

Dringhouses Primary School

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Signature of Chair of Governors

Signature of Headteacher 

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Reviewing Committee: Full Governing Body

Statutory / Non-Statutory

Contents

- [1. Statement of Intent](#)
- [2. Key Safeguarding Contacts](#)
- [3. Definitions](#)
- [4. Legal framework](#)
- [5. Roles and responsibilities](#)
- [6. Confidentiality](#)
- [7. Reporting Concerns](#)
- [8. Inter-agency working](#)
- [9. Abuse and neglect](#)
- [10. Types of abuse and neglect](#)
- [11. Serious Violent Crime](#)
- [12. Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#)
- [13. Forced marriage](#)
- [14. Child sexual exploitation \(CSE\)](#)
- [15. Child criminal exploitation \(CCE\)](#)
- [16. Child on Child Abuse](#)
- [17. Domestic Abuse](#)
- [18. Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools](#)
- [19. Mental Health](#)
- [20. Homelessness](#)
- [21. County lines](#)
- [22. Pupils with family members in prison](#)
- [23. Pupils required to give evidence in court](#)
- [24. Contextual safeguarding](#)
- [25. Preventing radicalisation](#)
- [26. Children missing education](#)
- [27. Pupils with SEND/Mental Health Issues](#)
- [28. Alternative provision](#)
- [29. Work experience](#)
- [30. Checking the identity and suitability of visitors](#)
- [31. Homestay exchange visits](#)
- [32. Private fostering](#)
- [33. Concerns about a pupil](#)
- [34. Early help](#)
- [35. Managing referrals](#)
- [36. Concerns about staff members and safeguarding practices](#)
- [37. Dealing with allegations of abuse against staff](#)
- [38. Allegations of abuse against other pupils \(child-on-child abuse\)](#)
- [39. Communication and confidentiality](#)
- [40. Record-Keeping](#)
- [41. Online safety](#)
- [42. Mobile phone and camera safety](#)
- [43. Sports clubs and extracurricular activities](#)
- [44. Safer recruitment](#)
- [45. Single central record \(SCR\)](#)
- [46. Staff suitability](#)
- [47. Training](#)
- [48. General Safeguarding Procedures](#)

[49. Monitoring and review](#)

[50. Contacts and Advice](#)

Appendices

APPENDIX A - Child Protection Incident/Log of Concern

APPENDIX B - Information for Meeting about a Child

APPENDIX C - Minutes of Multi-Agency Meeting

APPENDIX D - Safeguarding Procedure for Extra-Curricular Clubs & Activities

APPENDIX E - Safeguarding Log of Concern

APPENDIX F - Staff Safeguarding Checklist

APPENDIX G - Peripatetic Teacher/Instructor Safeguarding Checklist

APPENDIX H - Volunteer/Student Agreement & Safeguarding Checklist

APPENDIX J - Staff Disqualification Declaration

APPENDIX K - Safeguarding Reporting Process

1 Statement of intent

Dringhouses Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, both physical and emotional, of every pupil both inside and outside of the school premises. We implement a whole-school preventative approach to managing safeguarding concerns, ensuring that the wellbeing of pupils is at the forefront of all action taken.

This policy sets out a clear and consistent framework for delivering this promise, in line with safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance.

It will be achieved by:

- Creating a culture of safer recruitment by adopting procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk to children.
- Teaching pupils how to keep safe and recognise behaviour that is unacceptable.
- Identifying and making provision for any pupil that has been subject to abuse.
- Ensuring that members of the governing body, the headteacher and staff members understand their responsibilities under safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, are alert to the signs of child abuse and know to refer concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Ensuring that the headteacher and any new staff members and volunteers are only appointed when all the appropriate checks have been satisfactorily completed.

The DSL is the Headteacher, Mr Ben Sutton.

In the absence of the DSL, child protection matters will be dealt with by the Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Claire Scott-South.

2 Key Safeguarding Contacts – Dringhouses Primary School

Key Safeguarding Contacts – Local Authority

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Formally known as Children's Front Door Service		01904 551900 01609 780780 (out of hours emergency) e-mail: childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk
Children's Services	Referral & Assessment Manager or Duty Social Worker	01904 551900 0845 0349417 (after 5pm)
Local Area Team	Via MASH	01904 551900 (via MASH)
Family Focus Team	Sinead Tingley	01904 553524 e-mail: sinead.tingley@york.gov.uk
Children's Centres Team	Ruth Cooper	01904 555290 e-mail: ruth.cooper@york.gov.uk
Attendance Advisor	Mr Mark Smith	01904 555187 e-mail: mark.smith@york.gov.uk
Safeguarding Advisor	Mrs Caroline Wood	01904 555694 e-mail: caroline.wood@york.gov.uk
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)		01904 551783 e-mail: lado@york.gcsx.gov.uk NB only email using a secure 'york.gov' email account

3 Definitions

3.1 The terms “**children**” and “**child**” refer to anyone under the age of 18.

3.2 For the purposes of this policy, “safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children” is defined as:

- Protecting pupils from maltreatment.
- Preventing the impairment of pupils' mental and physical health or development.
- Ensuring that pupils grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all pupils to have the best outcome.

3.3 For the purposes of this policy, the term “**harmful sexual behaviour**” includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

- Using sexually explicit words and phrases
- Inappropriate touching
- Sexual violence or threats
- Full penetrative sex with other children or adults

3.4 In accordance with the DfE's guidance, ‘*Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges*’ (2018), and for the purposes of this policy, the term “**sexual harassment**” is used within this policy to describe any unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, both online or offline, which violates a child's dignity and makes them feel

intimidated, degraded or humiliated, and can create a hostile, sexualised or offensive environment.

- 3.5** For the purpose of this policy, the term “**sexual violence**” encompasses the definitions provided in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, including those pertaining to rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault.
- 3.6** The term “**teaching role**” is defined as planning and preparing lessons and courses for pupils; delivering lessons to pupils; assessing the development, progress and attainment of pupils; and reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils. These activities are not teaching work if the person carrying out the activity does so (other than for the purposes of induction) subject to the direction and supervision of a qualified teacher or other person nominated by the headteacher to provide such direction and supervision.
- 3.7** For the purposes of this policy, “**child-on-child**” abuse is defined as abuse between children. This can include, but is not limited to the following:
- Abuse within intimate partner relationships
 - Bullying (including cyberbullying)
 - Sexual violence and sexual harassment
 - Physical abuse and physical harm
 - Sexting
 - Initiation/hazing-type violence and rituals
- 3.8** **Victim** is a widely understood and recognised term, but we understand that not everyone who has been subjected to abuse considers themselves a victim, or would want to be described that way. When managing an incident, we will be prepared to use any terms that the child involved feels most comfortable with.
- 3.9** **Alleged perpetrator(s) and perpetrator(s)** are widely used and recognised terms. However, we will think carefully about what terminology we use (especially in front of children) as, in some cases, abusive behaviour can be harmful to the perpetrator too. We will decide what’s appropriate and which terms to use on a case-by-case basis.

4 Legal framework

This policy has been created with due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

Legislation

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Education (School Teachers’ Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Childcare Act 2006
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Statutory guidance

- HM Government (2013) 'Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage'
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- DfE (2015) 'The Prevent duty'
- DfE (2020) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2018) 'Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006'
- DfE (2018) Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation
- Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework

Non-statutory guidance

- DfE (2015) 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'
- DfE (2018) 'Information sharing'
- DfE (2017) 'Child sexual exploitation'
- DfE (2018) 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges'

Other relevant school policies include:

- Attendance Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Children Missing Education Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Data and E-Security Breach Prevention and Management Plan
- Data Protection & Information Security Policy
- Emergency Plan
- E-Safety Policy
- Equality Policy
- Extremism and Anti-Radicalisation Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Lunchtime Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy
- Security Policy
- SEND Policy
- Sex Education & Relationships Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Using Images Policy
- Volunteers in School
- Whistleblowing Policy

5 Roles and responsibilities

5.1 The governing body has a duty to:

- Ensure that the school complies with its duties under the above child protection and safeguarding legislation.
- Guarantee that the policies, procedures and training opportunities in the school are effective and comply with the law at all times.
- Guarantee that the school contributes to inter-agency working in line with the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018).
- Confirm that the school's safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practices of the local authority (LA) as part of the inter-agency safeguarding procedures.
- Understand the local criteria for action and the local protocol for assessment, and ensure these are reflected in the school's policies and procedures.
- Comply with its obligations under section 14B of the Children Act 2004 to supply the local safeguarding arrangements with information to fulfil its functions.

- Be aware of it's obligation under the Human Right's Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010 (including the Public Sector Equality Duty), and our school's local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure that staff members have due regard to relevant data protection principles which allow them to share (and withhold) personal information.
- Ensure that a member of the governing body is nominated to liaise with the LA and/or partner agencies on issues of child protection and in the event of allegations of abuse made against the headteacher or another governor.
- Guarantee that there are effective child protection policies and procedures in place, together with a staff code of conduct.
- Ensure that there is a senior level lead responsible for safeguarding arrangements.
- Appoint a member of staff from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to the role of Deputy DSL as an explicit part of the role-holder's job description and ensure that they are trained to the same standard as the DSL.
- Ensure all relevant persons are aware of the school's local safeguarding arrangements, and the timelines for their local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) to transition to the new system – including the governing body itself, the SLT and DSL.
- Make sure that pupils are taught about safeguarding, including protection against dangers online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.
- To ensure that the school plays a crucial role in prevention education. This is in the context of a whole school approach to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain, and culture of zero tolerance to sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia and sexual violence/harassment.
- Adhere to statutory responsibilities by conducting pre-employment checks on staff who work with children, taking proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required.
- Ensure that staff members are appropriately trained to support pupils to be themselves at school, e.g. if they are LGBTQ+.
- Ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place for supervising volunteers.
- Make sure that at least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training.
- Ensure that all staff members receive safeguarding and child protection training updates, such as e-bulletins, emails and staff meetings, as required, but at least annually.
- The leadership team and relevant staff are aware of and understand the IT filters and monitoring systems in place, manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns.
- Certify that there are procedures in place to handle allegations against members of staff or volunteers.
- Confirm that there are procedures in place to make a referral to the DBS and the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), where appropriate, if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns or would have been had they not resigned.
- Guarantee that there are procedures in place to handle pupils' allegations against other pupils.
- Ensure that appropriate disciplinary procedures are in place, as well as policies pertaining to the behaviour of pupils and staff.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, including those in relation to child-on-child abuse.
- Make sure that pupils' wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide to protect individual pupils.
- Guarantee that there are systems in place for pupils to express their views and give feedback.
- Establish an early help procedure and ensure all staff understand the procedure and their role in it.
- Appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children (LAC) and ensure that this person has undergone appropriate training.
- Ensure that the designated teacher works with the virtual school head to discuss how the pupil premium funding can best be used to support LAC.
- Introduce mechanisms to assist staff in understanding and discharging their roles and responsibilities.

- Make sure that staff members have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep LAC safe, particularly with regards to the pupil's legal status, contact details and care arrangements.
- Put in place appropriate safeguarding responses for pupils who go missing from school, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify any risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation, and prevent the risk of their disappearance in future.
- Ensure that all members of the governing body have been subject to an enhanced DBS check.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to refer staff to the DBS if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns, or would have been had they not resigned or been suspended.
- This policy reflects that children with SEND, or certain medical or physical health conditions, can face additional barriers to any abuse or neglect being recognised.
- The Chair of Governors will act as the 'case manager' in the event that an allegation of abuse is made against the headteacher.
- All governors will read Keeping Children Safe in Education in its entirety.

The link governor for safeguarding is **Dr Anna Riach**, who will:

- Report annually to the governing body.
- Be aware of current policy, procedures and practices.
- Meet at least termly with the DSL.

The governing body of Dringhouses Primary School receives a termly safeguarding report from the headteacher and reviews the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy annually.

Additionally, governors undertake their responsibilities in relation to allegations against staff and any disciplinary procedures. The safeguarding governor scrutinises, questions and challenges the DSL and relevant staff regarding child protection and safeguarding across the school. The following is discussed as part of the scrutiny:

- Safeguarding training records.
- The volume of referrals made.
- The single central record.
- Meetings attended at children's social care or multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH).
- The early help model.
- Looked-after children and children on child protection plans.
- Children in need of a child protection plan or a (CAF/FEHA) common assessment framework.
- Core group meetings and initial child protection conferences.
- The child in need meetings they have attended about the vulnerable children in the school.
- Personal Education Plans.
- Whether the DSL has appropriate time allocated for this role.
- Whether child protection referrals are made swiftly or suffer delays.
- The cause for concern forms, including when they were last revised, whether they have a section that clearly demonstrates that the referrer was updated on the outcome of the referral, whether the date and time is captured on the form, and whether the DSL has authorised and actioned the forms.

Where the governing body is providing services or activities (regardless of whether or not the children who attend these services/activities are children on the school roll):

- Seek reassurance that the other body has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies/procedures in place and inspect them if needed.
- Make sure there are arrangements for the body to liaise with the school about safeguarding arrangements, where appropriate.
- Make sure that safeguarding requirements are a condition of using the school premises, and that any agreement to use the premises would be terminated if the other body fails to comply.

