

Thomas A' Becket Infant School



Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

This policy was adopted on: 21 November 2023

The policy will next be reviewed on: September 2024

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1 KEY CONTACTS

At the School

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Amanda Dingwall

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s): Teresa Bourne and Collette Wade

Additional core members of the safeguarding team are: Xanthe Wrigley

Safeguarding Governor: Donna Tomlinson

Designated Teacher for looked after children: Teresa Bourne

Emotional Well-being Lead: Amanda Dingwall (supported by Hannah Ifould and Jennifer Martinez)

West Sussex Multi-Agency Integrated Front Door (Formerly MASH):

Tel: 01403 229900
(Out of Hours – 0330 222 6664)

WSChildrenservices@westsussex.gov.uk

Referrals to the Integrated Front Door (IFD) for children and young people under 18

Urgent Referrals should be telephoned into IFD on 01403 229900.

If you believe a child is in immediate danger you must call the police on 999.

Referrals to IFD should be made on the following web-based forms which can be accessed <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/keeping-children-safe/raise-a-concern-about-a-child/>

Referrals for those aged 18 and over

1. To discuss concerns relating to a person aged 18 and over please contact West Sussex Adult Social Care on 01243 642121.
2. Referral to Adult Social Care should be made using the [Adult Social Care Referral Form](#) online form.

Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs):

The LADOs for West Sussex area:

- Miriam WILLIAMS;
- Donna TOMLINSON; and
- Vic WILLIAMS.

LADO Contact Details

LADOs should be contacted either by email: LADO@westsussex.gov.uk or by phone, LADO Consultation Contact No. 0330 222 6450 (Mon – Fri 9.00am – 5.00pm).

Safeguarding in Education Team

The Safeguarding in Education Team, including the IFD Education Advisers, can be contacted on 0330 222 4030 or by email to Safeguarding.Education@westsussex.gov.uk

2 INTRODUCTION

1. Safeguarding children and child protection applies to all children up to the age of 18.
2. For those aged 18 and over please see part 14 of the School's safeguarding guidebook.
3. **Safeguarding** is the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.
4. **Safeguarding** means:
 - protecting children from maltreatment;
 - preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health and/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.
5. **Child protection is part of the safeguarding process.** It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering, or likely to suffer, from significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

6. **We recognise that harm also means where a child or young person witnesses harm to another.**
7. Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.
8. The purpose of this policy is to inform staff¹, parents, volunteers and governors about the School's responsibilities for safeguarding children and to enable everyone to have a clear understanding of how these responsibilities should be carried out.
9. We recognise that all adults, including temporary staff, volunteers and governors, have a full and active part to play in protecting children from harm and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern.
10. All staff members believe that the School should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.
11. We will also empower and support our staff where they have concerns for the safety of children and young people who do not attend the School.

3 SAFEGUARDING CULTURE IN THE SCHOOL

Child Protection Statement

The School takes its responsibility to safeguard children extremely seriously and will train and empower all staff to recognise and respond effectively to protect a child who may be at risk of significant harm.

It could happen here

We will ensure that all staff members in the School maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' and feel able to raise concerns either about a child at risk or a member of staff whose behaviour may present a risk to a child.

The School will:

1. Have safeguarding at the heart of everything we do;
2. Maximise opportunities to hear the voice of all of our children and do all we can to understand their lived experience;
3. Maximise opportunities to teach our children how to keep safe both in the real and virtual world;
4. Support the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence;

5. Provide an environment in which children feel safe, secure, valued, respected and confident;

¹ Wherever the word "staff" is used, it covers ALL staff on site, including ancillary and supply staff, and volunteers working with children.

6. Recognise that where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. We also recognise it is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences can impact on their mental health, behaviour, and education;
7. Ensure that **ALL of our children know a member of staff they can communicate with if they are worried about something;**
8. Ensure that where there is a safeguarding concern, the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. Systems should be in place for children to express their views and give feedback. Ultimately, all systems and processes should operate with the best interests of the child at heart;
9. Make sure all our staff, including volunteers know how to contact child protection agencies should they need to;
10. Provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, and ensure we, the School, contribute to assessments of need and support packages for those children;
11. Emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff and between the School and other agencies;
12. Have, and regularly review, a structured procedure within the School which will be followed by all members of the School community in cases of suspected abuse;
13. Develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the Police and Children's Social Care, including Integrated Prevention & Early Help;
14. Be part of promoting effective working relationships, we are aware of the requirement for children and young people to have an Appropriate Adult present in certain circumstances involving the police, for example, during searches. We will be aware of Statutory guidance - PACE Code C 2019 – and ensure our children are supported as appropriate;
15. Ensure that all adults, including supply staff, contractors, and volunteers, within the School who have access to children have been recruited and checked as to their suitability in accordance with Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education;
16. Have in place other, up to date policies which support safeguarding.
17. Make sure all staff are aware of the systems within the School which support safeguarding. We will explain this on induction together by sharing details of this policy, behaviour policy, staff behaviour policy, the School response to children who go missing from education, and role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead;
18. Ensure that all our staff will reassure a child who reports any concerns, whether in respect of child-on-child abuse or any other safeguarding situation, and ensure that ~~they will be taken seriously~~ they will be taken seriously and kept safe. OUR STAFF WILL NEVER give a child the impression they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment nor should a child ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report;

19. Ensure that our staff will also understand that the location of where the incident took place will feature in any risk assessments; and
20. Ensure that our staff will also recognise the need to support siblings of all of those involved in any child-on-child sexual violence or harassment.

Voice of the Child – Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

The School recognises the findings in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, where children expressed that they wanted an effective safeguarding system to be:

- vigilant: to have adults notice when things are troubling them;
- understanding and actioned: to understand what is happening, to be heard and understood, and to have that understanding acted upon;
- stable: to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them;
- respectful: to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not;
- informed and engaged: to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans;
- explained: to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response;
- supported: to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family;
- advocated: to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views; and
- protective: to be protected against all forms of abuse and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if a refugee.

We will use this information to support the training of our staff and review this and other policies as appropriate.

Children may not feel ready or know how to tell

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

Extra-familial abuse

All of our staff, but especially the DSL (and deputies) should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual abuse (including harassment and exploitation), domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse), criminal exploitation, serious youth violence, county lines, and radicalisation.

4 STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

The School will act in accordance with the following:

Government legislation and guidance

- The Children Act 1989 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>
- The Children Act 2004 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents>
- Education Act 2002 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/about-this-guidance>
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 [Keeping children safe in education 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999239/SVSH_2023.pdf)
- Sexual Violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges 2021: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999239/SVSH_2021.pdf
- Teaching online safety in school (Gov.UK Jan 2023) [Teaching online safety in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-school) [Teaching online safety in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-school)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
- Regulated Activity in relation to children: scope [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550197/Regulated activity in relation to children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550197/Regulated_activity_in_relation_to_children.pdf)
- The Education (Child Information) (England) Regulations 2005 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/1437/contents>
- Prevent Duty for England and Wales (2015) under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573782/FGM Mandatory Reporting - procedural information nov16 FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573782/FGM_Mandatory_Reporting_-_procedural_information_nov16_FINAL.pdf)
- Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff (2012) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/allegations-of-abuse-against-teachers-and-non-teaching-staff>
- Children Missing Education [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550416/Children Missing Education - statutory guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550416/Children_Missing_Education_-_statutory_guidance.pdf)
- West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership and Pan-Sussex safeguarding procedures [West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/childrens-services/childrens-protection/childrens-protection-partnership)
- The Right to Choose – what services and organisations should do to help people at risk of forced marriage. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-right-to-choose-government-guidance-on-forced-marriage/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-for-dealing-with-forced-marriage-and-multi-agency-practice-guidelines-handling-cases-of-forced-marriage-accessible>
- Searching, screening and confiscation [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching screening and confiscation.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf)
- The Equality Act 2010 and schools [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for)

5 CONFIDENTIALITY

The School will comply with the below principles.

1. As a general principle, all matters relating to child protection are confidential and should only be shared on a 'need-to-know' basis.
2. The Headteacher or DSL will disclose any child protection related information about a child to other members of staff on a need-to-know basis only, where the receiving member of staff can play an active role in safeguarding that child or supporting their education outcomes.
3. All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
4. All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child that they will keep secrets if doing so might compromise that or another child's safety or wellbeing.
5. The intention to refer a child to Children's Social Care will be shared with parents/carers unless to do so could put the child at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. If in doubt, advice should be sought from the Integrated Front Door.
6. KCSiE very clearly outlines the expectations on the DSL in promoting the educational outcomes for children by sharing information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children, including children with a social worker, are experiencing, or have experienced.
 - a) KCSiE outlines that the DSL will share information with staff, so they know who these children are, understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort. The School will support teaching staff to identify the challenges that children in this group might face and the additional academic support and adjustments that they could make to best support these children.
 - b) The School will approach the sharing of such information sensitively, in collaboration with the child or young person, parents and carers. When supporting the educational outcomes for a child, staff may need to know that the child is or has been supported by safeguarding agencies, but it will often not be necessary to share the details of the actual safeguarding concerns.

6 RESPONSIBILITIES

The School

We recognise that staff have a vital role to play in safeguarding children because staff can identify concerns early, provide help for children, and prevent these concerns escalating. We also recognise that ALL staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

We will:

1. Ask our children what they want from an effective child protection system;
2. Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
3. Be aware of the signs of abuse and maintain an attitude of “it could happen here” with regards to child protection;
4. Ensure that children know that there are adults in the School whom they can approach if they are worried about anything, whether in School, at home, or in general;
5. Ensure all staff will know what to do if a child tells them they are being abused or neglected;
6. Ensure that all staff will know how and where to record their concerns and report these to the DSLead, as soon as possible;
7. Ensure that all staff will know how to refer the matter to the Integrated Front Door and/or the police immediately if a child is in immediate danger;
8. Support pupils in line with their Child Protection Plan and notify the DSL of any child on a Child Protection Plan who has an unexplained absence;
9. Actively plan opportunities within the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to assess and manage risk appropriately and keep themselves safe;
10. Be aware of and follow the [Sussex Child Protection & Safeguarding Procedures](#), produced by West Sussex, East Sussex, and Brighton & Hove. This will include the referral process;
11. Ensure that all staff have **read and understand Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2023** (or for staff not working directly with children, the condensed version of part 1 found at Annex A of KCSiE) and are alert to signs of abuse and know to whom they should report any concerns or suspicions;
12. Ensure that all staff participate in safeguarding training as part of our induction process;
13. Ensure that all staff receive safeguarding and child protection updates as required, **but at least annually**, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children;
14. Ensure that all staff know who the Designated and Deputy Safeguarding Lead(s) are and how to contact them;
15. Ensure that all staff are aware of the ‘early help’ process and understand their role in it. This includes identifying problems and working effectively with other agencies that provide support to pupils;
16. Immediately refer to the Headteacher if someone has concerns about another member of staff;

17. Immediately refer to the Chair of Governors and/or the LADO where the concerns are about the Headteacher;
18. Ensure that all staff, including volunteers, will, where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from harm, recognise it is important that a referral to local authority children's social care (and if appropriate the police) is made immediately. Referrals should follow the local referral process.

