



School Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Procedures 2021 - 2022

Tall Oaks Academy Trust Schools

Castle Wood Academy – Head of School - Mr Gary Brown

Mercer's Wood Academy – Interim Head of School – Miss Mel Ryan

White's Wood Academy – Head of School - Mr Chris Fitzpatrick

Named personnel with designated responsibility for Safeguarding

Castle Wood Academy						
Academic Year	Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Safeguarding Governor	Chair or Governors	SENDCo	Lead Teacher for LAC
2021 – 2022	Mr Gary Brown Head of School	Mrs Julie Jones Safeguarding and Welfare Officer	TBC	Mrs Perdita Mousley	Mrs Amy Willis	Mrs Amy Willis

Mercer's Wood Academy						
Academic Year	Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Safeguarding Governor	Chair or Governors	SENDCo	Lead Teacher for LAC
2021 – 2022	Miss Mel Ryan Interim Head of School	Mrs Julie Jones Safeguarding and Welfare Officer	Mrs Claire Hobday	Mr Karl Duke	Mrs Amy Willis	Mrs Amy Willis

White's Wood Academy						
Academic Year	Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Safeguarding Governor	Chair or Governors	SENDCo	Lead Teacher for LAC
2021 - 2022	Mr Chris Fitzpatrick Head of School	Mrs Julie Jones Safeguarding and Welfare Officer	Mrs Jo Phillips	Mrs Jo Phillips	Mrs Amy Willis	Mrs Amy Willis

Tall Oaks Academy Trust – Whistleblowing Champion – Mrs Paula Dexter

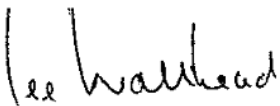
External Whistleblowing Champion – Mrs Claire Kirk

Policy review dates (No later than one year following publication of the policy)

Review Date	Changes made	By whom
September 2021	Inclusion of names of SENco and Dedicated teacher for LAC - Pg. 1	Susan Wilson Executive Headteacher
	Review date given is Sept 2022 – Pg. 3	
	Para. Who does this policy apply to, that mentions safeguarding statement – Pg. 7	
	Para. Our school commitment – mentions safeguarding with most vulnerable children and safeguarding crossing home/school boundaries and online. – Pg. 7	
	Safeguarding spider diagram removed and replaced with list of policies as example – Pg. 8	
	Input of image and links to KSCIE and WT docs Reference to role of governor to decide who reads what parts of KSCIE – Pg. 9	
	Explanation of training that DSL will have (briefings) - Pgs. 9/10	
	More specific information on whistleblowing and when staff may use this and professional resolution escalation – Pg. 10	
	Transfer of files – makes reference to timescales given for transfer depending on whether start of term or mid-term – Pg. 16	
	Role of the governor – reference to the Governor's decision on which parts of KSCIE staff read and recording and reviewing this Bullet point of low level concerns re staff behaviour and Governors need to know that school has a process in place for dealing with these Bullet point on use of school premises and Governor's responsibility to ensure safeguarding place – Pgs. 17 - 20	
	Role of the Head Teacher – reference to low level concerns Pg. 19	
	Role of the DSL – reference to attendance of DSL updates (briefings) – Pg. 21	
	All staff and volunteers will – reference to read specific parts of KSCIE Reference to low level concern and informing HT – Pg. 23	
	Section on definitions of abuse and specific safeguarding situations has been put into Appendix 1 and 2 – Pg. 24	
	Specific section on Sexual abuse and Sexual Harassment in schools as focus of Ofsted and KSCIE – Pg. 24	
	Supply staff and agencies – reference to recognising	
	safeguarding procedures in other organisations on proof – Pg. 27	
	New section on volunteers and criteria needed for a risk assessment – Pg. 27	
	New section on use of school premises and procedure for assurance of safeguarding – Pg. 27	

	Home stays – reference to considering that this may be private fostering arrangements if over 28 days – Pg. 28	
	Teaching about safeguarding – reference to being proactive in informing children about behaviour and building confidence to report – Pg. 29	
	Partnership with parents – informing parents how to report an incident Reference to complaints procedure – Pg. 30	
	Alternative Provision – reference to children in alternative provision and importance of information sharing and seeking assurance of similar safeguarding procedures and culture in place – Pg. 31	
	Allegations against staff – reference to allegations that meets the harm threshold and low level concerns – Pg. 31	
	Allegations that meet harm threshold – details Reference to non- recent allegations – Pg. 33	
	Allegation that don't meet the threshold – details Reference to further details being in school disciplinary policy – Pg. 34	
	Appendix 2: Domestic Abuse – link to new guidance 2021 Operation Encompass – clarity of not informing parents but parents may raise with the school – Pg. 39	
	Appendix 2: new section on Body Shape and Bullying – Pg. 43	
	Appendix 2: Sexual Violence – more detailed section on this, emphasising change of culture i.e. is happening here, listening and taking seriously reporting, risk assessing and actions including changing class arrangements and moving schools to reduce contact between victim and perpetrator – Pg. 44	
	Online safety – more detailed section – Pg. 49	
Added Feb 2022	SWO at WWA – Julie Jones now named pg 1 References to 'Managing Allegations against Staff and Low-Level Concerns policy' and 'Anti-bullying and Harmful Peer Relations' policy – throughout the document Mel Ryan added as DSL in Kieran Ola's absence pg 1	Susan Wilson Executive Headteacher
Added March 22	Reference made to TOAT training pathway	Sue Wilson Executive Headteacher
Added April 22	New governors added for MWA and CWA on cover page	Sue Wilson Executive Headteacher

Start date of policy	September 2021
Review date of policy	September 2022
Approved by	Mr Lee Wallhead

Signature 	23 rd March 2022
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The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy (DDSL) have responsibility for ensuring that the safeguarding of children is central to the ethos of our schools. They are suitably trained and experienced and carry out the duties of the DSL role as outlined in [Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2021](#) and summarised in this policy.

This policy is reviewed annually or following national or local safeguarding changes to policy and procedure throughout the academic year.

Next Review Date: September 2022

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Who does this policy apply to?

This document applies to all young people under 18 at the schools. Anyone coming into contact with the children in our schools or visiting the school sites must abide by this policy. Everyone working at the schools as a member of staff, or volunteer, has a duty to safeguard and protect our children. They must read this policy and sign to say they agree to work to it. Visitors to the schools, including contractors, must read our safeguarding statements displayed in school Reception areas.

In this policy, the term 'child' or 'children' refers to anyone under the age of 18 years. The term 'parent' refers to both parents and carers.

What is the purpose of this policy?

- to clarify the roles and responsibilities of everyone within our schools in relation to child protection and safeguarding
- to provide information on the range of safeguarding concerns
- to explain the clear procedures that are followed when a child is identified as needing more than universal services can provide.

Our Commitment to Safeguarding

We aim to work in partnership and have an important role in the inter-agency safeguarding arrangements as set out by [Working Together 2018](#) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2021.

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

KCSIE applies to all schools, colleges and providers who educate children up to the age of 19. Everyone working in, or for our schools, shares an objective to help keep children and young people safe by contributing to:

- providing a safe environment for children and young people to learn and develop in our school settings, and
- identifying children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both within and outside of our school setting
- creating a whole school approach to safeguarding through a culture of care, where children are listened to, and heard, with the knowledge that their concerns and worries will be taken seriously

Our schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all our children. Each child's welfare is of paramount importance. We recognise that some children may be especially vulnerable to abuse e.g. those that are less mobile or have difficulty communicating, and that their needs are unique to them and that no one size fits all. We recognise that children who are abused or neglected may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world in a positive way. We will ensure that no child will feel that what they have to say is a problem or carries any shame. As schools we are committed to putting the child at the heart of any procedures that we operate. We recognise that, safeguarding concerns do not adhere to school/home boundaries and that what happens at home and within the wider

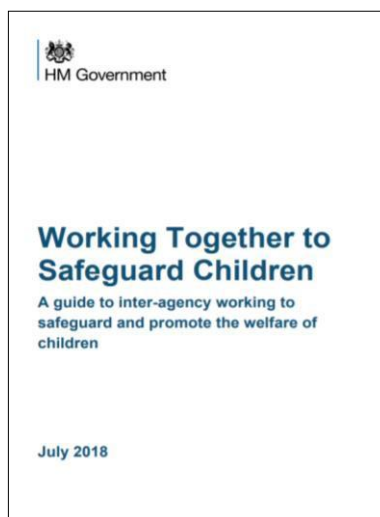
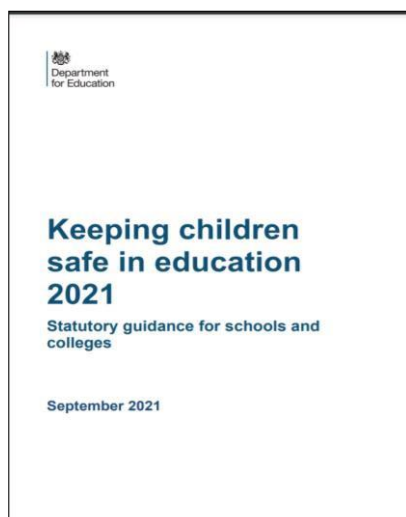
school environment including on social media, is as relevant as what happens within the classroom. Behaviour may be challenging and we recognise that at times, this may impact on other children either directly or indirectly. We will always take a considered and sensitive approach in order that we can support all our children.

Safeguarding is at the heart of how we run our schools. It is not only about high-level child protection but about how we prevent the need for this. It is considered, for example, in our:

- Anti-bullying policy
- Staff Code of Conduct policy (reviewed annually)
- School attendance procedures policy
- Online safety policy
- Curriculum design
- Behaviour management policy
- Health and safety arrangements/policy
- School transport provision
- Safer recruitment practices
- Disciplinary policy and procedures
- Managing allegations against staff and low level concerns policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- Anti-bullying and Harmful Peer Relations policy
- Intimate care policy
- Medicine administration policy
- Lone worker policy

It is also part of our Training Pathways and regular staff updates.

