria above and store them on the individual's confidential personnel file for the duration of the case.

The records of any allegation that, following an investigation, is found to be malicious or false will be deleted from the individual's personnel file (unless the individual consents for the records to be retained on the file).

For all other allegations (which are not found to be malicious or false), the following information will be kept on the file of the individual concerned:

- A clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation
- Details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved
- Notes of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome
- A declaration on whether the information will be referred to in any future reference

In these cases, the school will provide a copy to the individual, in agreement with children's social care or the police as appropriate.

We will retain all records at least until the accused individual has reached normal pension age, or for 10 years from the date of the allegation if that is longer.

References

When providing employer references, we will:

- › Not refer to any allegation that has been found to be false, unfounded, unsubstantiated or malicious, or any repeated allegations which have all been found to be false, unfounded, unsubstantiated or malicious
- › Include substantiated allegations, provided that the information is factual and does not include opinions

Learning lessons

After any cases where the allegations are *substantiated*, the case manager will review the circumstances of the case with the local authority's designated officer to determine whether there are any improvements that we can make to the school's procedures or practice to help prevent similar events in the future.

This will include consideration of (as applicable):

- Issues arising from the decision to suspend the member of staff
- The duration of the suspension
- Whether or not the suspension was justified

- The use of suspension when the individual is subsequently reinstated. We will consider how future investigations of a similar nature could be carried out without suspending the individual

For all other cases, the case manager will consider the facts and determine whether any improvements can be made.

Non-recent allegations

Abuse can be reported, no matter how long ago it happened.

We will report any non-recent allegations made by a child to the LADO in line with our local authority's procedures for dealing with non-recent allegations.

Where an adult makes an allegation to the school that they were abused as a child, we will advise the individual to report the allegation to the police.

Section 2: concerns that do not meet the harm threshold

The section is based on 'Section 2: Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold' in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

This section applies to all concerns (including allegations) about members of staff, including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors, which do not meet the harm threshold set out in section 1 above.

Concerns may arise through, for example:

- › Suspicion
- › Complaint
- › Safeguarding concern or allegation from another member of staff
- › Disclosure made by a child, parent or other adult within or outside the school
- › Pre-employment vetting checks

We recognise the importance of responding to and dealing with any concerns in a timely manner to safeguard the welfare of children.

Definition of low-level concerns

The term 'low-level' concern is any concern – no matter how small – that an adult working in or on behalf of the school may have acted in a way that:

- › Is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, **and**
- › Does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the designated officer at the local authority

Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:

- › Being overly friendly with children
- › Having favourites
- › Humiliating pupils
- › Taking photographs of children on their mobile phone
- › Engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in an area with no visibility to others.

Sharing low-level concerns

We recognise the importance of creating a culture of openness, trust and transparency to encourage all staff to confidentially share low-level concerns so that they can be addressed appropriately.

We will create this culture by:

- › Ensuring staff are clear about what appropriate behaviour is, and are confident in distinguishing expected and appropriate behaviour from concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour, in themselves and others
- › Empowering staff to share any low-level concerns as per Section 23 of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- › Empowering staff to self-refer
- › Addressing unprofessional behaviour and supporting the individual to correct it at an early stage
- › Providing a responsive, sensitive and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised
- › Helping to identify any weakness in the school's safeguarding system

Reporting a low-level concern

- › Any low-level concern should be shared with the Headteacher as soon reasonably possible.
- › If Headteacher is absent, low level concerns should be shared with the Deputy Headteacher who will ensure they inform the Headteacher immediately on their return.
- › If any low-level concern relates to the behaviour of the Head, it should be referred to the Chair of Governors.
- › If there is a conflict of interest in sharing a low-level concern with the Headteacher, the low-level concern should be shared with the Chair of Governors, unless there is conflict of interest in doing so, in which case it should be reported directly to the LADO.
- › As an alternative option to sharing their concerns with the Head, if they feel more comfortable doing so, staff may share any low-level concerns with the Deputy Headteacher.
- › Low level concerns about supply staff, volunteers, contractors and local authority visiting staff will also be reported to their employers.
- › Staff should use the school's Low-Level Concerns Reporting Form (see Figure 1 below)

Responding to low-level concerns

If the concern is raised via a third party, the headteacher will collect evidence where necessary by speaking:

- › Directly to the person who raised the concern, unless it has been raised anonymously
- › To the individual involved and any witnesses

The headteacher will use the information collected to categorise the type of behaviour and determine any further action, in line with the our Staff Code of Conduct policy. The headteacher will be the ultimate decision-maker in respect of all low-level concerns, though they may wish to collaborate with the DSL.