Statutory & Other Responsibilities of the Governing Body

1. The nominated Governor for Child Protection in the School is:
Name: Donna Tomlinson
2. The Governing Body takes its responsibility seriously to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in its care and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within the School to identify, assess, and support children who are, or who may be, suffering harm.
3. The Governing Body recognises, as outlined at para 81 KCSiE 2023, that governing bodies should ensure that all governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in the School are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole school approach to safeguarding. Their training should be regularly updated.
4. The Governing Body is aware of its obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, (including the Public Sector Equality Duty), and their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
5. The Governing Body recognises the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to and gives effect to the Articles and protocols of the European Convention on Human Rights (the Convention) that are deemed to apply in the UK. It compels public organisations to respect and protect an individual's human rights when they make individual decisions about them.
6. The Governing Body recognises, under the HRA, that it is unlawful for the School to act in a way that is incompatible with the Convention. The specific convention rights applying to the School are:
 - a) Article 3: the right to freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment (an absolute right);
 - b) Article 8: the right to respect for private and family life (a qualified right) which includes a duty to protect individuals' physical and psychological integrity;
 - c) Article 14: requires that all of the rights and freedoms set out in the HRA must be protected and applied without discrimination; and
 - d) Protocol 1, Article 2: protects the right to education.
7. The Governing Body recognises that being subjected to harassment, violence and or abuse, including that of a sexual nature, may breach any or all of these rights, depending on the nature of the conduct and the circumstances.
8. The Governing Body recognises that the School has obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

9. According to the Equality Act, the School must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, or sexual orientation (which are the relevant protected characteristics).
10. Whilst all of the above protections are important, in the context of safeguarding, this guidance, and the legal duties placed on the School in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, the Governing Body should carefully consider how they are supporting their pupils with regard to particular protected characteristics.
11. Provisions within the Equality Act allow the School to take positive action, where it can be shown that it is proportionate, to deal with particular disadvantages affecting pupils with a particular protected characteristic in order to meet their specific need, this includes a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children, including those with long term conditions.
12. The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) is set out in the Equality Act 2010. Compliance with the PSED is a legal requirement for the Schools. See further paragraph 90 of KCSiE 2023 for advice and specific duties.
13. The PSED places a general duty on the School to have, in the exercise of its functions, due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation (and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010), to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not. The duty applies to all protected characteristics (see para 87 of KCSiE) and means that whenever significant decisions are being made or policies developed, specific consideration must be given to the equality implications of these such as, for example, the need to eliminate unlawful behaviours that relate to them such as sexual violence and sexual harassment, misogyny/misandry and racism.
14. We recognise that this is just one reason why good record-keeping and monitoring of all forms of abuse and harassment is essential and the Governing Body will decide on how they monitor this.
15. The Governing Body recognises that the PSED helps the School to focus on key issues of concern and how to improve pupil and student outcomes. Some pupils or students may be more at risk of harm from specific issues such as sexual violence, homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying or racial discrimination. Such concerns will differ between education settings, but we recognise it is important to be conscious of disproportionate vulnerabilities and integrate this into the School's safeguarding policies and procedures.
16. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 makes clear that the Governing Body should have a lead governor to take **leadership** responsibility for the School's safeguarding arrangements and to ensure there are appropriate policies and procedures relevant to the School.
17. The Governing Body will facilitate a whole school approach to safeguarding. The ~~Governing Body will~~ decide how we facilitate that approach and ensure that all the systems, policies and procedures operate with the best interests of children at their heart.

18. The Governing Body will ensure that the School's Child Protection Policy reflects our whole school approach to child-on-child abuse, and will ensure that ALL members of staff are aware of their specific roles and responsibilities.
19. The Governing Body will ensure that all of the School's policies and procedures reflect the guidance within KCSiE 2023. In addition, we will ensure we have appropriate policies and procedures in place that enable all staff to respond effectively to safeguarding concerns tailored to the specific needs of the School.

Child Protection Policy & Procedure

1. We will make sure the safeguarding policies & procedures in the School are always effective and comply with the law. This will include a Child Protection Policy which is reviewed at least annually and is made available publicly on the School's website.
2. The School's Child Protection Policy will:
 - Reflect the whole school approach to child-on-child abuse reflects reporting systems;
 - Describe procedures which are in accordance with government guidance;
 - Refer to locally agreed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements put in place by the safeguarding partners (and use the WSCC schools safeguarding guidebook, 2022/23, to assist the School to respond to concerns within the local context);
 - Include policies as reflected elsewhere in Part two of KCSiE 2023 where appropriate, reflects serious violence;
 - Is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and updated if needed, so that it is kept up to date with safeguarding issues as they emerge and evolve, including lessons learnt.

Attendance Policy & Safeguarding

1. The School's Attendance Policy puts in place appropriate safeguarding responses for children who do not attend or go missing during the school day or who are children absent from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation, and to help prevent the risk of them going missing in future.
2. Where reasonably possible, the School will hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil. This goes beyond the legal minimum, but we recognise that it is good practice for the School to have additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child goes missing from education, or who does not attend or goes missing from School, is also identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.^{2 3}
3. The School will always take immediate steps to safeguard a vulnerable child. For example, an inability to make contact with a parent/carer despite immediate and repeated efforts will not impede urgent safeguarding action, for example calling the police for a child who is at risk and has gone missing during the school day.

² DfE school attendance guidance can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>

³ WSCC school absence information can be found <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-attendance-and-behaviour/school-absences/>

4. The School will ensure that it follows the correct procedures outlined in this policy when removing a pupil from roll, or adding a pupil to roll, at non-standard transition points.⁴⁵

Staff Behaviour Policy

1. The School will have in place a Staff Behaviour Policy (sometimes called a Code of Conduct) which will, amongst other things, include acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communications including the use of social media.
2. This will include how the School manages low level concerns.

Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Lead & Deputies

1. The School will appoint a DSLead who is a senior member of staff from its leadership team, who has responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. This should be explicit in the role-holders job description in line with Annex C of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.

Audits and Review – including Peer Reviews

1. The School will ensure that, through regular review and audit, any safeguarding deficiencies or weaknesses within the School are remedied without delay.⁶
2. The School will also consider whether a peer review by another school or an audit of our safeguarding provision would be of benefit.⁷

Child Protection Records

The School will ensure that child protection records are maintained in accordance with KCSiE 2023, and are kept securely and separately from other records, in accordance with GDPR, and are only accessed by staff who need to.

Allegations against teachers and other staff, including supply teachers and volunteers

1. The Governing Body are aware of its duties under Part Three and Part Four, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 – safer recruiting and managing allegations made against teachers, other staff, including supply teachers and volunteers.

⁴ DfE guidance Children Missing Education found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education>

⁵ WSCC Children Missing Education and Removal from Roll Policy
https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/12459/cme_policy.pdf

⁶ The NSPCC / TES safeguarding self-assessment is regarded by the Local authority as a useful tool for this purpose <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/working-with-schools/esat/>

⁷ WSCC Safeguarding in Education Team safeguardng.education@westsussex.gov.uk can provide further advice and assistance in these areas.

2. The Governing Body is aware of the new guidance within KCSiE regarding low level concerns.
3. The School is aware that allegations against a teacher who is no longer teaching should be referred to the police. Historical allegations of abuse should also be referred to the police.
4. The School will ensure that there are procedures in place to effectively manage allegations against all staff members, including low level concerns.
5. The School will train its staff to enable them to raise concerns and, as a school, we will follow the guidelines outlined in Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.
6. The School will refer cases to the LADO where a member of staff, supply or agency staff or volunteer has, either inside or outside of School:
 - i. behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
 - ii. possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
 - iii. behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
 - iv. behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.
7. In all such cases, and in cases of any doubt as to whether the matter reaches threshold for an allegation, advice and guidance must be sought from the LADO BEFORE any internal investigation begins.
8. For further information on how the School will respond to any such allegations see section 13 below.

Other areas of note

1. The Governing Body will ensure that it discharges its responsibilities in respect of adhering to the reporting restrictions imposed by the Education Act 2002 where teachers are under investigation.
2. The Governing Body will also ensure parents/carers are aware of their responsibilities not to publish any information during such investigations as highlighted in paragraph 390 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 and section 141F of the Education Act 2002.
3. The Governing Body recognises that neither the Governing Body, nor individual Governors, have a role in pursuing or managing the processes associated with individual cases of child protection.
4. The Governing Body recognises that neither the Governing Body, nor individual Governors, have a right to know details of such cases, except when exercising their disciplinary functions in respect of allegations against staff.
5. The School will make sure all staff are familiar with the contents of Part 1 or Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 and that all staff have been trained appropriately, frequently and in line with statutory guidance.

6. The School will make sure any staff training includes how local services work together to safeguard children and how the School safeguarding leads and deputies work with the safeguarding partnership and other agencies as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children⁸ to keep children safe.
7. The School will ensure that the School is contributing to inter-agency working, which includes engaging with the local Early Help hub in a coordinated manner to provide support to our children as soon as needs are identified.
8. The School will appoint a Designated Teacher for Children Looked After, and will recognise and reflect in school procedures and this policy that children looked after are particularly vulnerable.
9. The Governing Body recognises that, when considering our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provide them with a safe environment in which to learn, it will do all that it reasonably can to limit children's exposure to the above risks from the School's IT system. As part of this process, the Governing body will ensure that the School has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness. It will ensure that the School leadership team and relevant staff have an awareness and understanding of the provisions in place and manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns when identified. The Governing Body's considerations will include the age range of the children, the number of children, how often they access the IT system and the proportionality of cost versus safeguarding risks.
10. The School will make sure that the appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place to safeguard against potentially harmful and inappropriate online material when children use e-learning.
11. The School will work with parents/carers in making sure that appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place whilst the children are accessing the internet at home, to safeguard against potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

The School recognises the statutory status of Relationship Education, Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education from September 2020.

1. The Governing Body recognises the advice at pages 33 / 34 of KCSIE 2023 regarding the opportunities to teach safeguarding as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and in particular:
 - a. The Governing Body will ensure that children are taught about how to keep themselves and others safe, including online. It is recognised that effective education will be tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of individual children, including children who are victims of abuse, and children with special educational needs or disabilities;
 - b. Relevant topics will be included within Relationships Education and Health Education. In teaching these subjects the School will have regard to the statutory guidance;

⁸ Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 – found [HERE](#)

- c. Schools play a crucial role in preventative education. Preventative education is most effective in the context of a whole-school approach that prepares pupils and for life in modern Britain and creates a culture of zero tolerance for sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphobic and sexual violence/harassment. The School has a clear set of values and standards, upheld and demonstrated throughout all aspects of School life. These are underpinned by the School's behaviour policy and pastoral support system, as well as by a planned programme of evidence-based RSHE delivered in regularly timetabled lessons and reinforced throughout the whole curriculum. This programme is fully inclusive and developed to be age and stage of development appropriate (especially when considering the needs of children with SEND and other vulnerabilities). This program will tackle at an age-appropriate stages issues such as:
- i. healthy and respectful relationships;
 - ii. boundaries and consent;
 - iii. stereotyping, prejudice and equality;
 - iv. body confidence and self-esteem;
 - v. how to recognise an abusive relationship, including coercive and controlling behaviour;
 - vi. the concepts of, and laws relating to- sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, so called honour-based violence such as forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and how to access support; and
 - vii. what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable.

Training

1. The Governing Body will ensure that they, and all school staff, including volunteers, are trained at least annually on safeguarding. Governors will also consider what other bespoke training, for example PREVENT, would enable them to fulfil their governance obligations.
2. At least one Governor will be trained in Cyber Security to be able to review the 'Filtering and Monitoring' process [Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Cyber security standards for schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges-cyber-security-standards-for-schools-and-colleges)

Safer Recruitment

1. The Governing Body will ensure that the School creates a culture of safer recruitment and as part of that adopt recruitment procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might abuse children.
2. The School will follow the procedures set out in Part 3: Safer Recruitment. Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2023. This includes ensuring taking up references for each shortlisted candidate **before** interview and ensuring that at least one member of any appointing panel, including at shortlisting, will have attended safer recruitment training.

3. The School recognises that it is good practice to record the details of the member of staff who is safer recruitment trained within the selection process to enable subsequent audit/scrutiny.
4. The School will take advice from human resources/legal services where necessary.

