

Whole School Child Protection Policy & Procedures

Dawlish Federation of Special Schools

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Date:	4/5/16
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Date:	4/5/16
Ratified by Governing Body:	 (Chair of Governors)
Date:	4/5/16

Note: All content should be read and adjusted according your school profile, with extra attention paid to any *italicised text* which you may wish to add, alter or delete.

1. Policy statement and principals

This policy is one of a series in the school's integrated safeguarding portfolio [*see section 15 for suggested list*] and must be read in conjunction with the portfolio for fuller guidance and expectations for example code of conduct, managing allegations and acceptable user policies.

Our core safeguarding principles are:

- The school's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance.
- Safer children make more successful learners.
- *Representatives of the whole-school community of pupils, parents, staff and governors will be involved in policy development and review.*
- Policies will be reviewed at least annually unless an incident or new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an interim review.

Child protection statement

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff and governors *and are consistent with those of the Devon Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB).*

Policy principles

- Welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection.
- All staff have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm.
- Pupils and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support.

Policy aims

- To provide all staff with the necessary information to enable them to meet their child protection responsibilities.
- To ensure consistent good practice.
- To demonstrate the school's commitment with regard to child protection to pupils, parents and other partners.
- To contribute to the school's safeguarding portfolio.

Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to the process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing the impairment of health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Child protection refers to the processes undertaken to protect children who have been identified as suffering, or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

Staff refers to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full time or part time, in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

Child refers to all young people who have not yet reached their 18th birthday.

Parent refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example step-parents, foster carers and adoptive parents.

2. The Education Act 2002

Note: *You may wish to alter this section so that it relates specifically to your school*

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires local education authorities and the governors of maintained schools and further education (FE) colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Free schools are bound by the same safeguarding regulations.

Research suggests that around 10 per cent of children will suffer some form of abuse, and disabled children are three times more likely to be abused. Due to their day-to-day contact with pupils, school staff are uniquely placed to observe changes in children's behaviour and the outward signs of abuse. Children may also turn to a trusted adult in school when they are in distress or at risk. It is vital that school staff are alert to the signs of abuse and understand the procedures for reporting their concerns.

3. Roles and responsibilities

Key personnel	
The senior designated officer for child protection is:	Mr. M. Williams
Email:	Tel:
The deputy designated officer is:	Mrs. C. White
Email:	Tel:
The deputy designated officer is:	Mr. S. Thurgood
Email:	Tel:
The deputy designated officer is:	Mrs. V. Smith
Email:	Tel:
The nominated child protection governor is:	Ms. M. Bruton
Email:	Tel:
The Principal is:	Mrs. C. White
Email:	Tel:

Devon County Council maintains a list of all senior designated officers (SDOs) for child protection.

The Senior Designated Officer (SDO):

- is appropriately trained
- acts as a source of support and expertise to the school community
- has an understanding of DSCB procedures
- keeps written records of all concerns, ensuring that such records are stored securely and flagged on, but kept separate from, the pupil's general file
- refers cases of suspected abuse to children's social care or police as appropriate (MASH Referrals).
- notifies children's social care if a child with a child protection plan is absent for more than two days without explanation
- ensures that when a pupil with a child protection plan leaves the school, their information is passed to their new school and the pupil's social worker is informed
- attends and/or contributes to child protection conferences
- coordinates the school's contribution to child protection plans
- develops effective links with relevant statutory and voluntary agencies
- ensures that all staff sign to indicate that they have read and understood the child protection policy
- ensures that the child protection policy is updated annually
- liaises with the nominated governor and headteacher (where the role is not carried out by the headteacher) as appropriate

- keeps a record of staff attendance at child protection training
- makes the child protection policy available to parents.

The Deputy Designated Officer(s) is appropriately trained and, in the absence of the designated person, carries out those functions necessary to ensure the on-going safety and protection of pupils. In the event of the long-term absence of the designated person, the deputy will assume all of the functions above.

The governing body ensures that the school has:

- an SDO for child protection who is a member of the senior leadership team and who has undertaken training in inter-agency working, in addition to basic child protection training
- a child protection policy and procedures that are consistent with DSCB requirements, reviewed annually and made available to parents on request
- procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against members of staff including allegations made against the headteacher
- safer recruitment procedures that include statutory checks on staff suitability to work with children
- a training strategy that ensures all staff, including the headteacher, receive child protection training, with refresher training at three-yearly intervals. The SDO receives refresher training at two-yearly intervals
- arrangements to ensure that all temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection.

