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# HOWARD COMMUNITY ACADEMY

## SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

THIS POLICY WAS APPROVED:	AUTUMN 2021
THIS POLICY WILL BE REVIEWED:	AUTUMN 2022
MEMBER OF STAFF WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR REVIEW: SOPHIE PULLEN	

## **Amendments highlighted in yellow on 23/8/2021 to reflect updates in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021.**

### **Introduction**

Howard Community Academy fully recognises the responsibility it has under Section 157 (Academies) of the Education Act 2002 and the Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act, 2021 to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This responsibility is more fully explained in the statutory guidance for schools and schools 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2021). **All staff** must be made aware of their duties and responsibilities under part one of this document.

Staff should read the above document together with Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) and 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners' (March 2015) if they are working directly with children. For those staff who do not work directly with children or where English is a second language, Annex A can be issued instead but this is a matter for the school/school to decide

**Howard Community Academy** fully recognises the responsibility it has under the Equality Act 2010 to provide protection from direct/ indirect discrimination or harassment for people with a 'protected characteristic' that relate to:

- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion belief or non belief
- Sex, and
- Sexual orientation
- Age

Through their day-to-day contact with pupils and direct work with families, **all staff in the School have a responsibility to:**

- Identify concerns early to prevent them from escalating;
- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn;
- Identify children who may benefit from early help;
- Know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected;
- Follow the referral process if they have a concern;

(See Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021)

Through their day-to-day contact with pupils and direct work with families, staff at the School have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect and referring them to Social Care via the Customer Service Centre (0345 045 5203). Designated Person for Child Protection to refer.

This policy sets out how the School's Governing Body and the Anglian Learning trust discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at the School. Our policy applies to all staff, paid and unpaid, including, supply staff, community education staff and governors. Teaching Assistants, office staff, and District Early Help Team employees as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child. Concerned parents may also contact the School and the School governors.

This policy is fully consistent with the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board procedures.

## **PRACTICE**

**There are four main elements to our policy:**

**PREVENTION** through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils and the creation and maintenance of a whole school protective ethos;

**PROCEDURES** for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. The definitions of the four categories are included in Appendix B;

**SUPPORTING CHILDREN** particularly those who may have been abused or witnessed violence towards them;

## **PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

### **1. Prevention**

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with trusted adults help to protect children.

#### **1.2. The School will therefore:**

Establish and maintain an ethos and environment where children feel safe in both the real and virtual world and are encouraged to talk about their concerns and problems;

Ensure children know that there are adults in the School whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty; that their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon;

Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse in both the real and virtual world and information about who to turn to for help;

Highlight through the curriculum potential online risks and what to do and where to get support to report material or manage online issues such as sexting or bullying.

Include in the curriculum material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to child care and parenting skills.

Make full use of various agencies and independent speakers to support in providing a high quality PSHE curriculum, to review topics of safeguarding, healthy and safer lifestyles through the School's PSHE curriculum reflecting upon the **Cambridgeshire PSHE programme** as examples of best practice.

Make full use of Early Help Teams through internal referral processes in order to support vulnerable children not subject to a Child Protection Plan.

### 1.3. Prevention of Peer on Peer Abuse

We recognise that peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This can include but is not limited to: bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); abuse within intimate partner relationships; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexual violence and sexual harassment; consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos; causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party; upskirting part of the Voyeurism (Offences) Act, April 2019) and initiation/ hazing type violence and rituals. Addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

**All** forms of peer on peer abuse are unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

The School will:

- 1.3.1. Create a whole school protective ethos in which peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- 1.3.2. Provide training for staff about recognising and responding to peer on peer abuse, including raising awareness of the gendered nature of peer abuse, with girls more likely to be victims and boys perpetrators.
- 1.3.3. Ensure that staff do not dismiss instances of peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence, sexual harassment, sexual taunting or 'banter' and the use of derogatory and misogynistic language as an inevitable part of growing up.
- 1.3.4. Include within the curriculum, information and materials that support children in keeping themselves safe from abuse, including abuse from their peers and online.
- 1.3.5. Provide high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and/or enrichment programmes to allow children to take ownership of their own safety in ensuring that they are given information that empowers them to make informed and positive choices by:
  - Recognising whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed
  - Understanding characteristics of what makes positive and healthy friendships and other relationships.
  - Acknowledging that some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control.
  - Understanding what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable.

- About online risks, including that any material someone provides has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removed potentially compromising material placed online
  - What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online
  - Acknowledging the impact of viewing harmful content and specifically explicit material e.g. pornography and how this presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviour and relationships.
  - Having an understanding of the law concerning the sharing and viewing of indecent images of children (including those created by children) and that it is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail.
  - Being able to understand what sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, control, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based abuse and FGM are and how they can affect current and future relationships.
  - Understanding that consent can be actively communicated and how to recognise consent from others, including sexual consent and how and when that can be withdrawn (in all contexts including online).
- 1.3.6. Ensure that staff members follow the procedures outlined in this policy when they become aware of peer on peer abuse.
- 1.3.7. Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBT children are at greater risk.

