

Child Protection Policy (CST - MSA, LCA and BA)

This policy applies to the whole of CfBT Schools Trust (CST), including all schools.

Each school has appointed two designated safeguarding Leads (DSL). The DSLs are responsible for matters relating to child protection and welfare in school:

Mount Street Academy	First DSL Mrs Ruth Stephenson (Family Support Worker) 01522 527339 Second DSL Mrs Rachael Horn (Assistant Head of School) 01522 527339 / 07806 639990
Lincoln Carlton Academy	First DSL Mrs Rebecca Malam (Head Teacher) 01522 522633 / 07446 038811 Second DSL Mrs Ruth Stephenson (Family Support Worker) 01522 527339
Benjamin Adlard Primary School	First DSL Mrs Jo Richardson (PSA Office) - 01427 612562 Second DSL Mrs Debbie Glover (SENCO office) - 01427 612562

There will always be cover for this role and arrangements for this are as follows. In their absence, these matters will be dealt with by the deputy designated safeguarding officer:

[Mrs Marie-Claire Bretherton](#) (Executive Headteacher / Regional Director) - 07740 358666

Document Index

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Scope and publication](#)
3. [Principles](#)
4. [The role of school staff \(including volunteers, students, and Local Governing Body members\)](#)
5. [Types, and signs of abuse and neglect](#)
6. [School Designated Safeguarding Lead \(DSL\)](#)
7. [Designated Local Governor \(Chair\)](#)

8. [Looked-After Children](#)
 9. [Whistleblowing](#)
 10. [Safer recruitment](#)
 11. [Reporting child protection concerns about children](#)
 12. [Reporting concerns about a member of staff](#)
 13. [Action by the Designated Safeguarding Officer – concerns about children](#)
 14. [Managing allegations about staff](#)
 15. [Prevention](#)
 16. [Confidentiality and information sharing](#)
 17. [Escalation within the Local Authority - Lincolnshire](#)
 18. [Kyra Teaching School Alliance - Safeguarding and Child Protection](#)
 19. [Monitoring and evaluation](#)
 20. [Additional safeguarding information](#)
 21. [Additional contact information](#)
 22. [Appendix 1 - Child sexual exploitation](#)
 23. [Appendix 2 - Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#)
 24. [Appendix 3 - Peer on peer abuse](#)
 25. [Appendix 4 - Guidance on Youth Produced Sexual Imagery \(SEXTING\)](#)
 26. [Appendix 5 - Guidance on Extremism and Radicalisation](#)
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1. Introduction ¶

CfBT Schools Trust, and all our schools, fully recognise their responsibilities for Child Protection and Safeguarding, and are committed to promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

2. Scope and publication ¶

This policy applies to all staff, Local Governing Bodies and volunteers working in each school and applies wherever staff or volunteers are working with pupils even where this is away from the school, for example at an activity centre or on an educational visit. This policy is published on the school's website and can also be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.

The Trustees and Local Governing Body take seriously their responsibility under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and to work

together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our schools to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm.

The DfE defines safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as:

- protecting children from matreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect **specific** children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

Effective child protection is essential as part of wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However, all agencies and individuals should aim to proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.

3. Principles ¶

The school has a statutory duty to promote and safeguard the welfare of children, and have due regard to guidance issued by the Department for Education [1]. This school recognises its legal and moral duty to promote the well-being of children, protect them from maltreatment, and respond to child abuse as well as its responsibility to follow the local inter-agency procedures of Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

We believe that every child regardless of age, has at all times and in all situations a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged. We believe that children must receive the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating.

We believe that children have the right to have their views heard and considered by all professionals when making decisions to keep the child safe from harm. We will actively enable and encourage children to participate in an open dialogue with all school stakeholders about safeguarding matters and include them in decisions about safeguarding practices, developing an inclusive and open ethos to keeping them safe.

We agree that we have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge, and we will carry out this duty through our teaching and learning, extra-curricular activities, pastoral care and extended school activities. We will teach about safeguarding, including keeping safe whilst online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum, covering relevant issues through personal, social health and economic education.

We always maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'. When we have concerns about the welfare of a child, staff will always act in the interest of the child, and will raise these with the school's designated safeguarding officer. In exceptional circumstances, such as in an emergency or a when a genuine concern has not been appropriately acted upon, staff members will speak directly to children's social care.

The school seeks to adopt an open and accepting attitude towards children as part of their responsibility for pastoral care. The school hopes that parents and children will feel free to talk about any concerns and will see school as a safe place if there are any difficulties at home.

We recognise that a child who is abused or witnesses violence may feel helpless and humiliated, may blame themselves, and find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self-worth.

We recognise that the school may provide the only stability in the lives of children who have been abused or who are at risk of harm. We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal, to aggressive or withdrawn.

Every complaint or suspicion of abuse from within or outside the school will be taken seriously and in all proper circumstances will be referred to an external agency such as children's social care services, the Local Authority designated officer(s), police or the NSPCC, without investigation by the school.

The Local Authority children's social care services, Local Authority designated officer(s) and NSPCC contact details will be displayed throughout the school for ease of reference for the school community and children.

The name of the school's designated safeguarding lead and their deputy will be clearly advertised throughout the school, with a statement explaining the school's role in referral and monitoring.

The name of the Chair of the Lincolnshire Strategic Board will be clearly displayed in the school office for school staff.

NSPCC

The school will clearly advertise the NSPCC contact and ChildLine details with a statement about their statutory powers to take action to safeguard children.

The school will clearly advertise the NSPCC dedicated helpline for reporting concerns/suspicious regarding Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Gangs.

The school will clearly advertise the NSPCC Whistleblowing advice line which provides free advice for professionals who wish to raise concerns about how child or young adult protection issues are being handled in their own or other organisations.

[1] Keeping Children Safe in Education, Sept 2016 & Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018

4. The role of school staff (including volunteers, students, and Local Governing Body members) ¶

All staff will safeguard children's wellbeing and promote their welfare; protecting them from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and by taking appropriate action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

KCSIE 2016 states that all staff should read Part 1 and schools have a duty to ensure mechanisms are in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities. Schools must check that staff know how to escalate a concern, make a

referral or report a FGM disclosure.

If staff members have concerns about another staff member they will refer this to the Executive Head Teacher/Head Teacher or Head of School immediately. If they have concerns about the Executive Head Teacher/Head Teacher or Head of School they will refer this to the Chair of Lincolnshire Strategic Board Tim Dawson contactable via the school office or by email (timandang@sky.com) or a member of Trust's leadership team immediately. ([Linda Sujewon, Strategic Education Consultant at CST - 0118 9021670](#))

If staff have concerns about safeguarding practices within the school, they will follow the school's whistle blowing policy and procedures.

All staff will escalate concerns about children that they have identified as being at risk of being drawn into terrorism, to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Executive Head Teacher/Head Teacher or Head of School will make a referral to the Channel Panel or children's social care, as appropriate. Please refer to the [Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation \(PREVENT\) policy](#) for further details of how the school deals with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views.