Single Central Record

1. The School will ensure that it maintains a single central record in line with Part 3, of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.
2. The School will remind all staff, at least annually, that they must immediately bring to the attention of the Headteacher any material changes in circumstances or other information of relevance.
3. The School is aware that in relation to supply teachers, it must obtain written notification from any agency, or third-party organisation who the School is using, that the organisation has carried out the checks (in respect of the enhanced DBS certificate, written notification that confirms the certificate has been obtained by either the employment business or another such business), on an individual who will be working at the School.
4. Where any supply position requires a barred list check, the School recognises that this must be obtained by the agency or third party prior to the School appointing the individual.
5. The School is aware of the checks that must be undertaken for trainee or student teachers, and will make sure, depending on circumstances, that either the School or training provider will undertake all relevant checks.
6. The School will always check that the person presenting themselves for work from a supply or other agency is the same person on whom the checks have been made.
7. If there is any doubt that all relevant checks have not been completed then the person whom the checks relate to will not be allowed to engage in any regulated activity at the School.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Referrals

1. The School recognises that the School has a legal duty in making a referral <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-barring-referrals-to-the-dbs> regarding anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult where:
 - a. The harm test is satisfied in respect of that individual;
 - b. The individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence, or if there is reason to believe that the individual has committed a listed relevant offence; and
 - c. The individual has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity or would have been removed had they not left.
 2. The School recognises that this is a legal duty for the School and failure to refer when the criteria are met is a criminal offence.
-

Resignations and Settlement Agreements

1. The School recognises that if an accused person resigns, or ceases to provide their services, this should not prevent an allegation being followed up in accordance with this policy and the guidance contained in Part Four of KCSiE 2023.
2. A referral to the DBS must be made if the criteria are met - see above and Part Four of KCSiE 2023.
3. We also recognise we must also consider whether a referral to the Secretary of State, through a referral to the Teacher Regulation Authority <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teacher-misconduct-referring-a-caset> as appropriate.
4. 'Settlement agreements' (sometimes referred to as compromise agreements), by which a person agrees to resign if the employer agrees not to pursue disciplinary action, and both parties agree a form of words to be used in any future reference, should not be used in cases of refusal to cooperate or resignation before the person's notice period expires. Such an agreement will not prevent a thorough police investigation where that is appropriate.
5. If the accused person resigns or their services cease to be used and the criteria are met for a referral to the DBS, it will not be appropriate to reach a settlement/compromise agreement. The School recognises that any settlement/compromise agreement that would prevent the School from making a DBS referral even though the criteria for referral are met, is likely to result in a criminal offence being committed. This is because the School would not be complying with its legal duty to make the referral.
6. The Governing Body recognises that it is important that every effort is made to reach a conclusion in all cases of allegations bearing on the safety or welfare of children, including any in which the person concerned refuses to cooperate with the process. Wherever possible, the accused should be given a full opportunity to answer the allegation and make representations about it. But the process of recording the allegation and any supporting evidence, and reaching a judgement about whether it can be substantiated based on all the information available, should continue even if that cannot be done or the accused does not cooperate. It may be difficult to reach a conclusion in those circumstances, and it may not be possible to apply any disciplinary sanctions if a person's period of notice expires before the process is complete, but it is important to reach and record a conclusion wherever possible.
7. The School will take advice from Human Resources/Legal Services where necessary.

Consideration of referral to the Secretary of State – Teaching Regulation Agency

1. The School recognises that in any case concerning a dismissal, or where the services of a teacher are no longer used, because of serious misconduct, or where the School might have dismissed them or ceased to use their services had they not left first, the School must consider whether to refer the case to the Secretary of State (via the Teaching Regulation Agency). Details about how to make a referral to the Teaching Regulation Agency can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teacher-misconduct-referring-a-case>
2. We will take advice from Human Resources/Legal Services where necessary.

Ongoing vigilance

1. The Governing Body will ensure that the School has processes in place for continuous vigilance, maintaining an environment that deters and prevents abuse and challenges inappropriate behaviour.
2. To support this, it is important that the School leaders create the right culture and environment so that staff feel comfortable to discuss matters both within, and where it is appropriate, outside of the workplace, which may have implications for the safeguarding of children. This can assist employers to support staff, where there is a need, and help them manage children's safety and welfare, potentially providing them with information that will help them consider whether there are further measures or changes to procedures that need to be put in place to safeguard children in their care.

Existing staff

1. There are limited circumstances where the School will need to carry out new checks on existing staff. These are when:
 - a. an individual working at the School or moves from a post that was not regulated activity with children into work which is considered to be regulated activity with children. In such circumstances, the relevant checks for that regulated activity **must** be carried out;
 - b. there has been a break in service of 12 weeks or more; or
 - c. there are concerns about an individual's suitability to work with children.

Use of School premises for non-school activities

1. The Governing Body will ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place to keep children safe when the School hires out of School facilities/premises to organisations or individuals (for example to community groups, sports associations, and service providers to run community or extra-curricular activities). [Keeping children safe during community activities, after-school clubs and tuition: non-statutory guidance for providers running out-of-school settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
2. When services or activities are provided by the Governing Body, under the direct supervision or management of the School staff, the normal arrangements for child protection will apply. However, where services or activities are provided separately by another body, this is not necessarily the case.
The Governing Body will therefore seek assurance that the provider concerned has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place (including inspecting these as needed), and ensure that there are arrangements in place for the provider to liaise with the School on these matters where appropriate. This applies regardless of whether or not the children who attend any of these services or activities are children on the School roll. The Governing Body will also ensure safeguarding requirements are included in any transfer of control agreement (i.e. lease or hire agreement), as a condition of use and occupation of the premises, and that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement. The guidance on Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings details the safeguarding arrangements that the School expect these providers to have in place.

Professional Disagreements & Concerns

1. The School recognises that, on occasions, there are disagreements between safeguarding professionals. Should any such situations arise, the School will always keep the child at the centre, and will support the children and staff in the School by ensuring that the School follow the correct procedure should it be necessary to escalate concerns to the safeguarding children partnership.
<https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk/professionals/professional-disagreements-and-concerns>

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership

1. From Tuesday 25th June 2019 the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board was replaced by the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership⁹ where three lead agencies - Health Partnership, Police and the Local Authority - will work together as joint and equal partners to shape bespoke arrangements for the needs of the children in West Sussex. The Governing Body is fully committed to working with the Partnership and will enable governors and the safeguarding lead to attend events and briefings on how the partnership will support the children.

7 THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL)

In the School, any individual can contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead if they have concerns about a child.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead in the School is:

NAME: Amanda Dingwall

Date: September 2023

The Deputy Safeguarding Lead in the School is:

NAME: Teresa Bourne and Collette Wade

Date: September 2023

Additional core members of the safeguarding team are:

NAME: Xanthe Wrigley

Date: September 2023

Whilst the activities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for child protection, as set out above, remains with the Designated Safeguarding Lead; this lead responsibility should not be delegated. The School recognises that the DSL, as per the recommendations in KCSiE 2022, will be part of the SLT.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

1. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2023, Annex C, gives an overview of ~~the role of the DSL.~~

⁹ West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership – <https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk/>

2. The DSL and Deputies within the School have the role explicitly stated in their job description.
 3. The DSL will:
 - i. Assist the Governing Body in fulfilling their responsibilities under section 175 or 157 of the Education Act 2002;
 - ii. Attend initial training for their role and refresh this within two years;
 - iii. Keep their knowledge and skills updated at least annually;
 - iv. Ensure that all staff know who the DSL is, their role and how to make contact;
 - v. Ensure that all staff understand their responsibilities in relation to signs of abuse and responsibility to refer any concerns to the DSL. In addition, the DSL should ensure that all staff read and understand Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 and have a record of when this was done;
 - vi. Pay particular attention to training staff and volunteers who have been unable to attend whole-school safeguarding training days and make sure they receive training as soon as possible, and whether the staff member/volunteer should be supervised in the interim or have any probation period extended.;
 - vii. Ensure that new staff participate in safeguarding training as part of their induction;
 - viii. Ensure that all staff receive safeguarding and child protection updates as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children. The DSL will also ensure staff, including all senior leaders and Chair of Governor/Safeguarding Governor, are kept fully aware of any significant changes or updates to local authority child protection and safeguarding procedures, as and when they occur;
 - ix. Be the lead for the School when engaging the 'Managing Professional Difference Protocol' when there is disagreement between the School and other agencies in respect of action taken to keep a child safe. Found at <https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk/professionals/professional-disagreements-and-concerns> ;
 - x. Help 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;
 - xi. Liaise with relevant curriculum leads in settings to ensure Relationship Education, Relationship and Sex Education, and Health Education is considered within all aspects of the curriculum;
 - xii. Maintain child protection records for each child where concerns have been raised, and ensure the receiving school is informed of any concerns and files are transferred when the child moves to another educational setting.;
-
- xiii. Will always be available during School hours in term time for staff in the School to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Whilst generally speaking the DSL (or deputy) would be expected to be available in person, it is a matter for the School, working with the DSL, to define what 'available' means, and whether in exceptional

circumstances availability via phone and or Skype or other such media is acceptable; and

- xiv. Arrange adequate and appropriate cover for any out of hours/out of term activities. The School will ensure that it provides the Local Authority with up-to-date emergency contact details should the Local Authority need to discuss an urgent safeguarding matter/issue/concern when the School is closed.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is expected to:

1. Refer cases of suspected abuse to the IFD or other Local Authority Children's Social Care services as appropriate. Where a referral is made, notes should be completed that same day;
 2. Support staff who make referrals to IFD or other Local Authority Children's Social Care;

Refer any new concerns immediately to the allocated social worker for open cases where a child already has an allocated social worker;
 3. Ensure reports are generated and shared ahead of the conference and in line with West Sussex Safeguarding Partnership expectations¹⁰ for all child protection cases;
 4. Refer cases to the Channel Programme where there is a radicalisation concern, as required;
 5. Support staff who make referrals to the Channel Programme;
 6. Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the DBS as required;
 7. Refer cases where a crime may have been committed to the police, either directly or via the IFD as required;
 8. Ensure all child protection files are kept separately and securely from other records and accessible only by staff that need to access them for safeguarding purposes;
 9. As frequently as needed and at least monthly, liaise with the Headteacher to inform them of issues, provide updates from attendance at DSLnetwork meetings and other safeguarding developments within the Local Authority, and provide an overview of current child protection cases, especially ongoing enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations;
 10. As required, liaise with the Case Manager and where required the LADO, in all cases involving allegations against members of staff (both current and former members of staff);
 11. Liaise with staff (especially pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians, and SENDCO, and Senior Mental Health Leads) on matters of safety and safeguarding (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies;
-
12. Retain oversight of all Early Help plans, and review level or any change in risk at regular intervals;

¹⁰ <https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk/professionals/working-together/cp-conferences>

13. Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff; and
14. Take the lead responsibility for the 'Filtering and Monitoring' review in accordance with the 'Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges guidance'. [Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Cyber security standards for schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges-cyber-security-standards-for-schools-and-colleges)

Training

1. As well as training all members of staff as above, the DSL and deputies will undergo training to provide them with the skills required to carry out the role. This training MUST be updated at least every two years.
2. The Governing Body will plan for staff changes to ensure there is sustained capacity and resilience for the DSL and deputies.
3. The DSL and deputies will undertake PREVENT Awareness training and ensure the rest of the staff also do this on at least an annual basis as part of the wider continuous safeguarding training process in operation.