## 2. Procedures

- 2.1. We will follow the procedures set out in the Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board 'Inter-Agency Procedures'. A copy of these procedures can be found on their website: <http://www.safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>
- 2.1.1. **The Designated Senior Member of Staff for Safeguarding and Child Protection Sophie Pullen and Alison Weir**
- 2.1.2. The following members of staff have also received the Designated Safeguarding training Karina Grundil
- 2.2. The nominated school Governor for Safeguarding and Child Protection is Duncan Cooper
- The School will:
- 2.2.1. DSL and DDSL to liaise with the three safeguarding partners (Local Authority, clinical commissioning group and police) as appropriate and work with other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- 2.2.2. Ensure it has a designated senior member of staff (DSL), who has lead responsibility for **safeguarding and** child protection and has undertaken, as a minimum, the 2 day child protection training course, accredited by the

Child Protection Service. The DSL will have a copy of the Designated Person Information Booklet which contains all relevant guidance and advice to support the role.

- 2.2.3. Ensure that the training for both DSL and DDSL is updated every two years in accordance with government guidance.
- 2.2.4. Ensure that in addition to the formal training set out above, the DSL and DDSLs refresh their knowledge and skills e.g. via bulletins, meetings or further reading **at least annually**
- 2.2.5. Recognise the importance of the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and ensure she has the time and training to undertake her duties, which includes providing advice and support to staff on child welfare and child protection matters. (See 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021, Annex C). The DSL will have time to take part in inter-agency meetings and contributing to the assessment of children in need.
- 2.2.6. All staff receive annual training, including for new staff arriving mid-year as part of induction processes to ensure that they know the procedures for safeguarding.
- 2.2.7. Ensure that the DSL or DDSL are always available (during school hours, during term-time) to discuss any safeguarding concerns and that all staff are clear upon the course of action they must take. In exceptional circumstances it may be that no DSP are available therefore a member of the senior team will be contacted and/or advice will be sought from social care.
- 2.2.8. Teachers in training are briefed as part of their induction regarding procedures and receive a more in depth training as part of their in Schools programme.
- 2.2.9. Supply teachers are provided with the School's 'Quick reference guide' that identifies the process for referral and who the DSP personnel are. This will allow prompt, appropriate action to be taken. In addition, information about safeguarding and the DSP personnel is part of the reception process for all visitors in the School.
- 2.2.10. Ensure that every member of staff, paid or unpaid, and the Governing Body knows what the contingency arrangements are for when the designated members of staff are not available; in the first instance this is the Principal. Should no designated personnel be available, Year Leads will act on behalf of the designated person.
- 2.2.11. Ensure that every member of staff, paid and unpaid, and the Governing Body, knows who the designated members of staff are and the procedures for passing on concerns **from the point of induction** . All paid staff will be trained in using the electronic system MyConcern and issued with their own personal login details. This system should be used to log any concerns. For all other staff and members of the Governing body they will use the orange logging concern forms and will hand to the DSL/DDSL or one of the DSP immediately. If any member of staff or visitor feels that a child is at immediate and significant risk then the DSL/DDSL or DSP will be contacted as a matter of urgency.

2.2.12. Ensure that the designated member of staff will take advice from a child protection specialist when managing complex cases. The Designated Safeguarding Personnel have access to professional consultations with staff working in the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The emergency duty team (out of hours) is also available, see Appendix C.

2.2.13. Ensure the nominated governor for safeguarding and child protection **Duncan Cooper** has undertaken appropriate training

2.2.14. Ensure that every member of staff and every governor knows:

- that all staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn;
- the name of the designated safeguarding personnel and her/his role;
- how to identify signs of abuse or neglect;
- how to pass on and record concerns about a pupil;
- that they have an individual responsibility to be alert to the signs and indicators of abuse and for referring safeguarding concerns to the designated safeguarding personnel using the School procedures for referral;
- where to find the Inter-Agency procedures on the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board website (details in section 2.1);
- their role in the early help process;
- the process for making referrals to children's social care.
- the safeguarding response to children who go missing in education.
  
- Provide training for **all** staff from the point of their induction, and updated annually so that they know:
  - the School's legislative responsibility;
  - their personal responsibility;
  - the School's policies and procedures;
  - the need to be alert and vigilant to the signs and indicators of possible abuse;
  - the need to record concerns;
  - how to support and how to respond to a child who tells of abuse;

2.2.14 Ensure that all staff and every governor recognises the need to ensure that those with '**protected characteristics**' are treated fairly and that they are protected from all forms of discrimination and harassment.