DSLs must refresh their training every two years, and all staff will undertake basic safeguarding training at least every two years, with annual reminders on the signs of abuse and how to make referral.

All new staff and volunteers will receive basic safeguarding training as part of their induction and be expected to read and understand the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Teachers should know that safeguarding refers to what is done to keep all children safe and that child protection refers to the procedures that are implemented to protect children who have been or at risk of current harm.

All staff will know the types and signs of abuse and neglect, recognising that this is vital for early identification of abuse and neglect. Staff will always speak to the designated safeguarding officer to escalate their concerns. In exceptional circumstances, such as in an emergency or if they believe that a genuine concern that they have has not be appropriately addressed, they will speak directly to children's social care.

Staff should receive training on how to identify vulnerable learners and understand that there may be additional safeguarding vulnerabilities for pupils with SEN and disabilities (SEND) and

how those barriers can be overcome. 'Safeguarding disabled children, practice guidance 2009'.

5. Types, and signs of abuse and neglect ¶

Abuse

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. A person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children. There are four main categories of abuse: physical, psychological/emotional, sexual abuse and neglect.

School staff will know to look for the following signs to ensure early identification of abuse and neglect.

Physical Abuse

- hitting
- shaking
- throwing
- poisoning
- burning or scalding
- drowning
- suffocating
- parents/carers who fabricate symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Psychological or emotional abuse

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

- Conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of the other person.
- Deliberately silencing or 'making fun' of what a child says or how they communicate.
- Bullying including cyber bullying, peer to peer abuse and sexting.
- Causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger.
- Exploitation or corruption.
- Overprotection.
- Developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.
- Including children in interactions that are beyond their developmental capability.

- Overprotection and preventing children participating in normal social interaction.
- Honour-based violence used to control behaviour within families to protect perceived cultural or religious beliefs or honour, including forced marriage and FGM.

Sexual abuse

- Female genital mutilation (FGM) (Appendix 1).
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (Appendix 2).
- Physical contact (assault by penetration and non-penetration).
- Involving children in looking at, or production of, sexual images.
- Grooming a child (including via the internet) in preparation for abuse.
- Encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- Forced marriages.

Neglect

- Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs.
- Failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter.
- Failure to provide adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers).
- Failure to ensure appropriate medical care or treatment.
- Unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional need.

6. School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) ¶

The school has appointed two Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) from the senior leadership team in accordance with KCSiE 2016 guidance.

The DSLs are responsible for matters relating to child protection and welfare in this school:

Mount Street Academy	First DSL Mrs Ruth Stephenson (Family Support Worker) 01522 527339 Second DSL Mrs Rachael Horn (Assistant Head of School) 01522 527339 / 07806639990
Lincoln Carlton Academy	First DSL Mrs Rebecca Malam (Head Teacher) 01522 522633 / 07446 038811 Second DSL Mrs Ruth Stephenson (Family Support Worker) 01522 527339
Benjamin Adlard Primary School	First DSL Mrs Jo Richardson (PSA Office) - 01427 612562 Second DSL Mrs Debbie Glover (SENCO office) - 01427 612562

In their absence, these matters will be dealt with by the Deputy DSL:

[Mrs Marie-Claire Bretherton](#) (Executive Headteacher / Regional Director) - 07740 358666

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is key to ensuring that proper child protection and safeguarding procedures and policies are in place and adhered to. They will also act as a dedicated resource available for other staff, volunteers and Local Governors to draw upon. Parents are welcome to approach the DSL if they have any concerns about the welfare of any child in the school, whether these concerns relate to their child or any other. The DSL will liaise with the Local Authority and work with other agencies in line with statutory guidance, *Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018* and *Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016*.

There will always be cover for this role.

Main responsibilities of the DSL

Managing referrals

- Refer all cases of suspected child abuse to children's social care services.
- Refer all safeguarding concerns involving adults (staff & volunteers) to the Local Authority designated officer(s) and inform Executive Head Teacher, Head Teacher, Head of School and Hannah Clark (HR and Administration Manager), where appropriate.
- Refer an individual to the Disclosure and Barring Service (when a staff member has harmed or poses a risk of harm, to a vulnerable adult or child, or has been dismissed for harming a vulnerable adult or child or would have been dismissed had they not left employment). **This is a legal duty and the school will work with the Trust support team at head office in completing and making the referral.**
- Refer to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) when checking the Teacher's Prohibition List for all teachers employed by the school and for making referrals for teacher misconduct.[2] Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) Teacher services checks will be completed on all staff involved in teaching.
- Inform the police (cases where a crime may have been committed).
- Liaise with the Executive Headteacher, Head Teacher, Head of School and Designated Safeguarding Lead to inform him/her of issues especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies

Training

Receive appropriate training every two years (or more regularly) and ensure that updates are accessed on an annual basis through the Local Authority or LSCB.

They should:

- Understand and participate in the assessment process for providing early help and intervention through the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board.
- Understand and participate in child protection conferences and reviews.
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff.
- Be alert to and support the specific needs of children in need, those with educational needs, looked after children and young carers.
- Attend relevant and refresher training courses.
- Organise child protection induction, and update training every three years for all school staff.
- Encourage a culture among all staff of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school may put in place to protect them.
- Ensure that at least one interview panel member of each interview has undertaken safer recruitment training.

Raise awareness

- Ensure the school's policies are known and used appropriately.
- Ensure the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually and the child protection procedures are in line with the LA, LSCB, working with the Local Governing Bodies and Trust to achieve this.
- Ensure the safeguarding policy and child protection procedures are available publicly, and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school in this.
- Link with the local LSCB to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the best local policies on Child Protection and Safeguarding.
- Keep written records of concerns about a child even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.
- Maintain detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals and ensure

actions are recorded and acted upon.

- Ensure that all child protection records are kept confidentially and separately from pupil records, until the child's 25th birthday, and are copied on to the child's next school in a confidential and secure manner.
- Ensure that the existence of the child protection file is marked on the pupil records.
- Ensure that any pupil currently with a child protection plan who is absent in the educational setting without explanation for two days is referred to children's social care immediately. [3]
- Ensure the school follows up any unexplained absences immediately and refer this to the appropriate agency (educational welfare service, social care or the police) if the child cannot be located.
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, in any measures the school may put in place to protect them.
- Provide, with the Executive Headteacher, Headteacher or Head of School, an annual report for the Local Governing Body.
- Provide the Trust with termly safeguarding reports.

The DSL and their Deputy must undertake child protection training and training in inter-agency working every two years (or more regularly) and will attend annual refreshers provided by the LA/LSCB to remain updated on policy, procedures and developing concerns nationally and regionally.