Our guidance and training



It is important every agency knows what to do if they are worried about a child. We follow the above national guidance for schools so we are clear what to expect and can explain this to our children and their families. Where there are additional risks we will refer to other specific guidance, which is listed in Appendix 4.

Our Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring school staff read the appropriate parts of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 depending on their roles within the school. This will be based on the level of responsibility for safeguarding in the school and their contact with children. The Local Authority recommends that all staff read section 1 and 5; we will follow this guidance and trustees will review regularly to ensure that staff are appropriately informed. Trustees agreed that all staff will read sections 1 and 5. All Governors, Trustees and anyone holding a leadership position will read all sections. Aspects of this will regularly be reviewed at staff briefings, team meeting, and staff meetings through the use of quizzes, updates and discussions about scenarios.

In our schools we follow a training pathway which ensures that all staff receive suitable training to undertake their role. To guide us in developing our pathways we use the guidance of Judicium Safeguarding support as well as the National Online Safety portal to which we subscribe.

The DSL (and any deputies known as the Safeguarding and Welfare Officer - SWO) will undergo additional specific training at least every two years to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. If we recruit a new DSL or SWO, we will ensure they are fully trained and undertake the Safeguarding Essentials course provided by the local authority (2-day face-to-face/online course)

In addition to the formal training, their knowledge and skills will be refreshed at regular intervals to allow them to understand and keep up to date with any developments relevant to their role. This will be done by attending the termly local authority DSL Safeguarding Updates, of which we attend a minimum of two per year, accessing DSL drop-in sessions and by attending appropriate LSCP inter-agency training and other relevant training and/or conference opportunities. We also receive training, updates and newsletters from Judicium who we commission for an annual Safeguarding audit and on-going support.

In addition, all staff will receive regular checks and updates at staff meetings, briefings and training days. These will be in the form of quizzes, discussions of scenarios and information updates.

Whistleblowing and Professional Resolution and Escalation

Anyone worried about a child must continue to raise the concern until they have a reason not to be worried about the child anymore

It is essential that our schools expect good practice and professional conduct from ourselves, and others involved in the safeguarding of our children. Staff must be committed to providing a high standard of service and children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so. All staff are aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues. They will follow the procedures for reporting low level concerns which are in our Code of Conduct, Managing Allegation against Staff and Low Level Concerns Policy and Disciplinary Policy and raise with the Head of School/DSL and involve the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) if required. If a member of staff notices anything that gives them cause for concern, it is vital that this is raised. Acting upon staff concerns is fundamental to ensuring good practice and support for staff. Resolving issues must be viewed by all staff as a positive action and not a breach of trust between colleagues or an attack on the schools. We value an atmosphere of openness and honesty and welcome suggestions, complaints and criticisms in addition to compliments.

Our staff are encouraged to use the Whistleblowing Policy as appropriate to raise or pass on concerns

- a) Poor standards of service
- b) Issues of bad practice
- c) The conduct of colleagues or managers
- d) Anything which is not in the best interest of the children or the school
- e) Anything which is illegal or unacceptable behaviour.

We will always listen to any concerns and try to resolve them but should staff feel unable to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally or have concerns about the way a concern is being handled in the school, they can use the NSPCC helpline [The NSPCC's 'What you can do to report abuse dedicated helpline'](#) or call 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8am-8pm, Mon-Fri or email: help@nspcc.org.uk

If the school has concerns with the way other agencies are handling a safeguarding concern, then we will follow the Lincolnshire LSCP Professional Resolution and Escalation Protocol the [LSCP Professional Resolution & Escalation Protocol](#). This allows us to open up a dialogue with other professionals and resolve any issues in an open and honest approach and in the best interest of the child.

Child Protection Procedures

All staff follow the schools' Child Protection Procedures which are consistent with:

- ['Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'](#),
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#); and
- [the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures Manual](#).

Teachers and other adults in schools are well placed to observe any physical, emotional or behavioural signs, which indicate that a child may be suffering significant harm. Appendix 1 outlines the definitions of abuse and neglect. The relationships between staff, children, parents and the public, which foster respect, confidence and trust, can lead to disclosures of abuse, and/or school staff being alerted to concerns.

All staff will have an awareness of specific safeguarding issues, as referred to in Appendix 2. Domestic Abuse, Child Exploitation (CE), Radicalisation and the Prevent Duty, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Attendance and Children Missing from Education (CME) and Contextual Safeguarding are some of these areas.

All staff will also be aware that safeguarding concerns can manifest themselves via peer-on-peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but is not limited to: bullying (including cyber bullying), gender-based violence/sexual assaults and sexting. Staff are clear as to the schools' procedures with regards to peer-on-peer abuse (please refer to the Anti-bullying and Harmful Peer Relations Policy)

It is **not** the responsibility of the school staff to investigate welfare concerns or determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation. All members of staff however, have a duty to recognise concerns and maintain an open mind. Accordingly, all concerns regarding the welfare of children will be recorded and discussed with the DSL (or the SWO in their absence) prior to any discussion with parents.

Concerns that staff must act on immediately and report:

- any suspicion that a child is injured, marked, or bruised in a way, which is not readily attributable to the normal knocks or scrapes received in play.
- refer to the [LSCP policy on Bruising in babies and children who are not independently mobile](#) for additional guidance).
- any explanation given to the above which appears inconsistent or suspicious
- any behaviours which give rise to suspicions that a child may have suffered harm (e.g. worrying drawings or play)
- any concerns that a child may be suffering from inadequate care, ill treatment, or emotional maltreatment
- any concerns that a child is presenting signs or symptoms of abuse or neglect
- any significant changes in a child's presentation, including non-attendance
- any hint or disclosure of abuse from any person
- any concerns regarding person(s) who may pose a risk to children (e.g. living in a household with children present)
- any potential indicators of Child Exploitation
- any potential indicators of FGM
- any potential indicators of Radicalisation
- any potential indicators of living in a household with Domestic Abuse

Responding to disclosure

Staff will not investigate but will, wherever possible, elicit enough information to pass on to the DSL or SWO in order that s/he can make an informed decision of what to do next.

The DSL/SWO will ensure that the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. Child Protection processes will operate with the best interests of the child at their core.

Staff will:

- listen to and take seriously any disclosure or information that a child may be at risk of harm
- try to ensure that the person disclosing does not have to speak to another member of school staff
- clarify the information
- try to keep questions to a minimum and of an 'open' nature e.g. using TED technique – 'Tell me, explain to me, Describe to me....'
- try not to show signs of shock, horror or surprise
- try not to express feelings or judgements regarding any person alleged to have harmed the child
- explain sensitively to the person that they have a responsibility to refer the information to the DSL/SWO, children need to know that staff may not be able to uphold confidentiality where there are concerns about their safety or someone else's
- reassure and support the child as far as possible
- explain that only those who 'need to know' will be told

- explain what will happen next and who will be involved as appropriate
- record details including date, what the child has said, in the child's words on to the schools' safeguarding recording system (CPOMS) and ensure that the DSL/SWO is made aware.
- record any visible signs, injuries or bruises on a Body Map (see appendix 3) – this is included on CPOMS.
- record the context and content of their involvement, distinguishing between fact, opinion and hearsay

Action by the DSL (or SWO in their absence)

Following any information raising concern, the designated safeguarding lead will consider:

- any urgent medical needs of the child
- whether the child is subject to a child protection plan
- discussing the matter with other agencies involved with the child/family
- consulting with appropriate persons e.g. [Duty and Advice Team](#)
- the child's wishes

Then decide:

- to talk to parents, unless to do so may place a child at risk of significant harm, impede any police investigation and/or place the member of staff or others at risk
- whether to make a [child protection referral](#) to Children's Social Care-Duty and Advice Team because a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm and if this needs to be undertaken immediately

OR

- not to make a referral at this stage
- if further monitoring is necessary
- if it would be appropriate to undertake an assessment (e.g. Early Help Assessment - EHA)

All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented on CPOMS in detail. All referrals to Lincolnshire's Customer Service Centre will be followed up in writing and these referrals will always be kept on file irrespective of the outcome.

Action following a child protection referral

The DSL (or SWO in their absence) will:

- make regular contact with the social worker involved to stay informed
- wherever possible, contribute to the strategy discussion
- provide a report for, attend and contribute to any subsequent [child protection conference](#)
- if the child or children are made the subject of a child protection plan, contribute to the child protection plan and attend core group meetings and review conferences
- where possible, share all reports with parents prior to meetings and ensure that they

understand the content

- where in disagreement with a decision and concerns remain with the child firstly:
- talk in the first instance to the social worker/customer service centre
- check the referral including all the relevant information and clearly document the concerns about the child
- finally follow the [professional resolution and escalation protocol](#) if the concern remains
- where a child subject to a child protection plan moves from the school or goes missing, immediately inform the social worker and/or Children's Social Care Customer Service Centre.

Recording and monitoring

Accurate records will be made as soon as practicable on CPOMs and will clearly distinguish between observation, fact, opinion and hypothesis. All records will state who is providing the information, the date and time, information will be recorded in the child's words where possible and a note made of the location and description of any injuries seen, if this is a paper record then this should be signed. An example of how this is done can be found in Appendix 3. Photographs of injuries will not be taken.

The DSL/SWO ensures that the method for other members of staff or volunteers passing on concerns or information is always adhered to as consistency is paramount in ensuring that nothing gets missed (please refer to the Safeguarding postcards and statements located around schools). All records of concerns are followed up and clearly show what action is being taken as a result of the concern and the outcomes of this action.