The governing body nominates a member (normally the chair) to be responsible for liaising with the local authority and other agencies in the event of an allegation being made against the headteacher.

An annual report will be submitted to the local authority about how the governing body's duties have been carried out. Any weaknesses will be rectified without delay.

The headteacher:

- ensures that the child protection policy and procedures are implemented and followed by all staff
- allocates sufficient time and resources to enable the DSP and deputy to carry out their roles effectively, including the assessment of pupils and attendance at strategy discussions and other necessary meetings
- ensures that all staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and that such concerns are handled sensitively and in accordance with the whistle blowing procedures
- ensures that pupils' safety and welfare is addressed through the curriculum.

4. Good practice guidelines

To meet and maintain our responsibilities towards pupils we need to agree standards of good practice. Good practice includes:

- treating all pupils with respect
- setting a good example by conducting ourselves appropriately
- involving pupils in decisions that affect them
- encouraging positive, respectful and safe behaviour among pupils
- being a good listener
- being alert to changes in pupils' behaviour

- recognising that challenging behaviour may be an indicator of abuse
- reading and understanding the school's child protection policy and guidance documents on wider safeguarding issues, for example bullying, behaviour, physical contact and information-sharing
- asking the pupil's permission before initiating physical contact, such as assisting with dressing, physical support during PE or administering first aid
- maintaining appropriate standards of conversation and interaction with and between pupils and avoiding the use of sexualised or derogatory language
- being aware that the personal and family circumstances and lifestyles of some pupils lead to an increased risk of abuse
- applying the use of reasonable force only as a last resort and in compliance with school and DSCB procedures.

5. Abuse of trust

All school staff are aware that inappropriate behaviour towards pupils is unacceptable and that their conduct towards pupils must be beyond reproach.

In addition, staff should understand that, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is an offence for a person over the age of 18 to have a sexual relationship with a person under the age of 18, where that person is in a position of trust, even if the relationship is consensual. This means that any sexual activity between a member of the school staff and a pupil under 18 may be a criminal offence, even if that pupil is over the age of consent.

The school's Code of Conduct sets out our expectations of staff and is signed by all staff members.

6. Children who may be particularly vulnerable

Some children may have an increased risk of abuse. It is important to understand that this increase in risk is due more to societal attitudes and assumptions, and child protection procedures that fail to acknowledge children's diverse circumstances, rather than the individual child's personality, impairment or circumstances. Many factors can contribute to an increase in risk, including prejudice and discrimination, isolation, social exclusion, communication issues and reluctance on the part of some adults to accept that abuse can occur.

To ensure that all of our pupils receive equal protection, we will give special consideration to children who are:

- disabled or have special educational needs
- living in a domestic abuse situation
- affected by parental substance misuse
- asylum seekers
- living away from home
- vulnerable to being bullied or are engaging in bullying
- living in temporary accommodation
- live transient lifestyles
- living in chaotic and unsupportive home situations
- vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion or sexuality
- involved directly or indirectly in sexual exploitation
- do not have English as a first language
- at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) or forced marriage

- have an imprisoned parent
- have a parent with mental health issues.

This list provides examples of additionally vulnerable groups and is not exhaustive. Special consideration includes the provision of safeguarding information and resources in community languages and accessible formats for children with communication needs.

Prevent is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. Devon County Council has a statutory responsibility to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

An individual exposed to extremist viewpoints may, over time, be encouraged to carry out an act of violent extremism or terrorism. Strong evidence shows that an intervention can stop someone supporting violent extremism.

Extremism is not illegal. Anyone who is identified through Prevent is not automatically criminalised. We all have a role in ensure that our communities remain safe.

Terrorism can occur anywhere in the world. The most serious threat the UK faces is from international terrorism linked to, or influenced by, Al-Qaeda.

However, terrorism can be motivated by a range of ideologies or other factors, including religious or political beliefs and racial prejudice. In Devon, extreme right wing groups, and single issue groups such as radical animal rights campaigners can pose a significant threat. You can make a difference by sharing any concerns you may have about individuals or groups you meet at work, socially or in any other context.

What can you do?

The following signs might indicate that someone is being radicalised:

- A change in behaviour, their circle of friends, the way that they interact with others and spend their time.
- Accessing extremist material online
- Use of extremist or hate terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Writing or artwork promoting violent extremist messages.