In addition to the Designate Safeguarding Lead, the HR and Administration Manager, Hannah Clark (01522 522633) also has specific responsibilities in relation to safeguarding which include:

- ~~Managing the Single Central Record and Safer Recruitment procedures~~
- Ensuring that at least one interview panel member of each interview has undertaken safer recruitment training.

Guidance on the Single Central Register and the law can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/docume...>

[2]<https://www.gov.uk/government/...>

[3] <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/...>

7. Designated Local Governor (Chair) ¶

The Chair of the Lincolnshire Strategic Board is nominated to liaise with the LA on child protection issues and in the event of an allegation of abuse made against the Executive Head Teacher, Headteacher or Head of School.

To contact the Chair of Lincolnshire Strategic Board Tim Dawson please speak to the school office or email (timandang@sky.com)

The designated local governor for Child Protection and Safeguarding at our schools is:
[Rebecca Homer](#)

8. Looked-After Children ¶

The Designated Teacher for Looked-After Children (DLAC) is:

Mount Street Academy	Mrs Ruth Stephenson - 01522 527339 / 522633
Lincoln Carlton Academy	Mrs Becky Malam - 01522 522633
	Mrs Jo Richardson (PSA Office) - 01427 612562
Benjamin Adlard Primary School	Mrs Debbie Glover (SENCO office) - 01427 612562

The Designated Teacher for Looked-After Children has received appropriate training and will make an annual report to the Local Governing Body in accordance with the latest statutory guidance. The Local Governing Body will consider the information in the report and take appropriate action as necessary.

The arrangements for covering this role should the DLAC be absent or unavailable are as follows: the Head of School or the Headteacher will take this responsibility.

9. Whistleblowing ¶

All staff are required to report to the Executive Head Teacher/Head Teacher, or the Chair of the Local Governing Body in his/her absence, any concern or allegations about school

practices or the behaviour of colleagues which are likely to put pupils at risk of abuse or other serious harm. There will be no retribution or disciplinary action taken against a member of staff for making such a report provided that it is done in good faith.

Concerns regarding the Executive Headteacher or Headteacher should be made to the Chair of the Lincolnshire Strategic Board Tim Dawson contactable via the school office or by email (timandang@sky.com) and relevant CST Regional Director whose contact details are readily available to staff. Advice should be sought from the LADO, the trust or the NSPCC Whistleblowing advice line who independent advice.

Concerns regarding proprietors or Trustee should be referred to the LADO and the Trust.

NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 - line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and email: help@nspcc.org.uk

More information about whistleblowing can be found within the CST Whistleblowing Policy or at <https://www.gov.uk/whistleblow...>

In addition the NSPCC whistleblowing poster is attached below in the downloads section.

10. Safer recruitment ¶

In order to ensure that children are protected whilst at this school, we will ensure that our staff and volunteers are carefully selected, screened, supervised and trained.

We accept that it is our responsibility to follow government guidance regarding safer recruitment in particular:

- Before appointing someone, we will follow up each reference with a telephone call or personal contact during which we will discuss the applicant's suitability to work with children.
- We will check that all adults with supervised access to children and those working in regulated activity have an Enhanced Disclosure before starting work, and prior to confirmation of appointment. Periodic DBS checks are not required by law but may need to be applied for again if the staff member changes role, particularly from a limited contact role to one with more unsupervised contact with pupils. Similarly, if the

employee has been absent for an extended period of time, which is not covered by a doctor's certificate or approved parental/bereavement leave a re-application for DBS should be considered.

- We will obtain a separate barred list check if an individual works in regulated (unsupervised) activity.
- We will check that a candidate to be employed as a teacher is not subject to a Prohibition Order (TPO) issued by the Secretary of State using the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA). The TPO should be completed by everyone engaged in 'teaching work' whether a qualified teacher (QTS) or not.
- The Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) Teacher Services system will be accessed by the school to check if restrictions have been imposed by the European Economic Area Authorities.
- Nursery, Primary and secondary schoolteachers applying for tier 2 visas outside the UK will need to provide a criminal record certificate when applying for their work visas.
- Independent schools, academies and free schools should check that staff are not prohibited from engaging in a management role. The results from the prohibition from management check (Section 128) should be included on the Single Central Record.
- We will undertake checks to ensure that staff who work in childcare provision or who are directly concerned with the management of such provision are not disqualified under the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009, or disqualified by association.
- We will verify a candidate's identity with current photographic ID and proof of address, and verify their right to work in the UK.
- We will verify the candidate's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities.
- We will verify a candidate's professional qualifications, as appropriate.
- We will ensure that we have written confirmation that all pre-employment checks are completed for all agency staff and trainee teachers, checking their photo ID and appropriate level DBS certificate before they begin work.
- We will ensure that all contractors are appropriately DBS checked if working with children, and have a suite of their own Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures, or sign a written statement to be maintained on file, agreeing to abide by the school's policies and procedures.

Full details of our safer recruitment procedures are set out in the school's Safer Recruitment Policy.

11. Reporting child protection concerns about children ¶

Members of staff and volunteers should not investigate suspicions regarding child protection issues; if somebody believes that a child may be suffering, or may be at risk of suffering significant harm, they must always refer such concerns to the designated safeguarding lead without delay. It must also be noted that if at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to children's social care immediately.

However, in cases suspected and disclosed FGM, teachers have a statutory duty to report all cases to the Police, in the first instance. Thereafter, they may discuss their concerns with the DSL. (KCSiE September, 2016 and Serious Crime Act 2015).

If a child reports potential abuse to a volunteer or staff member, they must:

- Listen carefully to the child and keep an open mind. Staff should not take a decision as to whether or not the abuse has taken place.
- Not ask leading questions, that is, a question which suggests its own answer. TED – Tell, Explain, Describe.
- Reassure the child, but not give a guarantee of absolute confidentiality. The member of staff should explain that they need to pass the information to the DSL who will ensure that the correct action is taken; and
- Must keep a sufficient written record of the conversation. The record should include the date, time and place of the conversation and the essence of what was said and done by whom and in whose presence. The record should be signed by the person making it and should use names, not initials. The record and any evidence must be kept securely and handed to the DSL as soon as possible.

Where any member of staff fails to report concerns, this may be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

12. Reporting concerns about a member of staff ¶

If staff members have concerns about another staff member, then this should be referred to the Executive Head Teacher, Head Teacher or Head of School. Where there are concerns about the Executive Head Teacher, Headteacher or Head of School, this should be referred to the Chair of the Local Governing Body who **MUST** inform the Trust immediately. The Chair of the Lincolnshire Strategic Board Tim Dawson contactable via the school office or by email (timandang@sky.com), [Linda Sujeewon, Strategic Education Consultant at CST - 0118](#)

9021670.

If a staff member feels unable to raise their concerns/issues with their Executive Head Teacher, Head Teacher or Head of School or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, they must refer to the Whistle Blowing Policy and/or contact the trust or the NSPCC Whistleblowing advice line directly.