All documents will be retained in a 'Child Protection file', separate from the child's school file. It is kept secure with appropriate level of limited access.

All schools use CPOMS which is separate to school files on Arbor. This is a password protected system.

Supporting the child and partnership with parents

Our schools recognise that the child's welfare is paramount and that good child protection and safeguarding practice and outcomes rely on a positive, open and honest working partnership with parents. Whilst we may, on a rare occasion, need to make referrals without consultation with parents, we will make every effort to maintain a positive working relationship with them whilst fulfilling our duties to protect any child

We will also provide a secure, caring, supportive and protective relationship for the child. Children will be given a proper explanation (appropriate to age and understanding) of what action is being taken on their behalf and why.

We will endeavour always to preserve the privacy, dignity and right to confidentiality of the child and parents. The DSL/SWO will determine which members of staff need to know personal information and what they need to know for the purpose of supporting and protecting the child (CPOMS permissions for sharing of information are pre-set).

Child Information

To keep children safe and provide appropriate care for them, we require accurate and up to date information about:

- names, contact details and relationship to the child of any persons with whom the child normally lives
- names and contact details of all persons with parental responsibility (if different from above)
- emergency contact details (if different from above). We need to know that if the person(s) with parental responsibility is unable to collect their child, there is someone known to us who can collect the child and keep them safe until either the person(s) with parental responsibility is available or a more suitable arrangement is made. We need more than one emergency contact so we have
- additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when there is a welfare and/or safeguarding concern
- any relevant court order in place including those, which affect any person's access to the child (e.g. Residence Order, Contact Order, Care Order, Injunctions etc.)
- if the child is or has been subject to a Child Protection Plan
- if the child is or has been subject to an Early Help Assessment (EHA) or Child in Need (CIN) processes
- if the child is a Looked After Child (LAC) or previously looked after
- name and contact details of the child's GP
- any other factors which may impact on the safety and welfare of the child

The school will collate, store and agree access to this information, ensuring all information held electronically is stored securely with due regard to meeting data protection and safeguarding requirements. Schools need to make sure this information is accurate. We encourage parents to keep us informed of any changes to the basic contact information that we hold at any time but in addition to this our school will check information for all children at least on an annual basis.

Transfer of files

A child protection file is kept separate to a main child record. When a child leaves the school, the child protection file is transferred within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within 5 days after the start of a new term. It is transferred separately in a sealed envelope clearly labelled.

A record of transfer is kept and signed by the DSL/SWO and the signed and dated receipt of transfer is retained by our school.

This is the information that is added to a record of transfer which we keep until the child reaches their 25th birthday:

- name & DOB of child
- name & address of receiving school
- date file(s) transferred with name and role of person who received it
- date our schools received confirmation of receipt of files from receiving school

- summary of safeguarding concerns at the time of transfer e.g. Child Protection Plan: Neglect.

In addition to the child protection file, the DSL/SWO will consider if it is appropriate to share any information with the new school in advance of a child leaving. This will allow the new school to have support in place for when a child arrives.

The full child record is transferred to the next school unless there are any records with a short retention period. It is important that full information is transferred to ensure a vital piece of information is not missing that could contribute at a later stage.

We do not keep any copies of records except where there is an on-going legal action. Once records are transferred, they are the custody and responsibility of the new school.

A child's last school is responsible for retaining the main child record until they reach the age of 25 years. These files are stored securely. Any record relating to child protection concerns is placed on the main child file, in a sealed envelope and then retained for the same period of time as the child file (DOB + 25 years).

We refer to the guidance below for further support:

- [IRMS Information Management Toolkit](#)
- [IRMS Information Management Academies Toolkit](#)
- [DfE Data Protection Toolkit for Schools](#)
- [LCC Data Protection Advice Service for Schools](#)

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body – Board of Trustees

It is the responsibility of our Governing Body – the Board of Trustees to ensure that everyone in the setting understands their role in safeguarding children. It is accountable for the strategic overview and to make sure that safeguarding runs through every policy and procedure that operates within the schools. The Governing Body – the Board of Trustees will ensure that the safeguarding measures reflect the specific needs of the children in our schools and consider any additional risks related to this.

They will do this by ensuring that:

- there is a named Safeguarding Governor who is appropriately trained for each school. Please refer to front cover for details.
- a senior member of the schools' leadership team is appointed to the role of DSL who will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. Please refer to front cover for detail. The DSL is the Head of School.
- the schools have one deputy DSL (SWO) who are trained to the same standard as the lead DSL. Please refer to front cover for details. The SWO in each school are the Deputy DSL.
- the schools have an effective Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and procedures in place that are in accordance with local authority guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures.

- the policy is available publically via the schools'/Trust website or other means and that the policy is reviewed and updated on an annual basis or sooner if there are national or local changes to procedures or guidance.
- our schools staff know who are required to read all or parts of the Department for Education statutory guidance **Keeping Children Safe in Education** and that this is recorded for evidence and reviewed regularly. All staff read parts 1 and 5. Leaders/Governors/Trustees read all parts.
- the schools have a Staff Code of Conduct and that this is provided to all staff and volunteers on induction. This policy includes acceptable use of technology, staff/pupil relationships and communications including the use of social media. Yearly updates are also shared with staff on 1st September of each new academic year.
- the schools operate [safer recruitment procedures](#) and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on staff and volunteers who work with children; and that any panel involved in the recruitment of staff has at least one member who has undertaken the Safer Recruitment Training. Please see records of Safer Recruitment Training Register.
- the schools have procedures for dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers that comply with guidance from the local authority and locally agreed inter-agency procedures. Please refer to the Managing Allegations against Staff and Low Level Concerns Policy.
- the schools have procedures for dealing with low level concerns in relation to staff behaviour and that there is a culture of openness in reporting and dealing with these concerns and a process of escalation if any allegation reaches or contributes to a risk of harm to children. Please refer to the Managing Allegations against Staff and Low Level Concerns Policy and the Disciplinary policy.
- online safety policy and procedures are in place and training and support is provided for staff and children to ensure that there is a good understanding of child protection issues related to electronic media. Please refer to the Online Safety Policy.
- the schools have appropriate electronic filtering and monitoring systems in place to ensure that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material; whilst recognising that "over blocking" should not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught.
- children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. This may include covering relevant issues through Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education, and/or where delivered, through Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education
- staff, including the Head of Schools, undertake appropriate safeguarding training and that there is a training plan that reflects the national, local and school requirements. Please refer to the Training Pathways.
- they remedy, without delay, any deficiencies or weaknesses regarding child protection arrangements and reflect on incidents, or near misses, to consider lessons learnt.
- The chair is nominated to be responsible for liaising with the LA and /or partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Head of School or Executive Headteacher (Chair of LGB/Chair of Trustees).
- where services or activities are provided on the school premises by another body, the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place regarding safeguarding children and child protection and that they are reviewed annually. There should be arrangements in place to liaise with the school about safeguarding matters where appropriate and inspections

should take place if required. Any transfer of control or lease or hire arrangements will include safeguarding arrangements. Failure to comply with these arrangements will result in termination of the agreement. (see section below on using school premises)

- the school appoints an appropriately trained designated teacher with responsibility for “promoting the educational achievement of children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales” in addition to Looked After Children (LAC). Please refer to the chart at the front of this policy.

The Head of School/DSL will ensure that:

- the policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body – Board of Trustees are fully implemented, and followed by all staff;
- sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the designated safeguarding lead and other staff to discharge their responsibilities including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings and contributing to the assessments of children.
- there are arrangements in place for safeguarding supervision for the DSL and the deputy DSL (SWO)
- all staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice regarding children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle blowing policies.
- the DSL is supported in providing a contact for the school to provide a report and attend Initial Child Protection Case Conferences, Reviews and Looked After Children Reviews.
- allegations regarding staff or any other adults in the schools are referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), as set out in the Managing Allegations procedure. Please refer to the Managing Allegations against Staff and Low Level Concerns Policy.
- low level concerns in relation to staff behaviour are dealt with through disciplinary policy and a culture of openness and transparency is developed. Please refer to the Disciplinary Policy.
- individuals are referred to the Disclosure and Barring Service or/and the Secretary of State via the Teaching Regulation Agency where a person is dismissed or has left due to a safeguarding concern or serious misconduct.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputies (SWO) as stated in KCSIE (2021)

The DSL and Deputy DSL/SWO maintain oversight and hold lead responsibility for any concern about a child, including children requiring early help or child protection

A DSL will always be available during school hours for staff in the school to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Arrangements will be made for appropriate cover for any out of hours/out of term activities.

Their role will include ensuring that the school, and staff, know who their vulnerable or potentially vulnerable children are, understand their additional needs, academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort by supporting teaching staff to identify the challenges that children in this group might face and the additional support and adjustments, both pastoral and academic that could be made to best support them.

As part of their role, they will:

Manage referrals by:

- referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care (Customer Service Centre)
- supporting staff who make referrals to Customer Service Centre
- seeking advice from Prevent Team regarding radicalisation concerns & refer cases to the Channel programme when necessary
- supporting teachers to report any cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as outlined in the duty
- supporting the Head of School to refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required
- referring cases to the Police where a crime may have been committed

Work with others by:

- liaising with the Head of School to inform them of issues especially on-going enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations
- as required, liaising with the "case manager" (as per Part four of KCSIE) and the designated officer (LADO) for child protection concerns (all cases which concern a staff member or volunteer)
- liaising with staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies.
- acting as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff.
- liaising with mental health team or lead where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health
- helping promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children, including children with a social worker, are experiencing, or have experienced, with teachers and school leadership staff.