These possible indicators should not be viewed in isolation; judgement will be required to determine the significance of any behaviour. If you believe that someone may be at risk of radicalisation you should raise your concerns:

Make a referral

You may wish to discuss your concerns with your manager first. If you have serious concerns then you should contact the Police direct.

The Prevent lead can be contacted by email: prevent@devon.gov.uk, or contact Nicola Channon (ext. 3000, Nicola.channon@devon.gov.uk).

If you see or suspect something, you can report it by phoning the confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321.

More information can be found on the Government website:
[direct.gov.uk/reportingonlineterrorism](https://www.direct.gov.uk/reportingonlineterrorism)

Your concerns will be taken seriously

Direct intervention will only happen if there is a clear danger to others. The more usual response is that further information is sought and, where appropriate, partner agencies will get together to determine what support the individual might need. Interventions could take the form of mentoring, welfare support, presenting opportunities to develop other interests or giving access to key services. These types of intervention can be very successful and there are examples in Devon where they have been used to help individuals move away from a potentially destructive path.

7. Helping children to keep themselves safe

Children are taught to understand and manage risk through our personal, social, health, citizenship and economic (PSHCE) education lessons and through all aspects of school life. Our approach is designed to help children to think about risks they may encounter and with staff work out how those risks might be overcome. Discussions about risk are empowering and enabling for all children and promote sensible behaviour rather than fear or anxiety. Children are taught how to conduct themselves and how to behave in a responsible manner. Children are also reminded regularly about e-safety and tackling bullying procedures. The school continually promotes an ethos of respect for children, and pupils are encouraged to speak to a member of staff in confidence about any worries they may have.

8. Support for those involved in a child protection issue

Child abuse is devastating for the child and can also result in distress and anxiety for staff who become involved.

We will support pupils, their families, and staff by:

- taking all suspicions and disclosures seriously
- keeping all parties informed through a central point of contact
- making available supervision for staff who require/request
- where a member of staff is the subject of an allegation made by a pupil, separate link people will be nominated to avoid any conflict of interest
- responding sympathetically to any request from pupils or staff for time out to deal with distress or anxiety
- maintaining confidentiality and sharing information on a need-to-know basis only with relevant individuals and agencies
- storing records securely
- offering details of helplines, counselling or other avenues of external support
- following the procedures laid down in our whistleblowing, complaints and disciplinary procedures
- co-operating fully with relevant statutory agencies.

9. Complaints procedure

Our complaints procedure will be followed where a pupil or parent raises a concern about poor practice towards a pupil that initially does not reach the threshold for child protection action. Poor practice examples include unfairly singling out a pupil or attempting to humiliate them, bullying or belittling a pupil or discriminating against them in some way. Complaints are managed by senior staff, the headteacher and governors.

Complaints from staff are dealt with under the school's complaints and disciplinary and grievance policy.

10. Staff training

It is important that all staff have training to enable them to recognise the possible signs of abuse and neglect and to know what to do if they have a concern.

New staff and governors will receive training during their induction. All staff, including the headteacher (unless the headteacher is the SDO) and governors will receive Group 2 training (as specified by DSCB) that is updated at least every three years and the SDO and deputies will receive Group 3 training (as specified by DSCB) updated at least every two years, including training in inter-agency procedures.

In addition to the group 2 and 3 training, the following Safeguarding issues are all considered to be child Protection issues and should be referred immediately to the most relevant agency. The issues featured below are linked to guidance and local procedures which can be found at:

www.swcpp.org.uk or www.educationdevon.org/moodle/

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Trafficked children
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced and Underage marriage
- Ritualistic Abuse
- Children Missing Education (CME)
- Sexually active under 18 year olds
- Honour based violence
- Private Fostering
- Domestic Violence and abuse

Supply staff and all other visitors will be given the school's Safeguarding Leaflet and asked to sign to show they have read and understood the information provided.

11. Child protection procedures

Recognising abuse

To ensure that our pupils are protected from harm, we need to understand what types of behaviour constitute abuse and neglect.

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, for example by hitting them, or by failing to act to prevent harm, for example by leaving a small child home alone, or leaving knives or matches within reach of an unattended toddler.

There are four categories of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse is 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. (This used to be called Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, but is now more usually referred to as fabricated or induced illness).

Emotional abuse

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

Sexual abuse

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

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result 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.

Definitions taken from *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government, 2013).