DSLLead – continual professional development

The DSL will be afforded time to allow them to keep up to date with any developments relevant to their role, including:

1. Assisting all staff to recognise that changes in behaviour can indicate potential abuse or neglect, or be as a result of previous or current trauma, experienced by the child directly, or by being in the presence of others who have/are experiencing trauma;
2. Attending the DSL network termly meetings as organised by the Local Authority;
3. Understanding the assessment process for providing Early Help and intervention, and ensure the School engages in Early Help consultations with the Dedicated Schools Team;
4. Maintaining a working knowledge of how West Sussex Local Authority 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;
5. Ensuring each member of staff has access to and understands the School's child protection policy and procedures, especially for new and part-time staff;
6. Being alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers;
7. Having an understanding of the impact of a child's lived experiences on their presentation and ability to engage in learning. Identifying appropriate learning opportunities for School staff to enable them to meet those individual needs and reflect on the School's policies and processes in light of what they have learned;
8. Keeping detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals separately from the main pupil file and use these records to assess the likelihood of

risk. The written records should clearly identify details of the concerns and what action was taken. If these are stored electronically, they must be password protected from the child's other files and accessible only by the Headteacher/DSL and deputy DSLs;¹¹

9. Supporting the School with regards to the requirements of the PREVENT Duty and being able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children who are susceptible to the risk of radicalisation;
10. Having knowledge of changes to local safeguarding procedures, processes, assessment tools etc, obtaining access to resources, and attending any relevant or refresher training courses;
11. Encouraging a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings amongst all staff, in any measures the School may put in place to protect them;
12. Understanding the importance of information sharing, both within the School and with the three safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners;
13. Ensuring that where a pupil transfers school and is on a Child Protection Plan, or is a Child Looked After, the information is passed to the new school immediately and the child's social worker informed;
14. Acting as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety, safeguarding, and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies;
15. Ensuring that either they or the class teacher attends Child Protection conferences, core groups or other multi-agency planning meetings, contributes to assessments and provides a report which will normally have been shared with the parent/carers ahead of the conference and in line with multi-agency requirements;¹²
16. Monitoring the use of personalised timetables in accordance with the 'Part Time Timetable Guidance' issued by WSCC Pupil Entitlement Team;¹³
17. Ensuring that any child who is subject to a child protection plan, and who is absent without explanation, is referred to their key worker's social care team. In some cases, any absence may be a cause for concern and warrant immediate reporting;
18. Being able to understand the unique risks associated with online safety, and being confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at School or at home;
19. Being able to recognise the additional risks that children with SEN and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming, and radicalisation, and are confident they have the capability to support SEND children to stay safe online;
20. Ensuring the School's child protection policy is reviewed annually, working with the ~~Governing Body~~, and utilising peer and other reviews/audits where appropriate, to ensure that procedures are updated, implemented and reviewed regularly; and

¹¹ See section 10 of this policy for more information on this area.

¹² <https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk/professionals/working-together/cp-conferences>

¹³ For advice contact Pupil Entitlement on 03302 228200

21. Being responsible for making the senior leadership team aware of trends in behaviour that may affect child welfare.

8 WHEN TO BE CONCERNED A CHILD IS AT RISK OF ABUSE

The School recognises that all children and young people are vulnerable to abuse.

1. The School will train all staff, including volunteers, to recognise and report to the DSL immediately when they have concerns.
2. The School will ensure that all staff and volunteers have read Part 1 of KCSIE 2023, and this Policy, and attend safeguarding training at least once per year.
3. The School will ensure that all staff and volunteers will be aware of the main categories of abuse, and the signs and symptoms, so they can respond quickly and effectively by informing the DSL where there are concerns.

4. **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. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or by another child or children.

5. **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.

6. **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 ability, 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 cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child although it may occur alone.

7. **Sexual Abuse:**

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

happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing.

They may 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) by establishing a close relationship or friendship. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males; women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

8. 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 care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Recognising Physical Abuse

Indicators in the child

Bruising

It is often possible to differentiate between accidental and inflicted bruises. The following must be considered as non-accidental unless there is evidence, or an adequate explanation provided:

- bruising in or around the mouth;
- two simultaneous bruised eyes, without bruising to the forehead (rarely accidental, though a single bruised eye can be accidental or abusive);
- repeated or multiple bruising on the head or on sites unlikely to be injured accidentally for example the back, mouth, cheek, ear, stomach, chest, under the arm, neck, genital and rectal areas;
- variation in colour possibly indicating injuries caused at different times;
- the outline of an object used e.g. belt marks, handprints or a hairbrush;
- linear bruising at any site particularly on the buttocks, back or face;
- bruising or tears around or behind the earlobe/s indicating injury by pulling or twisting;
- bruising around the face;
- grasp marks to the upper arms, forearms or leg ; and/or
- petechial haemorrhages (pinpoint blood spots under the skin) commonly associated with slapping, smothering/suffocation, strangling and squeezing.

Fractures

Fractures may cause pain, swelling and discolouration over a bone or joint. It is unlikely that a child will have had a fracture without the carers being aware of the child's distress. If the child is not using a limb, has pain on movement and/or swelling of the limb, there may be a fracture.

There are grounds for concern if:

- the history provided is vague, non-existent or inconsistent ;

- there are associated old fractures; and/or
- medical attention is sought after a period of delay when the fracture has caused symptoms such as swelling, pain or loss of movement.

Rib fractures are only caused in major trauma such as in a road traffic accident, a severe shaking injury or a direct injury such as a kick.

Skull fractures are uncommon in ordinary falls, i.e. from three feet or less. The injury is usually witnessed, the child will cry and, if there is a fracture, there is likely to be swelling on the skull developing over 2 to 3 hours. All fractures of the skull should be taken seriously.

Mouth Injuries

Tears to the frenulum (tissue attaching upper lip to gum) often indicates force feeding of a baby or a child with a disability. There is often finger bruising to the cheeks and around the mouth. Rarely, there may also be grazing on the palate.

Poisoning

Ingestion of tablets or domestic poisoning in children under 5 is usually due to the carelessness of a parent or carer, but it may be self-harm even in young children.

Bite Marks

Bite marks can leave clear impressions of the teeth when seen shortly after the injury has been inflicted. The shape then becomes a more defused ring bruise or oval or crescent shaped. Those over 3cm in diameter are more likely to have been caused by an adult or older child. A medical/dental opinion, preferably within the first 24 hours, should be sought where there is any doubt over the origin of the bite.

Burns and Scalds

It can be difficult to distinguish between accidental and non-accidental burns and scalds. Scalds are the most common intentional burn injury recorded. Any burn with a clear outline may be suspicious e.g. circular burns from cigarettes, linear burns from hot metal rods or electrical fire elements, burns of uniform depth over a large area, scalds that have a line indicating immersion or poured liquid.

Old scars indicating previous burns/scalds, which did not have appropriate treatment or adequate explanation. Scalds to the buttocks of a child, particularly in the absence of burns to the feet, are indicative of dipping into a hot liquid or bath.

The following points are also worth remembering:

- A responsible adult checks the temperature of the bath before the child gets in;
- A child is unlikely to sit down voluntarily in a hot bath and cannot accidentally scald its bottom without also scalding his or her feet and
- A child getting into too hot water of his or her own accord will struggle to get out and there will be splash marks.

Scars

A large number of scars or scars of different sizes or ages, or on different parts of the body, or unusually shaped, may suggest abuse.

~~Emotional / behavioural presentation:~~

- refusal to discuss injuries;
- admission of punishment which appears excessive;
- fear of parents being contacted and fear of returning home;
- withdrawal from physical contact;
- arms and legs kept covered in hot weather;

- fear of medical help;
- aggression towards others;
- frequently absent from School;
- an explanation which is inconsistent with an injury; and/or
- several different explanations provided for an injury.

Indicators in the parent:

- may have injuries themselves that suggest domestic violence;
- not seeking medical help/unexplained delay in seeking treatment; reluctant to give information or mention previous injuries;
- absent without good reason when their child is presented for treatment;
- disinterested or undisturbed by accident or injury;
- aggressive towards child and/or others;
- unauthorised attempts to administer medication;
- tries to draw the child into their own illness;
- past history of childhood abuse, self-harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical and/or sexual assault;
- parent/carer may be over involved in participating in medical tests, taking temperatures and measuring bodily fluids;
- observed to be intensely involved with their child, never taking a much-needed break nor allowing anyone else to undertake their child's care;
- may appear unusually concerned about the results of investigations which may indicate physical illness in the child;
- wider parenting difficulties may (or may not) be associated with this form of abuse; and/or
- parent/carer has convictions for violent crimes.

Indicators in the family/environment:

- marginalised or isolated by the community;
- history of mental health, alcohol and/or drug misuse, and/or domestic violence;
- history of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents/carers and/or siblings of the family; and/or
- past history of childhood abuse, self-harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical and/or sexual assault, and/or a culture of physical chastisement.

Recognising perplexing cases which may indicate a possibility of fabricated or Induced Illness (FFI)

1. Professionals may be concerned at the possibility of a child suffering significant harm as a result of having illness fabricated or induced by their parent/carer. Possible concerns are:
 - discrepancies between reported and observed medical conditions, such as the incidence of fits;
 - attendance at various hospitals, in different geographical areas;
 - development of feeding/eating disorders, as a result of unpleasant feeding interactions;
 - the child developing abnormal attitudes to their own health;
 - non-organic failure to thrive - a child does not put on weight and grow and there is no underlying medical cause;
-
- speech, language and/or motor developmental delays;
 - dislike of close physical contact;
 - attachment disorders;
 - low self esteem;

- poor quality or no relationships with peers because social interactions are restricted; and/or
 - poor attendance at school and under-achievement.
2. These cases are very complex and for a case to be considered as FFI is after careful and detailed review by a consultant paediatrician. Please see Pan-Sussex Child Protection Procedures for further information:
<https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/tkypss/children-in-specific-circumstances/fabricated-or-induced-illness-fii-and-perplexing-presentations-including-fii-by-carers>
3. Where the School has concerns in this area, it must speak with the school nurse in the first instance.

Recognising Emotional Abuse

Indicators in the child:

- developmental delay;
- abnormal attachment between a child and parent/carer e.g. anxious, indiscriminate or no attachment;
- aggressive behaviour towards others;
- child scapegoated within the family;
- frozen watchfulness, particularly in pre-school children;
- low self-esteem and lack of confidence;
- withdrawn or seen as a 'loner' - difficulty relating to others;
- over-reaction to mistakes;
- fear of new situations;
- inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations;
- neurotic behaviour (e.g., rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking);
- self-harm;
- fear of parents being contacted;
- extremes of passivity or aggression;
- drug/solvent abuse;
- chronic running away;
- compulsive stealing;
- low self-esteem ;
- air of detachment – 'don't care' attitude;
- social isolation – does not join in and has few friends;
- depression, withdrawal;
- behavioural problems e.g. aggression, attention seeking, hyperactivity, poor attention;
- low self-esteem, lack of confidence, fearful, distressed, anxious; and/or
- poor peer relationships including withdrawn or isolated behaviour.

Indicators in the parent:

- domestic abuse, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may be features in families where children are exposed to abuse;
- abnormal attachment to child e.g. overly anxious or disinterest in the child;
- scapegoats one child in the family;
- imposes inappropriate expectations on the child e.g. prevents the child's developmental exploration or learning, or normal social interaction through overprotection; and/or
- wider parenting difficulties may, or may not, be associated with this form of abuse.

Indicators of in the family/environment:

- lack of support from family or social network;
- marginalised or isolated by the community;

- history of mental health, alcohol or drug misuse or domestic violence;
- history of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents/carers and/or siblings of the family; and/or
- past history of childhood abuse, self-harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical and/or sexual assault or a culture of physical chastisement.

Recognising Neglect

Neglect - Using the West Sussex Partnership Neglect Suite of Tools

1. West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership have developed a range of tools to assist professionals in identifying and responding to neglect.
2. These tools include [A Day in My Life Templates](#) to enable professionals to assess the needs of individual children. These tools are fundamental in hearing the child's voice when there are concerns.
3. The School is committed to using these tools when assessing impact of abuse and neglect on children. The Governing Body will monitor use of these tools whenever assessing children who may be at risk of neglect.

Indicators in the child

Physical presentation:

- failure to thrive or, in older children, short stature;
- underweight;
- frequent hunger;
- dirty, unkempt condition;
- inadequately clothed, clothing in a poor state of repair;
- red/purple mottled skin, particularly on the hands and feet, seen in the winter due to cold;
- swollen limbs with sores that are slow to heal, usually associated with cold injury;
- abnormal voracious appetite;
- dry, sparse hair;
- recurrent/untreated infections or skin conditions e.g., severe nappy rash, eczema or persistent head lice/scabies/diarrhoea;
- unmanaged/untreated health/medical conditions including poor dental health; and/or
- frequent accidents or injuries.