5.2 The headteacher has a duty to:

- Safeguard pupils' wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession.
- Ensure that the policies and procedures adopted by the governing body, particularly concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect, are followed by staff members.
- Provide staff (including temporary staff), upon induction, with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, part one of the 'Keeping children safe in education' (KCSIE) guidance, Behaviour Policy, the Children Missing Education Policy, online safety training, and the identity of the DSL and any deputies.
- Communicating this policy to parents/carers when their child joins the school via the school website.
- Ensure that the DSL and Deputy DSL has appropriate time, funding and training to fulfil their role and that adequate cover is available should the DSL be absent.
- Making decisions regarding all low-level concerns, though they may wish to collaborate with the DSL on this.
- Ensure that relevant staffing ratios are met, where applicable.
- Making sure that each child in the Early Years Foundation Stage is assigned a key person

5.3 The DSL has a duty to:

- Refer all cases of suspected abuse to children's social care services (CSCS), the LA designated officer (LADO) for child protection concerns, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and the police in cases where a crime has been committed.
- Refer cases of radicalisation to the 'Channel' programme.
- Liaise with the headteacher to inform them of safeguarding issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.
- Liaise with the deputy DSL to ensure effective safeguarding outcomes.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff members on matters of safeguarding by liaising with relevant agencies.
- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention.
- Understand when they should consider calling the Police, in line with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) guidance.
- Support staff members in liaising with other agencies and setting up inter-agency assessment where early help is deemed appropriate.
- Keep cases of early help under constant review and refer them to the CSCS if the situation does not appear to be improving.
- Have a working knowledge of how LAs conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and procedures – this will be discussed during the staff induction process.
- Be alert to the specific requirements of vulnerable children, in particular those with SEND, young carers and pupils who are LAC or were previously LAC and keep up to date with skills, knowledge and understanding of these groups.
- Meet with the LAT, at least termly, and liaise regularly as appropriate.
- Keep detailed, accurate records of concerns and referrals and hold these securely in a locked cabinet in the headteacher's office.
- Secure access to resources and attend any relevant training courses.
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings.
- Work with the governing body to ensure the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually and the procedures are updated regularly.
- Ensure the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available publicly, and parents are aware that the school may make referrals for suspected cases of abuse or neglect, as well as the role the school plays in these referrals.
- Ensure the best educational outcomes by identifying at-risk pupils to the school and its staff, so that the relevant staff understand each pupil's educational and welfare needs.

- Support teaching staff to identify the challenges that at-risk pupils may face and the additional academic support and adjustments they can make to support these pupils.
- Link with local safeguarding arrangements to make sure that staff members are aware of the training opportunities available and the latest local policies on safeguarding.
- Ensure that a pupil's child protection file is transferred to any future school in a secure manner. These will be clearly marked, "Confidential – Child Protection – for the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Lead". Where possible, child protection records will be handed over personally to a member of staff from the receiving school, who is asked to sign for them.
- Be available at all times during school hours (in person or by phone) to discuss any safeguarding concerns.
- Hold the details of the LA personal advisor and liaise with them as necessary. The designated teacher has a responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of LAC and previously LAC, and for children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales.
- Have a good understanding of harmful sexual behaviour.
- Discuss the local response to sexual violence and sexual harassment with the police and LA children's social care colleagues to prepare the school policies
- The DSL will be confident that they know what local specialist support is available to support all children involved (including victims and alleged perpetrators) in sexual violence and sexual harassment, and be confident as to how to access this support.
- The DSL is aware that children must have an 'appropriate adult' to support them in case of a police investigation of search.

5.4 All staff

- All staff will read and understand part 1 and annex B of the Department for Education's statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), and review this guidance at least annually.
- All staff will sign a declaration at the beginning of each academic year to say that they have reviewed the guidance.
- All staff will be aware of:
- Our systems which support safeguarding, including this child protection and safeguarding policy, the staff behaviour policy and code of conduct, the role and identity of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy, the behaviour policy, and the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education
- The early help process (sometimes known as the common assessment framework) and their role in it, including identifying emerging problems, liaising with the DSL, and sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment
- The process for making referrals to local authority children's social care and for statutory assessments that may follow a referral, including the role they might be expected to play
- What to do if they identify a safeguarding issue or a child tells them they are being abused or neglected, including specific issues such as FGM, and how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality while liaising with relevant professionals
- The signs of different types of abuse and neglect, as well as specific safeguarding issues, such as child-on-child abuse, child sexual exploitation (CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), indicators of being at risk from or involved with serious violent crime (including that linked to county lines), FGM and radicalisation
- The importance of reassuring victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe

- Section 15 and appendix 4 of this policy outline in more detail how staff are supported to do this.
- Reinforce the importance of online safety when communicating with parents. this includes making parents aware of what we ask children to do online (e.g sites they need to visit or who they'll be interacting with online)
- Provide a safe space for pupils who are LGBT to speak out and share their concerns.
- The importance of reassuring victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.
- The fact that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of their home, at school and online.
- The fact that children who are (or who are perceived to be) lesbian, gay, bi or trans (LGBT) can be targeted by other children.
- What to look for to identify children who need help and protection.

5.5 Virtual School Head

Virtual school heads have non-statutory responsibility for the strategic oversight of the education attendance, attainment and progress of pupils with a social worker. They should also identify and engage with key professionals. e.g DSLs, SENCOs, social workers, mental health leads and others.

6 Confidentiality

Timely information sharing is essential to effective safeguarding. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare, and protect the safety of children.

The Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe

If staff need to share 'special category personal data', the DPA 2018 contains 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' as a processing condition that allows practitioners to share information without consent if: it is not possible to gain consent; it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent; or if to gain consent would place a child at risk

Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse, as this may not be in the child's best interests

If a victim asks the school not to tell anyone about the sexual violence or sexual harassment:

- There's no definitive answer, because even if a victim doesn't consent to sharing information, staff may still lawfully share it if there's another legal basis under the UK GDPR that applies
- The DSL will have to balance the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and other children
- The DSL should consider that:
- Parents or carers should normally be informed (unless this would put the victim at greater risk)
- The basic safeguarding principle is: if a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger, or has been harmed, a referral should be made to local authority children's social care
- Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault are crimes. Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, this should be referred to the police. While the

age of criminal responsibility is 10, if the alleged perpetrator is under 10, the starting principle of referring to the police remains.

Regarding anonymity, all staff will:

- Be aware of anonymity, witness support and the criminal process in general where an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system
- Do all they reasonably can to protect the anonymity of any children involved in any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment, for example, carefully considering which staff should know about the report, and any support for children involved
- Consider the potential impact of social media in facilitating the spreading of rumours and exposing victims' identities

The government's [information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#) includes 7 'golden rules' for sharing information, and will support staff who have to make decisions about sharing information

If staff are in any doubt about sharing information, they should speak to the DSL (or deputy)

Confidentiality is also addressed in this policy with respect to record-keeping and allegations of abuse against staff.

7 Reporting Concerns

7.1 Child protection concerns

Anyone who has any child protection concerns will **immediately** report these verbally to the DSL or Deputy DSL or record these on CPOMS (safeguarding software). Some children may not recognise their experiences as harmful, or feel embarrassed, humiliated or threatened but that this should not stop staff from having a 'professional curiosity' or speaking to the DSL if they have concerns about a child.

It is important that only objective observations and facts are recorded. In addition, wider environmental factors affecting a child's life, that may pose a threat to their safety and/or welfare, must also be considered and reported so that as much contextual information as possible can be provided as part of the referral process.

Anyone who has concerns that the behaviour of another adult is, or may be, abusive to children will immediately inform the DSL. If these concerns relate to the headteacher, the designated safeguarding governor will be informed.

In the event that an allegation is made against the designated safeguarding governor, the matter will be reported directly to the LADO service.

7.2 General safeguarding concerns

We are mindful of the physical complexities of the school site with regard to its location and layout. These are managed through risk assessments policies such as the Security and Lunchtime policies.

Anyone who has a general safeguarding concern, e.g. relating to policies and procedures or any aspect of health and safety within school or on off site visits, will **immediately** report this verbally to the DSL or Deputy DSL or to the School Business Manager.

The concern will be recorded on CPOMS and notified to the School Business Manager.

8 Inter-agency working

Dringhouses Primary School contributes to inter-agency working as part of its statutory duty and is aware of the expected timeline for its LSCB to fully transition to new system of three safeguarding partners.

The school will work with CSCS, the police, health services and other services to protect the welfare of its pupils, through the early help process and by contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support.

Where a need for early help is identified, the school will allow access for CSCS from the host LA and, where appropriate, a placing LA, for that LA to conduct (or consider whether to conduct) a section 17 or 47 assessment.

The school recognises the importance of proactive information sharing between professionals and local agencies in order to effectively meet pupils' needs and identify any need for early help.

Staff members are aware that whilst the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 place a duty on schools to process personal information fairly and lawfully, they also allow for information to be stored and shared for safeguarding purposes – data protection regulations do not act as a barrier to sharing information where failure to do so would result in the pupil being placed at risk of harm.

Staff members will ensure that fear of sharing information does not stand in the way of their responsibility to promote the welfare and safety of pupils.

If staff members are in doubt about sharing information, they will speak to the DSL or deputy DSL. The school also recognises the particular importance of inter-agency working in identifying and preventing child sexual exploitation (CSE).

9 Abuse and neglect

All members of staff will be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be given a specific label and multiple issues often overlap one another.

All staff members will be aware of the indicators of abuse and the appropriate action to take following a pupil being identified as at potential risk of abuse or neglect.

All staff, especially the DSL and their deputies, will be aware that pupils can be at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families (extra-familial harms).

When identifying pupils at risk of potential harm, staff members will look out for a number of indicators including, but not limited to, the following:

- Injuries in unusual places, eg bite marks on the neck, that are also inconsistent with their age
- Lack of concentration and acting withdrawn
- Knowledge ahead of their age, e.g. sexual knowledge
- Use of explicit language
- Fear of abandonment
- Depression and low self-esteem

All members of staff will be aware of the indicators of child-on-child abuse, such as those in relation to bullying, gender-based violence, sexual assaults and sexting.

All staff will be aware of the necessary procedures to follow to prevent child-on-child abuse, which will be dealt with in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

All staff will be aware of the behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse, truancy and sexting, and will understand that these put pupils in danger.

All staff will be aware of the effects of a pupil witnessing an incident of abuse, such as witnessing domestic violence at home.

10 Types of abuse and neglect

- 10.1 Abuse:** A form of maltreatment of a child which involves inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family, institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others, e.g. via the internet.
- 10.2 Physical abuse:** A form of abuse which may involve actions such as hitting, throwing, burning, drowning and poisoning, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical abuse can also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
- 10.3 Emotional abuse:** A form of abuse which involves the emotional maltreatment of a child to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. This may involve telling a child they are worthless, unloved, inadequate, not giving them the opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or often making them feel as though they are in danger.
- 10.4 Sexual abuse:** A form of abuse which involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, and whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This may involve physical assault, such as penetrative assault and touching, or non-penetrative actions, such as looking at sexual images or encouraging children to behave in inappropriate ways.
- 10.5 Domestic abuse:** A form of abuse involving an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over. Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

The Operation Encompass initiative enables North Yorkshire Police to provide early reporting to our school of any domestic abuse incidents that occur outside of normal school hours and that might have had an impact on a child attending our premises the following day. This information will be shared at the earliest opportunity between Monday to Friday. When an incident occurs on a weekend, the school will be notified by the police on the Monday.

A nominated member of school staff, known as a key adult, will receive the information from the police. The key adult will be able to use information that has been shared with them, in confidence, to ensure that our school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children or their families. Information will be shared where it is identified that a child or young person was present, witnessed, or was involved in a domestic abuse incident.

- 10.6 Neglect:** A form of abuse which involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of a child's health or development. This may involve providing inadequate food, clothing or shelter, or the inability to protect a child from physical or emotional harm or ensure access to appropriate medical treatment. Neglect is often difficult to identify and assess due to its cumulative nature. The following tool is available to help the DSL to identify whether a child would benefit from further intervention: <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/neglect.htm>

11 Serious Violent Crime

All staff need to be aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include;

- increased absence from school
- a change in friendship groups or relationships with older individuals or groups
- a significant decline in performance
- signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing
- signs of assault or unexplained injuries
- unexplained gifts or new possession could indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

Staff should be aware of the associated risks and understand measures in place to manage these. Advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office's [Preventing youth violence and gang involvement](#) and its [Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable young adults: county lines guidance](#).

12 Female genital mutilation (FGM)

For the purpose of this policy, FGM is defined as the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or any other injury to the female genital organs.

FGM is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting, harmful consequences. It is also known as female genital cutting', 'circumcision' or 'initiation'.

All staff will be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. If staff members are worried about someone who is at risk of FGM or who has been a victim of FGM, they are required to share this information with social care and/or the police.

Teaching staff are **legally required** to report to the police any discovery, whether through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence, of FGM on a girl under the age of 18. Teachers failing to report such cases will face disciplinary action.

Unless they have been specifically told not to disclose, they should also discuss the case with the DSL and involve children's social care as appropriate.

NB. The above does not apply to any suspected or at-risk cases, nor if the individual is over the age of 18. In such cases, local safeguarding procedures will be followed.

There are a range of potential indicators that a pupil may be at risk of FGM. While individually they may not indicate risk, if two or more indicators are present, this could signal a risk to the pupil. Victims of FGM are most likely to come from communities that are known to adopt this practice. It is important to note that the pupil may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so staff will be sensitive when broaching the subject.

Indicators that may show a heightened risk of FGM include the following:

- The socio-economic position of the family and their level of integration into UK society
- Any girl with a mother or sister who has been subjected to FGM
- Any girl withdrawn from personal, social and health education (PSHE)

Indicators that may show FGM could take place soon include the following:

- When a female family elder is visiting from a country of origin
- A girl may confide that she is to have a 'special procedure' or a ceremony to 'become a woman'
- A girl may request help from a teacher if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk

- A girl, or her family member, may talk about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent

Staff will be vigilant to the signs that FGM has already taken place so that help can be offered, enquiries can be made to protect others, and criminal investigations can begin.