13. Action by the Designated Safeguarding Officer – concerns about children ¶

The action to be taken by the DSL will take into account:

- The local inter-agency procedures of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board;
- The nature and seriousness of the suspicion or complaint. A complaint involving a serious criminal offence will always be referred to children's social care or the police. In case of serious harm, the police will be informed from the outset;
- The wishes of the pupil who has complained, provided that the pupil is of sufficient understanding and maturity and properly informed. However, there may be times when the situation is so serious that decisions may need to be taken, after all appropriate consultation, that override a pupil's wishes;
- The wishes of the complainant's parents, provided they have no interest which is in conflict with the pupil's best interests and that they are properly informed. Again, it may be necessary, after all appropriate consultation, to override parental wishes in some circumstances. If the designated safeguarding lead is concerned that disclosing information to parents would put a child at risk; s/he will take further advice from the relevant professionals before making a decision to disclose; and
- Duties of confidentiality, so far as applicable.

Concern only

Following a concern investigation, if the DSL decides that it does not meet the criteria to refer, it will be dealt with in school. The DSL may seek advice from an Early Help consultant (for children currently open to TAC or EHA advice) or use the Early Help Advisor for a hypothetical consultation (CSC – 01522 782111). A Pink Form is always completed. Blank Pink Forms are located in the staffroom and family room. Completed ones are handed to Designated Safeguarding Lead and stored in a locked cabinet in the family room. Where appropriate,

parents are informed, invited in and following a discussion of the concerns are asked to sign the log. An EHA would be offered. Contact the early help consultant here:
earlyhelpconsultants@lincolnshire.gcsx.gov.uk

Referral

If there is room for doubt as to whether a referral should be made, the DSL will consult with children's social care services on a no names basis without identifying the family (via Early Help Advisor). However, as soon as sufficient concern exists that a child may be at risk of significant harm, the DSL will make a referral without delay. If the initial referral is made by telephone, the DSL will confirm the referral in writing to children's social care services within 24 hours. A copy of this will be kept in our schools concern file. If no response or acknowledgment is received within three working days, the DSL will contact children's social care services again. If the referral does not meet social care criteria, the DSL will offer EHA, if declined, a COF (Contact Outcome Form) will be sent to TAC admin explaining the reasons why.

External agencies

Whether or not the school decides to refer a particular complaint to children's social care services or the police, the parents and pupil will be informed of their right to make their own complaint or referral to the children's social care services or the child protection unit of the police and will be provided with contact names, addresses and telephone numbers, as appropriate.

Allegations against pupils

A pupil against whom an allegation of abuse has been made may be suspended from the school during the investigation and the school's behaviour policy will apply. The school will take advice from the LA designated officer(s) on the investigation of such allegations and will take all appropriate action to ensure the safety and welfare of all pupils involved including the pupil or pupils accused of abuse. If it is necessary for a pupil to be interviewed by the police in relation to allegations of abuse, the school will ensure that, subject to the advice of the designated officer, parents are informed as soon as possible and that the pupil is supported during the interview by an appropriate adult.

Informing parents

Parents will normally be kept informed as appropriate of any action to be taken under these procedures. However, there may be circumstances when the DSL will need to consult the LA

designated officer(s), the police and/or the Executive Head teacher, Head Teacher or Head of School before discussing details with parents.

14. Managing allegations about staff ¶

The school has procedures for dealing with allegations against staff (and volunteers who work with children) that aim to strike a balance between the need to protect children from abuse and the need to protect staff and volunteers from false, malicious or unfounded allegations. These procedures follow the DfE guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016*, and should be used where a member of staff or volunteer has:

- Behaved in such a way that has harmed child, or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- Or behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children.

All allegations will be reported by the Executive Head teacher or Head of School and discussed with the LA designated officer(s) before further action is taken. The accused person will be informed of the allegation as soon as possible after the designated lead has been consulted. Appropriate support and a representative will be provided to keep the accused person informed of the progress of the case as appropriate.

Suspension will **not** be an automatic response to an allegation. Full consideration will be given to all the options, subject to the need to ensure:

- the safety and welfare of the pupils or pupil concerned; and
- the need for a full and fair investigation.

Detailed guidance is given to staff to ensure that their behaviour and actions do not place pupils or themselves at risk of harm, or of allegations of harm toward a pupil. This guidance is contained in Staff Code of Conduct, and the Staff Handbook/Induction Handbook.

Ceasing to use staff

If the school ceases to use the services of an accused member of staff (or a Local Governor/member or volunteer) because they are unsuitable to work with children, a compromise agreement will **not** be used. A referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) will be made. If a the staff member is a teacher, a referral will be made to both the

Disclosure and Barring Service and the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) **by the Trust**. Any such incidents will be followed by a review of the safeguarding procedures within the school, with a report being presented to the Local Governors and the Trust without delay.

Resignation

If a member of staff (or Local Governor or volunteer) tenders his/her resignation, or ceases to provide his or her services, any child protection allegations will still be followed up by the school. Resignation will not prevent an investigation or the conclusion of an investigation and may prompt and detailed referrals being made to the DBS and/or the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA).

Criminal proceedings

The school will consult with the LA designated officer(s) following the conclusion of a criminal investigation as to whether any further action, including disciplinary action, is appropriate and if so, how to proceed.

Record keeping

Details of **substantiated** and **unsubstantiated** allegations will be recorded on the employee's file and retained at least until the employee reaches the normal retirement age or for a period of ten years from the date of the allegation, if this is longer.

Substantiated allegations will be referred to in references.

Unsubstantiated allegations will not normally be referred to in references requests, but if the Executive Headteacher is explicitly requested, s/he will seek the advice of the LA designated officer(s) before responding to the request.

Allegations that are found to have been malicious, false or unfounded will be removed from the employee's records.

Malicious and unsubstantiated allegations made by students/pupils

Where an allegation by a student/pupil is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the Executive Headteacher will consider whether to take disciplinary action in accordance with the school's behaviour policy. The LA designated officer(s) will refer the matter to children's social care to determine whether the child is need of services, or to consider if the child might have been abused by someone else.

15. Prevention ¶

We recognise that the school plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our children by providing children with good lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends and an ethos of protection.

The school will therefore:

- Work to establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to.
- Include regular consultation with children, e.g. through safety questionnaires, participation in anti-bullying initiatives, participation in the Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award or other effective ways of teaching children about their rights (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).
- Encourage self-esteem and self-assertiveness, through the curriculum as well as relationships, whilst not condoning aggression or bullying.
- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school.
- Liaising and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of children.
- Supporting families through Early Help initiatives.
- Provide explicit teaching of safeguarding, which is mapped throughout the curriculum.

As well as ensuring that we address child protection concerns, we will also ensure that children who attend the school are kept safe from harm whilst they are in our charge.

To this end, this policy must be seen in light of the following school's policies and procedures.