Bullying

While bullying between children is not a separate category of abuse and neglect, it is a very serious issue that can cause considerable anxiety and distress. At its most serious level, bullying can have a disastrous effect on a child's wellbeing and in very rare cases has been a feature in the suicide of some young people.

All incidences of bullying, including cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying should be reported and will be managed through our tackling-bullying procedures. All pupils and parents receive a copy of the procedures on joining the school and the subject of bullying is addressed at regular intervals in PSHE education. If the bullying is particularly serious, or the tackling bullying procedures are deemed to be ineffective, the headteacher and the DSP will consider implementing child protection procedures.

Indicators of abuse

Physical signs define some types of abuse, for example, bruising, bleeding or broken bones resulting from physical or sexual abuse, or injuries sustained while a child has been inadequately supervised. The identification of physical signs is complicated, as children may go to great lengths to hide injuries, often because they are ashamed or embarrassed, or their abuser has threatened further violence or trauma if they 'tell'. It is also quite difficult for anyone without medical training to categorise injuries into accidental or deliberate with any degree of certainty. For these reasons it is vital that staff are also aware of the range of behavioural indicators of abuse and report any concerns to the designated senior officer.

It is the responsibility of staff to report their concerns. It is not their responsibility to investigate or decide whether a child has been abused.

A child who is being abused or neglected may:

- have bruises, bleeding, burns, fractures or other injuries
- show signs of pain or discomfort
- keep arms and legs covered, even in warm weather
- be concerned about changing for PE or swimming
- look unkempt and uncared for
- change their eating habits
- have difficulty in making or sustaining friendships
- appear fearful
- be reckless with regard to their own or other's safety
- self-harm
- frequently miss school or arrive late
- show signs of not wanting to go home
- display a change in behaviour – from quiet to aggressive, or happy-go-lucky to withdrawn
- challenge authority
- become disinterested in their school work
- be constantly tired or preoccupied
- be wary of physical contact
- be involved in, or particularly knowledgeable about drugs or alcohol
- display sexual knowledge or behaviour beyond that normally expected for their age.

Individual indicators will rarely, in isolation, provide conclusive evidence of abuse. They should be viewed as part of a jigsaw, and each small piece of information will help the DSP to decide how to proceed.

It is very important that staff report their concerns – they do not need 'absolute proof' that the child is at risk.

Impact of abuse

The impact of child abuse should not be underestimated. Many children do recover well and go on to lead healthy, happy and productive lives, although most adult survivors agree that the emotional scars remain, however well buried. For some children, full recovery is beyond their reach, and the rest of their childhood and their adulthood may be characterised by anxiety or depression, self-harm, eating disorders, alcohol and substance misuse, unequal and destructive relationships and long-term medical or psychiatric difficulties.

Taking action

Key points for staff to remember for taking action are:

- in an emergency take the action necessary to help the child, for example, call 999
- report your concern to the SDO immediately
- do not start your own investigation
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends or family
- complete a record of concern
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed.

If you are concerned about a pupil's welfare

There will be occasions when staff may suspect that a pupil may be at risk, but have no 'real' evidence. The pupil's behaviour may have changed, their artwork could be bizarre, they may write stories or poetry that reveal confusion or distress, or physical but inconclusive signs may have been noticed. In these circumstances, staff will try to give the pupil the opportunity to talk. The signs they have noticed may be due to a variety of factors, for example, a parent has moved out, a pet has died, a grandparent is very ill. It is fine for staff to ask the pupil if they are OK or if they can help in any way.

Staff should use the **safeguarding record log** to record these early concerns. If the pupil does begin to reveal that they are being harmed, staff should follow the advice below. Following an initial conversation with the pupil, if the member of staff remains concerned, they should discuss their concerns with the SDO.

If a pupil discloses to you

It takes a lot of courage for a child to disclose that they are being abused. They may feel ashamed, particularly if the abuse is sexual; their abuser may have threatened what will happen if they tell; they may have lost all trust in adults; or they may believe, or have been told, that the abuse is their own fault.

If a pupil talks to a member of staff about any risks to their safety or wellbeing, **the staff member will need to let the pupil know that they must pass the information on** – staff are not allowed to keep secrets. The point at which they tell the pupil this is a matter for professional judgement. If they jump in immediately the pupil may think that they do not want to listen, if left until the very end of the conversation, the pupil may feel that they have been misled into revealing more than they would have otherwise.