Indicators that FGM may have already taken place include the following:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet
- Spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems
- Prolonged or repeated absences from school followed by withdrawal or depression
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations
- Asking for help, but not being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear

Teachers will not examine pupils, and so it is rare that they will see any visual evidence, but they will report to the police where an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should also consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve CSCS as appropriate.

FGM is also included in the definition of ‘honour-based’ abuse (HBA), which involves crimes that have been committed to defend the honour of the family and/or community, alongside forced marriage and breast ironing.

All forms of HBA are forms of abuse and will be treated and escalated as such. Staff will be alert to the signs of HBA, including concerns that a child is at risk of HBA, or has already suffered from HBA, and will consult with the DSL who will activate local safeguarding procedures if concerns arise.

13 Forced marriage

For the purpose of this policy, a “**forced marriage**” is defined as a marriage that is entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties, and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into the marriage. Forced marriage is classed as a crime in the UK.

As part of HBA, staff will be alert to the signs of forced marriage including, but not limited to, the following:

- Becoming anxious, depressed and emotionally withdrawn with low self-esteem
- Showing signs of mental health disorders and behaviours such as self-harm or anorexia
- Displaying a sudden decline in their educational performance, aspirations or motivation
- Regularly being absent from school
- Displaying a decline in punctuality
- An obvious family history of older siblings leaving education early and marrying early

If staff members have any concerns regarding a child who may have undergone, is currently undergoing, or is at risk of, forced marriage, they will speak to the DSL and local safeguarding procedures will be followed – this could include referral to CSCS, the police or the Forced Marriage Unit.

14 Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

For the purpose of this policy, “**child sexual exploitation**” is defined as: a form of sexual abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person into sexual activity, for either, or both, of the following reasons:

- In exchange for something the victim needs or wants
- For the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator

CSE does not always involve physical contact, as it can also occur online. It is also important to note that a child can be sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.

The school has adopted the following procedure for handling cases of CSE, as outlined by the DfE:

14.1 Identifying cases

School staff members are aware of and look for the key indicators of CSE; these are as follows:

- Going missing for periods of time or regularly going home late
- Regularly missing lessons
- Appearing with unexplained gifts and new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Undergoing mood swings or drastic changes in emotional wellbeing
- Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant
- Displaying changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs or alcohol

14.2 Referring cases

Where CSE, or the risk of it, is suspected, staff will discuss the case with the DSL. If after discussion a concern still remains, local safeguarding procedures will be triggered, including referral to the LA.

14.3 Support

The LA and all other necessary authorities will then handle the matter to conclusion. The school will cooperate as needed.

15 Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

For the purpose of this policy, “**child criminal exploitation**” is defined as: where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power or coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into criminal activity, for any, of the following reasons:

- In exchange for something the victim needs or wants
- For financial advantage or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator
- Through violence or the threat of violence

CCE may be in effect even if criminal activity appears consensual and can happen through the use of technology.

15.1 Identifying cases

School staff members are aware of and look for the key indicators that a child is the victim of CCE;

- Appearing with unexplained gifts and new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Undergoing mood swings or drastic changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs or alcohol
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late
- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part

16 Child-on-child abuse

Child-on-child abuse is when children abuse other children. This type of abuse can take place inside and outside of school. It can also take place both face-to-face and online, and can occur simultaneously between the 2.

Our school has a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment. We recognise that even if there are there no reports, that doesn't mean that this kind of abuse isn't happening.

Child-on-child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- Bullying (including cyber-bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (this is sometimes known as 'teenage relationship abuse')
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse)
- Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)
- Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)

Where children abuse their peers online, this can take the form of, for example, abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages; the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups; and the sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who don't want to receive such content.

If staff have any concerns about child-on-child abuse, or a child makes a report to them, they will follow the procedures set out in this policy,

When considering instances of harmful sexual behaviour between children, we will consider their ages and stages of development. We recognise that children displaying harmful sexual behaviour have often experienced their own abuse and trauma, and will offer them appropriate support.

17 Domestic abuse

Children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse and/or violence at home where it occurs between family members. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse (abuse in intimate personal relationships between children) and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. It can be physical, sexual, financial, psychological or emotional. It can also include ill treatment that isn't physical, as well as witnessing the ill treatment of others – for example, the impact of all forms of domestic abuse on children.

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexuality or background, and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home. Children who witness domestic abuse are also victims.

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long-lasting emotional and psychological impact on children and affect their health, wellbeing, development and ability to learn.

If police are called to an incident of domestic abuse and any children in the household have experienced the incident, the police will inform the key adult in school (usually the designated safeguarding lead) before the child or children arrive at school the following day. The DSL will provide support according to the child's needs and update records about their circumstances.

18. Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur:

- Between 2 children of any age and sex
- Through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children
- Online and face to face (both physically and verbally)

Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same school.

If a victim reports an incident, it is essential that staff make sure they are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting any form of abuse or neglect. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

When supporting victims, staff will:

- Reassure victims that the law on child-on-child abuse is there to protect them, not criminalise them
- Regularly review decisions and actions, and update policies with lessons learnt
- Look out for potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour, and decide on a course of action where we identify any patterns
- Consider if there are wider cultural issues within the school that enabled inappropriate behaviour to occur and whether revising policies and/or providing extra staff training could minimise the risk of it happening again
- Remain alert to the possible challenges of detecting signs that a child has experienced sexual violence, and show sensitivity to their needs

Some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows that girls, children with SEN and/or disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) children are at greater risk.

Staff should be aware of the importance of:

- Challenging inappropriate behaviours
- Making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up

- Challenging physical behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them

If staff have any concerns about sexual violence or sexual harassment, or a child makes a report to them, they will follow the procedures set out in this policy.

19 Mental Health

All staff will be made aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a pupil has suffered, or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Staff will not attempt to make a diagnosis of mental health problems – the school will ensure that this is done by a trained mental health professional.

Staff will be encouraged to identify pupils whose behaviour suggests they may be experiencing a mental health problem or may be at risk of developing one.

Staff who have a mental health concern about a pupil that is also a safeguarding concern will act in line with this policy and speak to the DSL or Deputy DSL.

The school will access a range of advice to help them identify pupils in need of additional mental health support, including working with external agencies.

20 Homelessness

The DSL and deputy DSL will be aware of the contact details and referral routes in to the Local Housing Authority so that concerns over homelessness can be raised as early as possible.

Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include the following:

- Household debt
- Rent arrears
- Domestic abuse
- Anti-social behaviour
- Any mention of a family moving home because “they have to”

Referrals to the Local Housing Authority do not replace referrals to CSCS where a child is being harmed or at risk of harm.

21 County lines

For the purpose of this policy, “**County lines**” refers to organised criminal networks and gangs exploiting children to move drugs and money into one or more areas (within the UK). Drugs and money may also be stored by children for the purpose of criminal activity.

Staff will be made aware of pupils with missing episodes who may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs.

Staff members who suspect a pupil may be vulnerable to, or involved in, this activity will immediately report all concerns to the DSL.

The DSL will consider referral to the National Referral Mechanism on a case-by-case basis and consider involving local services and providers who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation.

Indicators that a pupil may be involved in county lines active include the following:

- Persistently going missing or being found out of their usual area
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones
- Excessive receipt of texts or phone calls
- Relationships with controlling or older individuals or groups
- Leaving home without explanation
- Evidence of physical injury or assault that cannot be explained
- Carrying weapons
- Sudden decline in school results
- Becoming isolated from peers or social networks
- Self-harm or significant changes in mental state
- Parental reports of concern

Further information can be found on the North Yorkshire Safeguarding website;

<http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation.htm>

22 Pupils with family members in prison

Pupils with a family member in prison will be offered pastoral support as necessary.

They will receive a copy of '[Are you a young person with a family member in prison](#)' from Action for Prisoners' Families where appropriate and allowed the opportunity to discuss questions and concerns.

23 Pupils required to give evidence in court

Pupils required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or crimes they have witnessed, will be offered appropriate pastoral support.

Pupils will also be provided with the booklet '[Going to Court](#)' from HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) where appropriate and allowed the opportunity to discuss questions and concerns.

24 Contextual safeguarding

Safeguarding incidents can occur outside of school and can be associated with outside factors. School staff, particularly the DSL and Deputy DSL, will always consider the context of incidents – this is known as contextual safeguarding. Staff will consider the risk of abuse and neglect in the home as well as risk outside such as sexual and/or criminal exploitation, radicalisation, bullying and children going missing.

Assessment and understanding of pupils' behaviour will consider whether there are wider environmental factors that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. Also if they are suffering harm or have been traumatised by abuse.

The school will provide as much contextual information as possible when making referrals to CSCS.

25 Preventing radicalisation

For the purpose of this policy, we have used the following definitions:

- **“Radicalisation”** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies.
- **“Extremism”** refers to the vocal or active opposition of fundamental British Values

- **“Terrorism”** refers to an action that endangers or causes serious violence or a person or people, property, or electronic system, which is designed to influence the government, intimidate the public, or advance a cause.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of the school’s wider safeguarding duties. The school will actively assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism.

Staff will be alert to changes in pupils’ behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

Staff will use their professional judgement to identify pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation and act appropriately, which may include making a referral to the Channel programme. The school will work with local safeguarding arrangements as appropriate.

The school will ensure that they engage with parents and families, as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. In doing so, the school will assist and advise family members who raise concerns and provide information for support mechanisms.

Any concerns over radicalisation will be discussed with a child’s parents, unless the school has reason to believe that the child would be placed at risk as a result.

25.1 Training

All staff will undertake Prevent awareness training to be able to provide advice and support to other staff on how to protect children against the risk of radicalisation. The DSL will hold formal training sessions with all members of staff to ensure they are aware of the risk indicators and their duties regarding preventing radicalisation.

25.2 Risk indicators of vulnerable pupils

Indicators of an identity crisis include the following:

- Distancing themselves from their cultural/religious heritage
- Uncomfortable with their place in society

Indicators of a personal crisis include the following:

- Family tensions
- A sense of isolation
- Low self-esteem
- Disassociation from existing friendship groups
- Searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging

Indicators of vulnerability through personal circumstances includes the following:

- Migration
- Local community tensions
- Events affecting their country or region of origin
- Alienation from UK values
- A sense of grievance triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination

Indicators of vulnerability through unmet aspirations include the following:

- Perceptions of injustice
- Feelings of failure
- Rejection of civic life
- Indicators of vulnerability through criminality:
- Experiences of dealing with the police
- Involvement with criminal groups

25.3 Making a judgement

When making a judgement, staff will ask themselves the following questions:

- Does the pupil have access to extremist influences?
- Does the pupil access the internet for the purposes of extremist activities (e.g. using closed network groups, accessing or distributing extremist material, contacting such groups covertly using Skype)?
- Is there a reason to believe that the pupil has been, or is likely to be, involved with extremist organisations?
- Is the pupil known to have possessed, or be actively seeking, extremist literature/other media likely to incite racial or religious hatred?
- Does the pupil sympathise with or support illegal/illicit groups?
- Does the pupil support groups with links to extremist activity?
- Has the pupil encountered peer, social, family or faith group rejection?
- Is there evidence of extremist ideological, political or religious influence on the pupil?
- Have international events in areas of conflict and civil unrest had a noticeable impact on the pupil?
- Has there been a significant shift in the pupil's outward appearance that suggests a new social, political or religious influence?
- Has the pupil come into conflict with family over religious beliefs, lifestyle or dress choices?
- Does the pupil vocally support terrorist attacks, either verbally or in their written work?
- Has the pupil witnessed or been the victim of racial or religious hate crimes?
- Is there a pattern of regular or extended travel within the UK?
- Has the pupil travelled for extended periods of time to international locations?
- Has the pupil employed any methods to disguise their identity?
- Does the pupil have experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion?
- Does the pupil display a lack of affinity or understanding for others?
- Is the pupil the victim of social isolation?
- Does the pupil demonstrate a simplistic or flawed understanding of religion or politics?
- Is the pupil a foreign national or refugee, or awaiting a decision on their/their family's immigration status?
- Does the pupil have insecure, conflicted or absent family relationships?
- Has the pupil experienced any trauma in their lives, particularly trauma associated with war or sectarian conflict?
- Is there evidence that a significant adult or other person in the pupil's life has extremist views or sympathies?

Critical indicators include where the pupil is:

- In contact with extremist recruiters.
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders.
- Accessing extremist websites.
- Possessing extremist literature.
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining extremist organisations.
- Making significant changes to their appearance and/or behaviour.

Any member of staff who identifies such concerns, because of observed behaviour or reports of conversations, will report these to the DSL.

The DSL will consider whether a situation may be so serious that an emergency response is required. In this situation, a 999 call will be made; however, concerns are most likely to require a police investigation as part of the Channel programme, in the first instance.

25.4 Channel programme

Safeguarding children is a key role for both the school and the LA, which is implemented through the use of the Channel programme. This service shall be used where a vulnerable pupil is at risk of being involved in terrorist activities.

In cases where the school believes a pupil is potentially at serious risk of being radicalised, the headteacher or DSL will contact the Channel programme.

The DSL will also support any staff making referrals to the Channel programme.

The Channel programme ensures that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background, receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist-related activity.

The programme identifies individuals at risk, assesses the extent of that risk, and develops the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned, with multi-agency cooperation and support from the school.