- 2.2.14 Ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies. The Anglian Learning whistle-blowing policy refers to passing on concerns about unsafe practice to the Designated Person in 2.1.1 and 6.4.4. This policy describes how any School employee can raise any concerns s/he may have about working practices and who should be informed about the concerns. It may be that issues raised via this policy will be addressed via other procedures, e.g. anti-fraud and corruption, grievance, disciplinary, harassment and **child protection procedures**.
- 2.2.15 Ensure that parents are informed of the responsibility placed on the School and staff in relation to child protection by setting out these duties on the School website and in the prospectus.
- 2.2.16. Provide for parents, if requested, a copy of the School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, or refer them to the policy that is available on the School website at [www.howardacademy.org](http://www.howardacademy.org)
- 2.2.17. The Anglian Learning trust board and the Howard Community Academy Local Governing Body will ensure that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. The training should be regularly updated. In addition all staff members will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required **but at least annually**.
- 2.2.19 Promote educational outcomes by sharing information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children (including children who have or have had a social worker) are experiencing/have experienced with teachers and school and leadership staff.
- 2.2.19 Where pupils are educated off site or in alternative provision, the school and the provider will have clear procedures about managing safeguarding concerns between the two agencies. The school will require an up to date copy of the provisions Safeguarding Policy and written confirmation that all appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working at the provision have been undertaken and no anomalies found. The school will also conduct regular visits to providers as part of a quality assurance process and this will include ensuring processes are being followed as stated in providers policy. The school will insist on providers giving a daily attendance update and that any absences are reported immediately.

### **2.3. Liaison with Other Agencies**

The School will:

- 2.3.1. Work to develop effective links with relevant services and agencies to promote the safety and welfare of all pupils.
- 2.3.2. Co-operate as required, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018), with key agencies in their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance and providing written reports at child protection conferences and core groups.

2.3.3. Notify the relevant Social Care team immediately if:

- it should have to exclude a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan (whether fixed term or permanently);
- there is an unexplained absence of a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan;
- there is any change in circumstance to a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan.

2.3.4. When a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new school immediately. The Child Protection Chair and Social Work Team will also be informed.

## **2.4. Record Keeping**

The School will:

2.4.1. [Ensure all concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, are recorded in writing.](#) Ensure that all electronic records are stored on MyConcern (the School choice of an identified, purpose built, and secure platform).

2.4.2. Ensure that logs on MyConcern are clear, detailed and accurate (Keep clear, detailed, accurate, written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Social Care immediately). Ensure that all paper records received are kept securely; separate from the main pupil file and in a locked location.

2.4.3. Records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

2.4.4. Ensure all relevant child protection records are sent to the receiving school or establishment when a pupil moves school, within five days, in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021, (page 148) s in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2020) and the 'Educational Child Protection Record Keeping Guidance'. The DSL will consider whether it would be appropriate to share information with the new school/school in advance of the child leaving.

2.4.5. Make parents aware that such records exist except when to do so would place the child at risk of harm.

2.4.6. All actions and decisions will be led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child following discussions between professionals working with the individual child.

## **2.5. Confidentiality and Information Sharing**

The Data Protection Act 2018 does not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child. Information about children and their families is defined as 'special category

data', i.e. information that identifies a living individual. Collection, storage and sharing of personal data is governed by the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR)

The School will:

- 2.5.1. Ensure staff and volunteers adhere to confidentiality protocols and that information is shared appropriately.
- 2.5.2. Ensure staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children, (as set out in 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).
- 2.5.3. Ensure that if a member of staff receives a Subject Access Request (under the Data Protection Act 2018) from a pupil or parent they will refer the request to the DSL or Principal.
- 2.5.4. Ensure staff are clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will:

- 2.5.5. Disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a 'need to know' basis. Parental consent may be required.
- 2.5.6. Aim to gain consent to share information and be mindful of situations where to do so would place a child at increased risk of harm. Information may be shared without consent if a person believes that there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner.
- 2.5.7. Record when decisions are made to share or withhold information, who information has been shared with and why. (See 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' July 2018)

In cases where the 'serious harm test' is met, schools must withhold providing the data in compliance with schools' obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. Where in doubt schools should seek independent legal advice.

- 2.5.8. Seek advice about confidentiality from outside agencies if required. (See 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).
- 2.5.9. Ensure that all pupils' files are requested on admission to the School be that from Primary schools or where a pupil joins the School from another

school throughout the year. Primary records will be collected where possible by either DSL or DDSL

- 2.5.10. Ensure that all Post 16 records are forwarded on request via recorded delivery and that acknowledgement of receipt of records is logged via written confirmation.

## **2.6. Communication with Parents**

The School will:

- Ensure that parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the School and staff for ensuring child protection is adhered to by publishing its Child Protection policy on the School website.
- Discuss with Children's Social Care if the school/school believes that notifying parents could place the child or another person at immediate risk of harm or prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.
- Particular circumstances where parents **may not** be informed include any disclosure of sexual abuse or physical abuse where the child has an injury or where it may lead to the loss of evidence.
- All discussions that have taken place with parents regarding the child's welfare to be recorded on MyConcern or if the decision has been made not to discuss it with parents, record the reasons why.
- Records may subsequently be disclosable to relevant partner agencies if Child Protection proceedings commence.
- Record what discussions have taken place with parents or if a decision has been made not to discuss it with parents, record the reasons why. Records may subsequently be disclosable to relevant partner agencies if Child Protection proceedings commence.