Development:

- general delay, especially speech and language delay; and/or
- inadequate social skills and poor socialisation.

Emotional/behavioural presentation:

- attachment disorders;
- absence of normal social responsiveness;
- indiscriminate behaviour in relationships with adults;
- emotionally needy;
- ~~compulsive stealing;~~
- constant tiredness;
- frequently absent or late at school;
- poor self esteem;
- destructive tendencies;
- thrives away from home environment;

- aggressive and impulsive behaviour;
- disturbed peer relationships; and/or
- self-harming behaviour.

Indicators in the parent:

- dirty, unkempt presentation;
- inadequately clothed;
- inadequate social skills and poor socialisation;
- abnormal attachment to the child e.g. anxious;
- low self- esteem and lack of confidence;
- failure to meet the basic essential needs e.g. adequate food, clothes, warmth, hygiene;
- failure to meet the child's health and medical needs e.g. poor dental health; failure to attend or keep appointments with health visitor, GP or hospital; lack of GP registration; failure to seek or comply with appropriate medical treatment; failure to address parental substance misuse during pregnancy;
- child left with adults who are intoxicated and/or violent;
- child abandoned or left alone for excessive periods; and/or
- wider parenting difficulties may or may not be associated with this form of abuse.

Indicators in the family/environment:

- history of neglect in the family;
- family marginalised or isolated by the community;
- family has history of mental health, alcohol and/or drug misuse and/or domestic violence;
- history of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents/carers and/or siblings of the family;
- family has a past history of childhood abuse, self-harm, somatising disorder or false allegations of physical and/or sexual assault and/or a culture of physical chastisement;
- dangerous or hazardous home environment including failure to use home safety equipment, risk from animals;
- poor state of home environment e.g. unhygienic facilities, lack of appropriate sleeping arrangements, inadequate ventilation (including passive smoking) and lack of adequate heating; and/or
- lack of opportunities for child to play and learn.

Recognising Sexual Abuse

Indicators in the child -

Physical presentation:

- urinary infections, bleeding or soreness in the genital or anal areas;
- recurrent pain on passing urine and/or faeces;
- blood on underclothes;
- sexually transmitted infections;
- vaginal soreness and/or bleeding;
- pregnancy in a younger girl where the identity of the father is not disclosed and/or there is secrecy or vagueness about the identity of the father; and/or
- physical symptoms such as injuries to the genital or anal area, bruising to buttocks, abdomen and thighs, sexually transmitted disease, presence of semen on vagina, anus, external genitalia or clothing.

Emotional/behavioural presentation:

- makes a disclosure;
- demonstrates sexual knowledge or behaviour inappropriate to age/stage of development, or that is unusually explicit;
- inexplicable changes in behaviour, such as becoming aggressive or withdrawn;

- self-harm - eating disorders, self-mutilation and suicide attempts;
- poor self-image, self-harm, self-hatred;
- reluctant to undress for PE;
- running away from home;
- poor attention/concentration (world of their own);
- sudden changes in school work habits, become truant;
- withdrawal, isolation or excessive worrying;
- inappropriate sexualised conduct;
- sexually exploited and/or indiscriminate choice of sexual partners;
- wetting or other regressive behaviours e.g., thumb sucking;
- draws sexually explicit pictures ; and/or
- depression.

Indicators in the parents:

- comments made by the parent/carer about the child;
- lack of sexual boundaries;
- wider parenting difficulties or vulnerabilities;
- grooming behaviour; and/or
- parent/carer is a sex offender.

Indicators in the family/environment:

- marginalised or isolated by the community;
- history of mental health, alcohol and/or drug misuse and/or domestic violence;
- history of unexplained death, illness or multiple surgery in parents and/or siblings of the family;
- past history of childhood abuse, self-harm, and/or a culture of physical chastisement; and/or
- family member is a sex offender.

Preventing Radicalisation

1. As part of the School's **safeguarding** training, the School will train all staff at least annually in respect of preventing radicalisation.
2. The School recognises that more information is contained within the Schools' safeguarding guidebook.
3. The School recognises that children are susceptible to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, the School's safeguarding approach includes protecting children from this risk.
4. Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.
5. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
6. Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people, causes serious damage to property, or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

7. There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home).
8. However, it is possible to protect people who are susceptible to extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. 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. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the DSL (or deputy) making a Prevent referral.

The Prevent Duty

1. The School's DSL (and any deputies) will be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral and that the School is subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015) in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".
2. This duty is known as the PREVENT Duty.
3. The PREVENT Duty is part of the School's wider safeguarding obligations.
4. Our DSL and other senior leaders will familiarise themselves with the revised Prevent Duty Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance> especially paragraphs 57-76, which are specifically concerned with schools and childcare.
5. The guidance is set out in terms of four general themes: risk assessment; working in partnership; staff training; and IT policies.
6. The School recognises that further information can be obtained from [WSCC Preventing Extremism](#) and also Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 for national on-line training courses(pages 89-91).

Sexual Violence & Harassment

1. The School is familiar with the guidance and information contained with part 5 KCSIe 2023 and also DfE guidance https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999239/SVSH_2021.pdf which has been produced to assist schools and colleges to manage cases of sexual violence and harassment between pupils.
 2. The School recognises that more information on how to respond to cases is contained within the Schools safeguarding handbook.
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3. At the School we believe that all children have a right to attend School and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm from adults in the School and other pupils.

4. The School recognises that some pupils will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the School's behaviour policy or anti-bullying policy in the first instance.
 5. However, we recognise that some allegations may be of such a serious nature that they may raise safeguarding concerns.
 6. All staff recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. All staff are made clear about the School policy and procedures with regards to child on child abuse.
 7. The School recognises the importance of an ambitious broad and balanced curriculum which develops students understanding of consent, acceptable behaviour, keeping themselves safe and healthy relationships.
 8. The School will ensure that its policy will include procedures to minimise the risk of peer-on-peer abuse.
 9. The School recognises, and will ensure, that systems are in place (and are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible) for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously.
 10. The School understands that schools not recognising, acknowledging or understanding the scale of harassment and abuse and/or downplaying some behaviours related to abuse can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment and, in worst case scenarios, a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal, and not coming forward to report it. The School will ensure that it has a positive cultural of challenge and reporting.
 11. The School recognises that children may not find it easy to tell staff about their abuse verbally. We understand children can show signs or act in ways that they hope adults will notice and react to. In some cases, the victim may not make a direct report; for example, a friend may make a report, or a member of School may overhear a conversation that suggests a child has been harmed or a child's own behaviour might indicate that something is wrong. As per this policy, if staff have any concerns about a child's welfare, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told.
 12. As always when concerned about the welfare of a child, all School staff should act in the best interests of the child. In all cases, the School should follow general safeguarding principles as set out throughout this policy. Immediate consideration should be given as to how best to support and protect the victim and the alleged perpetrator(s) (and any other children involved/impacted).
 13. The starting point regarding any report should always be that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment, and it is never acceptable, and it will not be tolerated. It is especially important not to pass off any sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children.
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14. The School recognises sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

15. Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable.
16. It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND, and LGBT children are at greater risk.

School staff will recognise the importance of:

1. Making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
2. Not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and
3. Challenging behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them;
4. Recognition of the gendered nature of peer-on-peer abuse (i.e. that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys perpetrators), but that all peer-on-peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously;
5. The different forms peer on peer abuse can take, such as:
 - a. bullying (including cyberbullying);
 - b. Sexual violence and sexual harassment (which is covered in much more detail below);
 - c. Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery), also covered below;
 - d. Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party ;
 - e. 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, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm; and/or
 - f. Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

Preventing Child-on-Child Abuse

The School will:

1. Provide a developmentally appropriate education syllabus which develops pupils understanding of consent, acceptable behaviour, keeping themselves safe and healthy relationships;
2. Have systems in place for any pupil to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued;
3. Deliver targeted work on assertiveness and keeping safe to those children identified as being at risk;
4. Develop robust risk assessments and providing targeted work for pupils identified as being a potential risk to other pupils;
5. Provide clarity on how allegations of child-on-child abuse will be recorded, investigated and dealt with;
6. Have clear processes as to how victims, perpetrators and any other child affected by child-on-child abuse will be supported;
7. Provide a clear statement that abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up"; and
8. Recognise the gendered nature of child-on-child abuse (i.e. that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys perpetrators), but that all child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

8.1 Sexual violence – rape & sexual assault, including by penetration

The School recognises that it is important that its staff are aware of sexual violence and the fact children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way. When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003:

- **Rape:** A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: they intentionally penetrate the vagina, anus, or mouth of another person (B) with their penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents;
- **Assault by Penetration:** A person (A) commits an offence if: they intentionally penetrate the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of their body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents;
- **Sexual Assault:** A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: they intentionally touch another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

8.2 What is consent?

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

8.3 Sexual harassment

1. When referring to sexual harassment we mean 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline. When we reference sexual harassment, we do so in the context of child-on-child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.
2. Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexual harassment can include:
 - Sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories; making lewd comments; making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names;
 - Sexual "jokes" or taunting;
 - Physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone; interfering with someone's clothes (the School will consider when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence - it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim) and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature; and
 - Online sexual harassment: This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence¹⁴. It may include: Non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos; Sexualised online bullying; Unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media; sexual exploitation; and coercion and threats.

8.4 Upskirting

1. The School recognises that upskirting is a criminal offence and will take any allegations of such behaviour very seriously.
2. Upskirting typically involves taking a picture up or under a person's clothing without them knowing. The picture is taken with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.
3. When an allegation of upskirting is brought to the School's attention, we will respond as we would for any other disclosure of potential abuse.
4. We will follow the principles as set out in responding to reports of sexual violence and harassment above and will take advice from IFD on how to progress any allegation of upskirting.
5. Where any suspect for a case of upskirting is identified as being a pupil at the School we will initially be guided by police but will always seek to support that pupil in accordance with the principles set out in 22.23 below.

Sharing Nudes and semi-nude images

1. The School recognises the guidance issued in December 2020 by the Dept for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the UK Council for Internet Safety published guidance 'Sharing nudes and semi nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people'¹⁵.

¹⁴ Project DESHAME provides useful research advice and resources regarding online sexual harassment – found [here](#)

¹⁵<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>

2. This guidance separates incidents of those under 18 sharing nude or semi-nude images into two broad areas: 1 – aggravated; and 2 - experimental.
3. Aggravated can be sub-categorised into the following areas:
 - An adult is involved; or
 - Youth only and there is an intent to harm – for example, used to threaten or exploit; Youth only and reckless misuse – for example, sharing images widely without consent but no intent to harm.
4. Experimental can be sub-categorised into the following areas:
 - Where images have been shared within a romantic context;
 - Where young people share images of themselves with others for sexual attention;¹⁶
 - Another reason.
5. Response
 - The School has a thorough understanding of the guidance and will assess each case on its own merits. Where aggravating factors may be present, the matter should be referred to police on 101 and IFD.
 - Where there are no clear aggravating factors, the School will consider whether a safeguarding referral to IFD should still be made, taking advice from IFD where appropriate.

9 CHILDREN REQUIRING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

1. The School has an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of its pupils.
2. The School recognises mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

The School's Emotional Well-being Lead is Amanda Dingwall (supported by Hannah Ifould and Jennifer Martinez).

3. The School has a clear system and process in place for identifying possible mental health problems, including routes to escalate and clear referral and accountability systems. The School will make sure all staff and volunteers are aware of this system.
4. Where there are concerns about the mental health, wellbeing and safeguarding of a child, staff will immediately discuss those concerns with the DSL.

The School is aware of recent government publications:

¹⁶ The guidance identifies sexual attention seeking. The phrase 'sexual attention seeking' is taken directly from the typology however it is important to note that incidents within this category can be a part of normal childhood. A child or young person should not be blamed for taking and sharing their image.