Undertake training

The DSL (and any deputy – the SWO) will undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. The DSL will undertake training around their specific role at least every two years. New DSL's or Deputies/SWOs will need to be familiar with the content of the [LSCP's procedures manual](#) and to keep up to date with bi-annual updates. They will also follow the TOAT training pathways. This pathway outlines the expectation of annual/bi-annual training for all layers of employees, governance roles and volunteers. This incorporates local community and school needs as well as wider national and global issues.

The DSL and Deputies/SWOs will attend the LCC DSL Safeguarding Updates and/or drop-ins, LCC support forums and appropriate LSCP inter-agency training to ensure that they are sufficiently trained and informed to:

- understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as early help assessments
- have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so
- ensure each member of staff, especially new and part-time staff, has access to and understands the school's child protection policy and procedures
- be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
- be able to understand the unique risks associated with online safety and keep up to date with knowledge to keep children safe whilst they are online at school.
- understand the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have on children's behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, and know what is needed in responding to this in promoting educational outcomes
- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners
- be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals on CPOMS.
- understand and support the school with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and can provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation
- maintain access to resources and receive information about additional relevant courses

Raise Awareness by:

- ensuring the schools' child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures are known, understood and used appropriately
- ensuring the schools' child protection and safeguarding policy is reviewed at least annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly
- working with the Governing body/Board of Trustees in particular, the Safeguarding Governor at each school. Please refer to the front page for details.
- ensuring that the latest version of the child protection and safeguarding policy is available publicly and parents know that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the schools in this
- linking with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding.

All staff and volunteers will:

- read and sign to say that they understand and will fully comply with the school's policies and procedures
- read the appropriate parts of Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept 2021) in accordance with the Governors'/Trustees' direction and sign to say that they have read and understood them (Parts 1 and 5 for all staff. All sections for Leaders, Governors and Trustees)
- identify concerns and inform the DSL as early as possible to prevent concerns from escalating and identify children who may need extra help or who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm
- ensure there is a culture of listening to children and always considering their thoughts and wishes
- recognising the difficulties that some children have in approaching and sharing concerns with adults, putting in place measures to build relationships
- attend annual whole school safeguarding training and other appropriate training identified on their training pathways.
- provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- be aware that they may be asked to support a Social Worker to make decisions about individual children
- inform the Head of School/Executive Headteacher of any safeguarding concerns regarding an adult within school at the earliest opportunity inform the Chair of Governors/Chair of Trustees of any concerns regarding the Head of School/Executive Headteacher at the earliest opportunity
- inform the Head of School of any behaviour of staff that is deemed as low level concerns (see section on Allegations against staff). Please refer to the Managing Allegations against Staff and Low Level Concerns Policy.
- act on the concern and make the referral themselves if they feel the concern is not being taken seriously.

Child Abuse, Neglect and Specific Safeguarding Situations

Abuse or neglect of a child can happen by someone inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Young people may be abused in a family, an institutional or community setting by those known to them or by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. Sometimes they tell us about abuse, sometimes they don't.

Abuse is categorised in Working Together into four areas Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Physical Abuse and Neglect. Further information can be found in Appendix 1. Children also face risks within several safeguarding situations, these are detailed in Appendix 2. In our schools, we ensure that staff training focuses on the situations that are relevant to our children in our school environment, recognising also that children are part of a wider community and that a 'it may happen here' culture allows early intervention. We also ensure that children themselves develop skills in recognising risks and keeping themselves and others safe within these situations.

Child on Child Sexual Violence and Harassment

A recent Ofsted report on the nature and extent of child-on-child sexual abuse has led the schools to be more aware and vigilant in addressing this safeguarding concern. We refer to the recent guidance [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)

We will create a culture where sexual harassment including online sexual abuse is not tolerated. We will ensure this is a whole school and Trust approach assuming that sexual abuse is, to some extent, happening in our schools. This will allow us to identify issues and intervene early to better protect our children. Further specific details of this type of abuse can be found in Appendix 2.

Safer Recruitment

Safer recruitment ensures that every new member of staff understands their duties to safeguard young people from the outset starting from the advertisement, through the interview, to their induction, and start at the school. It is essential that no one gets to work with children who cannot keep them safe.

We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works in the schools who is likely to be perceived by the children as a safe and trustworthy adult including e.g. volunteers and staff employed by contractors. Safer recruitment practice includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity, seeing academic and vocational qualifications, obtaining professional references, checking previous employment history (and ensuring all gaps in employment are accounted for) and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. It also includes undertaking interviews and all relevant safer recruitment checks, e.g. Disclosure and Barring Service and Right to Work in the UK checks.

The key staff involved in staff recruitment are trained in safer recruitment and [vetting](#) as detailed in the [LCC Employment Manual](#). At least one member of the recruitment panel, including appointment of volunteers and contracted services, will have received safer recruitment training in the last 5 years and accessed more regularly updates on changes to safer recruitment legislation and procedures.

The Trust schools maintains a [Single Central Record](#) (SCR) which is a statutory document that holds relevant information including safer recruitment checks on:

- all staff (including supply staff, and teacher trainees on salaried routes) who work at the school: this means those providing education to children; and
- for independent schools, including academies and free schools, all members of the proprietor body
- The information that must be recorded in respect of all staff members mentioned above is whether the following checks have been carried out or certificates obtained, **and** the date on which each check was completed/certificate obtained:
 - an identity check
 - a barred list check
 - an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
 - a prohibition from teaching check

- a section 128 check (for management positions as set out in paragraph 99 for independent schools, including free schools and academies) and governors in maintained schools
- further checks on people who have lived or worked outside the UK: this would include recording checks for those European Economic Area (EEA) teacher sanctions and restrictions
- a check of professional qualifications; and
- a check to establish the person's right to work in the United Kingdom.

Individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK

Individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK **must** undergo the same checks as all other staff in schools. This includes obtaining (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS certificate (including barred list information, for those who will be engaging in regulated activity) even if the individual has never been to the UK. In addition, the schools **must** make any further checks they think appropriate so that any relevant events that occurred outside the UK can be considered. These checks might include, where available:

- [criminal records checks for overseas applicants](#) or [Home Office guidance](#) and for teaching positions
- obtaining a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority in the country in which the applicant has worked using the UK European Information Centre [UK ENIC](#) for advice about which regulatory or professional body applicants could be contacted.

Where available, such evidence will be considered together with information obtained through other pre-appointment checks to help assess suitability. Where this information is not available, schools will seek alternative methods of checking suitability or undertake a risk assessment that supports informed decision making on whether to proceed with the appointment. Although sanctions and restrictions imposed by another regulating authority do not prevent a person from taking up teaching positions in England, the school should consider the circumstances that led to the restriction or sanction being imposed when considering a candidate's suitability for employment.

The schools use further information from the DfE Guidance: [Recruit Teachers from Overseas](#) and will contact our senior HR advisor within LCC for further guidance on visas and immigration.

Supply teachers and agency staff

We obtain information in writing from our supply staff agencies that relevant checks have been carried out on the supply staff and that appropriate certificates have been obtained. We also seek confirmation that an enhanced DBS check certificate has been provided and the date that confirmation was received.

Where appropriate, we will recognise the safer recruitment process within an organisation as proof that all staff who work for the organisation have been recruited safely e.g. for Lincolnshire County Council staff and other partner organisations that have been assessed by the LSCP as being section 11 compliant.

If at any point we are concerned about whether safer recruitment procedures have been implemented to employ a member of staff who is intending to work in our schools, we will immediately contact the organisation to check. We will also feedback any concerns we have about the staff and expect the agency to action this.

Volunteers

Volunteers play an important role in our schools and we value the work they do. We will ensure that appropriate checks (DBS checks for regulated activity as well as 2 references through the application process) will be carried out and recorded and that no volunteer will be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity with a child without checks.

If required, we will carry out a risk assessment based on the nature of the work with children, what we know about the volunteer, whether the volunteer has other employment or volunteering where referees can be acquired and if the role is eligible for a DBS check and at what level.

Use of school premises

- We will ensure that adequate checks are carried out when the schools' premises are used by others not employed by the schools. We will:
- with the person's consent, apply for a DBS using the online system
- check for any updates to the DBS every 3-6 months
- check if the person involved is with a regulated body and if so, contact the body to see if there are any concerns
- ask the person involved for names of other schools that they have worked in and contact these schools to see if any concerns have been raised

Home-stays (Exchange Visits)

Where children from overseas are staying with UK parents as part of an exchange organised by the school, those parents will be deemed to be in 'Regulated Activity' for the duration of the stay and as such will be required to submit an enhanced DBS check including barring check. As a volunteer, all checks will be processed free of charge by the DBS. Where additional people in the host family are aged over 16 (i.e. elder siblings) the school will consider on a case by case risk assessment basis whether such checks are necessary

If the stay is more than 28 days, we will consider if the child is being privately fostered and report to the Local Authority as per guidance in Appendix 2.

Safe Working Practice

Parents need to be confident that the environment they send their children to daily is safe and secure. Children also need to know that school is a protective environment where their health and wellbeing is a priority.

Following the [Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those Adults who work with children and young people](#) all staff in our schools:

- are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions;
- work in an open and transparent way;
- work with other colleagues, where possible, in situations open to question
- discuss and/or take advice from school management over any incident which may give rise to concern;
- record any incidents or decisions made on CPOMS;
- apply the same professional standards regardless of gender, sexuality or disability
- comply and are aware of the confidentiality policy
- are aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in criminal or disciplinary action being taken against them.