The delivery of the Channel programme may often overlap with the implementation of the LA's or school's wider safeguarding duty, especially where vulnerabilities have been identified that require intervention from CSCS, or where the individual is already known to CSCS.

25.5 Extremist speakers

The school takes precautions when inviting speakers, to ensure that speakers who may promote extremist views are prevented from using the school premises.

25.6 Building children's resilience

The school will:

- Provide a safe environment for debating controversial issues.
- Promote fundamental British values, alongside pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Allow pupils time to explore sensitive and controversial issues.
- Provide pupils with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage potentially difficult situations, recognise risk, make safe choices and recognise where pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing.
- Equip pupils to explore political and social issues critically, weigh evidence, debate, and make reasoned arguments.
- Teach pupils about how democracy, government and law making/enforcement occur.
- Teach pupils about mutual respect and understanding for the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities of the UK.

25.7 Resources

The school will utilise the following resources when preventing radicalisation:

- Local safeguarding arrangements
- Local police (contacted via 101 for non-emergencies)
- The DfE's dedicated helpline (020 7340 7264)
- The Channel awareness programme
- The [Educate Against Hate](#) website

26 Children missing education

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and such children are at risk of being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation.

26.1 Daily Procedures

Morning attendance registers officially open at 08:45 and close at 09:15. Children who arrive after 08:45 are expected to report to the school office to provide a reason for being late and this is

recorded and monitored so that safeguarding concerns may be flagged up and investigated at the earliest opportunity. Between 09:00 and 09:30, admin staff will telephone/text parents and emergency contacts of children who are absent and for which no reason has been provided. As part of the registration process, parents are asked to provide four separate emergency contacts for each pupil.

If no contact is made by 09:30, this will be considered a safeguarding issue and a home visit will be instigated. If there is no response when a home visit is made, the matter will be referred to the police.

The school will inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly.

When a child who is subject to a Child Protection Plan is absent without explanation, the DSL will be informed by the class teacher or office staff, who will immediately inform MASH.

Staff will monitor pupils that go missing from the school, particularly on repeat occasions, and report them to the DSL following normal safeguarding procedures, in accordance with the Children Missing Education Policy.

The school will inform the LA of any pupil who fails to attend regularly or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more.

26.2 Admissions register

Pupils are placed on the admissions register at the beginning of the first day that is agreed by the school, or when the school has been notified that the pupil will first be attending.

The school will notify the LA within five days of when a pupil's name is added to or removed from the admissions register, using the Pupil Movement Form (e-mail to cme@york.gov.uk)

The school will ensure that the admissions register is kept up-to-date and accurate at all times and will inform parents when any changes occur.

Four emergency contact details will be held for each pupil where possible.

Staff will monitor pupils who do not attend the school on the agreed date and will notify the LA at the earliest opportunity.

If a parent notifies the school that their child will live at a different address, the school will record the following information on the admissions register:

- The full name of the parent with whom the pupil will live
- The new address
- The date from when the pupil will live at that address

If a parent notifies the school that their child will be attending a different school, or is already registered at a different school, the following information will be recorded on the admissions register:

- The name of the new school
- The date on which the pupil first attended, or is due to attend, that school

Where a pupil moves to a new school, the school will use the secure School2School system to securely transfer pupils' data electronically.

To ensure accurate data is collected to allow effective safeguarding, the school will inform the LA of any pupil who is going to be deleted from the admission register, in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended), where they:

- Have been taken out of the school by their parents, and are being educated outside the national education system, e.g. home education.
- Have ceased to attend the school, and no longer live within a reasonable distance of the premises.

- Have been certified by the school's medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and their parent has not indicated the intention to the pupil continuing to attend school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
- Have been in custody for a period of more than four months due to a final court order and the school does not reasonably believe they will be returning to the school at the end of that period.
- Have been permanently excluded.

The school will also remove a pupil from the admissions register where the school and LA has been unable to establish the pupil's whereabouts after making reasonable enquiries into their attendance.

If a pupil is to be removed from the admissions register, the school will provide the LA with the following information:

- The full name of the pupil
- The full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil lives
- At least one telephone number of the parent with whom the pupil lives
- The full name and address of the parent with whom the pupil is going to live, and the date that the pupil will start living there, if applicable
- The name of the pupil's new school and the pupil's expected start date there, if applicable
- The grounds for removal from the admissions register under regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

The school will work with the LA to establish methods of making returns for pupils back into the school.

The school will highlight to the LA where they have been unable to obtain necessary information from parents, e.g. where an address is unknown.

The school will also highlight any other necessary contextual information including safeguarding concerns

27 Pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND)/Mental Health Issues

The school recognises that pupils with SEND or who may need support with their mental health can face additional safeguarding challenges, and are 3 times more likely to be abused than their peers. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group, including:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's condition without further exploration
- Pupils being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other pupils
- The potential for pupils with SEN, disabilities or certain health conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs
- Communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges

When reporting concerns or making referrals for pupils with SEND and/or mental health issues, the above factors will always be taken into consideration.

When managing a safeguarding issue relating to a pupil with SEND and/or a mental health issue, the DSL will liaise with the school's SENCO, as well as the pupil's family where appropriate, to ensure that the pupil's needs are effectively met.

28 Alternative provision

The school will remain responsible for a pupil's welfare during their time at an alternative provider. When placing a pupil with an alternative provider, the school will obtain written confirmation that the provider has conducted all relevant safeguarding checks on staff.

29 Work experience

Where the school has pupils conduct work experience at the school, an enhanced DBS check will be obtained if the pupil is over the age of 16.

30. Checking the identity and suitability of visitors

All visitors will be required to verify their identity to the satisfaction of staff and to leave their belongings, including their mobile phone(s), in a safe place during their visit.

If the visitor is unknown to the setting, we will check their credentials and reason for visiting before allowing them to enter the setting. Visitors should be ready to produce identification.

Visitors are expected to sign the visitors' book and wear a visitor's badge.

Visitors to the school who are visiting for a professional purpose, such as educational psychologists and school improvement officers, will be asked to show photo ID and:

Will be asked to show their DBS certificate, which will be checked alongside their photo ID; or

The organisation sending the professional, such as the LA or educational psychology service, will provide prior written confirmation that an appropriate level of DBS check has been carried out (if this is provided, we will not ask to see the DBS certificate)

All other visitors, including visiting speakers, will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times. We will not invite into the school any speaker who is known to disseminate extremist views, and will carry out appropriate checks to ensure that any individual or organisation using school facilities is not seeking to disseminate extremist views or radicalise pupils or staff.

31 Homestay exchange visits

31.1 School-arranged homestays in UK

Where the school is arranging for a visiting child to be provided with care and accommodation in the UK in the home of a family to which the child is not related, the responsible adults are considered to be in regulated activity for the period of the stay.

In such cases, the school is the regulated activity provider; therefore, the school will obtain all the necessary information required, including a DBS enhanced certificate with barred list information, to inform its assessment of the suitability of the responsible adults.

Where criminal record information is disclosed, the school will consider, alongside all other information, whether the adult is a suitable host.

In addition to the responsible adults, the school will consider whether a DBS enhanced certificate should be obtained for anyone else aged over 16 in the household.

31.2 School-arranged homestays abroad

The school will liaise with partner schools to discuss and agree the arrangements in place for the visit.

The school will consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether to contact the relevant foreign embassy or High Commission of the country in question to ascertain what checks may be possible in respect of those providing homestay outside of the UK.

The school will use its professional judgement to assess whether the arrangements are appropriate and sufficient to safeguard every child involved in the exchange.

Pupils will be provided with emergency contact details to use where an emergency occurs or a situation arises that makes them feel uncomfortable.

31.3 Privately arranged homestays

Where a parent or pupil arranges their own homestay, this is a private arrangement and the school is not the regulated activity provider.

32 Private fostering

Where the school becomes aware of a pupil being privately fostered, they will notify the LA as soon as possible to allow the LA to conduct any necessary checks.

33 Concerns about a pupil

33.1 Children's concerns

Children have opportunities to raise concerns and make complaints and these will be listened to and taken seriously and responded to.

The school displays information about pupils sharing worries or concerns and pupils are encouraged to report any concerns about safeguarding they may have to the DSL or deputy DSL.

The school has a proactive, accessible and confidential Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) service, where pupils can go for information, help and advice in confidence.

Dringhouses Primary School is committed to raising pupils' awareness that they have a right to not be treated or touched in a way that makes them unhappy or hurt:

- That sometimes they may not feel able to stop an adult doing something that they do not like.
- That there are people in and out of school who will listen to them and take steps to protect them from harm. Age-appropriate materials are utilised in PSHE in order to help children to understand child protection issues.

33.2 Staff members' concerns

If a member of staff has any concern about a child's welfare, they will act on them immediately by speaking to the DSL or a deputy..

All staff members are aware of the procedure for reporting concerns and understand their responsibilities in relation to confidentiality and information sharing.

Where the DSL is not available to discuss the concern with, staff members will contact the Deputy DSL with the matter.

If a referral is made about a child by anyone other than the DSL, the DSL will be informed as soon as possible.

The LA will make a decision regarding what action is required within one working day of the referral being made and will notify the referrer.

Staff are required to monitor a referral if they do not receive information from the LA regarding what action is necessary for the pupil.

If the situation does not improve after a referral, the DSL will ask for reconsideration to ensure that their concerns have been addressed and that the situation improves for the pupil. If early help is appropriate, the case will be kept under constant review. If the pupil's situation does not improve, a referral will be considered.

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, as well as the reasons for making those decisions, will be recorded in writing by the DSL and kept securely in a locked cabinet in the headteacher's office.

If a pupil is in immediate danger, a referral will be made to CSCS and/or the police immediately.

If a pupil has committed a crime, such as sexual violence, the police will be notified without delay.

Where there are safeguarding concerns, the school will ensure that the pupil's wishes are always taken into account, and that there are systems available for pupils to provide feedback and express their views.

When responding to safeguarding concerns, staff members will act calmly and supportively, ensuring that the pupil feels like they are being listened to and believed.

An inter-agency assessment will be undertaken where a child and their family could benefit from coordinated support from more than one agency. These assessments will identify what help the child and family require in preventing needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed.

34 Early help

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Any pupil may benefit from early help, but in particular staff will be alert to the potential need for early help for pupils who:

- Have SEND (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)).
- Are young carers.
- Show signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups.
- Are frequently missing/going missing from care or from home.
- Misuse drugs or alcohol.
- Are at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation.
- Are in a family circumstance presenting challenges such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse.
- Are returned home to their family from care.
- Show early signs of abuse and/or neglect.
- Are at risk of being radicalised or exploited.
- Are privately fostered.

Early help will also be used to address non-violent harmful sexual behaviour to prevent escalation.

All staff will be made aware of the local early help process and understand their role in it.

The DSL will take the lead where early help is appropriate and will discuss and agree with statutory safeguarding partners, levels for the different types of assessment, as part of the local arrangements.

35 Managing referrals

The reporting and referral process outlined in Appendix K will be followed accordingly.

All staff members, in particular the DSL, will be aware of the LA's arrangements in place for managing referrals. The DSL will provide staff members with clarity and support where needed.

When making a referral to CSCS or other external agencies, information will be shared in line with confidentiality requirements and will only be shared where necessary to do so.

The DSL will work alongside external agencies, maintaining continuous liaison, including multi-agency liaison where appropriate, in order to ensure the wellbeing of the pupils involved. The DSL will work closely with the police to ensure the school does not jeopardise any criminal proceedings, and to obtain help and support as necessary.

Where a pupil has been harmed or is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, the referrer will be notified of the action that will be taken within one working day of a referral being made. **Where this information is not forthcoming, the referrer will contact the assigned social worker for more information.**

The school will not wait for the start or outcome of an investigation before protecting the victim and other pupils: this applies to criminal investigations as well as those made by CSCS. Where CSCS decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate, the school will consider referring the incident again if it is believed that the pupil is at risk of harm. Where CSCS decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate and the school agrees with this decision, the school will consider the use of other support mechanisms, such as early help and pastoral support.

At all stages of the reporting and referral process, the pupil will be informed of the decisions made, actions taken and reasons for doing so.

Discussions of concerns with parents will only take place where this would not put the pupil or others at potential risk of harm. The school will work closely with parents to ensure that the pupil, as well as their family, understands that the arrangements in place, such as in-school interventions, are effectively supported and know where they can access additional support.

36 Concerns about staff members and safeguarding practices

If a staff member or volunteer has concerns about another member of staff or volunteer (including supply staff and volunteers), it will be raised immediately with the headteacher.

If the concern is with regard to the headteacher, it will be referred directly to the Chair of Governors.

Any concerns regarding the safeguarding practices at the school will be raised with the SLT, and the necessary whistleblowing procedures will be followed, as outlined in the Whistleblowing Policy.

If a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with the SLT, they should access other whistleblowing channels such as the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline (0800 028 0285).

Any allegations of abuse made against staff members, including those that meet the harms test, will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Disciplinary Policy.

For the purpose of the policy, the “**harms test**” refers to a situation where a person would pose a risk of harm if they continues to work in regular or close contact with pupils in their present position, or capacity.

37 Dealing with allegations of abuse against staff

Section 1

37.1 Allegations that may meet the harms threshold

This applies to all cases in which it is alleged that a current member of staff, including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor, has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child, and/or
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, and/or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children, and/or
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children – this includes behaviour taking place both inside and outside of school

If we're in any doubt as to whether a concern meets the harm threshold, we will consult out local authority designated officer (LADO).

We will deal with any allegation of abuse quickly, in a fair and consistent way that provides effective child protection while also supporting the individual who is the subject of the allegation.