During their conversations with the pupils staff will:

- allow them to speak freely
- remain calm and not overreact – the pupil may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting their listener

- give reassuring nods or words of comfort – ‘I’m so sorry this has happened’, ‘I want to help’, ‘This isn’t your fault’, ‘You are doing the right thing in talking to me’
- not be afraid of silences – staff must remember how hard this must be for the pupil
- **under no circumstances** ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings too, or what does the pupil’s mother think about all this. If you need to clarify any statements made by the child, you may use the TED questions – tell me, explain, describe
- at an appropriate time tell the pupil that in order to help them, the member of staff must pass the information on
- not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort. It may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused
- avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing earlier. Saying things such as ‘I do wish you had told me about this when it started’ or ‘I can’t believe what I’m hearing’ may be the staff member’s way of being supportive but may be interpreted by the child to mean that they have done something wrong
- tell the pupil what will happen next. The pupil may agree to go to see the designated senior officer, otherwise let them know that someone will come to see them before the end of the day
- report verbally to the SDO even if the child has promised to do it by themselves
- write up their conversation as soon as possible on the **record of concern form** and hand it to the designated officer
- seek support if they feel distressed
- seek support if you feel distressed.

Notifying parents

The school will normally seek to discuss any concerns about a pupil with their parents. This must be handled sensitively and the SDO will make contact with the parent in the event of a concern, suspicion or disclosure.

However, if the school believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, advice will first be sought from children’s services.

Enquiry to MASH

The SDO will make an enquiry to MASH if it is believed that a pupil is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm. The pupil (subject to their age and understanding) and the parents will be told that a referral is being made, unless to do so would increase the risk to the child.

Children with sexually harmful behaviour

Children may be harmed by other children or young people. Staff will be aware of the harm caused by bullying and will use the school’s **anti-bullying procedures** where necessary. However, there will be occasions when a pupil’s behaviour warrants a response under child protection rather than anti-bullying procedures. In particular, research suggests that up to 30 per cent of child sexual abuse is committed by someone under the age of 18.

The management of children and young people with sexually harmful behaviour is complex and the school will work with other relevant agencies to maintain the safety of the whole school community. *[You may wish to list your local agencies here]* Young people who display such behaviour may be victims of abuse themselves and the child protection procedures will be followed for both victim and perpetrator. Staff who become concerned about a pupil’s sexual behaviour should speak to the SDO as soon as possible.

Child Sexual exploitation

Sexual exploitation involves an individual or group of adults taking advantage of the vulnerability of an individual or groups of children or young people, and victims can be boys or girls. Children and young people are often unwittingly drawn into sexual exploitation through the offer of friendship and care, gifts and sometimes accommodation. Sexual exploitation is a serious crime and can have a long-lasting adverse impact on a child's physical and emotional health. It may also be linked to child trafficking. All staff are made aware of the indicators of sexual exploitation and all concerns are reported immediately to the SDO.

Confidentiality and sharing information

All staff will understand that child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the pupil and staff involved but also to ensure that being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence.

Staff should only discuss concerns with the senior designated officer, headteacher or chair of governors (depending on who is the subject of the concern). That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

Child protection information will be stored and handled in line with Data Protection Act 1998 principles. Information is:

- processed for limited purposes
- adequate, relevant and not excessive
- accurate
- kept no longer than necessary
- processed in accordance with the data subject's rights
- secure.

Records of safeguarding record logs and other written information will be stored in a locked facility and any electronic information will be password protected and only made available to relevant individuals.

Include where all relevant paperwork e.g. Safeguarding Record Logs. Body Maps, Chronology can be found.

Every effort will be made to prevent unauthorised access, and sensitive information should not be stored on laptop computers, which, by the nature of their portability, could be lost or stolen. Child protection information will be stored separately from the pupil's school file and the school file will be 'tagged' to indicate that separate information is held.

Child protection records are normally exempt from the disclosure provisions of the Data Protection Act, which means that children and parents do not have an automatic right to see them. If any member of staff receives a request from a pupil or parent to see child protection records, they will refer the request to the headteacher.

The Data Protection Act does not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child.

The school's policy on confidentiality and information-sharing is available to parents and pupils on request.

Reporting directly to child protection agencies

Staff should follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy. However, they may also share information directly with children's social care, police or the NSPCC if:

- the situation is an emergency and the senior designated officer, their deputy, the headteacher and the chair of governors are all unavailable
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the pupil's safety.