- [Anti-bullying Policy](#): the school will also ensure that bullying is identified and dealt with promptly. Sexualised behaviour, or bullying that is homophobic, trans gendered or gender prejudiced in nature, or where there appear to be links to domestic abuse in the

family home will be addressed via local child protection procedures. Concerns about forced marriage and honour-based violence will be addressed via local child protection procedures.

- [Staff Safer Recruitment Policy](#)
- [Staff Code of Conduct](#)
- Racist & Discriminatory Incidents
- Confidentiality and [Data Protection](#)
- Behaviour Policy and the school rules
- Health and Safety Policy
- Physical intervention/Restraints - [See LCA/MSA Behaviour Policy](#) or [BA Behaviour Policy Section 9](#)
- [Allegations made against members of staff](#)
- [Tackling Extremism and Anti-Radicalisation \(PREVENT\) Policy](#)
- Young Carers (See Appendix 5)
- [Missing Child](#)
- [Looked-after Children Policy](#)
- [Attendance and Punctuality Policy](#)
- [Registration of Pupils Policy](#).

That any harm caused by other pupils can be minimised, we will pay particular attention to:

- **Personal, Social and Health Education and Sex and Relationships Education:** child protection issues will be addressed through the curriculum as appropriate. Further details can be found in [Sex Education and Relationships Policy](#).

School premises

The school will take all practicable steps to ensure that school premises are as secure as circumstances permit, conducting regular risk assessments and maintaining a log of risk assessments, and other health and safety checks. All reportable incidents will be reported to the trust promptly and health and safety processes followed.

Visitors and parents are not allowed into school buildings without a visitor's badge and will be accompanied by a member of staff whilst inside the building/s. Visitors wishing to enter a school building must sign in on arrival and sign out again on departure. Un-badged and unaccompanied visitors inside buildings will be challenged by a member of staff and escorted to the office to complete the signing-in procedures. Those visiting the school site to collect or drop off children or to watch matches or concerts are restricted to appropriate areas and will

be directed as to which locations are available to them.

Schools will check the identity of all new agency staff on arrival (by requesting photo id) and ensure the person presenting themselves for work is the same person that the agency has provided vetting checks for.

Further details are outlined in the School's Site Security Risk Assessment which is available on request.

Before and after school activities

Where permission has been given for the use of school premises to bodies (such as sports clubs) to provide out-of-school-hours activities, CfBT Schools Trust expects that it will ensure that these bodies have appropriate Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and procedures (including appropriate police checks) and that there are arrangements in place to link with the school on such matters. Such considerations will be made explicit in any contract or service level agreement with these bodies.

Contracted services

Where the school contracts its services to outside providers, CfBT Schools Trust expects that it will ensure that these providers have appropriate Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and procedures, and that there are arrangements in place to link with the school on such matters. Such considerations will be made explicit in any contract or service level agreement with the provider.

Lettings

As part of the schools letting procedures, all reasonable checks will be made to ensure hirers will not be using the school premises to promote any extremist views. The school will follow guidance set out in Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation (PREVENT) and Lettings policies.

16. Confidentiality and information sharing ¶

The school will ensure that all child protection records are kept confidential and only allow disclosure to those who need the information in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The school will cooperate with police and children's social services to ensure that all relevant information is shared for the purposes of child protection investigations.

Regardless of any duty of confidentiality, if any member of staff has reason to believe that a child may be suffering harm, or be at risk of harm, their duty is to forward this information without delay to the designated safeguarding lead in accordance with this policy. All staff may raise concerns directly with children's social care services.

17. Escalation within the Local Authority - Lincolnshire ¶

Please see attached below in the download section, information about escalation within Lincolnshire.

18. Kyra Teaching School Alliance - Safeguarding and Child Protection ¶

For additional guidance for members of staff working for the Kyra Teaching School Alliance, [click here](#).

19. Monitoring and evaluation ¶

Any child protection incidents at the school will be followed by a review of the safeguarding procedures within the school and a prompt report to the Local Governors and the Trust. In addition, the DSL will monitor the operation of this policy and its procedures and will make an annual report to the Local Governing Body and termly reports to the Trust.

The Local Governing Body will undertake an annual review of this policy and how their duties under it have been discharged. The Local Governors will ensure that any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to child protection arrangements at any time are remedied or reported without delay.

Prior to any review of the policy, feedback will be sought from the Designated Local Governor, student school council, pupils, staff and parents on the effectiveness of the policy.

Lincolnshire LA Customer Services Centre (Children's social care):

01522 782111

LA designated officer(s) details:

Paul Fisher and Rachael Powis, - 01522 554674

Early Help Consultant for Lincoln city and West Lindsey: Rebecca Fleming 07919 692671	Gainsborough Duty Supervisor (if child already open and cannot contact social worker) 01522 552281	NSPCC FGM Direct Line details: 0800 028 3550 NSPCC Gangs Direct Line details: 0808 800 500
NSPCC Details: NSPCC contact details: 0808 800 5000 (help@nspcc.org.uk)	NSPCC Childline details: 0800 1111	

NSPCC Details

- NSPCC contact details: 0808 800 5000 (help@nspcc.org.uk)
- NSPCC ChildLine details: 0800 1111
- NSPCC FGM Direct Line details: 0800 028 3550
- NSPCC Gangs Direct Line details: 0808 800 500
- NSPCC Whistleblowing advice line 0800 028 0285
- Forced Marriage Unit: 020 70080151 (fmu@fco.gov.uk)

Anti Radicalisation detail

- counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk. Telephone: 020 7340 7264

Trust Details:

- Linda Sujeewon Strategic Education Consultant 0118 9021670 (mobile: 07870691648)

20. Additional safeguarding information ¶

There are three appendices attached to this policy which supplement the information in this policy, they are:

Appendix 1: Child Sexual Exploitation

Appendix 2: Female Genital Mutilation

Appendix 3: Peer-to-Peer Abuse

Appendix 4: Guidance on Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (SEXTING)

Appendix 5: Guidance on Extremism and Radicalisation

21. Additional contact information ¶

Safeguarding of children concerns (Children living in Lincolnshire) 01522 782111 Lincolnshire's Children's Services Customer Service Centre for reporting concerns and Early Help Team for Advice 01522 782333 (6pm-8am + weekends and Bank Holidays) Emergency Duty Team

Staff must report concerns to the headteacher or in the event of concerns about the headteacher concerns must be reported to the Chair of Governors.

Allegations against /concerns about adult(s) working with children The Head/Chair must contact LADO to discuss concerns & course of action. Lincolnshire Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) Paul Fisher & Rachel Powis 01522 554674 LADO@lincolnshire.gcsx.gov.uk

999

Police (Emergency) 101

Police (Non Emergency) 01522 947590 (Lincolnshire Police Public Protection Unit, Central Referral Unit)

Safeguarding Children

Officer (Education Ruth Fox - 01522 554695

Settings) for advice safeguardingschools@lincolnshire.gov.uk

around safeguarding [Stay Safe Partnership](#) 'Safeguarding in Schools' tab policy, audits etc.