## **2.7. Dealing with Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children**

- Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex from primary to secondary stage and into schools. It can also occur online. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.
- Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same school or school. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.
- Sexual violence may include rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault. Sexual harassment refers to 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature', such as sexual comments, sexual taunting or physical behaviour such as deliberately brushing against someone.
- Online sexual harassment may include non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos, sexualised online bullying, unwanted sexual comments and messages, and sexual exploitation, coercion and threats.

The School will:

- 2.7.1. Be clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- 2.7.2. Provide training for staff on how to manage a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- 2.7.3. Make decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.7.4. Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, offer appropriate support and take the wishes of the victim into account when decision making.
- 2.7.5. Implement measures to keep the victim, alleged perpetrator and if necessary other children and staff members, safe. Record any risk assessments and keep them under review.
- 2.7.6. Give consideration to the welfare of both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in these situations.
- 2.7.7. Liaise closely with external agencies, including police and social care, when required.
- 2.7.8. Refer to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education - Part Five', 2021, 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and schools,' (DfE, September, 2021) for full details of procedures to be followed in such cases. Also see 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' (UKCIS, December 2020)

### **3. Supporting Children**

The School recognises that **any** child may be subjected to abuse and 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 and 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 and as such will support all children.

- 3.1. We recognise that the impact on children who are abused or witness violence may last into adulthood without appropriate intervention and support.
- 3.2. The School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, when at School their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.
- 3.3. We recognise that some children actually adopt abusive behaviours and that these children must be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.
- 3.4. **The School will support all pupils through:**
  - 3.4.1. Cross-curricular opportunities to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
  - 3.4.2. The School ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
  - 3.4.3. Applying the School behaviour policy effectively. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the offence committed by the child but does not damage the pupil's sense of self-worth. The School will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is

unacceptable but she/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred

- 3.4.4. Liaise with the senior mental health lead where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health in school/school for advice on case management.
- 3.4.5. Liaison with other agencies which support the pupil such as Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviours Service, the Educational Psychology Service or Early Help Teams.
- 3.4.6. A commitment Promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances
- 3.4.7. The school recognises that whilst **any** child may benefit from early help, staff are encouraged to consider the wider environmental factors present in a child's life which could pose a threat to their welfare or safety, (contextual safeguarding). Staff are required to be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for children in particular circumstances. Please see pages 8 – 9 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021 for the complete list. The list includes:

### **Children with Disabilities, Additional Needs or Special Educational Needs**

The School recognise that, statistically, children with additional needs, special educational needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse.

The School has pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or challenging behaviours, communication difficulties and mental health needs.

The School will:

- 3.5. Ensure that the SEND team support staff to decide appropriate strategies that will reduce anxiety for the individual child and raise self-esteem as part of an overall support plan agreed with parents/carers.
- 3.6. Promote through a differentiated curriculum and adult support how pupils with additional needs can recognise if they are feeling unsafe including within family relationships and friendships; how to ask for help; the difference between safe and unsafe secrets; the difference between safe and unsafe physical contact; and how to recognise and manage risk including in a digital context.
- 3.7. Promote high standards of practice, including ensuring that children with additional needs know how to raise concerns, and have access to a range of adults with whom they can communicate.

### **3.6. Young Carers**

The School recognises that children who are living in a home environment which requires them to act as a young carer for a family member or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol can increase their vulnerability and that they may need additional support and protection.

The School will:

- Seek to identify young carers;
- Offer additional support internally; **Alison Weir, the Young Carers Champion;**

- Signpost to external agencies; C33 Young Carers support the pupils in school;
- Be particularly vigilant to the welfare of young carers and follow the procedures outlined in this policy, referring to Early Help or Social Care as required if concerns arise.

### **3.7.Children Frequently Missing Education**

The School recognises that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities including abuse, neglect, child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, and risk of FGM or forced marriage.

Children with persistent or erratic attendance are more vulnerable and therefore the School will:

- Monitor attendance of individual pupils closely, as outlined in the Attendance Policy, and analyse patterns of absence to aid early identification of concerning patterns of absence.
- Endeavour to hold more than one emergency contact for each pupil to provide additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child missing education is identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.
- When a child is missing from education, the school follows the procedure as set out in Cambridgeshire's Children Missing Education guidance. The school will inform the Local Authority Attendance officer and Social Care if a missing child is subject to a Child Protection Plan or there have been ongoing concerns.

### **3.10. Substance Misuse and Child Protection**

The discovery that a young person is using legal or illegal substances or reported evidence of their substance use is not necessarily sufficient in itself to initiate child protection proceedings but the School will consider such action in the following situations:

When there is evidence or reasonable cause:

- To believe the young person's substance misuse may cause him or her to be vulnerable to other abuse such as sexual abuse;
- To believe the pupil's substance related behaviour is a result of abuse or because of pressure or incentives from others, particularly adults;
- Where the misuse is suspected of being linked to parent/carer substance misuse;
- Where the misuse indicates an urgent health or safeguarding concern;

- Where the child is perceived to be at risk of harm through any substance associated criminality
- Where a young person has been caught bringing substances into School they will be dealt with as per the School's Behaviour Policy.