- Preventing and tackling bullying
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/623895/Preventing_and_tackling_bullying_advice.pdf
- Mental health and behaviour in schools
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2> and
- Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing>

West Sussex Single Point of Access (SPoA)

1. Following a Sussex-wide review of emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people, a new West Sussex Single Point of Access (SPoA) for emotional wellbeing and mental health support launched Wednesday 1 June 2022.
2. The new service provides a simplified single route so that children, young people, families, carers and professionals can be directed to the right service, eliminating the need to refer to multiple services.
3. Led by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), the new arrangement is delivered in partnership with West Sussex County Council's Youth Emotional Support Service (YES) and YMCA Dialogue.
4. The three services work together to process (triage) the referrals and determine which service is the most appropriate offer for the young person, which may also include partnership services. In time, more emotional wellbeing services will be introduced into the service.

Making a referral

Young people, parents/carers and wider professionals can now make a referral to the West Sussex SPoA at www.e-wellbeing.co.uk/support

Key details:

- The SPoA will be open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm;
- The young person must consent to the request for the service and understand they may be directed to another service outside the SPoA;
- The service will accept referrals for children and young people from the age of four up to the young person's 18th birthday, who are registered with a West Sussex GP, whilst recognising and working within NHS CHOICE regulations;
- If a young person who is close to turning 18 is referred to the service with a mental health need they will be signposted to adult services; and
- If you have any questions about the new service, please contact Naomi Frith, Project Manager, at naomi.frith@spft.nhs.uk.

Alternatively, please go to www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/west-sussex-spoa

Additional Services

1. The School's staff are aware of the West Sussex Community Mental Health Liaison Service <https://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/west-sussex-cmhl-service> who provide an early intervention and prevention service for professionals who are working with young people under the age of 18 and are concerned about a young person's mental health and wellbeing. This service is available to the School.
2. The School is aware that it can obtain advice and support from the School Nursing Service. <https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/downloads/services/west-sussex-school-nursing/west-sussex-school-nursing-leaflet.pdf>
3. The School is also aware of the resources available to the School from the Mentally Healthy Schools website. <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/>
4. The School is also aware of how it can refer a child or young person to CAMHS. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/12781/camhsref.pdf>

Self-Harm Guidance for Schools

1. The Self-harm page accessible to all schools in West Sussex County council can be found at <https://schools.westsussex.gov.uk/Services/4720> Here you can find information, training and resource in relation to self-harm. This includes bespoke self-harm and distress tolerance sessions that can be accessed for free at any time as well as updates on new innovative projects in relation to self-harm.
2. Also available on the self-harm page is managing self-harm guidance and tool kit for schools.
3. The School recognises the self-harm resources are available to anyone in education, to support staff when dealing with students who self-harm or are at risk of intentionally harming themselves.
4. The School will use this guidance to support its students and staff.

COVID-19

The School is aware of the affect that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, will provide support to all our children.

Mental Health and RE/RSE/HE

Through the curriculum, the School will maximise the opportunities to teach children about mental health as part of the health education cornerstone of our Relationship Education/Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education.

10. DEALING WITH A DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE

The School is determined that:

1. it will be a safe place where children feel able to talk to a trusted adult if they are concerned or worried; and
2. all staff, including volunteers, will know how to respond appropriately should a child disclose to them.

If a child discloses – the School will:

- Accept what the child says;
- Stay calm; the pace will be dictated by the child without them being pressed for detail. We will not ask leading questions such as “did x touch you there?” If more information is needed to establish if there has been abuse use, open questions will be used, such as “describe what happened?” “tell me what happened?” It is our role to listen, not to investigate;
- Use age-appropriate vocabulary and language, and avoid jargon or terms the child may not understand;
- Be careful not to burden the child with guilt by asking questions like “Why didn’t you tell me before?” but instead ask questions like “Have you spoken to anyone else about this?”;
- Acknowledge how hard it maybe for the child to tell anyone what has happened;
- Not criticise the perpetrator, as the child may well have a relationship with them; and
- Not promise confidentiality but reassure the child that they have done the right thing, explaining whom we will have to tell (the DSL) and why, and depending on the child’s age, what the next stage will be. It is important that we avoid making promises that we cannot keep such as “I’ll stay with you all the time” or “it will be all right now”.

The DSL will decide on when and how to contact the parent/carer to share concerns and will share concerns with parents/carers before making a referral to IFD unless by doing so this could escalate the risk to the child or other vulnerable person or impede a police investigation.

If the School is in any doubt as to whether to refer the matter, we will speak to and discuss with the IFD.

When recording information, we will:

- ~~1. Be aware that any records made may well be used in subsequent investigations and possible court hearings;~~
2. Make detailed notes at the time or immediately afterwards, recording the date, time, place and context of disclosure or concern. Record facts and what was said but not the note taker’s assumption or interpretation;

3. Record the detail if it is an observation of bruising or an injury, e.g. right arm above elbow;
4. Use skin/body maps if necessary – specimen examples are available at Annex 7 below;
5. Not take photographs;
6. Note the non-verbal behaviour and the key words in the language used by the child but will not translate the child's words into 'adult language';
7. Record the date, time and location where the notes were made and if anyone else was present and
8. Pass the notes as soon as possible to the DSL.

Reporting Forms

1. Reporting forms will be readily available to all staff who may require them. Staff should not have to print forms off before being able to complete them.
2. Reporting forms will be located together with the latest copies of Keeping Children Safe in Education, Confidential Reporting Policy and the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, at various easily accessible points through the School.
3. Annexes 6, 7 & 8 below provide specimen suggested forms, chronologies and skin/body maps for the recording of information.
4. Even where the School has a computerised safeguarding system, it will still have paper reporting forms readily available to all staff, so they can record concerns as soon as possible. (For example, where the computer system is 'down' or where the member of staff cannot gain access quickly to record the disclosure immediately.)
5. All paper records will be retained as per the record keeping section below. Where an electronic system is in operation, paper records of any disclosures by a child or record made by a staff member relating to a disclosure will be uploaded and the original paper record also retained.

Support for staff

1. It is recognised that staff working in the School who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm, may find the situation stressful and upsetting.
 2. The School will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the DSL and to seek further support as appropriate. WSCC school staff have access to a free, 24/7 and confidential counselling service, via the employee assistance programme.
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Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Legal obligation to report acts of Female Genital Mutilation

1. 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. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.
2. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM.
3. From 31st October 2015, regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales must report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18's which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police.
4. Where we suspect there is a case of FGM is suspected, or believe a child/young person is about to suffer FGM or is about to leave the country in order to suffer FGM, the School will call the police immediately, and by 999 when it is an emergency.
5. Irrespective of calling the police, the School will also immediately refer the matter to IFD, including out of hours where relevant.
6. The Home Office has published procedural information on the duty to help health and social care professionals, teachers and the police understand: the legal requirements placed upon them; a suggested process to follow; and an overview of the action which may be taken if they fail to comply with the duty. It also aims to give the police an understanding of the duty and the next steps upon receiving a report.
7. Guidance can be obtained here:
 - [Home Office: Mandatory Reporting of FGM – procedure information](#);
 - [FGM Mandatory Reporting Fact Sheet](#);
 - [FGM Reporting Flowchart for under 18's](#) .

11. REFERRING A CHILD TO THE INTEGRATED FRONT DOOR (IFD)

If a child is in immediate danger the police must be called by dialling 999.

If a member of staff has concerns about a child:

1. The member of staff will report their concerns to the DSL or, in their absence, the Deputy Safeguarding Lead;
2. The DSL will refer to the West Sussex Safeguarding Partnership Continuum of Need/Threshold Guidance¹⁷ and decide whether the concerns should be referred to

¹⁷ West Sussex Safeguarding Partnership Continuum of Need / Threshold Guidance found <https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk/professionals/working-together/west-sussex-continuum-of-need-threshold-guidance>

the Integrated Front Door (IFD). If there are grounds to indicate the child has or is likely to suffer actual or suspected significant harm then a referral will be made to the IFD using the relevant online form¹⁸. Where concerns are urgent, complex, or where it is unclear whether a referral should be made, the DSL should contact the IFD by telephone for advice on 01403 229900, or out of hours on 0330 222 6664.

3. If it is decided to make a referral to the IFD, parents/carers will be contacted to inform them that the referral is being made unless to do so would place the child at further risk of harm or could impact on a police investigation (the IFD is able to provide advice on this).
4. If it is considered likely that by informing parents/carers of the referral will increase the risk to the child(ren) advice **must** be sought from the IFD **before** informing, the Parent/Carer.
5. The steps outlined in section 23 below, 'Dealing with a Disclosure', will be followed by staff members to record details of any concerns which must be done as soon as possible and on the same day. The signed and dated recording must be a clear, precise, factual account of the observations.
6. Where the IFD have been contacted for advice and indicate a referral should be made, the DSL will ensure the correct online forms at point 1 in this section above are completed immediately.
7. The School's child protection records must reflect who was spoken to at the IFD along with the time and date of that contact. They must also clearly record any advice given and what steps the School has taken. This will include where there are disagreements between the School and the IFD, and will clearly indicate what next steps the School is taking to resolve the disagreement.

Information Sharing

1. The School will comply with the information sharing aspects of KCSiE 2023, which are outlined at paragraph 2.
2. Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect, and in promoting children's welfare, including their educational outcomes. The School has clear powers to share, hold, and use information for these purposes.
3. As part of meeting a child's needs, the Governing body recognises the importance of information sharing between practitioners and local agencies. This includes ensuring arrangements are in place that set out clearly the processes and principles for sharing information within the School or and with children's social care, the safeguarding partners, other organisations, agencies, and practitioners as required.
4. School staff should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess, and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to the local authority children's social care.
5. The Governing body is aware that among other obligations, the Data Protection Act 2018, and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), place duties on

¹⁸ <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/keeping-children-safe/raise-a-concern-about-a-child/>

organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure.

6. The Governing body will ensure that all relevant staff have due regard to the relevant data protection principles, which allow them to share (and withhold) personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. This includes:
 - a) Being confident of the processing conditions which allow them to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information which is sensitive and personal, and should be treated as 'special category personal data';
 - b) Understanding that 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' is a processing condition that allows practitioners to share special category personal data. This includes allowing practitioners to share information without consent where there is good reason to do so (it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent, or if to gain consent would place a child at risk), and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner (Para 119 KCSiE 2023); and
 - c) Not providing pupils' personal data where the serious harm test under the legislation is met. For example, in a situation where a child is in a refuge or another form of emergency accommodation, and the serious harms test is met, the School must withhold providing the data in compliance with the School's obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. Where in doubt, the School should seek independent legal advice.
7. The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children, which must always be the paramount concern.
8. Further details on information sharing can be found¹⁹:
 - in Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children, which includes a myth-busting guide to information sharing;
 - Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers. The seven golden rules for sharing information will be especially useful ;
 - The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), which includes ICO UK GDPR FAQs and guidance from the department; and
 - Data protection: toolkit for schools - Guidance to support schools with data protection activity, including compliance with the UK GDPR.
9. If the School is in doubt whether to share information, we will take advice from the IFD. Further advice on the seven golden rules for sharing information for staff can be found in the following document, *Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers and guidance*, which can be accessed at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721581/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

10. Effective sharing of information is essential for early identification of need, assessment and service provision to keep children safe.
11. Practitioners should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care (e.g. they are being supported as a child in need or have a child protection plan). Practitioners should be alert to sharing important information about any adults with whom that child has contact, which may impact the child's safety or welfare.
12. Information sharing is also essential for the identification of patterns of behaviour when a child has gone missing, when multiple children appear associated to the same context or locations of risk, or in relation to children in the secure estate where there may be multiple local authorities involved in a child's care. It will be for local safeguarding partners to consider how they will build positive relationships with other local areas to ensure that relevant information is shared in a timely and proportionate way.
13. If a practitioner has concerns about a child's welfare and considers that they may be a child in need, or that the child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm, then they should share the information with local authority children's social care and/or the police. All practitioners should be particularly alert to the importance of sharing information when a child moves from one local authority into another, due to the risk that knowledge pertinent to keeping a child safe could be lost.
14. We are aware of the [Data protection toolkit for schools](#) which we will use to assist in complying with GDPR.