The headteacher will use the information collected to categorise the type of behaviour and determine any further action, in line with the school's staff Code of Conduct.

- › Allegations that meet the harm threshold will be referred to the LADO for advice.
- › Low level concerns that the school feel may need further guidance on will be referred to the LADO for advice.
- › Low level concerns that the school feel they can deal with internally will be dealt with via the school's usual child protection investigation process.
- › The school will engage with its HR provider where it is necessary to undertake further investigation and/or deal with the concern under relevant processes.

Record keeping

All low-level concerns will be recorded in writing. In addition to details of the concern raised, records will include the context in which the concern arose, any action taken and the rationale for decisions and action taken.

Records will be:

- › Kept confidential, held securely and comply with the DPA 2018 and UK GDPR
- › Reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified. Where a pattern of such behaviour is identified, we will decide on a course of action, either through our disciplinary procedures or, where a pattern of behaviour moves from a concern to meeting the harms threshold as described in section 1 of this appendix, we will refer it to the designated officer at the local authority
- › Retained at least until the individual leaves employment at the school

Where a low-level concern relates to a supply teacher or contractor, we will notify the individual's employer, so any potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

References

We will not include low-level concerns in references unless:

- › The concern (or group of concerns) has met the threshold for referral to the designated officer at the local authority and is found to be substantiated; and/or
- › The concern (or group of concerns) relates to issues which would ordinarily be included in a reference, such as misconduct or poor performance
- ›

Figure 1

St Laurence Church Infant School Low Level Concern Recording Template

Name of Individual concerned:	Date concern reported:
Name of Individual completing form:	
Statement of concern: (who, when, what, where)	
Statement from individual concerned:	
Have checks of previous concerns be carried out: Yes/No (delete as approp.)	
If yes, what was decided in consultation with LADO?	
Agreed action and rationale:	
Signed: _____ (Individual concerned) Date: _____ Signed: _____ /Chair of Governors/Deputy Headteacher (delete as approp.) Date: _____	

Appendix 4

Indicators of vulnerability/susceptibility to radicalisation

1. Radicalisation is defined in KCSiE 2024 as:
The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
2. Extremism is defined by the government in the Prevent Strategy as:
Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
 - Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of beliefs;
 - Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
 - Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
 - Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.
4. Terrorism as 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.

There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”. Those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

5. Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff can recognise those vulnerabilities.
6. Indicators of vulnerability include:
 - **Identity crisis** - the student/pupil is distanced from their cultural/religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society
 - **Personal crisis** - the student/pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
 - **Personal circumstances** - migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the student/pupil's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy
 - **Unmet aspirations** - the student/pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life
 - **Experiences of criminality** - which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement/reintegration
 - **Special educational need** - students/pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.
7. This list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all children/young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

8. More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters
- Family members convicted of a terrorism act or subject to a Channel intervention
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour; and
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and/or personal crisis.

Appendix 5

Preventing violent extremism - Roles and responsibilities of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

The SPOC for **St Laurence Church Infant School** is **Catherine Smith**, who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing students/pupils from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of **St Laurence Church Infant School** in relation to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the school's RE curriculum and assembly policy to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to students/pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable students/pupils into the Channel¹ process;
- Attending Channel meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel co-ordinator; and sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

¹ Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It is led by the West Midlands Police Counter-Terrorism Unit, and it aims to

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

Appendix 6

[Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Security-related incidents in schools and colleges

A school/college's security policy should complement their safeguarding policy, particularly where it puts in place measures to protect students; and address the threat of serious violence. It should form part of your suite of policies to ensure the health, safety and well-being of students and staff including in relation to the online environment.