### **3.11. Children Living with Substance Misusing Parents/Carers**

3.11.1. Misuse of substances in parents/carers is strongly associated with significant harm to children, especially when combined with other features such as domestic violence.

3.11.2. When the School receives information about substance abuse by a child's parents/carers they will follow appropriate procedures.

3.11.3. This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

- Use of the family resources to finance the parent's dependency, characterised by inadequate food, heat and clothing for the children;
- Children exposed to unsuitable caregivers or visitors e.g. customers or dealers;
- The effects of alcohol leading to an inappropriate display of sexual and/or aggressive behaviour;
- The parental misuse is regarded as problematic including unsafe storage of drugs and injecting equipment;
- A chaotic and unpredictable home environment exists which can be attributed to drug or alcohol misuse leading to emotional unavailability, irrational behaviour and reduced parental vigilance;
- Children are not being provided with acceptable or consistent levels of social and health care;
- Disturbed moods as a result of withdrawal or dependency;
- Drugs and/or alcohol having an adverse impact on the growth and development of the unborn child.

### **3.12. Children showing signs of Abuse and/or Neglect**

The School recognises that experiencing abuse or neglect may have an adverse impact on those children which may last into adulthood without appropriate intervention and support.

The School will:

- Provide a stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of young people at risk. Children who have experienced abuse or neglect may display this through their own behaviour, which may be challenging and defiant or passive and withdrawn;
- Support young people who may develop abusive behaviours and refer them on for appropriate support and intervention;

- Provide training for staff to ensure that they have the skills to identify and report cases, or suspected cases, of abuse in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix B).
- All staff, but especially the DSL/DDSL should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families.
- Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.
- All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school or school and/or can occur between children outside of these environments.

### **3.13. Privately Fostered Children**

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16, (under 18 if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or relative in their own home for 28 days or more.

The School / school will:

- Follow the mandatory duty to inform the local authority of any 'Private Fostering' arrangements and refer to the Specialist Fostering Team.

### **3.14. Children who have returned home to their family from care**

The School / school recognises that a previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable and staff will vigilantly monitor the welfare of previously looked after children, keep records and notify Social Care as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern in accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership 'Inter - Agency Procedures'. The school Designated Teacher for Previously and Currently Looked after children **Alison Weir**.

### **3.15. Children who have Family Members in Prison**

The School/ school is committed to supporting children and young people who have a parent or close relative in prison and will work with the family to find the best ways of supporting the child.

It recognises that children with family members in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including:

- Poverty,
- Stigma,
- Isolation,
- Poor mental health;
- Poor attendance.

Therefore the School/ school will work with the family and will treat information shared by them in confidence to support minimise the risk of the child not achieving their full potential.

### 3.16. Children living with Domestic Abuse

The School's Designated Lead on Domestic Abuse is **Sophie Pullen**.

3.16.1 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse.

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

Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of peer on peer abuse is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of 'domestic abuse' (if one or both parties are under 16).

Domestic Abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are 'personally connected' regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour.

3.16.2. Where there is Domestic Abuse in a family, the children/young people will always be affected; the longer the violence continues, the greater the risk of significant and enduring harm, which may carry with them into their adult life and relationships.

3.16.3. Schools are ideally placed to offer appropriate support, alongside other agencies, whether families are in crisis, or whether there are early signs of potential abuse. The school will vigilantly monitor the welfare and attendance of children living in domestic abuse households. Contribute to any Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) safety plans as required.

3.16.4. Howard Community Academy will work in partnership with Suffolk Police and Suffolk County Council to identify and provide appropriate support to pupils who have experienced domestic abuse in their home. This partnership is called Operation Encompass.

3.16.5. Suffolk's Education Safeguarding team will share police information of all domestic incidents with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/Domestic Abuse Lead (DAL) where one of the school's pupils has been present (having either witnessed or heard the incident).

3.16.6. On receipt of any information, the DSL/DAL will take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the child and if necessary share the information with key staff such as Year Leads.

3.16.7. All notifications and information is stored confidentially in line with schools safeguarding record keeping as outlined in 2.4.

3.16.8. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the 'Suffolk Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools, Schools and Early Years settings'.

### **3.17. Children at risk of 'Honour-Based' abuse including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

3.17.1. So called 'honour based' abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents which are committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community including breast ironing, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

3.17.2. "FGM is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act for the victim and can cause harm in many ways". (Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation, April 2016).

3.17.3. In accordance with the Female Genital Mutilation Act, it is a statutory duty for teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' cases of FGM in under-18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police.

3.17.4. The School takes these concerns seriously and staff will be made aware of the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of FGM. Any indication that FGM is a risk, is imminent, or has already taken place will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy.

3.17.5. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will make appropriate and timely referrals to Social Care if FGM is suspected. In these cases, parents will not be informed before seeking advice. The case will still be referred to Social Care even if it is against the pupil's wishes.