Taking Responsibility

1. Staff should not assume a colleague or another professional from another organisation is making a referral. It is the duty of the DSL to take action and ensure information is shared in order to keep a child safe.
2. In addition, the School will ensure that all staff, including volunteers and governors, will have confidence and know how to contact the IFD in the unlikely event that the DSL or deputy are not available. This will also be the case where any member of staff is concerned that the DSL or deputy is not taking concerns seriously.
3. In addition, we encourage all members of staff, including volunteers and governors, to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns which occur in the community and are nothing to do with the School, in the appropriate manner by contacting the IFD, the police, or the NSPCC.

Early Help

1. The Early Help Service within West Sussex is committed to providing a consistent and accessible family focused service for children, young people and their families. Through its supporting families approach to earliest help, Early Help aims to ensure that children's needs are met as early as possible, supporting families to resolve issues before they become harder to reverse. Early Help is able to achieve this through its work with a range of partners, with schools being critical in identifying

early indicators where children, young people and families may benefit from additional support.

Dedicated Schools Teams are in place in each of the six district areas across West Sussex. The teams will offer:

- a) A named link worker for every school and will be working with a cluster of schools in the area;
- b) Clear contact details for the leadership team should schools wish to escalate a concern;
- c) A flexible response as an issue emerges and regular meetings to discuss worries at schools' request, concerns especially focused on key areas such as school attendance, transition points, targeted family support, neglect, physical and mental health, emotional wellbeing and SEND;
- d) Help schools to know the support available locally through Early Help or the community and help connect to it;
- e) Help with threshold decisions, escalating concerns and connections with social care;
- f) Provide, information, advice and guidance and help for families to access crisis support;
- g) Help lead professionals, with Team Around the Family meetings, professionals' meetings, provide short intervention with children, young people and parent/carers, signposting and linking to other local partners providing support, working alongside wider educational colleagues.; and
- h) Provide training on the use of Holistix.

Targeted Family Support

1. Early Help will support schools to identify the best way forward for children and families with slightly more complex needs, where further targeted intervention and support is required. Support to the schools can include providing advice and signposting to the most relevant support services and partners, supporting schools to build confidence referring to appropriate agencies.
2. For children, young people and families with any of the following features, a more targeted level of support may be required, which could be led by the School, or another partner or service. Link workers can support schools with how to complete relevant referrals, which can include referral to the IFD with the appropriate consent from parent/carer, including:
 - a) Multiple complex issues that impact on the children and family stability;
 - b) Entrenched or inter-generational patterns of behaviour;
 - c) Issues that affect the whole family;
 - d) A history of children social care (CSC) intervention or police involvement;
 - e) A coordinated multiagency approach is required;
 - f) Risk of escalating to level 4 intervention including risk of family breakdown;
 - g) Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness;
 - h) Children who have not been attending school regularly;
 - i) Parents and children involved in crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - j) Parents and children with a range of health problems; and/or
 - k) Families affected by domestic, violence and abuse.

3. The School will work with its families, parents and carers, and share its concerns with them at the earliest opportunity, and work with the dedicated schools team link help worker in order to maximise the offer for those children who may benefit from additional support.
4. The School will refer any children/young people that require targeted family support to the IFD.
5. In the School, the DSL will have oversight of all children on Early Help Plans and will regularly review progress and any changes in risk.

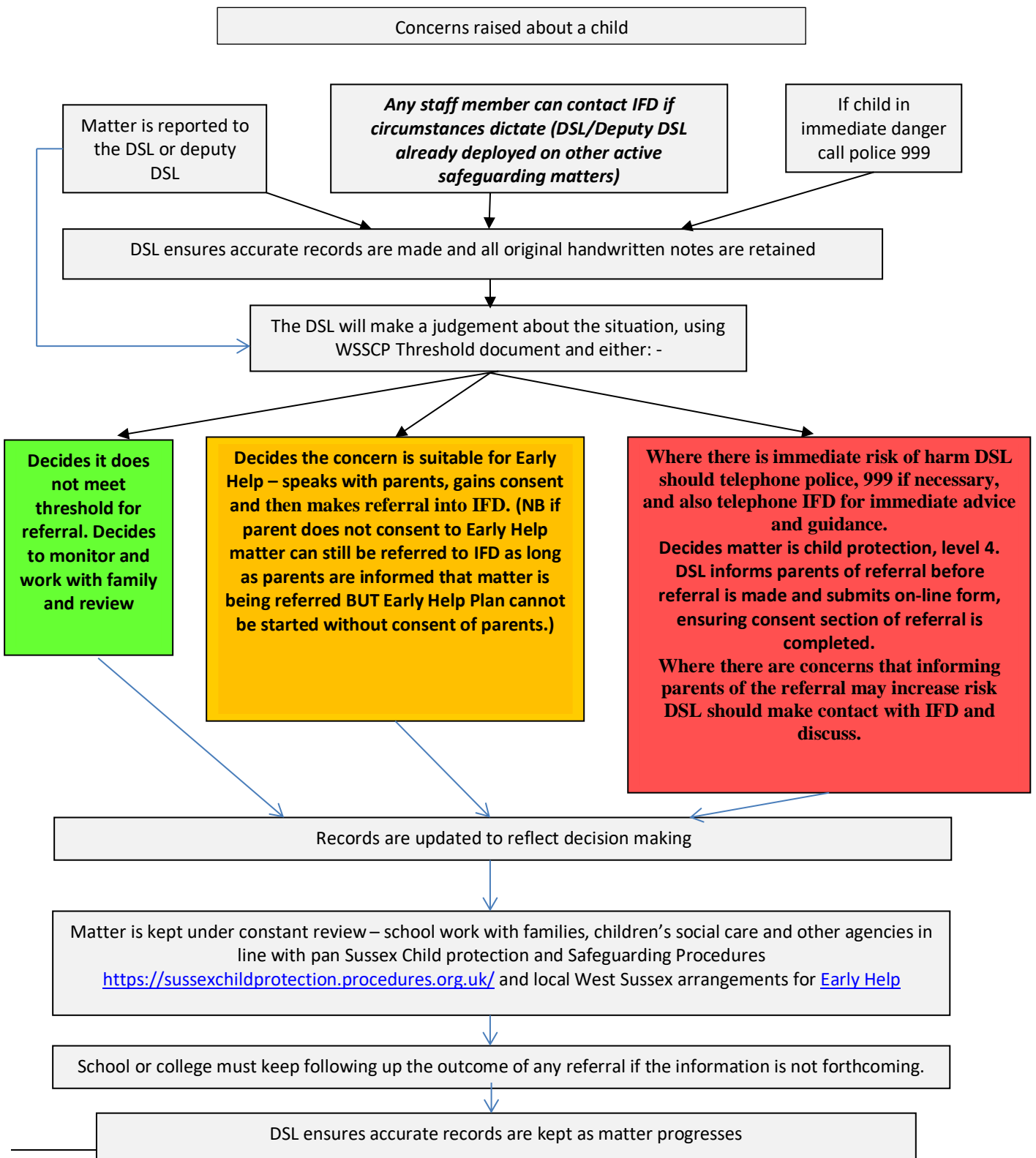
West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Continuum of Need

The School will use the Threshold Guidance²⁰ to inform its decision making and which referral pathway to take.

Referral Pathway:

²⁰ <http://www.westsussexscb.org.uk/professionals/working-together/west-sussex-continuum-of-need-threshold-guidance>

Flowchart for child protection procedures for schools and colleges



12. RECORD KEEPING

Child Protection Files

1. The School recognises that KCSiE 2023 makes it clear that **all** concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. Information should be kept confidential and stored securely. It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate child protection file for each child. Also, that records should include: a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern; details of how the concern was followed up and resolved; and a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.
2. If in doubt about recording requirements, staff should discuss this with the DSL (or deputy).
3. The School recognises the fundamental safeguarding practice of accurately recording safeguarding information. In the School:
 - 3.1. Records kept for child protection purposes will be kept securely, separate from other records and accessed only by those who need to do so for safeguarding and/or monitoring purposes.;
 - 3.2. Each child will have a separate record;
 - 3.3. Each record will be accurate, legible and entries made as soon as practicable after a concern is raised;
 - 3.4. Each recorded concern will include:
 - a) a clear and comprehensive record of the concern,;
 - b) details of how the concern was followed up; and
 - c) a clear record of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome, including any challenge/escalation to any other agency.;
 - 3.5. It is anticipated that more than one member of staff will have access to records and be able to make entries into a child's safeguarding records. Whether there is any doubt about whether to make a record or not staff must consult with the DSL;
 - 3.6. Where computer systems are used, staff will still have access to paper forms so immediate conversations with a child/body map drawing etc. can be made contemporaneously;
 - 3.7. Any paper records generated at 3.6 above will be retained within the file, even where they have been scanned to a computer record;
 - 3.8. Where there is more than one sibling, each sibling will have their own record, cross-referenced where necessary to their siblings;
 - 3.9. Each file will have a chronology to enable assessment, provide an overview and enable fast time assessment of previous activity; and
 - 3.10. Each file will have an up-to-date contact number for other key professionals.

When a child moves school

1. Any child protection files relating to that child will be transferred/retained in accordance with guidelines which can be found in the Information Management Toolkit for Schools found <https://irms.org.uk/page/SchoolsToolkit>
2. In line with statutory guidance within KCSiE, where children leave the School, the DSL will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible, and within five days, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. **This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file.** Receiving schools should ensure key staff such as the DSL and SENCO are aware as required.
3. In addition to the child protection file, the DSL will also consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new school in advance of a child leaving. For example, information that would allow the new school to continue supporting victims of abuse and have that support in place for when the child arrives.
4. In accordance with the Information Management Toolkit for Schools, when a child moves from one school to another, the file will move with them. (See Annex 11 below for a specimen file transfer form.) The sending school should not copy nor retain the child protection file unless they are to be used in ongoing proceedings. (Noting the exceptions when the child moves to an independent school).

13. LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER (LADO)

West Sussex County Council Designated Officer (LADO) Contact Details

The LADOs for West Sussex area:

- Miriam WILLIAMS
- Donna TOMLINSON
- Vic WILLIAM

LADO should be contacted either by email: LADO@westsussex.gov.uk or by phone, LADO Consultation Contact No. 0330 222 6450 (9.00am – 5.00pm)

West Sussex County Council Designated Officer Service: Guidance & Information

Full guidance regarding the Designated Officer Service can be found on the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSSCP):

<https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk/professionals/professional-disagreements-and-concerns/ladoinformation>²¹

Those who may pose a risk of harm to children and young people

1. The School will follow the guidance as set out in Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023. The School will follow that guidance where it is alleged that anyone working in the School, including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors has:

²¹ WSSCP can be found [HERE](#)

- a) Behaved in a way that has, or may have harmed a child;
 - b) Possibly committed a criminal offence against/related to a child;
 - c) Behaved towards a child or children in a way which indicates they would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children; and/or
 - d) Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.
2. The School recognises that point d above includes behaviour that may have happened outside of School, that might make an individual unsuitable to work with children.
 3. The School will appoint a case manager to lead any investigation. If the allegation relates to a member of staff, the Headteacher will be the case manager. If the allegation is regarding the Headteacher, then the Chair of Governors will be the case manager.

The initial response to an allegation

1. Where a child has been harmed, there is an immediate risk of harm to a child, or if the situation is an emergency, the School will contact children's social care and, as appropriate, the police, immediately.
2. The School recognises there are two aspects to consider when an allegation is made:
 - a) **Looking after the welfare of the child** - the DSL is responsible for ensuring that the child is not at risk and referring cases of suspected abuse to the IFD; and
 - b) **Investigating and supporting the person subject to the allegation** - the case manager should discuss with the LADO, the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action.
3. When dealing with allegations, the School will follow the guidance contained within <https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk/professionals/professional-disagreements-and-concerns/ladoinformation>

Informing the Individual

The School will carefully consider when to inform the individual of the allegation on a case-by-case basis, with guidance as required from the LADO, and if appropriate children's social care and the police.