NSPCC helplines:

Main contact: 0808 800 5000 (help@nspcc.org.uk)

ChildLine: 0800 1111

FGM direct line: 0800 028 3550

Gangs direct line: 0808 800 500

Whistleblowing advice line: 0800 028 0285

Forced Marriage Unit:

020 70080151 (fmu@fco.gov.uk)

Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation (PREVENT):

counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

020 7340 7264

Trust contacts (CST):

Linda Sujeewon Governance and Operations Lead: 0118 9021670; 07802 524473

Regional Director: 07740 358666

This Policy was approved by the Trustees of CfBT Schools Trust on 28 June 2017.

Date reviewed: September 2017

Signed by: Andy Yarrow, Chief Executive, CfBT Schools Trust

This policy will be reviewed annually.

22. Appendix 1 - Child sexual exploitation ¶

What is child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for things such as money, gifts, accommodation, affection or status. The manipulation or 'grooming' process involves befriending children, gaining their trust, and often feeding them drugs and alcohol, sometimes over a long period of time, before the abuse begins. The abusive relationship between victim and perpetrator involves an imbalance of power which limits the victim's options. It is a form of abuse which is often misunderstood by victims and outsiders as consensual. Although it is true that the victim can be tricked into believing they

are in a loving relationship, no child under the age of 18 can ever consent to being abused or exploited. (Barnardo's, 2012).

Child sexual exploitation can manifest itself in different ways. It can involve an older perpetrator exercising financial, emotional or physical control over a young person. It can involve peers manipulating or forcing victims into sexual activity, sometimes within gangs and in gang-affected neighbourhoods, but not always. Exploitation can also involve opportunistic or organised networks of perpetrators who may profit financially from trafficking young victims between different locations to engage in sexual activity with multiple men (Barnardo's, 2011).

This abuse often involves violent and degrading sexual assaults and rape. Exploitation can also occur without physical contact when children are persuaded or forced to post indecent images of themselves online, participate in non-contact sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone, or engage in sexual conversations on a mobile phone (DfE, 2011).

Technology is widely used by perpetrators as a method of grooming and coercing victims, often through social networking sites and mobile devices (Jago et al, 2011). This form of abuse usually occurs in private, or in semi-public places such as parks, cinemas, cafes and hotels. It is increasingly occurring at 'parties' organised by perpetrators for the purposes of giving victims drugs and alcohol before sexually abusing them (Barnardo's, 2012).

How much child sexual exploitation is there?

It is not possible to say exactly how many young people are victims of child sexual exploitation for a number of reasons. It is described as a 'hidden' form of abuse which leaves victims confused, frightened and reluctant to make any disclosures. Some young people are not even aware they are experiencing abuse as the perpetrator has manipulated them into believing they are in a loving relationship, or that they are dependent on their abuser for support. There is also no recognised category of abuse for sexual exploitation in child protection procedures and data relating to CSE cases is often partial, incomplete, concealed in other categories of data, or simply unrecorded. In addition, when perpetrators are convicted for involvement in child sexual exploitation cases, it is for associated offences such as sexual activity with a child - there is no specific crime of child sexual exploitation.

What are the signs and symptoms of child sexual exploitation?

Grooming and sexual exploitation can be very difficult to identify. Warning signs can easily be mistaken for 'normal' teenage behaviour and/or development. However, parents, carers,

school teachers and practitioners are advised to be alert to the following signs and symptoms:

- inappropriate sexual or sexualised behaviour
- underage sexual activity
- sexually risky behaviour, 'swapping' sex
- repeat sexually transmitted infections; in girls repeat pregnancy, abortions, miscarriage
- having unaffordable new things (clothes, mobile) or expensive habits (alcohol, drugs)
- changes in the way they dress
- going to hotels or other unusual locations to meet friends
- seen at known places of concern
- getting in/out of different cars driven by unknown adults
- going missing from home or care
- having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- having multiple mobile phones and worrying about losing contact via mobile
- associating with other young people involved in sexual exploitation
- truancy, exclusion, disengagement with school, opting out of education altogether
- unexplained changes in behaviour or personality (chaotic, aggressive, sexual)
- drug or alcohol misuse
- getting involved in crime
- moving around the country, appearing in new towns or cities, not knowing where they are
- contact with known perpetrators
- injuries from physical assault, physical restraint, sexual assault
- involved in abusive relationships, intimidated and fearful of certain people or situations
- hanging out with groups of older people, or anti- social groups, or with other vulnerable peers
- recruiting other young people to exploitative situations.

Particularly vulnerable to CSE are children in local authority care and care leavers, children missing, children in gangs and those involved in peer to peer abuse.

What is the impact of child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation can have a devastating impact on a victim's health, happiness and development. It can also have profound long-term effects on young people's social integration and economic well-being and adversely affects life chances. Some of the

difficulties faced by victims include:

- isolation from family and friends
- teenage parenthood
- failing examinations or dropping out of education altogether
- unemployment
- mental health problems
- suicide attempts
- alcohol and drug addiction
- aggressive behaviour
- criminal activity.

Young victims may need intensive multi-agency support to mitigate the long-term damage inflicted by this abuse.

What to do if CSE is suspected

Child sexual exploitation is child abuse, so child protection procedures must be followed if anyone suspects that a young person is a victim or is at risk of becoming a victim. It is important that agencies work together and share information in order to deal with child sexual exploitation. Local Safeguarding Children Boards should have a CSE strategy in place and appoint a lead person responsible for co-coordinating a multi-agency response.

Police can also disrupt exploitation by issuing 'abduction notices' when they become aware that a child is spending time with an adult who could be harmful to them, for example if there is existing intelligence suggesting the adult has a sexual interest in children, or if parents report a child missing and the child is found at a particular individual's address.

- Follow local child protection procedures
- Refer to the Local Safeguarding Children Board for the LA's CSE strategy and guidance document or protocol, which will specify the local thresholds for intervention.
- Implement awareness raising initiatives via assemblies, displays, student council and PSHE lessons.
- Implement awareness raising initiatives with parents/carers via workshops, newsletters, school website and policies and procedures.
- Contact the NSPCC for advice, guidance and to make a referral if the LA's children social care services is not possible **0808 800 5000** or emailing help@nspcc.org.uk.
- Do not confront the perpetrator as this will give them opportunity to threaten the child

about speaking out about the abuse. It may also place the child in danger.

- If a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on **999**, or call the NSPCC on **0808 800 5000**, without delay.

23. Appendix 2 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) ¶

What is female genital mutilation (FGM)?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is also known as female circumcision or female genital cutting, and in practising communities by local terms such as 'tahor' or 'sunna'. It is a form of child abuse which can have devastating physical and psychological consequences for girls and women.