### **3.18. Children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

3.18.1. Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

CSE can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

3.18.2. Sexual exploitation can take many forms from a seemingly 'consensual' relationship to serious organised crime involving gangs and groups.

3.18.3. Exploitation is marked out by an imbalance of power in the relationship and involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation and sexual bullying including cyber-bullying and grooming.

- 3.18.4. It is important to recognise that some young people being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of this abuse and may not recognise that they are being abused.
- 3.18.5. Young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and so procedures are in place to ensure the appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions. At the School this involves working with the family, referring to social care, involving police action and referring to the locality.
- 3.18.6. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation (CSE/Criminal/Gangs) Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of CSE.

### 3.19 Children at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

As with CSE, CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity.

- 3.19.1. As with CSE children are coerced to participate in illegal activities in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The School's Prevent Lead is **Sophie Pullen** in addition, the governing body will ensure that the DSL has undertaken Prevent awareness training and that all staff receive training about the Prevent duty.
- 3.19.2. CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (county lines see 3.20). forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late, and children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education
- The School recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of child criminal exploitation, [modern slavery](#) and/or trafficking and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.

- 3.19.3. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation (CSE/Criminal Gangs) Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of CSE.

#### 3.19.4 Children at Risk of Radicalisation

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a schools' or schools' safeguarding approach.

The governing body will ensure that the DSL has undertaken Prevent awareness training and that all staff receive training about the Prevent Duty.

Staff are required to be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate they need help or protection. Concerns that a child is at risk of radicalisation are referred to the DSL in the usual way. The school's designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral.

- All new staff are required to undertake online accredited Prevent training as part of the Schools's safeguarding induction.
- See also "The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers", June 2015, Department for Education and "Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales", July 2015, HM Government.

#### 4. County Lines

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

- 4.1.1. Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move and store drugs and money.
- 4.1.2. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools
- 4.1.3. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.
- 4.1.4. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation (CSE/Criminal/Gangs) Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be involved in County Lines.

#### 5. Preventing Unsuitable People from Working with Children

- 5.1 The School/ school will operate safe recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to Part three of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 and the **Howard Community Academy** Central Record of Recruitment and Vetting Checks policy.

- 5.2 The Principal will undertake 'random' checks of the Single Central Record (SCR) to ensure all requirements have been seen and logged and that any discrepancies can be explained.
- 5.3 The following members of staff have completed the Safer Recruitment training: **Alison Weir** The following governors have also completed Safer Recruitment Training: **Prue Rayner**

### **Allegations that may meet the harms threshold (Part Four, Section One)**

- 5.3.1 Any allegation of abuse made against a member of staff or supply staff and volunteers will be reported straight away to the Head Teacher or Principal. In cases where the Head Teacher or Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors and in line with the Allegations flowchart Appendix C1. The school will follow the procedures set out in Part four, section one of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2021).
- 5.3.2 The school will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, volunteer or agency/supply staff and adhere to the relevant procedures set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021 *and the school's HR Policies, and seek advice from their HR provider.*
- 5.3.3 The Headteacher or Chair of Governors will ensure that all allegations are reported to the LADO within one working day. The LADO will advise on all further action to be taken.
- 5.3.4 Before contacting the LADO, schools and schools should conduct basic safeguarding enquiries in line with local procedures to establish the facts to help them determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation, being careful not to jeopardise any future police investigation.
- 5.3.5 Where the school or school identify a child has been harmed they should contact children's social care and as appropriate the police immediately.
- 5.3.6 School/school will consider:
- Looking after the welfare of the child - the designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that the child is not at risk and referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care.
  - Investigating and supporting the person subject to the allegation - the case manager should discuss with the LADO, the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action.
- 5.3.7 The School will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff or volunteers relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff or volunteer is no longer employed at the School and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities and professional bodies and included in references where applicable.
- 5.3.8 Staff or volunteers who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly, and consistently and to be kept informed of

its progress. Suspension is not mandatory, nor is it automatic but, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected.

- 5.3.9 Consideration must be given to the needs of the child and recognition that a child may make an allegation against an innocent party because they are too afraid to name the real perpetrator. It is rare for a child to make an entirely false or malicious allegation, although misunderstandings and misinterpretations of events do happen.

### **Concerns that do not meet the harms threshold (Part Four, Section Two)**

- 5.4.1 Low level concerns that do not meet the harms threshold should be reported to the Headteacher/Principal. NB: The term low level does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the harms test.
- 5.4.2 In cases where the Head Teacher or Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors. The school will follow the procedures set out in Part Four of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021.
- 5.4.3 The school will deal with any such concern, no matter how small, where an adult working in or on behalf of the school or 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 LADO.
- 5.4.4 All low-level concerns should be recorded in writing. The record should include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, and action taken. The name of the individual sharing their concerns should also be noted, if the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible.
- 5.4.5 Schools and schools can decide where these records are kept, but they must be kept confidential, held securely and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- (Schools/schools: Records are kept on My concerns with any paper concerns kept in secure locked cupboard located in the DSL Leads Office.)***
- 5.5 The school will promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the school or school (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately. This will enable the school/school to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of the school/school are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of the institution.