If our staff have any concerns about the conduct of another member of staff, they will report these to the Head of School/Executive Headteacher. If staff members have concerns about the Head of School, these will be reported to the chair of governors or Executive Headteacher. The Executive Head teacher/Chair of Governors/Chair of Trustees will then consider if the concerns need to be reported to the LADO. Where the Head of School/ Executive Headteacher is the proprietor then the concern should be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Risk Assessments

We will carry out risk assessments to help us promote safety in our school. They can be carried out for all aspects of schoolwork including use of equipment, off site activities, transport as well as for individual or groups of children. An action plan will be produced out of the assessment to help us manage any of the risks identified.

We also use individual risk assessments when deciding a response to a child demonstrating potentially harmful behaviour such as sexually harmful behaviour or when identifying whether a child may be particularly vulnerable, such as a child at risk of sexual exploitation.

Teaching about Safeguarding

All children in our schools are regularly reminded that they can approach any member of staff if they have

a concern. The schools are committed to ensuring that children are aware of behaviour towards them that is not acceptable and how they can keep themselves safe. All children know that we have a senior member of staff (DSL or the SWO) with responsibility for child protection and safeguarding and know who this is. We inform children of whom they might talk to, both in and out of school, their right to be listened to and heard and what steps can be taken to protect them from harm. We use a wide range of organisations and resources as part of our PSHE and Relationships Education to help children learn how to keep safe.

We recognise that some children may find it difficult to talk about abuse that is happening within the school especially sexual abuse and harassment. We will ensure all children feel confident that their concerns will be taken seriously and any disclosure will not be judged or seen to be minor. We will not wait until incidents occur but will be proactive in ensuring our children understand behaviours that are unacceptable and feel confident to report and be part of the solution to eradicate the behaviour within the school.

Partnership with Parents

The schools share a purpose with parents to educate and keep children safe from harm.

If you are visiting our schools and you are worried about the safety of a child, you need to do something about it: -

1. If the child is in immediate danger, make sure the child is safe, inform a member of staff and if necessary call the Police on 999 or Lincolnshire Customer Services on 01522 782111
2. If you are worried about the behaviour in the school, talk to the DSL/SWO or the Head of School. Please see the front page for details.
3. If you have other worries, talk to your child's class teacher who will share these with the DSL/Head of School.
4. We will contact you as soon as possible but at least by the next school day to inform you of any actions taken. We may not be able to give you details if it is concerning another child/family but we will assure you that your concerns have been heard and dealt with.
5. If you do not hear from us, then speak to the Head of School.

We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission or it is necessary to do so in order to protect a child. We make safeguarding information available in a variety of formats, e.g. for families with English as an additional language (EAL) etc.

School will share with parents any concerns we may have about their child unless to do so may place a child at risk of harm. If parents have any concerns about their child's welfare, they can raise this with the child's teachers or with the Head of School. If a parent feels that their concerns are not being addressed, they can follow the school complaints procedure which is outlined in the school complaints policy found on the school/Trust website. Any serious safeguarding concerns can be reported to the local authority Customer Services centre by calling 01522 782111.

Partnerships with others

It is essential that we establish positive and effective working relationships with other agencies who are partners in Lincolnshire's Safeguarding Children Partnership in order for us to effectively safeguard our children. We have a joint responsibility to share information when it will help a child/children to stay safe. Key partners include Lincolnshire County Council, Police and Health but we also engage with a wide network of local and national organisations in our mission to protect the children in our school.

Children placed in Alternative Provision

Some of our children may be placed in alternative provision for a period of time. In order to fulfil our duty to keep all our children safe, we will seek written reassurance from the provider that they have acceptable safeguarding practices in place including; their response to concerns about a child, safer recruitment processes, attendance and child missing education procedures, appropriate information sharing procedures and an educational safeguarding programme for children.

Allegations regarding Person(s) Working in or on behalf of School (including Volunteers)

As per the guidance in section 4 of KSCIE 2021, our school recognises two levels of concerns:

1. Allegations that meet the harms threshold – further details outlined in our Managing Allegations against Staff and Low Level Concerns Policy.
2. Allegation/concerns that do not meet the harms threshold referred to as 'low level concerns'. Our staff [Code of Conduct](#) policy outlines our expectations of staff and how they should behave. Please also refer to the Managing Allegations against Staff and Low Level Concerns Policy.

Any concerns may impact on a staff member's employment, therefore we also refer to the LCC School Employment Manual/[Disciplinary policy](#)

Allegations that meet the harms threshold:

- 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
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to children or
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children. This is to take account of situations where a person's behaviour outside school may suggest 'transferable risk'. For example, where a member of staff or volunteer is involved in an incident outside of school which did not involve children but could have an impact on their suitability to work with children'

We will apply the same principles as in the rest of this document and we will always follow the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures that can be accessed at [Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#).

The Head of School will be the case manager who will take the lead in any investigation. If the Head of

School is the subject of the allegation, then the chair of governors will manage the case in conjunction with the Executive Headteacher. If there is any doubt as to the procedure to follow, we will contact the Lincolnshire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for advice.

The priority in any allegation is the safety of the child. The DSL will follow normal safeguarding procedures if there is risk of harm to a child.

Following our procedures, the case manager will undertake basic enquiries to obtain facts being careful not to jeopardise any potential police investigation. All investigations will be carried out by:

- applying common sense and judgement
- dealing with the allegation quickly, fairly and consistently
- providing protection for the child and support for the person subject to the allegation

We will inform the person subject to the allegation when it is right to do so based on advice from LADO and if appropriate Social Care and the Police.

Following the initial investigation and discussions with LADO there may be an outcome of:

- no further action – record of decision and rationale is made as well as decision of information to be shared with the individual
- further enquiries – following discussion with LADO, these are carried out by a senior member of staff or an independent investigator depending on the nature of the investigation. The case manager will monitor the progress of this following the timescales and reviews outlined in the Managing Allegations against Staff and Low Level Concerns Policy.

If the allegation is in relation to a **supply teacher**, the schools will seek guidance from the LADO and the agency as to the appropriate actions in relation to employment or deployment of the individual within the schools and across other schools. The agency should then fully cooperate with the schools in any investigations that need to take place. The allegations management meeting arranged by LADO will take into consideration any previous concerns in relation to the individual.

If the allegation is in relation to a governor or a trustee, we will follow our local procedures; removing the person from office should the allegation be substantiated. Suspension is not an automatic response when an allegation is reported. The case manager will make a decision on this and review regularly throughout any investigation. The case manager will consider all possibilities to avoid suspension including temporary redeployment. Suspension will be implemented if there is cause to suspect a child is at risk of any harm or if the case is so serious that it is most likely to result in dismissal. The governing body/trustees will seek guidance from LADO as well as social care and the Police to decide whether suspension is the most appropriate action. Please refer to EPM – Managing Allegations of Misconduct: Considerations for Suspension of an Employee.

We recognise that this process can be very stressful for all involved; the schools are committed to providing support as outlined in our Managing Allegations against Staff and Low Level Concerns Policy.

Information sharing is crucial in this process. This includes all relevant information about the person subject to the allegation to aid investigations as well as information about the child involved to determine the level of protection required. Our policy outlines conditions related to the confidentiality of this information.

The outcomes from an allegation are:

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 cause harm to the person 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. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence; or,

Unfounded: to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made.

Following the decision, the case manager, with support from LADO will determine the next actions. If an allegation was found to be malicious, the school must consider whether the person/child who made the allegation is in need of help themselves and whether a referral to customer services is required.

Details of the allegations will be kept on the HR file of the person accused, except those resulting in a malicious outcome where the choice to retain is that of the individual.

Non-recent allegations

If an adult wishes to raise an allegation to the school that they were abused as a child, the adult will be strongly advised to contact the police. Any non-recent allegation made by a child must be reported to the LADO who will follow the local authority procedures for dealing with historic reporting of incidents.

Allegations that do not reach the harm threshold

Our schools foster a culture in which all allegations and concerns about adults are taken seriously and responded to promptly and appropriately. By being open and transparent about addressing 'low level concerns' we can respond early and reduce the escalation of situations and potential risk of harm to children.

Further details can be found in our Low Level Concerns section of our Disciplinary policy. Staff Code of Conduct, and the Managing Allegations against Staff and Low Level Concerns Policy.

A low-level concern is defined as behaviour that:

- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work,
- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.
- Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:
 - being over friendly with children;
 - having favourites;
 - taking photographs of children on their mobile phone;

- engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door; or,
- using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language.

Our schools will ensure that staff are very clear about what appropriate behaviour is and are confident to share any low level concerns with the Head of School. All unprofessional behaviour will be addressed at an early stage with sensitivity and proportionality. Any weakness in the school safeguarding system that has allowed this behaviour to exist will be addressed.

All low level concerns will be reported to the Head of School/DSL who will follow the procedures in the policy to address these. Low level concerns will be recorded and kept safe on HR files. They will be reviewed regularly to see if there are any emerging patterns in relation to an individual so that a decision can be made as to whether to escalate to an allegation that meets the harm threshold.

Appendix 1: Definitions of safeguarding abuse and neglect

(Working Together' 2018 and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2021)

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

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

Harm means ill-treatment or impairment of health and development, including, for example, impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another;

Development means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development;

Health includes physical and mental health; maltreatment includes sexual abuse and other forms of ill-treatment which are not physical.

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Physical abuse: a form of abuse, which 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 (Fabricated Induced Illness).

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

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

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); 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.

Appendix 2: Definitions and procedures for specific safeguarding situations

In addition to the situations below the LSCP policy and procedures manual maintains an extensive section on '[Children in Specific Circumstances](#)' – (section 5) that DSL and any deputy DSLs/SWOs should be familiar with.

Children and the court system

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts. There are two age appropriate guides to support children **Going to Court** [5-11 year olds](#) and [12-17 year olds](#).