Vulnerable Children and Young People

In all circumstances, **vulnerable children** and young people should be prioritised for continued face-to-face education and childcare. Schools must have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance when taking any emergency and risk management actions, and should refer to the now updated and update safeguarding procedures in line with DfE updates:

Keeping children safe in education

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)

Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework

[Early Years Foundation Stage Framework](#)

It is important that early years settings, schools (including mainstream and specialist settings) and further education providers put in place systems to keep in contact with vulnerable children and young people if they are not attending, particularly if they have a social worker. This includes:

- notifying their social worker (if they have one) and, for looked-after children, the local authority virtual school head
- agreeing with the social worker the best way to maintain contact and offer support
- keeping in contact with vulnerable children and young people to check their wellbeing and refer onto other services if additional support is needed

Safeguarding Partners and designated safeguarding leads

Schools, including maintained nursery schools, and colleges must continue to have regard to statutory safeguarding guidance **Keeping children safe in education**, and they will have a trained designated safeguarding lead (DSL) (or deputy) available on site. In cases where there may be operational challenges, 2 options to consider are:

- a trained DSL (or deputy) from the setting can be available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example working from home
- sharing trained DSLs (or deputies) with other settings, schools or FE providers (who should be available to be contacted via phone or online video)

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on-site, in addition to one of the 2 options, a senior leader should take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

Remote Education: keeping children safe online - All schools and colleges should continue to consider the safety of their children when they are asked to work online. The starting point for online teaching should be that the same principles as set out in the school's or college's staff behaviour policy (sometimes known as a code of conduct) should be followed. This policy should amongst other things include acceptable use of technologies, staff pupil/student relationships and communication including the use of social media. The policy should apply equally to any existing or new online and distance learning arrangements which are introduced.

Schools and colleges should, as much as is reasonably possible, consider if their existing policies adequately reflect that some children (and in some cases staff) continue to work remotely online. As with the child protection policy, in some cases an annex/addendum summarising key coronavirus related changes may be more effective than re-writing/re-issuing the whole policy.

The principles set out in the **guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings** published by the Safer Recruitment Consortium may help schools and colleges satisfy themselves that their staff behaviour policies are robust and effective. In some areas schools and colleges may be able to seek support from their local authority when planning online lessons/activities and considering online safety.

Schools and colleges should continue to ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection requirements.

An essential part of the online planning process will be ensuring children who are being asked to work online have very clear reporting routes in place so they can raise any concerns whilst online. As well as reporting routes back to the school or college this should also signpost children to age appropriate practical support from the likes of:

- **Childline** - for support
- **UK Safer Internet Centre** - to report and remove harmful online content
- **CEOP** - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Schools and colleges are likely to be in regular contact with parents and carers. Those communications should continue to be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online and parents and carers are likely to find it helpful to understand what systems schools and colleges use to filter and monitor online use. It will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will ask to access and be clear who from the school or college (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online.

Parents and carers may choose to supplement the school or college online offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors. In their communications with parents and carers, schools and colleges should emphasise the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children.

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- **Thinkuknow** provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online.
- **Parent info** is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations.
- **Childnet** offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support.
- **Internet Matters** provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world.
- **London Grid for Learning** has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online.
- **Net-aware** has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, including a guide to social networks, apps and games.
- **Let's Talk About It** has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation.
- **UK Safer Internet Centre** has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services.

Government has also provided:

- **Guide for parents and carers child online safety** includes security and privacy settings, blocking unsuitable content, and parental controls.

The department encourages schools and colleges to share this support with parents and carers.

Appendix 7

Contacting the Education Safeguarding Team

For queries, concerns or questions around:

- Outcomes of referrals or Requests for Support progressing through CASS, MASH and EMPOWER U, for open cases to BCT, for anything relating to multi-agency partnerships, or resolution and escalation of a child's case, please email CASSEducation@birmingham.gov.uk
- Advice and support around implementing policy, procedure, training, Section 175, Ofsted complaints or concerns, in school support and anything else required to ensure implementation of statutory safeguarding requirements, please email EducationSafeguarding@birmingham.gov.uk
- Operation Encompass, implementation in schools, advice and guidance on process and for feedback, please email OperationEncompass@birmingham.gov.uk