- 5.5.1 The School will ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with pupils and parents as advised within the the Local Authority's Code of Conduct: 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (May 2019).. As part of their induction process, all staff paid or unpaid will receive guidance about how to create appropriate professional boundaries with children (in both the real and virtual world) especially those with a disability or deemed vulnerable.
- 5.5.2 All staff will have read and signed a copy of the Staff Code of Conduct and Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Educational Settings' (May 2019)
- 5.5.3 The School will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with pupils aged under 18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings being taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of position of trust).
- 5.5.4 Staff who work within a school have a duty of care to model appropriate social behaviours and to ensure that the professional role of trust is not abused.
- 5.5.5 The School will ensure that communication between pupils and adults, by whatever method, is transparent and takes place within clear professional boundaries and is open to scrutiny.

## 6. Other Related Policies

- Anti-bullying policy
- Attendance policy (including children missing education)
- Behaviour policy
- Complaints policy
- Critical Incident plan
- Equality policy
- First Aid policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Lone Working policy
- Online Safety and Acceptable Use policy
- Physical Intervention and/or Use of Reasonable Force policy
- Safer Recruitment policy
- Staff Code of Conduct/Safer Working Practice
- Staff Discipline and Grievance procedures
- SEND
  
- Whistleblowing policy
  
- Use of mobile phones policy (A requirement for all Nursery or primary schools with EYFS) **Delete as appropriate**

## **7. Governing Body Safeguarding Responsibilities**

Governing bodies should ensure they facilitate a whole school/school approach to safeguarding. This means ensuring safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. Ultimately, all systems, processes and policies should operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

**7.1** The Governing Body and the Anglian Learning trust fully recognises its responsibilities with regard to child protection and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. They aim to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in the School are effective and comply with the law and government guidance at all times;

- Designate a governor for safeguarding and child protection who will oversee the School's child protection policy and practice and champion child protection issues;
- Monitor the School's compliance with statutory requirements;
- Ensure an annual report is made to the Governing Body and Anglian Learning trust, and copied to the Education Child Protection Service;
- Ensure that this policy is annually reviewed, updated and copied to the Education Child Protection Service. That the policy is shared with staff and published on the School website.
- Ensure that children's exposure to potential risks while using the internet is limited by having in place age appropriate filtering and monitoring systems.
- Ensure children's wishes and feelings are taken into account where there are safeguarding concerns.
- Ensure that they have due regard to their public sector equality duty to cover the 'protective characteristics' . Equality Act 2010

## **7.2 Use of school/school premises for non-school/school activities**

7.2.1. If the Governing Body and the Anglian Learning trust provides extended school facilities or before or after school activities directly under the supervision or management of School staff, the School's arrangements for safeguarding as written in this policy shall apply.

7.2.2. Where services or activities are provided separately by another body the Governing Body/Anglian Learning trust will seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place for safeguarding children and child protection and there are adequate arrangements to liaise with the School on these matters where appropriate.

## **8. Pandemic safeguarding arrangements**

In response to the 2020 COVID 19 pandemic schools were required to take measures to ensure the health and wellbeing of both children and staff. This included children spending significant amount of time at home and away from the school environment.

An addendum document was issued that applied to the educational provision of the schools during the pandemic relating to Covid-19. This document will be reviewed, and updated according to developments and advice from government and the local authority. Unless otherwise communicated, normal safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures continue to apply.

***Policy adopted by the Local Governing Body on INSERT DATE***

***Review: Summer 2022***

Signed by the Principal

.....

CEO Anglian Learning trust

.....

Chair of Governors

.....

Designated Safeguarding Lead

.....

## Appendix A: Training

The School enjoys the excellent support of the Cambridgeshire Education Safeguarding Team in providing training for its designated child protection officers, Pastoral support staff and School governors. This includes **compulsory annual refresher course for all adults employed at the School.**

**Adults not employed by the School** but who have access to the children, including all School Governors, peripatetic music teachers are required to attend training provided by the School. Supply teachers are provided with a Quick Reference guide that informs about School procedures for reporting concerns, including the named persons who are designated to manage disclosures and referrals.

New staff receive training from a designated person personnel as soon as is reasonably possible; this is part of new staff induction so that staff know

- i) Their personal responsibility;
- ii) The child protection procedures;
- iii) The need to be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse;
- iv) How to support and to respond to a child who tells of abuse.

The training of staff ensures that the procedures set out in this policy and in the child protection guidance to staff are fully understood.