Since 1985 it has been a serious criminal offence under the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act to perform FGM or to assist a girl to perform FGM on herself. In 2003, the Female Genital Mutilation Act tightened this law to criminalise FGM being carried out on UK citizens overseas. Anyone found guilty of the offence faces a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.

How prevalent is FGM?

FGM is usually carried out on girls between infancy and 15 years of age, with the majority of cases occurring between the 5 and 8 years of age (HM Government, 2011). Because of the hidden nature of the crime, it is difficult to estimate FGM's prevalence, but a study based on 2001 census data in England and Wales estimated that 23,000 girls under the age of 15 years could be at risk of FGM each year and nearly 66,000 women are living with its consequences (Dorkenoo et al, 2007). FGM could be even more prevalent than these figures suggest due to population growth and immigration from practising countries since 2001 (HM Government, 2011).

Who practises FGM?

FGM is practised in at least 28 African countries, as well as countries in the Middle East and Asia (House of Commons International Development Committee, 2013). In the UK, FGM tends to occur in areas with large populations of FGM practising communities. These areas include London, Cardiff, Manchester, Sheffield, Northampton, Birmingham, Oxford, Crawley, Reading, Slough and Milton Keynes. However, FGM can happen anywhere in the UK (NHS Choices, 2013).

Why do communities practise FGM?

There are a number of cultural, religious and social reasons why FGM is practised within communities. These include:

- social acceptance
- family honour
- ensuring a girl is marriageable
- preservation of a girl's virginity or chastity
- custom and tradition
- hygiene and cleanliness
- the mistaken belief that it enhances fertility and makes childbirth safer for the infant.

What does FGM involve?

The procedure is traditionally carried out by a female with no medical training, without anaesthetics or antiseptic treatments, using knives, scissors, scalpels, and pieces of glass or razor blades. The girl is sometimes forcibly restrained (NHS Choices, 2013).

What are the short and long-term effects of FGM?

The immediate effects of FGM include:

- severe pain
- shock
- bleeding
- infections including tetanus, HIV and hepatitis B and C
- inability to urinate
- damage to nearby organs including the bowel, and
- even death.

(NHS Choices, 2013).

Long-term consequences include:

- chronic vaginal and pelvic infections
- menstrual problems
- persistent urine infections
- kidney damage and possible failure
- cysts and abscesses
- pain during sex
- infertility
- complications during pregnancy and childbirth
- girls and women who have been subjected to FGM also suffer serious psychological damage.

(HM Government, 2011).

Which factors put a child at risk of FGM?

- The most significant risk factor for FGM is coming from a community that is known to practise it. Girls are also at risk if they have a mother, sister or member of the extended family who has been subjected to FGM (HM Government, 2011).
- A girl who is at imminent risk of being subjected to FGM may be taken back to her family's country of origin at the beginning of the long summer holiday. This allows time for her to heal from the procedure before returning to the UK. Teachers should be alert to a girl talking about a planned visit to her family's country of origin, especially if she mentions a special occasion when she will 'become a woman'. She may be heard talking about FGM to other children, or she may ask a teacher or other adult for help if she suspects she is at immediate risk.
- Another warning sign could be the arrival in the UK of an older female relative visiting from the country of origin who may perform FGM on children in the family (HM Government, 2011). Children in this situation may also run away from home or truant (Khalifa, 2013).
- Teachers should also be aware of girls who ask to be excused from PE or swimming classes and who spend long periods of time in the bathroom (Khalifa, 2013).

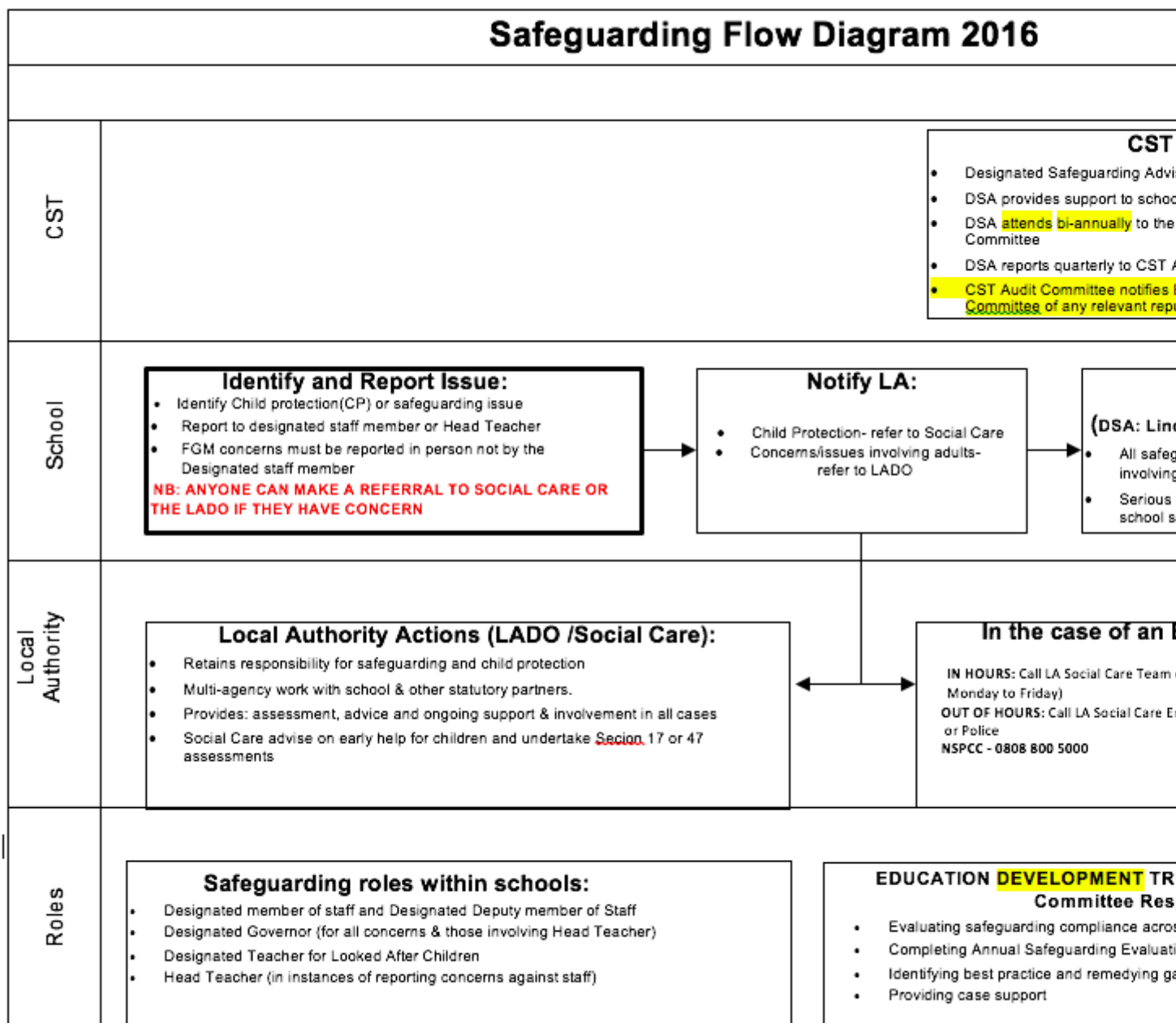
What can we do to prevent FGM and help those affected by it?