LADO/Case Manager and investigation

The School is familiar with and will follow the guidance in Part Four of KCSiE 2023 and guidance from the LADO when considering issues such as suspension, use of independent investigator, and timeliness of any investigations.

School Complaints

Complaints by parents about any aspect of the School MUST be reviewed to ensure there are no allegations against staff, including volunteers, contained within the complaint which require referral to the LADO.

Allegations against member of staff, including supply staff, contracted staff, volunteers, and Governors

1. The School will make an immediate written record of the allegation using the informant's words including time, date and place where the alleged incident took place, brief details of what happened, what was said, and who was present.
2. This record should be signed, dated and immediately passed on to the Headteacher/Chair of Governors, as appropriate.
3. The recipient of an allegation must not unilaterally determine its validity, and failure to report it in accordance with procedures is a potential disciplinary matter. The Headteacher/Chair of Governors will not investigate the allegation themselves, or take written or detailed statements, but will assess and decide whether to refer the concern to the LADO. If there is any doubt as to whether to refer, advice should be taken from the LADO.
4. If there are concerns that a child is at risk, the matter must be immediately reported to the IFD.
5. Any records generated during such matters must be retained securely, away from other child protection and personnel records, and only be accessed by those who need to for investigation/review purposes.
6. Guidelines contained within the Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures, in respect of managing allegations made against people who work or volunteer with children, must be followed on each occasion. If there is any doubt, then advice must be taken from the LADO.
<https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/tkyphy/children-in-specific-circumstances/allegations-against-people-who-work-with-care-for-or-volunteer-with-children>
7. Where an allegation is made against a supply teacher or contracted staff, whilst the School recognises that it is not the employer of supply teachers or contracted staff, it will ensure allegations are dealt with properly. In no circumstances will the School decide to cease to use a supply teacher due to safeguarding concerns, without first finding out the facts and liaising with the LADO to determine a suitable outcome.
8. Should an allegation be made regarding a Governor, the School will take advice from the LADO and the Local Authority Governor Services team.

Non recent allegations

The School will refer any non-recent allegation to the LADO, irrespective of how long ago it occurred. The School will also encourage the person making the allegation to report the matter to the police if a criminal offence has or could have been committed.

Supporting those involved

When an allegation or safeguarding concern is being investigated, it is likely to be a very stressful experience for the adult subject of the investigation, and potentially for their family members. The School recognises the sensitivity of the situation, and that it is important, as the employer, that we offer appropriate welfare support at such a time. The School recognises that information is confidential and should not ordinarily be shared with other staff, or with children or parents, carers who are not directly involved in the investigation.

The School recognises that it has a duty of care to its employees and, as such, will:

- manage and minimise the stress caused by the allegation;
- inform the individual as soon as possible, explaining the likely course of action, guided by the LADO, and the police where necessary;
- advise the individual to contact their trade union representative, or a colleague for support;
- appoint a named representative to keep the person informed about progress of the case;
- provide access to counselling or medical advice where appropriate. (This may include support via the local authority's occupational health arrangements); and
- not prevent social contact with work colleagues and friends when staff are suspended, unless there is evidence to suggest this may prejudice the gathering of evidence.

Informing Parents or Carers of the child involved

1. Parents/carers will formally be told about the allegation as soon as possible. The case manager will liaise with the LADO, and where appropriate children's social care and police on what information can be disclosed.
2. The School will follow KCSiE 2023 when informing and updating parents/carers. We will follow those paragraphs regarding the need for confidentiality and, where relevant, outline to any party, including parents/carers, the restrictions imposed by The Education Act 2011, which amended the Education Act 2002, regarding reporting restrictions. These provisions made it an offence (except in the limited circumstance expressly permitted by the legislation) for any person to publish any material that may lead to the identification of a teacher in a school who has been accused by, or on behalf of, a child from the same school (where that identification would identify the teacher as the subject of the allegation).

Record keeping, references and learning lessons

The School will maintain records, provide references, and review the case to ensure any learning is identified and enacted as per KCSiE 2023.

Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold for referral to the LADO

1. The School recognises that KCSiE 2023 has introduced a specific section (Section Two of Part Four) regarding how to respond to concerns that do not meet the harm threshold.

2. The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant; it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the threshold for formal referral to the LADO. A low-level concern is any concern, no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt', that an adult working in or on behalf of the School may have acted in a way that:
 - is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and
 - does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.
3. Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) being over friendly with children;
 - (b) having favourites;
 - (c) taking photographs of children on their mobile phone, contrary to School policy;
 - (d) engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door; or
 - (e) humiliating pupils.
4. Such behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum, from the inadvertent or thoughtless, or behaviour that may look to be inappropriate, but might not be in specific circumstances, through to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse.
5. Low-level concerns may arise in several ways and from a number of sources. For example: suspicion; complaint; or disclosure made by a child, parent/carer or other adult within or outside of the organisation; or as a result of vetting checks undertaken.
6. It is crucial that all low-level concerns are shared responsibly with the right person and recorded and dealt with appropriately. Ensuring they are dealt with effectively should also protect those working in or on behalf of the School from becoming the subject of potential false low-level concerns or misunderstandings.
7. For such cases, the School will follow guidance within KCSiE 2023, part four.
8. Any staff member who has a low-level concern should report those concerns to the Headteacher. Where the concerns relate to the Headteacher, the concerns should be reported to the Chair of Governors.
9. We recognise that what may appear to be low level concerns can actually relate to serious/significant allegations. As such, where there is any room for doubt, the School will consult with the LADO.

Low level concerns and staff behaviour policy

1. The School will ensure that all staff are regularly informed of the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct and updates thereof.
2. The School will incorporate low level concerns as an extension of our staff behaviour policy/code of conduct.

What staff should do if they have concerns about safeguarding practices within the School

1. All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the School's safeguarding regime and know that such concerns will be taken seriously by the Senior Leadership Team.
2. Appropriate whistleblowing procedures, which are suitably reflected in staff training and staff behaviour policies, are in place for such concerns to be raised with the School's Senior Leadership Team.
3. Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer, or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels may be open to them; advice can always be taken from the LADO.

Whistleblowing/Confidential reporting

1. The School will ensure that all staff members are aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the actions or attitudes of colleagues. If necessary, the member of staff can speak with the Headteacher, Chair of Governors, or with the the LADO.
2. The School will ensure that staff are aware of and know how to access West Sussex Confidential Reporting Policy:
https://www.proceduresonline.com/westsussex/cs/p_whistleblowing.html#how-to-raise-concern
3. Further assistance for staff to raise concerns can be accessed by calling the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline on 0800 028 0285 or visiting:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/whistleblowing-advice-line/>

14. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) & DISABILITIES

Special Considerations

The School is aware that children with SEN and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges and expect all staff to recognise:

- a) That indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury may relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- b) These children are more prone to peer group isolation than other children;
- c) The potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- d) Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

SEN & D Support

To address these additional challenges, the School will consider extra pastoral support for children with SEN and disabilities.

15. CHILDREN WHO ARE LESBIAN, GAY, BI, OR TRANS (LGBT)

1. The Governing Body recognises the fact that a child or a young person being LGBT is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm. However, children who are LGBT can be targeted by other children. In some cases, a child who is perceived by other children to be LGBT (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as children who identify as LGBT.
2. Risks can be compounded where children who are LGBT lack a trusted adult with whom they can be open. It is therefore vital that staff endeavour to reduce the additional barriers faced and provide a safe space for them to speak out or share their concerns with members of staff.
3. LGBT inclusion is part of the curriculum and the School recognises there is a range of support available to help schools counter homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and abuse. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

16. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER / PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER

1. The Governing Body will ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep looked after children, children who have previously been looked after, and children who have or have ever had social care involvement, safe.
2. In particular, the Governing Body will ensure that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents, or on an interim or full care order) and the child's contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.
3. The Governing Body will also ensure that staff have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after them. The DSL and designated teacher should have details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual school head in the authority that looks after the child.
4. The Governing Body recognises previously looked after children potentially remain vulnerable and all staff should have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep previously looked after children safe. When dealing with looked after children and previously looked after children, it is important that all agencies work together and prompt action is taken when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group.

5. The Governing Body recognises its responsibility to safeguard and monitor the educational outcomes and wellbeing of children with or who have ever had social care involvement.
6. All staff will be provided with an appropriate level of information to understand a child's particular circumstances and vulnerabilities in order to respond and meet their needs appropriately. Staff will work with Social Care colleagues to provide and receive the information necessary to enable effective monitoring and reporting by all professionals involved.

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

1. The Governing Body will appoint a designated teacher and should work with local authorities to promote the educational achievement of registered pupils who are looked after. With the commencement of sections 4 to 6 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Governing Body recognises that designated teachers have 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. The designated teacher must have appropriate training and the relevant qualifications and experience.
 2. The designated teacher for looked after children in our school is Teresa Bourne.
 3. The Governing Body will ensure that the designated teacher has appropriate training, relevant qualifications and experience, including being aware of the statutory guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>
 4. The School will work with the Headteacher of the Virtual School to discuss how the School can best support the child and meet the needs of the child's Personal Education Plan (PEP), using any additional resources accordingly.
 5. Following the commencement of sections 4 to 6 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Virtual School Headteachers have responsibilities towards children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship, or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England or Wales.
 6. The School will pay additional attention to the attendance of children looked after. Where any exclusions are issued for children looked after, the School will consider whether these are indicative of wider safeguarding concerns and share any concerns with the Headteacher of the Virtual School and other safeguarding partners as necessary.
 7. Previously looked after children potentially remain vulnerable and the School will ensure that all staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep previously looked after children safe. When dealing with Children Looked After and previously looked after children, the School will ensure that it works together with other agencies and takes prompt action when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group.
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Care Leavers

1. Local authorities have on-going responsibilities to the young people who cease to

be looked after and become care leavers. That includes keeping in touch with them, preparing an assessment of their needs and appointing a Personal Adviser who develops a pathway plan with the young person. This plan describes how the local authority will support the care leaver to participate in education or training.

3. The DSL in the School will therefore have details of the local authority Personal Adviser appointed to guide and support the care leaver and should liaise with them as necessary regarding any issues of concern affecting the care leaver.
4. The DSL Lead in the School will therefore have details of the local authority Personal Adviser appointed to guide and support the care leaver and should liaise with them as necessary regarding any issues of concern affecting the care leaver.
5. Details of leaving care personal advisors can be found <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/your-space/life/leaving-care-local-offer/>

Virtual School Headteachers

Virtual School Headteachers manage pupil premium plus for looked after children; they receive this funding based on the latest published number of children looked after by the local authority. The School recognises the designated teacher will work with the Virtual School Headteacher to discuss how funding can be best used to support the progress of looked after children in the School and meet the needs identified in the child's personal education plan. The designated teacher should also work with the Virtual School Headteacher to promote the educational achievement of previously looked after children.

17 CHILDREN POTENTIALLY AT GREATER RISK OF HARM -

The School recognises children may need a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs.

1. Children may need this help due to abuse, neglect and/or complex family circumstances. A child's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educationally disadvantaged in facing barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health.
2. Local authorities should share the fact a child has a social worker, and the School recognises that the DSL should hold and use this information so that decisions can be made in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. This should be considered as a matter of routine.
3. As outlined above, the School recognises there are clear powers to share this information under existing duties on both local authorities and schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
4. Where children need a social worker, this should inform decisions about safeguarding (for example, responding to unauthorised absence or missing education where there are known safeguarding risks) and about promoting welfare (for example, considering the provision of pastoral and/or academic support, alongside action by statutory services).

5. The School is aware of the findings from the [Children in Need Review](#), [Improving the educational outcomes for Children in Need of help and protection](#) and the detail contained within [Help, protection, education](#).
6. The Headteacher will take responsibility for how the School can assist children who are potentially at greater risk of harm achieve their educational potential.
7. The Governing Body will regularly scrutinise educational progress of children who are at greater risk of harm.