The following are part of staff training:

- Staff should never arrange meetings with individual pupils off the School premises without the prior approval of the Principal.
- Staff should not transport individual children in private cars unless approved by the Principal or Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy). In these cases, a second adult must accompany the member of staff and where possible the parent informed.
- Staff should not arrange private tuition of any of the School's pupils, in School or beyond, during term time or holiday time, without the prior approval of the Principal. Intervention and tuition that is planned as part of school based catch up programme should take place in an 'open classroom'.
- Staff should never give pupils their personal email address, mobile phone number or have any contact with pupils on social networking sites. If a young person makes a 'friend' request or comments on a staff member's private site this must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Principal as soon as possible.
- Staff should never use mobile phones in the classroom or when in direct contact with the children either to make or take calls or to take photographs of the children. A mobile phone may be necessary on a trip, but in this case, the School mobile should be used.
- Staff should never photograph pupils using their own cameras unless using a memory card provided by the School. All photographs taken of the children should be uploaded on School computers only.

## **Appendix B: Four Categories of Abuse**

### **1. Physical Abuse**

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

### **2. Neglect**

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.

It may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

It may involve the neglect of or lack of responsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

It also includes parents or carers failing to:

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

### **3. Emotional Abuse**

Is the persistent emotional maltreatment so as to cause severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to the child that they are:

- Worthless
- Unloved
- Inadequate
- Valued only in so far as they meet the other persons needs

It may include:

- Not giving the child opportunities to express their views
- Deliberately silencing them
- 'Making fun' of what they say and how they communicate

It may also feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children including:

- Interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability
- Overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning
- Preventing participation in normal social interaction

It may involve:

- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another
- Serious bullying (including cyber bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- The exploitation or corruption of children

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment although it may occur alone.

#### **4. Sexual Abuse**

Involves forcing or enticing a young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving high level violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

This may involve:

- Physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex)
- Non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing
- Non-contact activities involving:
  - Children looking at, or the production of, sexual images
  - Children in watching sexual activities
  - Or encouraging children to behave in sexual inappropriate ways
  - 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 abuse, as can other children.

#### **Standards for Effective Safeguarding Practice in Schools**

Child protection matters are receiving an increased priority in Ofsted inspections. The following standards may assist schools in evaluating their practice

In best practice, schools:

1. Have an ethos in which children feel secure, their viewpoints are valued, and they are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
2. Provide suitable support and guidance so that pupils have a range of appropriate adults to whom they can turn if they are worried or in difficulties;

3. Work with parents/carers to build an understanding of the School's responsibility to ensure the welfare of all children and a recognition that this may occasionally require children to be referred to other agencies as a constructive and helpful measure;
4. Are vigilant in cases of suspected child abuse, recognising the signs and indicators, have clear procedures whereby all staff report such cases to the designated person and are aware of local procedures so that information is passed on to the relevant professionals;
5. Monitor children who have been identified as at risk, keeping, *in a secure place*, clear records of pupils' progress, maintaining sound policies on confidentiality, providing information to other professionals, submitting reports to case conferences and attending case conferences;
6. Provide and support child protection training regularly to School staff every three years and to designated teachers every two years to ensure their skills and expertise are up to date, and ensure that targeted funding for this work is used solely for this purpose;
7. Contribute to an inter-agency approach to child protection by developing effective and supportive liaison with other agencies;
8. Use the curriculum to raise pupils' awareness and build confidence so that pupils have a range of contacts and strategies to ensure their own safety and understand the importance of helping others to stay safe;
9. Provide clear policy statements for parents/carers, staff and children and young people on this and on both positive behaviour policies and the School's approach to bullying;
10. Have a clear understanding of the various types of bullying - physical, verbal, indirect, and cyber-bullying, - act promptly and firmly to combat it, making sure that pupils are aware of the School's position on this issue and who they can contact for support;
11. Take particular care that pupils with SEND in mainstream and special schools, who may be especially vulnerable to abuse, are supported effectively. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that those with communication difficulties are enabled to express themselves to a member of staff with appropriate communicative skills, e.g. Makaton or PECS;
12. Have clear guidance about the handling of allegations of abuse by members of staff, ensuring that all staff are fully aware of the procedures and that they are followed correctly at all times, using the guidance set out in the DfES (now DfE) document Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education;
13. Have a whole school Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, which is regularly reviewed and made available to all School staff;
14. Ensure that specified information requested in the Annual Child Protection Monitoring Report to Governors is passed on to the LA for monitoring purposes.

## Appendix C: Useful Contacts

### Useful Contacts:

Customer First – Referrals to Social Care Tel: 0808 800 4005

MASH Consultation Line Tel: 0345 606 1499

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Tel: 0300 123 2044

Education Safeguarding Team: [ECPS.General@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ECPS.General@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### Relevant Documents

“Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings” (May 2019)

“Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers” (July 2018)

“Keeping children safe in education: Statutory guidance for schools and schools” (Sep 2021)

“The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers” (June 2015)

“Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales” (July 2015)

“Sexting in schools and schools: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people” published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) – (September 2016)

“Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and schools” (May 2018)

“What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners” (March, 2015)

“Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children” (July 2018)

“Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and schools” (September, 2021)

Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people (UKCIS, December 2020)

# Managing an Allegation Against a Member of Staff in your Establishment

# Appendix C