A 'case manager' will lead any investigation. This will be the headteacher, or the chair of governors where the headteacher is the subject of the allegation. The case manager will be identified at the earliest opportunity.

Our procedures for dealing with allegations will be applied with common sense and judgement.

Suspension of the accused until the case is resolved

Suspension of the accused will not be the default position, and will only be considered in cases where there is reason to suspect that a child or other children is/are at risk of harm, or the case is so serious that there might be grounds for dismissal. In such cases, we will only suspend an individual if we have considered all other options available and there is no reasonable alternative.

Based on an assessment of risk, we will consider alternatives such as:

- Redeployment within the school so that the individual does not have direct contact with the child or children concerned
- Providing an assistant to be present when the individual has contact with children
- Redeploying the individual to alternative work in the school so that they do not have unsupervised access to children
- Moving the child or children to classes where they will not come into contact with the individual, making it clear that this is not a punishment and parents/carers have been consulted
- Temporarily redeploying the individual to another role in a different location, for example to an alternative school or other work for the local authority

If in doubt, the case manager will seek views from the school's personnel adviser and the designated officer at the local authority, as well as the police and children's social care where they have been involved.

Definitions for outcomes of allegation investigations

- **Substantiated:** there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation

- **Malicious:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive, or to cause harm to the subject of the allegation
- **False:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation
- **Unsubstantiated:** there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation (this does not imply guilt or innocence)
- **Unfounded:** to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made

37.2 Procedure for dealing with allegations

In the event of an allegation that meets the criteria above, the case manager will take the following steps:

Conduct basic enquiries in line with local procedures to establish the facts to help determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation before carrying on with the steps below

Discuss the allegation with the designated officer at the local authority. This is to consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action, including whether further enquiries are necessary to enable a decision on how to proceed, and whether it is necessary to involve the police and/or children's social care services. (The case manager may, on occasion, consider it necessary to involve the police *before* consulting the designated officer – for example, if the accused individual is deemed to be an immediate risk to children or there is evidence of a possible criminal offence. In such cases, the case manager will notify the designated officer as soon as practicably possible after contacting the police)

Inform the accused individual of the concerns or allegations and likely course of action as soon as possible after speaking to the designated officer (and the police or children's social care services, where necessary). Where the police and/or children's social care services are involved, the case manager will only share such information with the individual as has been agreed with those agencies

Where appropriate (in the circumstances described above), carefully consider whether suspension of the individual from contact with children at the school is justified or whether alternative arrangements such as those outlined above can be put in place. Advice will be sought from the designated officer, police and/or children's social care services, as appropriate

Where the case manager is concerned about the welfare of other children in the community or the individual's family, they will discuss these concerns with the DSL and make a risk assessment of the situation. If necessary, the DSL may make a referral to children's social care

If immediate suspension is considered necessary, agree and record the rationale for this with the designated officer. The record will include information about the alternatives to suspension that have been considered, and why they were rejected. Written confirmation of the suspension will be provided to the individual facing the allegation or concern within 1 working day, and the individual will be given a named contact at the school and their contact details

If it is decided that no further action is to be taken in regard to the subject of the allegation or concern, record this decision and the justification for it and agree with the designated officer what information should be put in writing to the individual and by whom, as well as what action should follow both in respect of the individual and those who made the initial allegation

If it is decided that further action is needed, take steps as agreed with the designated officer to initiate the appropriate action in school and/or liaise with the police and/or children's social care services as appropriate

Provide effective support for the individual facing the allegation or concern, including appointing a named representative to keep them informed of the progress of the case and considering what other support is appropriate, such as HR, counselling, trade union representatives etc

Inform the parents or carers of the child/children involved about the allegation as soon as possible if they do not already know (following agreement with children's social care services and/or the police, if applicable). The case manager will also inform the parents or carers of the requirement to maintain

confidentiality about any allegations made against teachers (where this applies) while investigations are ongoing. Any parent or carer who wishes to have the confidentiality restrictions removed in respect of a teacher will be advised to seek legal advice

Keep the parents or carers of the child/children involved informed of the progress of the case (only in relation to their child – no information will be shared regarding the staff member)

Make a referral to the DBS where it is thought that the individual facing the allegation or concern has engaged in conduct that harmed or is likely to harm a child, or if the individual otherwise poses a risk of harm to a child

We will inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working, or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere), and any action taken in respect of the allegations. This notification will be made as soon as reasonably possible and always within 14 days of the allegations being made.

If the school is made aware that the secretary of state has made an interim prohibition order in respect of an individual, we will immediately suspend that individual from teaching, pending the findings of the investigation by the Teaching Regulation Agency.

Where the police are involved, wherever possible the school will ask the police at the start of the investigation to obtain consent from the individuals involved to share their statements and evidence for use in the school's disciplinary process, should this be required at a later point.

37.3 Additional considerations for supply teachers and all contracted staff

If there are concerns or an allegation is made against someone not directly employed by the school, such as a supply teacher or contracted staff member provided by an agency, we will take the actions below in addition to our standard procedures.

- We will not decide to stop using an individual due to safeguarding concerns without finding out the facts and liaising with our LADO to determine a suitable outcome
- The governing board will discuss with the agency whether it is appropriate to suspend the individual, or redeploy them to another part of the school, while the school carries out the investigation
- We will involve the agency fully, but the school will take the lead in collecting the necessary information and providing it to the LADO as required
- We will address issues such as information sharing, to ensure any previous concerns or allegations known to the agency are taken into account (we will do this, for example, as part of the allegations management meeting or by liaising directly with the agency where necessary)
- When using an agency, we will inform them of our process for managing allegations, and keep them updated about our policies as necessary, and will invite the agency's HR manager or equivalent to meetings as appropriate.

37.4 Timescales

We will deal with all allegations as quickly and effectively as possible and will endeavour to comply with the following timescales, where reasonably practicable:

- Any cases where it is clear immediately that the allegation is unsubstantiated or malicious should be resolved within 1 week
- If the nature of an allegation does not require formal disciplinary action, appropriate action should be taken within 3 working days
- If a disciplinary hearing is required and can be held without further investigation, this should be held within 15 working days

However, these are objectives only and where they are not met, we will endeavour to take the required action as soon as possible thereafter.

37.5 Specific actions

Action following a criminal investigation or prosecution

The case manager will discuss with the local authority's designated officer whether any further action, including disciplinary action, is appropriate and, if so, how to proceed, taking into account information provided by the police and/or children's social care services.

Conclusion of a case where the allegation is substantiated

If the allegation is substantiated and the individual is dismissed or the school ceases to use their services, or the individual resigns or otherwise ceases to provide their services, the school will make a referral to the DBS for consideration of whether inclusion on the barred lists is required.

If the individual concerned is a member of teaching staff, the school will consider whether to refer the matter to the Teaching Regulation Agency to consider prohibiting the individual from teaching.

Individuals returning to work after suspension

If it is decided on the conclusion of a case that an individual who has been suspended can return to work, the case manager will consider how best to facilitate this.

The case manager will also consider how best to manage the individual's contact with the child or children who made the allegation, if they are still attending the school.

Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious reports

If a report is:

- Determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the DSL will consider the appropriate next steps. If they consider that the child and/or person who made the allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate
- Shown to be deliberately invented, or malicious, the school will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual(s) who made it

Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious allegations

If an allegation is:

- Determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the LADO and case manager will consider the appropriate next steps. If they consider that the child and/or person who made the allegation is in need of help, or the allegation may have been a cry for help, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate
- Shown to be deliberately invented, or malicious, the school will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual(s) who made it

37.6 Confidentiality and information sharing

The school will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity while an allegation is being investigated or considered.

The case manager will take advice from the LADO, police and children's social care services, as appropriate, to agree:

- Who needs to know about the allegation and what information can be shared
- How to manage speculation, leaks and gossip, including how to make parents or carers of a child/children involved aware of their obligations with respect to confidentiality
- What, if any, information can be reasonably given to the wider community to reduce speculation

- How to manage press interest if, and when, it arises

37.7 Record-keeping

The case manager will maintain clear records about any case where the allegation or concern meets the criteria above and store them on the individual's confidential personnel file for the duration of the case.

The records of any allegation that, following an investigation, is found to be malicious or false will be deleted from the individual's personnel file (unless the individual consents for the records to be retained on the file).

For all other allegations (which are not found to be malicious or false), the following information will be kept on the file of the individual concerned:

- A clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation
- Details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved
- Notes of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome
- A declaration on whether the information will be referred to in any future reference

In these cases, the school will provide a copy to the individual, in agreement with children's social care or the police as appropriate.

Where records contain information about allegations of sexual abuse, we will preserve these for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), for the term of the inquiry. We will retain all other records at least until the individual has reached normal pension age, or for 10 years from the date of the allegation if that is longer.

37.8 References

- When providing employer references, we will:
- Not refer to any allegation that has been found to be false, unfounded, unsubstantiated or malicious, or any repeated allegations which have all been found to be false, unfounded, unsubstantiated or malicious
- Include substantiated allegations, provided that the information is factual and does not include opinions

37.9 Learning lessons

After any cases where the allegations are *substantiated*, the case manager will review the circumstances of the case with the local authority's designated officer to determine whether there are any improvements that we can make to the school's procedures or practice to help prevent similar events in the future.

This will include consideration of (as applicable):

- Issues arising from the decision to suspend the member of staff
- The duration of the suspension
- Whether or not the suspension was justified
- The use of suspension when the individual is subsequently reinstated. We will consider how future investigations of a similar nature could be carried out without suspending the individual

For all other cases, the case manager will consider the facts and determine whether any improvements can be made.

37.10 Non-recent allegations

Abuse can be reported, no matter how long ago it happened.

We will report any non-recent allegations made by a child to the LADO in line with our local authority's procedures for dealing with non-recent allegations.

Where an adult makes an allegation to the school that they were abused as a child, we will advise the individual to report the allegation to the police.

37.11 Section 2: concerns that do not meet the harm threshold

This section applies to all concerns (including allegations) about members of staff, including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors, which do not meet the harm threshold set out in section 1 above.

Concerns may arise through, for example:

- Suspicion
- Complaint
- Safeguarding concern or allegation from another member of staff
- Disclosure made by a child, parent or other adult within or outside the school
- Pre-employment vetting checks

We recognise the importance of responding to and dealing with any concerns in a timely manner to safeguard the welfare of children.

37.12 Definition of low-level concerns

The term 'low-level' concern is any concern – no matter how small – that an adult working in or on behalf of the school may have acted in a way that:

- Is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, **and**
- Does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the designated officer at the local authority

Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:

- Being overly friendly with children
- Having favourites
- Taking photographs of children on their mobile phone
- Engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door
- Humiliating pupils

37.13 Sharing low-level concerns

We recognise the importance of creating a culture of openness, trust and transparency to encourage all staff to confidentially share low-level concerns so that they can be addressed appropriately.

We will create this culture by:

- Ensuring staff are clear about what appropriate behaviour is, and are confident in distinguishing expected and appropriate behaviour from concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour, in themselves and others
- Empowering staff to share any low-level concerns as per section 7.7 of this policy
- Empowering staff to self-refer
- Addressing unprofessional behaviour and supporting the individual to correct it at an early stage
- Providing a responsive, sensitive and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised
- Helping to identify any weakness in the school's safeguarding system

37.14 Responding to low-level concerns

If the concern is raised via a third party, the headteacher will collect evidence where necessary by speaking:

- Directly to the person who raised the concern, unless it has been raised anonymously
- To the individual involved and any witnesses

The headteacher will use the information collected to categorise the type of behaviour and determine any further action, in line with the school's code of conduct. The headteacher will be the ultimate decision-maker in respect of all low-level concerns, though they may wish to collaborate with the DSL.

37.15 Record keeping

All low-level concerns will be recorded in writing. In addition to details of the concern raised, records will include the context in which the concern arose, any action taken and the rationale for decisions and action taken.

Records will be:

- Kept confidential, held securely and comply with the DPA 2018 and UK GDPR
- Reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified. Where a pattern of such behaviour is identified, we will decide on a course of action, either through our disciplinary procedures or, where a pattern of behaviour moves from a concern to meeting the harms threshold as described in section 1 of this appendix, we will refer it to the designated officer at the local authority
- Retained at least until the individual leaves employment at the school

Where a low-level concern relates to a supply teacher or contractor, we will notify the individual's employer, so any potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

37.16 References

We will not include low-level concerns in references unless:

The concern (or group of concerns) has met the threshold for referral to the designated officer at the local authority and is found to be substantiated; and/or

The concern (or group of concerns) relates to issues which would ordinarily be included in a reference, such as misconduct or poor performance

38 Allegations of abuse against other pupils (child-on-child abuse)

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Abuse, sexual violence and/or sexual harassment will never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up", as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for pupils.

We also recognise the gendered nature of child-on-child abuse. However, all child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under our school's behaviour policy, but this child protection and safeguarding policy will apply to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. This might include where the alleged behaviour:

1. Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence
2. Could put pupils in the school at risk
3. Is violent
4. Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol
5. Involves sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment, such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, upskirting or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos (including the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes)

Procedures for dealing with allegations of child-on-child abuse

If a pupil makes an allegation of abuse against another pupil:

You must record the allegation (CPOMS) and tell the DSL, but do not investigate it

The DSL will contact the local authority children's social care team and follow its advice, as well as the police if the allegation involves a potential criminal offence

The DSL will put a risk assessment and support plan into place for all children involved (including the victim(s), the child(ren) against whom the allegation has been made and any others affected) with a named person they can talk to if needed. This will include considering public/school transport as a potentially vulnerable place for a victim or alleged perpetrator.