12. Record Keeping

The safeguarding/child protection file will contain the following:

- *A record of the pupil's core data – a copy of the SIMS data is ideal for this and usually contains a picture for identification.*
- *Chronology: a log of your day-to-day contacts with social care and other agencies, it can be extremely beneficial to devise a system for doing this. It is expected that all agencies are proactive in making referrals where they have concerns about a child and check up on any referral that is made. You cannot do this unless you keep a clear log of dates, times and conversations.*
- *Safeguarding record logs to include:*
 - *date (including year) and time of the event/concern;*
 - *the nature of the concern raised;*
 - *the action taken and by whom*
 - *outcome of any action*
 - *Name and position of the person making the record*
- *Remember that your informal notes can be requested as evidence and whatever you write, you should be aware that at some point they might be viewed by another audience. Abbreviations are fine and handwriting and presentation will not be marked. However, objectivity and professionalism should always be kept in mind when recording.*
- *Minutes of meetings with parents/carers, professionals, school staff.*
- *Confidential minutes of meetings e.g. Case Conferences (these should be destroyed once the child is no longer the subject of CP concerns).*
- *Reports for meetings.*
- *A Genogram.*
- *A log of contact with parents – this is particularly important when you are seeking permission from a parent for a referral to take place – failure to contact a parent should not preclude contacting social care where you have concerns.*
- *Correspondence including copies of all emails.*
- *In the case of disclosure, the record should also include:*
 - *as full an account as possible of what the child said;*
 - *an account of questions put to the child;*
 - *time and place of disclosure;*
 - *who was present at the time of disclosure;*
 - *the demeanour of the child; where the child was taken and where returned to at the end of disclosure.*

13. Transition

Where children leave the establishment the school will ensure that their child protection file is copied for the new establishment as soon as possible but transferred separately from the main pupil file in line with Appendix 3: Broad Areas of Responsibility Proposed for the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education, 2004.

14. Extended school and off-site arrangements

Where extended school activities are provided by and managed by the school, our own child protection policy and procedures apply. If other organisations provide services or activities on our site we will check that they have appropriate procedures in place, including safer recruitment procedures.

When our pupils attend off-site activities, including day and residential visits and work related activities, we will check that effective child protection arrangements are in place.

15. Related safeguarding portfolio policies:

Statutory	Y/N	Best Practice	Y/N
Capability of Staff (MS and PRUs)	Y	E-Safety Policy	Y
School Behaviour (MS, Acad, PRU, FS, IS, NMSS)	Y	Acceptable User	Y
Sex Education (MS, Acad, PRU, FS)	Y	Intimate Care	Y
SEN (MS, Acad, FS)	Y	Recruitment and Selection	Y
Data Protection (MS, Acad, PRU, FS, IS, NMSS, SFC)	Y	DCC Model)	Y
Equality Information & Objectives (MS, Acad, PRU, FS, IS, NMSS, SFC)	Y	Volunteers in Schools	Y
Health and Safety (MS, Acad, PRU, FS, IS)	Y	Misuse of Substances & Drugs Policy	Y
Behaviour principles written statement (MS, PRUs, NMSS)	Y	Education for Children in Care	Y
Written policy on behaviour principles (Acad, FS, IS)	Y	Inclusive Education – Guidance re the DfE’s Use of Force to Restraint	Y
Complaints procedure statement (MS, Acad, PRU, FS, IS, NMSS)	Y	Whistleblowing	Y
Home-school agreement document (MS, Acad, FS)	Y	Anti-Bullying (Including Student Friendly Version)	Y
Register of pupils’ admission to school (MS, Acad, PRU, FS, IS, NMSS)	Y	Attendance	Y
Register of pupils’ attendance. (MS, Acad, PRU, FS, IS, NMSS)	Y	Confidentiality	Y
Staff discipline, conduct and grievance (procedures for addressing) (MS, Acad, PRU, FS, IS, NMSS, SFC)	Y	Exclusions	Y
Child protection policy and procedures (MS, Acad, PRU, FS, IS, NMSS, SFC, FE)	Y	Work experience	Y
Statement of procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff (MS, Acad, PRU, FS, IS, NMSS, SFC,	Y	Code of Conduct	Y
Key: Academies – Acad , Free schools – FS , Maintained schools (including maintained special schools) – MS , Sixth-form colleges – SFC , Further education colleges with 16-19 provision – FE , Pupil referral units – PRU , Independent schools (not state-funded) – IS , Non-maintained special schools - NMSS		Information sharing	Y
		Administration medicines	Y