Children Missing out on Education

Missing school can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may involve sexual abuse or exploitation and child criminal exploitation. It may also indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child missing school in the future. It is the schools' duty to notify the local authority of any children who go missing from school and cannot be found at the known place of residence,

Children with family members in prison

Schools understand that children with a parent(s) in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. They may require specific services and support. Families and children of people in prison will be seen as families first and schools will work to ensure their needs are appropriately met. This will include providing support to ensure the voice of the child is considered when seeking contact with a family member in prison. Support is available from the National Information Centre of children of offenders [NICCO](#) who provide information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) 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. [\(Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation \(2017\)\)](#)

Our schools staff are trained in recognising the key indicators of CSE and understand their role in the prevention of CSE and the importance of awareness within the curriculum e.g. within the teaching of Healthy Relationships.

If staff identify children for whom CSE may be a concern they will apply the usual referral process and Child Protection procedures and pass this information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will

make referrals to the CSC as appropriate. The school also appreciates that they have a role to play in sharing soft intelligence in relation to perpetrators of CSE, and therefore if such information should come to light within school the DSL will share this appropriately with the police on Tel: 101.

Child Criminal Exploitation: County Lines and Cyber Crime

Schools recognise that criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that can affect children both in a physical and virtual environment. We recognise that experiences of boys and girls being exploited may be very different; appropriate support will be given to address the individual needs of our children.

County Lines Criminal Activity

Drug Networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines is missing school episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs. Schools will consider whether a referral to the [National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#) should be undertaken in order to safeguard that child and/or other children. First responder's organisations e.g. the local authority can complete the referral, on the school's behalf, online.

Cybercrime Involvement

Organised criminal groups or individuals exploit children and young people due to their computer skills and ability, in order to access networks/data for criminal and financial gain.

There are a number of signs that may indicate a child is a victim or is vulnerable to being exploited which include;

- missing from school
- showing signs of other types of abuse/aggression towards others
- having low self-esteem, and feelings of isolation, street or fear
- lacking trust in adults and appearing fearful of authorities
- having poor concentration or excessively tired
- becoming anti-social
- displaying symptoms of substance dependence
- excessive time online computer/gaming forums
- social isolation in school with peers
- high-functioning with an interest in computing

This is not an exhaustive list and our schools are aware of other factors, which may also impact on the child. Like with all other safeguarding concerns, if our children are in this situation, support will be provided through the school or partner agency.

Further advice and support regarding concerns of this nature can be found in the contacts section.

Domestic Abuse and Operation Encompass

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

- any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

- actions that encompass, but are not limited to a psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional impact.
- controlling behaviour that includes a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.
- coercive behaviour that includes an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

If staff identify children for whom Domestic Abuse may be a concern, they will apply the usual referral process and Child Protection procedures and pass this information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL can then refer cases where relevant, to Lincolnshire Customer Services. Where domestic abuse notifications are received from the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), this information will be added to a child's chronology and child protection record to ensure that appropriate support can be provided where necessary. A coding system will be in place. Further guidance is available in the [Domestic Abuse Resource Pack for Schools and Educational Settings in Lincolnshire](#); <https://edanlincs.org.uk/> email: info@edanlincs.org.uk Tel: 01522 510041

Operation Encompass is a national police-led initiative to notify schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced, any domestic abuse. The police officer attending a domestic abuse incident will record at the scene the names and school of any children in the household. This will result in an email notification to the DSL and Deputy DSL in our school in readiness for the start of the next school day. We will not discuss the domestic abuse notification with the parent. Notifications are about the child in the school the following contact/day. The information is limited and therefore does not safely allow any such discussion and we could increase the risk by discussing with the child, or parents of the child. We will however talk to parents about the situation should they wish to raise this with the school.

All staff will receive training on the Operation Encompass process. If we are unsure whether our concerns need to be reported to Children's Services, we will contact 01522 782111 and request a consultation with a social worker, which will be arranged for the following working day. If we notify the parents that we wish to discuss the situation with Children's Services, the consultation can be recorded on the child's record and the social worker can review any relevant history beforehand. If we do not notify the parents, a hypothetical consultation will be held and the social worker will only have the information available during the discussion.

If the child referred to in the email does not attend our school and we have been sent a notification in error, we will report this to OperationEncompass@lincs.pnn.police.uk

Homelessness

Being homeless or at risk of homelessness presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The DSL (and deputy) is aware of contact details and referral routes into the Lincolnshire Housing Authority so they can raise /progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. We refer to the [Homeless Reduction Act Factsheets](#) which summarises the new duties that focus on early intervention and encourage those at risk to seek support as soon as possible, before they are facing a homelessness crisis.

'Honour-based' violence (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)

So called 'honour-based violence' (HBV) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. All forms of HBV are abusive and should be handled and escalated as such. Our staff are alert to the possibility of a child being at risk from HBV, or have already suffered HBV and understand the duty on them to protect the welfare of these children

Female Genital Mutilation/FGM

Our schools understand that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. Staff know that FGM is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

The reporting of FGM is a mandatory duty for teachers.

Our teachers are aware that Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon **them (and those employed or engaged to carry out teaching work)** to report to the police where they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18 years of age. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should **not** be examining children. We refer to the DfE guidance [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information](#)

Teachers **must** personally report to the police, cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should still consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve children's social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases. In these cases, teachers will follow usual safeguarding procedures reporting to DSL.

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is an indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

Our staff understand that, likewise this is a potential safeguarding issue and that they must pass on concerns by applying the usual referral process and Child Protection procedures and passing this information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). We refer to The Forced Marriage Unit on Tel; 020 7008 0151 and their statutory guidance;

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322310/HMG_Statutory_Guidance_publication_180614_Final.pdf

Preventing Radicalisation, The Prevent Duty and Channel

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection and report concerns to the DSL. Under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, our school is aware that we must have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, and that this is known as the Prevent Duty.

In order to fulfil the Prevent Duty, staff have received information/training to help them to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and the school is committed to accessing further training to ensure that all staff are up to date and aware of this duty.

If a staff member identifies children for whom this may be a concern, they should apply the usual referral process and Child Protection procedures and pass this information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). If the individual is at immediate risk of harm or immediate risk of terrorist related activity, then the Police should be contacted on 999. If there is no immediate risk, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the Lincolnshire Prevent team (Lincolnshire Police, Prevent Officer 01522 558304 prevent@lincs.pnn.police.uk or LCC, Prevent Officer 01522 555367 prevent@lincolnshire.gov.uk) to seek further help. The Prevent officer may be able to support the school or may decide that a referral into the Channel process is required. [Channel guidance](#). It may be decided that there are no Prevent related concerns but a referral into Lincolnshire Customer Services is required.

Our schools will also incorporate the promotion of fundamental British Values into the Safeguarding Curriculum and/or PSHE in order to help build children's resilience and enable them to challenge extremist views. Schools will provide a safe space in which children and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

Radicalisation will also be considered within current Online Safety policies, procedures and curriculum in terms of having suitable filtering and monitoring in place and raising awareness with staff, parents and children about the increased risk of online radicalisation, through the use of the internet, Social Media and Gaming.

We refer to the [Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales](#) which contains information for schools. For further local guidance we refer to the Prevent Duty Guidance for Lincolnshire for Schools and registered childcare providers September 2018.

Peer on Peer Abuse

All staff are aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer on peer abuse). This is most likely to include, but not limited to:

- bullying (including cyber bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying.
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault;
- abuse in intimate relationships
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, distress or alarm;
- nudes/semi-nudes (sexting); and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals;

Body Shape

Young people come under increasing pressure to conform to so-called ideals by peers, adults, sometimes parents, the mass media, through social media and through their own view of themselves. Research shows

more than half of young people worry about the way they look, and this can lead to withdrawal, isolation, emotional and at its extremes serious physical harm. We work assertively to tackle these values, support individuality and teach body confidence at the school and encourage young people to work together to present a positive and healthy view of body shape. (This may be through RSE, PSHE, Science related work and PE).

Bullying

Bullying is a form of abuse and can cause serious anxiety and distress leading to poor attendance at school and further safeguarding risks. It comes in many different forms which are detailed in this appendix. All bullying including cyber bullying and prejudice-based bullying must be reported and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. The schools will make a child protection referral if required. Staff are fully trained to deal with bullying within the school and support children who are being bullied. Staff recognise the different levels of bullying and the seriousness of racist, homophobic and gender related bullying. We recognised that, whilst those who are bullying may need sanctions put in place; we also recognise that they may be in need of support and we will engage with appropriate services to address this.

Serious Violence

- All staff are aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal network or gangs.
- All staff are aware of the associated risks and understand the measures in place to manage these. We refer to the Home Office publication for advice and guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-to-schools-and-colleges-on-gangs-and-youth-violence> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Staff are aware of sexual violence and sexual harassment and that children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way. Sexual violence refers to Rape, Assault by Penetration and Sexual Assault as described in the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Sexual harassment means 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline. Staff understand that when we reference sexual harassment we do so in a context of child on child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

Neither is acceptable and will not be tolerated by the schools. Schools take all such reports seriously and they will receive the same high standard of care that any other safeguarding concern receives. A multi-agency approach will be undertaken when responding to all such complaints; however, the schools will always take immediate action to protect children despite the actions of any other agency. These actions may include an immediate risk assessment in respect of the needs of the child victim and will address any risks identified to any child in respect of an alleged perpetrator of sexual violence or sexual harassment to ensure children are protected from harm. Any risk assessment will be fluid and may change to reflect any

All such reports will be managed by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. There are a number of options the schools may consider in respect of the management of a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment between children and each case will receive an appropriate bespoke response once all the facts are known. Irrespective of any potential criminal outcome, the school have a duty to safeguard all children and may deal with any such report on a balance of probability basis when considering the outcomes for children involved.