The DSL will contact the children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), if appropriate

If the incident is a criminal offence and there are delays in the criminal process, the DSL will work closely with the police (and other agencies as required) while protecting children and/or taking any disciplinary measures against the alleged perpetrator. We will ask the police if we have any questions about the investigation.

Creating a supportive environment in school and minimising the risk of child-on-child abuse

We recognise the importance of taking proactive action to minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse, and of creating a supportive environment where victims feel confident in reporting incidents.

To achieve this, we will:

- Challenge any form of derogatory or sexualised language or inappropriate behaviour between peers, including requesting or sending sexual images
- Be alert to the fact that child-on-child abuse can take place face-to-face, online, and sometimes simultaneously between the 2.
- Be vigilant to issues that particularly affect different genders – for example, sexualised or aggressive touching or grabbing towards female pupils, and initiation or hazing type violence with respect to boys.
- Ensure our curriculum helps to educate pupils about appropriate behaviour and consent
- Ensure pupils are able to easily and confidently report abuse using our reporting systems
- Ensure staff reassure victims that they are being taken seriously
- Be alert to reports of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment that may point to environmental, systemic problems that could be addressed by updating policies, processes and the curriculum, or could reflect wider issues in the local area that should be shared with safeguarding partners.
- Support children who have witnessed sexual violence, especially rape or assault by penetration. We will do all we can to make sure the victim, alleged perpetrator(s) and any witnesses are not bullied or harassed.
- When considering instance of harmful sexual behaviour between children, the school will consider their ages and stages of development

Ensure staff are trained to understand:

- How to recognise the indicators and signs of child-on-child abuse, and know how to identify it and respond to reports
- That even if there are no reports of child-on-child abuse in school, it does not mean it is not happening – staff should maintain an attitude of “it could happen here”
- That if they have any concerns about a child's welfare, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told, and that victims may not always make a direct report. For example:
 - Children can show signs or act in ways they hope adults will notice and react to
 - A friend may make a report

- A member of staff may overhear a conversation
- A child's behaviour might indicate that something is wrong
- That certain children may face additional barriers to telling someone because of their vulnerability, disability, gender, ethnicity and/or sexual orientation
- That a pupil harming a peer could be a sign that the child is being abused themselves, and that this would fall under the scope of this policy
- The important role they have to play in preventing child-on-child abuse and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it
- That they should speak to the DSL if they have any concerns
- That social media is likely to play a role in the fall-out from any incident or alleged incident, including for potential contact between the victim, alleged perpetrator(s) and friends from either side

The DSL will take the lead role in any disciplining of the alleged perpetrator(s). We will provide support at the same time as taking any disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action can be taken while other investigations are going on, e.g. by the police. The fact that another body is investigating or has investigated an incident doesn't (in itself) prevent our school from coming to its own conclusion about what happened and imposing a penalty accordingly. We will consider these matters on a case-by-case basis, taking into account whether:

- Taking action would prejudice an investigation and/or subsequent prosecution – we will liaise with the police and/or LA children's social care to determine this
- There are circumstances that make it unreasonable or irrational for us to reach our own view about what happened while an independent investigation is ongoing

Sharing of nudes and semi-nudes ('sexting')

Your responsibilities when responding to an incident

If you are made aware of an incident involving the consensual or non-consensual sharing of nude or semi-nude images/videos (also known as 'sexting' or 'youth produced sexual imagery'), you must report it to the DSL immediately.

You must not:

View, copy, print, share, store or save the imagery yourself, or ask a pupil to share or download it (if you have already viewed the imagery by accident, you must report this to the DSL)

Delete the imagery or ask the pupil to delete it

Ask the pupil(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery (this is the DSL's responsibility)

Share information about the incident with other members of staff, the pupil(s) it involves or their, or other, parents and/or carers

Say or do anything to blame or shame any young people involved

You should explain that you need to report the incident, and reassure the pupil(s) that they will receive support and help from the DSL.

Initial review meeting

Following a report of an incident, the DSL will hold an initial review meeting with appropriate school staff – this may include the staff member who reported the incident and the safeguarding or leadership team that deals with safeguarding concerns. This meeting will consider the initial evidence and aim to determine:

- Whether there is an immediate risk to pupil(s)
- If a referral needs to be made to the police and/or children's social care
- If it is necessary to view the image(s) in order to safeguard the young person (in most cases, images or videos should not be viewed)
- What further information is required to decide on the best response
- Whether the image(s) has been shared widely and via what services and/or platforms (this may be unknown)
- Whether immediate action should be taken to delete or remove images or videos from devices or online services
- Any relevant facts about the pupils involved which would influence risk assessment
- If there is a need to contact another school, college, setting or individual
- Whether to contact parents or carers of the pupils involved (in most cases parents/carers should be involved)

The DSL will make an immediate referral to police and/or children's social care if:

- The incident involves an adult
- There is reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed, or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example owing to special educational needs)
- What the DSL knows about the images or videos suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the young person's developmental stage, or are violent
- The imagery involves sexual acts and any pupil in the images or videos is under 13
- The DSL has reason to believe a pupil is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes (for example, the young person is presenting as suicidal or self-harming)

If none of the above apply then the DSL, in consultation with the headteacher and other members of staff as appropriate, may decide to respond to the incident without involving the police or children's social care. The decision will be made and recorded in line with the procedures set out in this policy.

Further review by the DSL

If at the initial review stage a decision has been made not to refer to police and/or children's social care, the DSL will conduct a further review to establish the facts and assess the risks.

They will hold interviews with the pupils involved (if appropriate).

If at any point in the process there is a concern that a pupil has been harmed or is at risk of harm, a referral will be made to children's social care and/or the police immediately.

Informing parents/carers

The DSL will inform parents/carers at an early stage and keep them involved in the process, unless there is a good reason to believe that involving them would put the pupil at risk of harm.

Referring to the police

If it is necessary to refer an incident to the police, this will be done through contact with the linked PCSO - Laura Harper

Recording incidents

All incidents of sharing of nudes and semi-nudes, and the decisions made in responding to them, will be recorded. The record-keeping arrangements set out in this policy also apply to recording these incidents.

Curriculum coverage

Pupils are taught **at an age appropriate level, in an age appropriate manner - including the language used** - about the issues surrounding the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes as part of our

RSHE and computing programmes. Teaching covers the following in relation to the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes:

- What it is
- How it is most likely to be encountered
- The consequences of requesting, forwarding or providing such images, including when it is and is not abusive and when it may be deemed as online sexual harassment
- Issues of legality
- The risk of damage to people's feelings and reputation
- Pupils also learn the strategies and skills needed to manage:
 - Specific requests or pressure to provide (or forward) such images
 - The receipt of such images
- This policy on the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes is also shared with pupils so they are aware of the processes the school will follow in the event of an incident.

Reporting systems for our pupils

Where there is a safeguarding concern, we will take the child's wishes and feelings into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide.

We recognise the importance of ensuring pupils feel safe and comfortable to come forward and report any concerns and/or allegations.

To achieve this, we will:

Put systems in place for pupils to confidently report abuse

Ensure our reporting systems are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for pupils

Make it clear to pupils that their concerns will be taken seriously, and that they can safely express their views and give feedback

Victims will always be taken seriously, reassured, supported and kept safe. Victims will never be made to feel like they are causing a problem or made to feel ashamed.

If a friend of a victim makes a report or a member of staff overhears a conversation, staff will take action – they will never assume that someone else will deal with it. The basic principles remain the same as when a victim reports an incident; however, staff will consider why the victim has not chosen to make a report themselves and the discussion will be handled sensitively and with the help of CSCS where necessary. If staff are in any doubt, they will speak to the DSL.

Where an alleged incident took place away from the school or online but involved pupils from the school, the school's duty to safeguard pupils remains the same.

All staff will be trained to handle disclosures. Effective safeguarding practice includes:

- Never promising confidentiality at the initial stage.
- Only sharing the report with those necessary for its progression.
- Explaining to the victim what the next steps will be and who the report will be passed to.
- Recognising that the person the child chose to disclose the information to is in a position of trust.
- Being clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed.
- Not asking leading questions and only prompting the child with open questions.
- Waiting until the end of the disclosure to immediately write a thorough summary. If notes must be taken during the disclosure, it is important to still remain engaged and not appear distracted.
- Only recording the facts as the child presents them – not the opinions of the note taker.
- Where the report includes an online element, being aware of searching, screening and confiscation advice and [UKCCIS sexting advice](#).
- Wherever possible, managing disclosures with two staff members present (preferably with the DSL or a deputy as one of the staff members).

- Informing the DSL or deputy as soon as possible after the disclosure if they could not be involved in the disclosure.

The DSL will be informed of any allegations of abuse against pupils with SEND. They will record the incident in writing and, working with the SENCO, decide what course of action is necessary, with the best interests of the pupil in mind at all times.

Confidentiality

Dringhouses Primary School will only engage staff and agencies required to support the victim and/or be involved in any investigation. If a victim asks the school not to tell anyone about the disclosure, the school cannot make this promise. Even without the victim's consent, the information may still be lawfully shared if it is in the public interest and protects children from harm.

The DSL will consider the following when making confidentiality decisions:

- Parents will be informed unless it will place the victim at greater risk.
- If a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger or has been harmed, a referral will be made to CSCS.
- Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assaults are crimes – reports containing any such crimes will be passed to the police.

The DSL will weigh the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and others. If a referral is made against the victim's wishes, it will be done so extremely carefully and the reasons for referral will be explained to the victim. Appropriate specialist support will always be offered.

Anonymity

There are legal requirements for anonymity where a case is progressing through the criminal justice system. The school will do all it can to protect the anonymity of children involved in any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment. It will carefully consider, based on the nature of the report, which staff will be informed and what support will be in place for the children involved.

When deciding on the steps to take, the school will consider the role of social media in potentially exposing victims' identities and facilitating the spread of rumours.

Risk assessment

The DSL or a deputy will make an immediate risk and needs assessment any time there is a report of sexual violence. For reports of sexual harassment, a risk assessment will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Risk assessments are not intended to replace the detailed assessments of experts, and for incidents of sexual violence it is likely that a professional risk assessment by a social worker or sexual violence specialist will be required.

Risk assessments will consider:

- The victim.
- The alleged perpetrator.
- Other children at the school, especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them.

Risk assessments will be recorded (either on paper or electronically) and kept under review in accordance with the school's GDPR and Information Policy.

Taking action following a disclosure

The DSL or a deputy will decide the school's initial response, taking into consideration:

- The victim's wishes.
- The nature of the incident.

- The ages and developmental stages of the children involved.
- Any power imbalance between the children.
- Whether the incident is a one-off or part of a pattern.
- Any ongoing risks.
- Any related issues and the wider context, such as whether there are wider environmental factors in a child's life that threaten their safety and/or welfare.
- The best interests of the child.
- That sexual violence and sexual harassment are always unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Immediate consideration will be given as to how to support the victim, alleged perpetrator and any other children involved.

For reports of rape and assault by penetration, whilst the school establishes the facts, the alleged perpetrator will be removed from any classes shared with the victim. The school will consider how to keep the victim and alleged perpetrator apart on school premises, and on transport where applicable. These actions will not be seen as a judgement of guilt on the alleged perpetrator.

For reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment, the proximity of the victim and alleged perpetrator and the suitability of shared classes, premises and transport will be considered immediately.

In all cases, the initial report will be carefully evaluated and the wishes of the victim, nature of the allegations and requirement to protect all children will be taken into consideration.

Managing the report

The decision of when to inform the alleged perpetrator of a report will be made on a case-by-case basis. If a report is being referred to CSCS or the police, the school will speak to the relevant agency to discuss informing the alleged perpetrator.

There are four likely outcomes when managing reports of sexual violence or sexual harassment:

- Managing internally
- Providing early help
- Referring to CSCS
- Reporting to the police

Whatever outcome is chosen, it will be underpinned by the principle that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable and will not be tolerated. All concerns, discussion, decisions and reasons behind decisions will be recorded either on paper or electronically.

The following situations are statutorily clear and do not allow for contrary decisions:

- A child under the age of 13 can never consent to sexual activity.
- The age of consent is 16.
- Sexual intercourse without consent is rape.
- Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault are defined in law.
- Creating and sharing sexual photos and videos of children under 18 is illegal – including children making and sending images and videos of themselves.

Managing internally

In some cases, e.g. one-off incidents, the school may decide to handle the incident internally through behaviour and bullying policies and by providing pastoral support.

Providing early help

The school may decide that statutory interventions are not required, but that pupils may benefit from early help – providing support as soon as a problem emerges. This approach can be particularly useful in addressing non-violent harmful sexual behaviour and may prevent escalation of sexual violence.

Referral to CSCS

If a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm or is in immediate danger, the school will make a referral to CSCS. Parents will be informed unless there is a compelling reason not to do so (if referral will place the victim at risk). This decision will be made in consultation with CSCS.

The school will not wait for the outcome of an investigation before protecting the victim and other children.

The DSL will work closely with CSCS to ensure that the school's actions do not jeopardise any investigation. Any related risk assessment will be used to inform all decisions.

If CSCS decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate, the school will consider referring the incident again if they believe the child to be in immediate danger or at risk of harm.

If the school agrees with the decision made by CSCS, they will consider the use of other support mechanisms such as early help, pastoral support and specialist support.

Reporting to the police

Reports of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault will be passed on to the police – even if the alleged perpetrator is under 10 years of age. Generally, this will be in parallel with referral to CSCS. The DSL and deputies will follow the local process for referral.