- Students who fear they may be at risk of FGM often come to the attention of, or turn to, a teacher or other staff member. Teachers and school staff are in an ideal position to

identify and respond to a student's needs at an early stage.

- This school cultivates an 'open environment' where students feel comfortable and safe to discuss the problems they are facing-an environment where FGM can be discussed openly, and support and counselling are routinely provided.
- Students are informed that they will be listened to and their concerns taken seriously.
- If a staff member is concerned that a student may be at risk of FGM, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or head teacher must be informed immediately.
- Usual LA child protection referral procedures should be followed and a referral made to Children's Social Care. **OR**
- Contact (can do so anonymously) the NSPCC's 24-hour FGM helpline on **0800 028 3550** or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk.
- The NSPCC provide advice, information and support for anyone concerned that a child's welfare is at risk as well as make a referral on your behalf to the relevant statutory body, where appropriate. Though callers' details can remain anonymous, any information that could protect a child from abuse will be passed to the police or social services.
- FGM can happen within families who do not see it as abuse. However, FGM is a criminal act which causes severe physical and mental harm to victims both in the short and long term and for this reason it cannot be condoned or excused. The safety and welfare of the child at risk is paramount and professionals should not be deterred from protecting vulnerable girls by fears of being branded 'racist' or 'discriminatory' (HM Government, 2011).
- This school will provide its families with culturally competent advice and information on FGM which makes it clear that the practice is illegal. Community and faith leaders can be helpful in facilitating this work with families. This may be enough to stop families practising FGM and protect girls from harm (HM Government, 2011).
- If the local authority has reason to believe a child is likely to suffer or has suffered FGM it can exercise its powers to apply to the courts for orders to prevent the child being taken abroad for mutilation. The primary objective of any intervention is to prevent the child from undergoing FGM rather than removing her from her family. If a child has already undergone FGM she should be offered medical help and counselling, and action should be taken to protect any female siblings at risk (London Safeguarding Children Board, 2009).

Safeguarding Flow Diagram 2016



24. Appendix 3 - Peer on peer abuse ¶

DfE guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (2016) says that 'Governing Bodies should ensure that there are procedures in place to handle allegations against other children'. The guidance also states the importance of minimising the risks of peer-to-peer abuse.

In most instances, the conduct of students towards each other will be covered by the school's Behaviour Policy. However, some allegations might be of such a serious nature that they become safeguarding concerns.

What is peer to peer abuse?

Children and young people may be harmful to one another in a number of ways which would be classified as peer-to-peer abuse.

These allegations are most likely to include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation; however, the abuse may take many forms.

Physical abuse

- pre-planned violence
- physical altercations (e.g. biting, hitting, kicking, punching, hair pulling etc.)
- forcing other to carry out violence
- forcing others to use drugs, alcohol or other substances

Emotional abuse

- bullying
- cyber bullying
- threats and Intimidation
- initiation/Hazing
- blackmail/extortion
- prejudiced behaviour (e.g. homophobia, racism etc)

Sexual abuse

- sexual assault
- indecent exposure
- indecent touching
- showing pornography to others
- forcing others to create/share/download indecent images
- sexting (youth produced sexual imagery and messaging)

Sexual exploitation

- encouraging/enticing other pupils to engage in inappropriate sexual behaviour
- photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts
- sharing images through social media.

The safeguarding implications of sexual activity between young people [\[1\]](#)

The intervention of child protection agencies in situations involving sexual activity between

children can require professional judgments. Some situations are statutorily clear – for example, a child under the age of 13 cannot consent to sexual activity. It is important to distinguish between consensual sexual activity between children of a similar age (where at least one is below the age of consent), and sexual activity involving a power imbalance, or some form of coercion or exploitation. Guidance should be sought from Social Care, particularly where there is a lack of clarity around the age of consent of those involved.

Allegations against other pupils (safeguarding issues)

It may be considered a safeguarding issue if the allegation against the student includes the following:

- Is being made against an older pupil and refers to their behaviour towards a younger or more vulnerable pupil.
- Is of a possible criminal nature.
- Puts other pupils in the school at risk, or raises the risk factor for others.
- Indicates that other pupils may have been harmed or be at risk of harm.
- Includes bullying (under the definition of emotional abuse) or intimidation.

Procedure

- When an allegation is made by a pupil against another student, which is of a safeguarding nature it should be reported to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) as soon as possible.
- A factual record must be kept (as normal safeguarding child protection procedures) and updated with all actions and outcomes.
- The incident should not be investigated at this time.
- The DSL will contact Social Care to discuss the case and next steps, and make a formal referral where appropriate.
- If the allegation indicates that a potential crime has taken place the Social Care will refer the case to the Police.
- Parents of both the alleged victim and the student being complained about should be informed, this should be discussed during the consultation with the Social Care.
- A risk assessment will be considered at this time to protect all parties involved.
- It may be appropriate to exclude the alleged culprit against whom the report has been made for a fixed time in line with the school's Behaviour Policy and procedures.
- Police and Social Care will lead any investigation, however where neither police nor Social Care thresholds are met, the school will then undertake a thorough investigation

following its policies and procedures.

- A risk assessment should be considered along with an appropriate supervision plan.
- Support should be given to all student involved, and they should be involved in the relevant meetings and sign and agree to the plans that are set.
- The plan should be monitored and review dates set.

If allegations are made directly to other agencies

In some circumstances parent or the alleged victims will report directly to other agencies. In these cases, the agencies should always make referrals to the Social Care or the Police.

Social Care or police should liaise directly with the DSL for the school to inform them of the situation, or liaise with a member of the Designated Officer (LADO) and school’s safeguarding team who will contact the DSL with the information.

All professionals should be invited to support with the risk assessment of the students involved and the management of such allegations.

Prevention

The school will minimise the risk of allegations against other pupils by:

- Providing PHSE as part of the curriculum, which will help students develop their understanding of acceptable behaviours, healthy relationships and keeping themselves safe.
- Having effective systems within the school for students to be able to raise concerns with staff, knowing they will be listened to, supported and valued, and that the issues they raise will be looked into and addressed.
- Liaising and working with other professionals to develop robust risk assessments for pupils that are identified as posing a potential risk to other students.
- Liaising with specialists to deliver appropriate targeted work to pupils identified as being at potential risk e.g. protective behaviours work.

Contact numbers

School DSLs:

Mount Street Academy	First DSL Mrs Ruth Stephenson (Family Support Worker) 01522 527339 Second DSL Mrs Rachael Horn (Assistant Head of School) 01522 527339 / 07806639990
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