Any report of sexual violence will trigger the schools to do a risk assessment to consider

- the needs of the victim and their support and protection
- any other potential victims
- the perpetrators and,
- all other children, and if appropriate, students and staff if protection is required against the perpetrator.

This risk assessment does not replace those assessments carried out by professionals but helps the schools decide on the next course of action particularly in relation to keeping the victim and other potential victims safe from harm or distress. The assessment may result in reorganisation of classes or transport arrangements, for example to ensure that the victim and perpetrator are not in close proximity. It may be necessary to consider a move to an alternative school or educational setting based on the risk assessment or the decision of the court. Where a managed move is being considered, we may contact the local authority Pupil Reintegration Team for further advice. Any decisions will be made based on the wishes of the victim, the nature of the incident and the safety of others. Actions will be taken immediately to reduce risk and undue distress and assessments will be reviewed regularly.

The outcome of a report of sexual violence may be that we will manage the situation within our own processes, request early help from the local authority, report the incident to social care or report to the Police. All reports will be reviewed and potential lessons to be learnt by the school will be considered.

We recognise in our schools that reporting of the above can be difficult for children and therefore we provide a range of ways in which children can let us know of their concerns and we will promote these regularly. We will adopt an understanding that it could and is most likely happening in our schools and not depend on reporting to dictate actions. We will develop a 'zero tolerance' approach and not judge any disclosure as 'low level' or acceptable. We understand that peer on peer abuse does not only happen in school but also outside of the setting and online. The way we respond to a concern is likely to have a long lasting impact on how others react if they wish to disclose therefore we are very aware of ensuring appropriate support is in place. We will continue to reflect on our approaches using the experiences of children and families to guide this. If we find the information to be false, unfounded or malicious, we will also reflect and act on if necessary, why this disclosure was made and any potential 'cry for help' that could escalate into a safeguarding concern.

Support will also be considered for the perpetrator in order to reduce harmful behaviour and potential risk to others.

All staff have received the appropriate level of training to be able to respond to sexual abuse and harassment incidents.

Our behaviour policy provides further information on the process followed by the school and **All** staff have

Upskirting

'Upskirting' typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is now a criminal offence. Staff will always act in the best interests of a child and follow usual safeguarding procedures.

Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos (sexting or nudes) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>

Where there is a disclosure or the schools become aware that a child may have been involved in sending nudes or semi-nudes images or videos which is sometimes referred to as 'sexting', it will refer to the guidance in the document 'Sexting in Schools and Colleges, Responding to incidents and Safeguarding young people' published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (2016).

[Overview of Sexting Guidance](#)

Staff understand that when an incident comes to their attention the incident should be referred to the DSL as soon as possible. The DSL will then hold an initial review meeting with appropriate school staff and subsequent interviews with the young people involved (if appropriate). Parents will be informed at an early stage and involved in the process unless there is good reason to believe that involving parents would put the young person at risk of harm. At any point in the process if there is a concern a young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm a referral will be made to children's social care and/or the police immediately

We will refer to the following guidance if appropriate:

[The DfE guidance 2018 on Searching Screening and Confiscation Advice for Schools](#)

Contextual Safeguarding

Schools recognise that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside the school. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead will consider the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur. This is known as contextual safeguarding, which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. The school will provide as much information as possible to children's social care as part of any referral undertaken.

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

Carrying Knives/offensive weapons and gang culture

Bringing and carrying a knife/offensive weapon onto school/college premises is a criminal Offence and immediate action will be taken by calling the police and informing all relevant personnel. The guidance on [Searching, Screening and Confiscation for Head teachers, schools and Governors January 2018](#) will be consulted and the school will consider and may apply the disciplinary procedure. If a member of staff suspects a child of being involved in gang culture, this is a Safeguarding concern and will require a discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will seek advice from agencies and professionals

including reference to the Safeguarding procedures as outlined by the local authority. The child may be an exploited child and victim to which the school will offer support

Children who may require Early Help

All Staff (Governors and Volunteers) working within the schools are aware safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm, neglect and failure to act. It relates to broader aspects of care and education, including:

- children's health and safety and well-being, including their mental health
- meeting the needs of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- the use of reasonable force
- meeting the needs of children with medical conditions
- providing first aid
- educational visits
- intimate care and emotional well-being
- online safety and associated issues
- appropriate arrangements to ensure children's security taking into account the local context.
- young carers;
- privately fostered children;
- children who have returned home to their family from care:
- children showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour;
- family circumstances presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health, domestic violence; and/or
- early signs of abuse and/or neglect;
- signs of displaying behaviour or views that are considered to be extreme;
- children misusing drugs or alcohol themselves:
- not attending school or are at risk of exclusion from school;
- frequently going missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- risk of modern slavery, trafficking, exploitation, radicalised;
- not in education, training or employment after the age of 16 (NEET);
- unborn babies – LSCP pre-birth protocol

These children are more vulnerable and therefore the schools will identify who their vulnerable children are, ensuring all staff and volunteers know the processes to secure advice, help and support where needed.

We refer to the guidance for Early Help at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/tac or seek help via TACadmin@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Children with special educational needs and disabilities or physical health issues

[Lincolnshire SEND Offer](#) is available for every child and family in Lincolnshire. Special consideration should be given to safeguarding and protecting children who may have additional vulnerabilities. Additional barriers can exist to the recognition of abuse and neglect which can include assumptions that indicators of abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration. It is common to see a disability first and abuse second which may delay support required. Vulnerable children can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying and abuse, without outwardly showing any

signs. There may also be communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers. These additional challenges are addressed through a high level of pastoral care and communication and interaction with our young people. These communication tools may include Makaton, communication in print and Colourful Semantics to ensure the child's voice is heard despite their additional needs. Our communication with parents will be frequent and informative allowing on-going risk assessments to be carried out to avoid any assumptions being made in relation to any change in behaviour or physical appearance.

Looked After Children

All staff recognise that Looked After Children and Care Leavers are more vulnerable than other children, often having poorer educational outcomes. Therefore, it is important to ensure their wellbeing, safety and welfare as well as help them to reach their potential. This includes the looked after child who is moving out of care. The school will also ensure that care leavers are supported with pathways including liaison with the local authority where a personal advisor will be appointed and that a full working relationship is maintained with the Lincolnshire Virtual School.

We have a member of staff across the Trust for all 3 schools, who is dedicated to supporting Looked After Children. This member of staff liaises with the Lincolnshire Virtual School in respect of all children at the school who have 'looked after' status. virtualschool@lincolnshire.gov.uk Schools address any queries directly to the child's social worker until they are 17 years 6 months after which they are transferred to Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service. Please see front page for details.

Online safety

Young people are increasingly using mobiles phones, tablets and computers on a daily basis. While mobile devices are a source of fun, entertainment, communication and education we know that, some adults and young people will use these technologies to harm young people. The harm might range from hurtful and abusive texts and e-mails, to enticing young people to engage in sexually harmful conversations, webcam photography or face-face meetings. Our e-safety policy explains how we try to keep young people safe in the home. The school follows UK Council for Internet Safety and Department for Education Guidance around sexting and staff will immediately report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. "Chatrooms" and social networking sites are the more obvious sources of inappropriate and harmful behaviour and young people cannot access these on our IT system. We will work with young people on how to maintain their own safety and how to summon help if they are concerned about what they see online. Some young people will undoubtedly be chatting on mobiles or social networking sites at home and parents are encouraged to consider measures to keep their young people safe. These measures are regularly shared with parents through our schools' social media platforms.

The staff Code of Conduct provides further advice and guidance regarding the use of social networking and electronic communication with young people in our care.

All staff are aware of and follow the DfE guidance [Teaching online safety in school 2019](#) to ensure our children understand how to stay safe and behave online as part of existing curriculum requirements. We also make use of UKCIS [Education for a connected world framework](#)

Photography and Images

The vast majority of people who take or view photographs or videos of young people do so for entirely

innocent, understandable and acceptable reasons. However, we know some people abuse young people through taking or using images, so we must ensure that the following safeguards are in place.

While parents are permitted to bring in a camera to events, no staff member should use their personal equipment to take photographs of young people. The school provides equipment for this purpose.

Where a staff member has concerns someone is taking photographs in breach of this policy they should contact the Head of School.

To protect young people, we need to:

- a) seek parental consent for photographs to be taken or published (for example, on our website or in the newspapers or other publications).
- b) ensure that the child is appropriately dressed.
- c) encourage young people to tell us if they are worried about any photographs that are taken of them.

Staff should be aware that many indecent images in current circulation were taken by the child themselves or peers. Sex, sexuality and relationships should be an age- appropriate topic in the home, and include what to do if young people are worried about an image they see. At each school, children will be taught about healthy relationships and the dangers of inappropriate images and the sharing of these.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is when a child or young person under 16 years old (or 18 if they have a disability) is to be looked after for a period of 28 days or more by someone who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility. Close relatives include parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents.

By law, the local authority must be told about all private fostering situations. The child's parents, private foster carer and anyone else (including the school) involved in the arrangement are legally required to inform the local authority.

It is then the local authority's legal duty to make sure all private fostering arrangements are safe for the child or young person. Once informed of the arrangement the local authority will check the suitability of private foster carers, make regular visits to the child or young person and ensure advice, help and support is available when needed.

Pre-Birth Protocol

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requires agencies to have in place mechanisms to ensure that they are able to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

All practitioners whether adult or children services, have a responsibility to protect and safeguard children and work collaboratively with Children's Services and other childcare professionals in contributing to assessments and interventions. Therefore, the professional who is first made aware of the pregnancy should initiate the pre- birth protocol and complete an Early Help Assessment, or make a referral for unborn to Social Care.