Parents will be informed unless there is a compelling reason not to do so. Where parents are not informed, it is essential for the school to support the child with any decision they take, in unison with CSCS and any appropriate specialist agencies.

The DSL and governing body will agree what information will be disclosed to staff and others, in particular the alleged perpetrator and their parents. They will also discuss the best way to protect the victim and their anonymity.

The DSL will be aware of local arrangements and specialist units that investigate child abuse.

In some cases, it may become clear that the police will not take further action, for whatever reason. In these circumstances, the school will continue to engage with specialist support for the victim as required.

Bail conditions

Police bail is only used in exceptional circumstances. It is unlikely that a child will be placed on police bail if alternative measures can be used to mitigate risks.

The school will work with CSCS and the police to support the victim, alleged perpetrator and other children (especially witnesses) during criminal investigations. The school will seek advice from the police to ensure they meet their safeguarding responsibilities.

The term 'released under investigation' (RUI) is used to describe alleged perpetrators released in circumstances that do not warrant the application of bail.

Where bail is deemed necessary, the school will work with CSCS and the police to safeguard children – ensuring that the victim can continue in their normal routine and continue to receive a suitable education.

Managing delays in the criminal justice system

The school will not wait for the outcome (or even the start) of criminal proceedings before protecting the victim, alleged perpetrator and other children. The associated risk assessment will be used to inform any decisions made.

The DSL will work closely with the police to ensure the school does not jeopardise any criminal proceedings, and to obtain help and support as necessary.

The end of the criminal process

Risk assessments will be updated if the alleged perpetrator receives a caution or is convicted. If the perpetrator remains in the same school as the victim, the school will set out clear expectations regarding the perpetrator, including their behaviour and any restrictions deemed reasonable and proportionate with regards to the perpetrator's timetable.

The school will ensure that the victim and perpetrator remain protected from bullying and harassment (including online).

Where an alleged perpetrator is found not guilty or a case is classed as requiring "no further action", the school will offer support to the victim and alleged perpetrator for as long as is necessary. The victim is likely to be traumatised and the fact that an allegation cannot be substantiated does not necessarily mean that it was unfounded. The school will discuss decisions with the victim and offer support.

The alleged perpetrator is also likely to require ongoing support, as they have also been through a difficult and upsetting experience.

- Ongoing support for the victim
- Any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the victim will be made with the following considerations in mind:
 - The terminology the school uses to describe the victim
 - The age and developmental stage of the victim
 - The needs and wishes of the victim
 - Whether the victim wishes to continue in their normal routine
 - The victim will not be made to feel ashamed about making a report
 - What a proportionate response looks like

Victims may not disclose the whole picture immediately and they may be more comfortable talking about the incident on a piecemeal basis; therefore, a dialogue will be kept open and the victim can choose to appoint a designated trusted adult.

Victims may struggle in a normal classroom environment. Whilst it is important not to isolate the victim, the victim may wish to be withdrawn from lessons and activities at times. This will only happen when the victim wants it to, not because it makes it easier to manage the situation. The school will provide a physical space for victims to withdraw to.

Victims may require support for a long period of time and the school will be prepared to offer long-term support in liaison with relevant agencies. Everything possible will be done to prevent the victim from bullying and harassment as a result of any report they have made.

If the victim is unable to remain in the school, alternative provision or a move to another school will be considered – this will only be considered at the request of the victim and following discussion with their parents. If the victim does move to another school, the DSL will inform the school of any ongoing support needs and transfer the child protection file.

When considering the support required for an alleged perpetrator, the school will take into account:

- The terminology they use to describe the alleged perpetrator or perpetrator.
- The balance of safeguarding the victim and providing the alleged perpetrator with

education and support.

- The reasons why the alleged perpetrator may have abused the victim – and the support necessary.
- Their age and developmental stage.
- What a proportionate response looks like.
- Whether the behaviour is a symptom of their own abuse or exposure to abusive practices and/or materials.

When making a decision, advice will be taken from CSCS, specialist sexual violence services and the police as appropriate.

If the alleged perpetrator moves to another school (for any reason), the DSL will inform the destination school of any ongoing support needs and transfer the child protection file.

The school will work with professionals as required to understand why the abuse took place and provide a high level of support to help the pupil understand and overcome the reasons for their behaviour and reduce the likelihood of them abusing again.

Disciplining the alleged perpetrator

Disciplinary action can be taken whilst investigations are ongoing and the fact that investigations are ongoing does not prevent the school reaching its own conclusion and imposing an appropriate penalty.

The school will make such decisions on a case-by-case basis, with the DSL taking a leading role. The school will take into consideration whether any action would prejudice an investigation and/or subsequent prosecution. The police and CSCS will be consulted where necessary.

The school will also consider whether circumstances make it unreasonable or irrational for the school to make a decision about what happened while an investigation is considering the same facts.

Disciplinary action and support can take place at the same time. The school will be clear whether action taken is disciplinary, supportive or both.

Shared classes

Once the DSL has decided to progress a report, they will again consider whether the victim and alleged perpetrator will be separated in classes, on school premises and on school transport – balancing the school's duty to educate against its duty to safeguard. The best interests of the pupil will always come first.

Where there is a criminal investigation into rape or assault by penetration, the alleged perpetrator will be removed from classes with the victim and potential contact on school premises and transport will be prevented.

Where a criminal investigation into rape or assault by penetration leads to a conviction or caution, in all but the most exceptional circumstances, this will constitute a serious breach of discipline and result in the view that allowing the perpetrator to remain in the school would harm the education or welfare of the victim and potentially other pupils.

Where a criminal investigation into sexual assault leads to a conviction or caution, the school will consider suitable sanctions and permanent exclusion. If the perpetrator will remain at the school, the school will keep the victim and perpetrator in separate classes and manage potential contact on school premises and transport. The nature of the conviction or caution, alongside the wishes of the victim, will inform any discussions made.

Where a report of sexual assault does not lead to a police investigation, this does not mean that the offence did not happen or that the victim has lied. Both the victim and alleged

perpetrator will be affected and appropriate support will be provided. Considerations regarding sharing classes and potential contact will be made on a case-by-case basis.

In all cases, the school will record its decisions and be able to justify them. The needs and wishes of the victim will always be at the heart of the process.

Working with parents and carers

In most sexual violence cases, the school will work with the parents of both the victim and alleged perpetrator. For cases of sexual harassment, these decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The school will meet the victim's parents with the victim present to discuss the arrangements being put in place to safeguard the victim, and to understand their wishes in terms of support arrangements and the progression of the report.

Schools will also meet with the parents of the alleged perpetrator to discuss arrangements that will impact their child, such as moving them out of classes with the victim. Reasons behind decisions will be explained and the support being made available will be discussed. The DSL or a deputy will attend such meetings, with agencies invited as necessary.

Safeguarding other children

Children who have witnessed sexual violence, especially rape and assault by penetration, will be provided with support.

It is likely that children will "take sides" following a report, and the school will do everything in its power to protect the victim, alleged perpetrator and witnesses from bullying and harassment.

The school will keep in mind that contact may be made between the victim and alleged perpetrator and that harassment from friends of both parties could take place via social media and do everything in its power to prevent such activity.

As part of the school's risk assessment following a report, transport arrangements will be considered, as it is a potentially vulnerable place for both a victim and alleged perpetrator. Schools will consider any additional support that can be put in place.

39 Communication and confidentiality

All child protection and safeguarding concerns will be treated in the strictest of confidence in accordance with school data protection policies.

Where there is an allegation or incident of sexual abuse or violence, the victim is entitled to anonymity by law; therefore, the school will consult its policy and agree what information will be disclosed to staff and others, in particular the alleged perpetrator and their parents.

Where a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system, the school will do all it can to protect the anonymity of the pupils involved in the case. Concerns will only be reported to those necessary for its progression and reports will only be shared amongst staff members and with external agencies on a need-to-know basis.

During disclosure of a concern by a pupil, staff members will not promise the pupil confidentiality and will ensure that they are aware of what information will be shared, with whom and why. Where it is in the public interest, and protects pupils from harm, information can be lawfully shared without the victim's consent, e.g. if doing so would assist the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime.

Before doing so, the DSL will weigh the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and others. Where a referral is made against the victim's wishes, it is done so carefully with the reasons for the referral explained to the victim and specialist support offered.

Depending on the nature of a concern, the DSL will discuss the concern with the parents of the pupils involved. Discussions with parents will not take place where they could potentially put a pupil at risk of harm. Discussion with the victim's parents will relate to the arrangements being put in place to safeguard the victim, with the aim of understanding their wishes in terms of support arrangements and the progression of the report. Discussion with the alleged perpetrator's parents will have regards to the arrangements that will impact their child, such as moving classes, etc., with the reasons behind decisions being explained and the available support discussed. External agencies will be invited to these discussions where necessary. Other staff will only talk to parents or carers about any concerns following consultation with the DSL.

If we believe that notifying the parents or carers would increase the risk to the child, we will discuss this with the local authority children's social care team before doing so.

In the case of allegations of abuse made against other children, we will normally notify the parents or carers of all the children involved. We will think carefully about what information we provide about the other child involved, and when. We will work with the police and/or local authority children's social care to make sure our approach to information sharing is consistent.

The DSL will, along with any relevant agencies (this will be decided on a case-by-case basis):

- Meet with the victim's parents or carers, with the victim, to discuss what's being put in place to safeguard them, and understand their wishes in terms of what support they may need and how the report will be progressed
- Meet with the alleged perpetrator's parents or carers to discuss support for them, and what's being put in place that will impact them, e.g. moving them out of classes with the victim, and the reason(s) behind any decision(s)

Where confidentiality or anonymity has been breached, the school will implement the appropriate disciplinary procedures as necessary and will analyse how damage can be minimised and future breaches be prevented.

Where a pupil is leaving the school, the DSL will consider whether it is appropriate to share any information with the pupil's new provider, in addition to the child protection file, that will allow the new provider to support the pupil and arrange appropriate support for their arrival.

40 Record-Keeping

We will hold records within CPOMS and in line with our records retention schedule.

All safeguarding concerns, discussions, decisions made and the reasons for those decisions, must be recorded in writing. If you are in any doubt about whether to record something, discuss it with the DSL.

Records will include:

A clear and comprehensive summary of the concern

Details of how the concern was followed up and resolved

A note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome

Concerns and referrals will be kept in a separate child protection electronic file for each child.

Any non-confidential records will be readily accessible and available. Confidential information and records will be held securely and only available to those who have a right or professional need to see them.

Safeguarding records relating to individual children will be retained for a reasonable period of time after they have left the school. These records will be stored with a secure software platform (CPOMs) which is password protected and access to areas of software is determined by allocated permissions and roles.

Safeguarding records which contain information about allegations of sexual abuse will be retained for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), for the term of the inquiry.

If a child for whom the school has, or has had, safeguarding concerns moves to another school, the DSL will ensure that their child protection file is forwarded as soon as possible, securely, and separately from the main pupil file.

To allow the new school/college to have support in place when the child arrives, this should be within:

5 days for an in-year transfer, or within

The first 5 days of the start of a new term

In addition, if the concerns are significant or complex, and/or social services are involved, the DSL will speak to the DSL of the receiving school and provide information to enable them to have time to make any necessary preparations to ensure the safety of the child.

41 Online safety and the use of mobile technology

We recognise the importance of safeguarding children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material, and we understand that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues.

To address this, our school aims to:

Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors

Protect and educate the whole school community in its safe and responsible use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones')

Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for the whole school community

Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incidents or concerns, where appropriate

The 4 key categories of risk

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

Content – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism

Contact – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes

Conduct – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and

Commerce – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, all pupils will be made aware of online risks and taught how to stay safe online. Some of these risks highlighted are linked to using technology and social media, including online bullying and/or grooming online for exploitation or radicalisation.

Through training, all staff members will be made aware of the following:

- Pupil attitudes and behaviours which may indicate they are at risk of potential harm online
- The procedure to follow when they have a concern regarding a pupil's online activity

The school will ensure that suitable filtering systems are in place to prevent children accessing terrorist and extremist material, in accordance with the school's Data and E-Security Breach Prevention and Management Plan. Further details of how the school supports the education of online safety and control measures in place can be found in the E-Safety Policy (Spring 2019).

The use of mobile phones by staff and pupils is monitored by the school, in accordance with the Mobile Phone Policy.

The school will ensure that the use of filtering and monitoring systems does not cause "over blocking" which may lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what pupils can be taught regarding online teaching.

Where pupils need to learn online from home the school will support them to do so safely in line with the Computing and Internet-Use Policy, E-Safety Policy and government guidance.

42 Mobile phone and camera safety

- Staff may use mobile phones at appropriate times.
- Mobile phones will be safely stored and in silent mode whilst pupils are present.
- Staff will use their professional judgement in emergency situations.
- Staff may take mobile phones on educational visits, but they must only be used to take photographs for posting on Twitter/School's Facebook Group, or in the event of an emergency.
- Images or videos of pupils or staff taken on mobile phones on educational visits for the purpose of posting on Twitter/School's Facebook Group will be deleted immediately afterwards.
- The sending of inappropriate messages or images from mobile devices is strictly prohibited.

Staff who do not adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action.

ICT technicians and the computing co-ordinator will review and authorise any downloadable apps

The school will adhere to the terms of the Mobile Phone Policy, Using Images Policy and E-Safety Policy at all times.

Photographs and videos of pupils will be carefully planned before any activity, with particular regard to consent and adhering to the school's Using Images Policy and Data Protection Policy.