A young person of statutory education age is entitled to 18 weeks of maternity leave. Either side of this period there is an expectation that the young person continues to attend school or alternative provision.

The educational establishment is required to make all reasonable adjustments to allow the young person to have appropriate access to the curriculum whilst they attend the establishment including timetable and learning environment adjustments. It is important that the provision participate in the Team Around the Child) in order for them to fully support the continued education of the young parent. Education establishments should have a clear strategy for engaging with the young person while they are away from the provision so as to limit the disruption to their education and make appropriate arrangements that work for the young person and educational establishment. Where there is robust medical evidence that indicates that the young person is unfit to attend, the educational establishment can make a referral to the pupil reintegration team on 01522 554525 who will assess and consider alternative arrangements if appropriate.

The Lincolnshire Pre-Birth Protocol link to the full document is below;

https://lincolnshirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_pre_birth_protocol.html?zoom_highlight=pre+birth+protocol
https://lincolnshirescb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/pre_birth_flow_chart.pdf

Substance Misuse

The schools take a serious view of substance misuse while recognising that young people may get caught up in misusing substances through vulnerability or exploitation. All cases of substance misuse should be brought to the attention of the Head of School who will consider both the student behaviour policy and any factors that may indicate a young person is in need of help or protection

Trafficking and exploitation

The two most common terms for the illegal movement of people – ‘trafficking’ and ‘smuggling’, are very different. In human smuggling, immigrants and asylum seekers pay people to help them enter the country illegally; after which there is no longer a relationship. Trafficked victims are coerced or deceived by the person arranging their relocation. On arrival in the country of destination the trafficked child or person is denied their human rights and is forced into exploitation by the trafficker or person into whose control they are delivered.

Young people are a special case, any child transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim, whether or not they have been deceived. This is partly because it is not considered possible for young people to give informed consent.

Even when a child understands what has happened they may still appear to submit willingly, to what they believe to be the will of their parents.

Any concerns about trafficking and exploitation will be reported by the school to Customer Services immediately. Please see phone numbers at the end of the policy.

Appendix 3: Body Map Guidance

Body Maps should be used to document and illustrate visible signs of harm and physical injuries. These can be found on CPOMs, the online recording and record keeping system.

Do not remove clothing for the purpose of the examination unless the injury site is freely available because of treatment.

At no time should an individual teacher/member of staff or school take photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person, the body map below should be used. Any concerns should be reported and recorded without delay to Customer Service Centre or the child's social worker if already an open case to social care.

When you notice an injury to a child, try to record the following information in respect of each mark identified e.g. red areas, swelling, bruising, cuts, lacerations and wounds, scalds and burns:

- Exact site of injury on the body, e.g. upper outer arm/left cheek.
- Size of injury - in appropriate centimetres or inches.
- Approximate shape of injury, e.g. round/square or straight line.
- Colour of injury - if more than one colour, say so.
- Is the skin broken?
- Is there any swelling at the site of the injury, or elsewhere?
- Is there a scab/any blistering/any bleeding?
- Is the injury clean or is there grit/fluff etc.?
- Is mobility restricted as a result of the injury?
- Does the site of the injury feel hot?
- Does the child feel hot?
- Does the child feel pain?
- Has the child's body shape changed/are they holding themselves differently?

Importantly the date and time of the recording must be stated as well as the name and designation of the person making the record. Add any further comments as required.

Ensure First Aid is provided where required and then recorded appropriately.

A copy of the body map should be kept on the child's concern/confidential file.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Customer Service Centre for referrals and advice Tel: 01522 782111

Appendix 4: Guidance

- [Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Multi-Agency Procedures](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children & Young People 2018](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#)
- [Information Sharing Document 2018](#)
- [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015](#)
- [Children Act 1989](#) and [Children Act 2004](#)
- [Education Act 2002](#)
- [Teaching Standards](#)
- [Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those Adults who work with Children and Young People](#)
- [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes- advice- for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people)
- [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

Elective Home Education (EHE) ehel@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Children Missing Education (CME) cme@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Child in Entertainment or Employment cee@lincolnshire.gov.uk

School Attendance Queries attendance@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Prevent

- Prevent Support Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, 01522 555367, prevent@lincolnshire.gov.uk
- PREVENT Officer, East Midlands Special Operations Unit – Special Branch, 01522 558304, Email: prevent@lincs.pnn.police.uk

Online Safety incidents

National helpline

[Saferinternet Helpline](#)

Early Help Team

TACadmin@lincolnshire.gov.uk www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/tac earlyhelpconsultants@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Training Materials

LSCP Online and face to face Safeguarding Training courses including Safer Recruitment training: [LSCP Training](#)

LCC Safeguarding in Schools Training Package safeguardingschools@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Safeguarding Governor Training governorsupport@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Prevent Training; All staff can undertake e-learning which is equivalent to WRAP 2 via the LSCP Training

In addition, free face to face Prevent Awareness training is available through contacting either of the following:

- Lincolnshire Police, Prevent Officer, 01522 558304, prevent@lincs.pnn.police.uk.
- Lincolnshire County Council, Prevent Officer, 01522 555367, prevent@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Safeguarding Contacts	
Advice on any aspect of Child Protection and Safeguarding may be sought from the Safeguarding Team:	
Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)	CWA – Mr Gary Brown MWA – Miss Mel Ryan WWA – Mr Chris Fitzpatrick
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)/Safeguarding and Welfare Officers	CWA – Mrs Julie Jones MWA – Mrs Julie Jones WWA – Mrs Julie Jones
Our local contact numbers are:	
Safeguarding of children concerns <i>(children living in Lincolnshire)</i>	01522 782111 <i>Lincolnshire Children's Services Customer Service Centre for reporting concerns and Early Help Team for Advice</i> Emergency Duty Team 01522 782333 (6pm – 8am and weekends and Bank Holidays)
Safeguarding of children concerns <i>(children living in other authorities)</i>	<i>Please add in relevant authority contact numbers if applicable as concerns for children need to be reported to the local authority in which the child resides (or state n/a)</i>
Allegations against/concerns about adult(s) working with children <i>Staff must report concerns to the HOS or in the event of concerns about the HOS concerns must be reported to the Chair of Governors</i>	Lincolnshire Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) Rachael Powis, Kim Murray and Ildiko Kiss 01522 554674 LSCP_LADO@@lincolnshire.gov.uk <i>The Head/Chair must contact LADO to discuss concerns and course of action</i>
Police (emergency) Policy (non-emergency)	999 101
Safeguarding Cluster	
LCC Safeguarding in Schools <i>for advice around safeguarding policy, audits, training etc</i>	Ruth Fox Miriam Shucksmith Safeguardingschools@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Appendix 5 – Trust Guidance on Photographing and Uploading Images of Children (March 2020)

What needs to happen	Person/s responsible
From this point forward any Trust staff member who is responsible for a safeguarding breach will be dealt with under the Trust's disciplinary policy, the first time it occurs. Any future breaches, which have not been recorded and reported as per the policy, will be dealt with retrospectively as if they had happened currently. For example, if it came to light that a breach occurred in the past and was not reported, and then another breach occurred that was reported, both breaches would be dealt with as if they had happened simultaneously. The policy would be followed, the Management Advice stage would be skipped, and that person would be guilty of misconduct as per the policy.	All line managers.
ALL safeguarding breaches by staff to be reported immediately to Sue Wilson Executive Head teacher, the Head of the school/Designated Safeguarding Lead and the school's Safeguarding and Welfare Officer as well as the staff member's line manager, so that a decision can be made about escalation, actions and implications for training. This has to happen on the first occasion.	All staff
ALL Safeguarding breaches are recorded formally on CPOMs and relevant people informed including the above. Leaders need to record on CPOMs their responses to safeguarding breaches. All staff have a collective responsibility to deal with this. Detailed records of conversations with parents and staff to be recorded separately on CPOMs including actions.	All staff
Check all photographs on websites and twitter do not include children who are on the restricted list or who have left the school.	Office Managers
Check that ALL staff across the 3 schools have and can access CPOMs.	Heads to check that all staff have access to CPOMs and arrange.
Annual GDPR and Safeguarding training/mop up training for new staff includes more specific reference to uploading pictures in line with new guidance.	Safeguarding training – DSLs GDPR training – David Coleman
Staff will not be allowed to upload any photograph to a social media site at home. This has to be done on school premises, during working hours whilst the list of children and consents is visible. This must be referred to at all times.	All staff. Heads to share this at training session and monitor.
Taking photographs of any child without consent from parents is banned from immediate effect. Simply using emoji's to cover faces is not enough. If a child presents in a group, then the child will be asked to step aside and not be photographed. If the child is in a situation where they cannot step aside, e.g. in an assembly line up, then the photograph is not taken.	All staff Heads to share as part of the training session.

Consent lists with children's names will be simplified so that staff can clearly see who does not have consent for what. This will be printed and will be in every classroom for ease of access. All staff to have a list of all children in the school who do not have parental consent for photographs.	Office Managers
The Head/DSL who are informed of a safeguarding breach need to investigate each one and learn lessons as to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - what went wrong - why it happened - the circumstances surrounding the breaches - what more could be done. (e.g. disciplinary action, management advice, training, policy changes etc.). A copy of the report shared with Executive Head teacher and Chair of LGB.	Heads of School/DSLs in conjunction with SWO, AHO and any relevant staff.
Leaders and all Trust staff need to model the procedures within policies and the highest standards of professional conduct.	All staff
All data breaches reported immediately to David Coleman who will make the decision to escalate to the ICO.	All staff David Coleman