Where photographs and videos will involve LAC pupils, adopted pupils, or pupils for whom there are security concerns, the teacher will liaise with the DSL to determine the steps involved.

The DSL will, in known cases of a pupil who is a LAC or who has been adopted, liaise with the pupil's social worker, carers or adoptive parents to assess the needs and risks associated with the pupil.

Staff will report any concerns about another staff member's use of mobile phones to the DSL.

Upskirting

Under the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, it is an offence to operate equipment and to record an image beneath a person's clothing without consent and with the intention of observing, or enabling another person to observe, the victim's genitals or buttocks (whether exposed or covered with underwear), in circumstances where their genitals, buttocks or underwear would not otherwise be visible, for a specified purpose.

A "specified purpose" is namely:

- Obtaining sexual gratification (either for themselves or for the person they are enabling to view the victim's genitals, buttocks or underwear).
- To humiliate, distress or alarm the victim.

"Operating equipment" includes enabling, or securing, activation by another person without that person's knowledge, e.g. a motion-activated camera.

Upskirting will not be tolerated by the school.

Any incidents of upskirting will be reported to the **DSL** who will then decide on the next steps to take, which may include police involvement.

43 Sports clubs and extra-curricular activities

Clubs and extracurricular activities hosted by external bodies will work in collaboration with the school to effectively safeguard pupils and adhere to local safeguarding arrangements.

Paid and volunteer staff running sports clubs and extracurricular activities are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and promote the welfare of pupils and understand how they should respond to child protection concerns and how to make a referral to CSCS or the police, if necessary.

Appendix D outlines the safeguarding procedures to be followed by activity leaders and by the school for extra-curricular clubs and activities taking place on the school premises.

44 Safer recruitment

To make sure we recruit suitable people, we will ensure that those involved in the recruitment and employment of staff to work with children have received appropriate safer recruitment training.

We have put the following steps in place during our recruitment and selection process to ensure we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

44.1 Advertising

When advertising roles, we will make clear:

- Our school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- That safeguarding checks will be undertaken
- The safeguarding requirements and responsibilities of the role, such as the extent to which the role will involve contact with children
- Whether or not the role is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020. If the role is exempt, certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected', so they do not need to be disclosed, and if they are disclosed, we cannot take them into account

44.2 Application forms

Our application forms will:

- Include a statement saying that it is an offence to apply for the role if an applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children (where the role involves this type of regulated activity)
- Include a copy of, or link to, our child protection and safeguarding policy and our policy on the employment of ex-offenders

44.3 Shortlisting

Our shortlisting process will involve at least 2 people and will:

- Consider any inconsistencies and look for gaps in employment and reasons given for them
- Explore all potential concerns

Once we have shortlisted candidates, we will ask shortlisted candidates to:

- Complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or any information that would make them unsuitable to work with children, so that they have the opportunity to share relevant information and discuss it at interview stage. The information we will ask for includes:
 - If they have a criminal history
 - Whether they are included on the barred list
 - Whether they are prohibited from teaching
- Information about any criminal offences committed in any country in line with the law as applicable in England and Wales
- Any relevant overseas information
- Sign a declaration confirming the information they have provided is true

We will also consider carrying out an online search on shortlisted candidates to help identify any incidents or issues that are publicly available online.

44.4 Seeking references and checking employment history

We will obtain references before interview. Any concerns raised will be explored further with referees and taken up with the candidate at interview.

When seeking references we will:

- Not accept open references
- Liaise directly with referees and verify any information contained within references with the referees
- Ensure any references are from the candidate's current employer and completed by a senior person. Where the referee is school based, we will ask for the reference to be confirmed by the headteacher/principal as accurate in respect to disciplinary investigations
- Obtain verification of the candidate's most recent relevant period of employment if they are not currently employed
- Secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the candidate worked with children if they are not currently working with children
- Compare the information on the application form with that in the reference and take up any inconsistencies with the candidate
- Resolve any concerns before any appointment is confirmed

44.4 Interview and selection

When interviewing candidates, we will:

- Probe any gaps in employment, or where the candidate has changed employment or location frequently, and ask candidates to explain this

- Explore any potential areas of concern to determine the candidate's suitability to work with children
- Record all information considered and decisions made

44.5 Pre-appointment vetting checks

We will record all information on the checks carried out in the school's single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals' personnel files. We follow requirements and best practice in retaining copies of these checks, as set out below.

New staff

All offers of appointment will be conditional until satisfactory completion of the necessary pre-employment checks. When appointing new staff, we will:

- Verify their identity
- Obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS certificate, including barred list information for those who will be engaging in regulated activity (see definition below). We will obtain the certificate before, or as soon as practicable after, appointment, including when using the DBS update service. We will not keep a copy of the certificate for longer than 6 months, but when the copy is destroyed we may still keep a record of the fact that vetting took place, the result of the check and recruitment decision taken
- Obtain a separate barred list check if they will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available
- Verify their mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities
- Verify their right to work in the UK. We will keep a copy of this verification for the duration of the member of staff's employment and for 2 years afterwards
- Verify their professional qualifications, as appropriate
- Ensure they are not subject to a prohibition order if they are employed to be a teacher
- Carry out further additional checks, as appropriate, on candidates who have lived or worked outside of the UK. These could include, where available:
- For all staff, including teaching positions: [criminal records checks for overseas applicants](#)
- For teaching positions: obtaining a letter from the professional regulating authority in the country where the applicant has worked, confirming that they have not imposed any sanctions or restrictions on that person, and/or are aware of any reason why that person may be unsuitable to teach

We will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we take a decision that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment on the individual's personnel file. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought.

Regulated activity means a person who will be:

- Responsible, on a regular basis in a school or college, for teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children; or
- Carrying out paid, or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school or college where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children; or
- Engaging in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once and regardless of whether they are supervised or not

Existing staff

In certain circumstances we will carry out all the relevant checks on existing staff as if the individual was a new member of staff. These circumstances are when:

- There are concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with children; or
- An individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is; or
- There has been a break in service of 12 weeks or more

We will refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult where:

- We believe the individual has engaged in [relevant conduct](#); or
- We believe the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant (automatic barring either with or without the right to make representations) offence, under the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 \(Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions\) Regulations 2009](#); or
- We believe the 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e. they may harm a child or vulnerable adult or put them at risk of harm); and
- The individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left

Agency and third-party staff

We will obtain written notification from any agency or third-party organisation that it has carried out the necessary safer recruitment checks that we would otherwise perform. We will also check that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

Contractors

We will ensure that any contractor, or any employee of the contractor, who is to work at the school has had the appropriate level of DBS check (this includes contractors who are provided through a PFI or similar contract). This will be:

- An enhanced DBS check with barred list information for contractors engaging in regulated activity
- An enhanced DBS check, not including barred list information, for all other contractors who are not in regulated activity but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children

We will obtain the DBS check for self-employed contractors.

We will not keep copies of such checks for longer than 6 months.

Contractors who have not had any checks will not be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity under any circumstances.

We will check the identity of all contractors and their staff on arrival at the school.

For self-employed contractors such as music teachers or sports coaches, we will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we decide that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought.

Trainee/student teachers

Where applicants for initial teacher training are salaried by us, we will ensure that all necessary checks are carried out.

Where trainee teachers are fee-funded, we will obtain written confirmation from the training provider that necessary checks have been carried out and that the trainee has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children.

In both cases, this includes checks to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006.

Volunteers

We will:

- Never leave an unchecked volunteer unsupervised or allow them to work in regulated activity
- Obtain an enhanced DBS check with barred list information for all volunteers who are new to working in regulated activity
- Carry out a risk assessment when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check without barred list information for any volunteers not engaging in regulated activity. We will retain a record of this risk assessment
- Ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we decide that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought

Governors

An enhanced DBS check will be carried out for each member of the governing body. Where a governor also engages in regulated activity, a barred list check will also be requested. The school will also contact the TRA using Teacher Services to check if a proposed governor is barred as a result of being subject to a section 128 direction. Where a barred list check has been performed, the section 128 direction will also be shown and will not require a separate check.

44.6 Staff working in alternative provision settings

Where we place a pupil with an alternative provision provider, we obtain written confirmation from the provider that they have carried out the appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working there that we would otherwise perform.

44.7 Adults who supervise pupils on work experience

When organising work experience, we will ensure that policies and procedures are in place to protect children from harm.

We will also consider whether it is necessary for barred list checks to be carried out on the individuals who supervise a pupil under 16 on work experience. This will depend on the specific circumstances of the work experience, including the nature of the supervision, the frequency of the activity being supervised, and whether the work is regulated activity.

44.8 Pupils staying with host families

Where the school makes arrangements for pupils to be provided with care and accommodation by a host family to which they are not related (for example, during a foreign exchange visit), we will request enhanced DBS checks with barred list information on those people.

Where the school is organising such hosting arrangements overseas and host families cannot be checked in the same way, we will work with our partner schools abroad to ensure that similar assurances are undertaken prior to the visit.

44.9 Those who have lived or worked outside of the UK

For those who have lived or worked outside of the UK, additional checks regarding teacher sanctions or restrictions will be conducted, this includes checking for any teacher sanctions or restrictions that an EEA professional regulating authority has imposed.

44.10 Barred list check

An enhanced DBS check may be requested for anyone working in school that is not in regulated activity but does not have a barred list check.

If there are concerns about an applicant, an enhanced DBS check with barred list information may be requested, even if they have worked in regulated activity in the three months prior to appointment.

Written information about their previous employment history will be obtained from candidates and the appropriate checks undertaken to ensure information is not contradictory or incomplete.

44.11 References

References will be obtained directly from referees and scrutinised, with all concerns satisfactorily resolved prior to confirmation of employment.

References will only be accepted from a senior person and not from a colleague.

References will be sought on all short-listed candidates, including internal ones, before an interview and checked on receipt to ensure that all specific questions were answered satisfactorily.

References will be obtained prior to interviews taking place and discussed during interviews. Open testimonials will not be considered.

Information about past disciplinary actions or allegations will be considered carefully when assessing an applicant's suitability for a post.

Information sourced directly from a candidate or online source will be carefully vetted to ensure they originate from a credible source.

44.12 Volunteers

No volunteer will be left unsupervised with a pupil or allowed to work in regulated activity until the necessary checks have been obtained.

An enhanced DBS certificate with barred list check will be obtained for all new volunteers in regulated activity that will regularly teach or look after children on an unsupervised basis or provide personal care on a one-off basis.

Personal care includes helping a child with eating and drinking for reasons of illness, or care in connection with toileting, washing, bathing and dressing for reasons of age, illness or disability.

A supervised volunteer who regularly teaches or looks after children is not in regulated activity. The school will obtain an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list check for existing volunteers that provide pastoral care.

Unless there is cause for concern, the school will not request any new DBS certificates with barred list check for existing volunteers that have already been checked.

A risk assessment will be undertaken for volunteers not engaged in regulated activity when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check.

44.13 Contractors

The school will ensure that any contractor or employee of the contractor working on the premises has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check.

Checks will be conducted to ensure that the contractor presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

Contractors without a DBS check will be supervised if they will have contact with children. The identity of the contractor will be checked upon their arrival at the school.

44.14 Data retention

DBS certificates will be securely destroyed as soon as practicable and not retained by the school.

A copy of the other documents used to verify the successful candidate's identity, right to work and required qualifications will be kept for the personnel file. The personnel file will be held for the duration of the employee's employment in line with GDPR retention guidelines.

44.15 Referral to the DBS

The school will refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed a child or poses a risk of harm to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed an offence and has been removed from working in regulated activity.

DBS checks are not mandatory for associate members appointed by the governing body.

45 Single central record (SCR)

The school keeps an SCR which records all volunteers and staff, including supply staff and teacher trainees on salaried routes, who work at the school. The following information is recorded on the SCR:

- An identity check
- A barred list check
- An enhanced DBS check
- A prohibition from teaching check
- A check of professional qualifications
- A Section 128 check for qualifying staff
- A check to determine the individual's right to work in the UK
- Additional checks for those who have lived or worked outside of the UK

For agency and third-party supply staff, the school will also record whether written confirmation from the employment business supplying the member of staff has been received which indicates that all of the necessary checks have been conducted and the date that confirmation was received.

If any checks have been conducted for volunteers, this will also be recorded on the SCR.

If risk assessments are conducted to assess whether a volunteer should be subject to an enhanced DBS check, the risk assessment will be recorded.

The DSL and Chair of Governors review and sign off a printed copy of the SCR on a termly basis.

46 Staff suitability

The school will ensure that staff and volunteers are not disqualified under the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.

A person may be disqualified if they:

- Have certain orders or other restrictions placed upon them.
- Have committed certain offences.

All staff members are required to sign a Staff Disqualification Declaration (Appendix J) to confirm that they are not disqualified from working in a schooling environment.

A disqualified person will not be permitted to continue working at the school, unless they apply for and are granted a waiver from Ofsted. The school will provide support with this process.

47 Training

Staff members will undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. The induction training will include:

- The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- The Behaviour Policy
- The Staff Code of Conduct
- The safeguarding response to children who go missing from education
- The identity of the DSL and any deputies
- The role of the DSL and deputy DSLs

All staff members will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required, but at least annually. Training will cover, at a minimum:

- The issues surrounding sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Contextual safeguarding.
- How to keep previously LAC safe.
- Child criminal exploitation and the need to refer cases to the National Referral Mechanism.

Staff will receive opportunities to contribute towards and inform the safeguarding arrangements in the school.

The DSL and deputy DSL will undergo updated child protection training every two years, as well as additional training to refresh their skills and knowledge at regular intervals (at least annually) to allow them to keep up-to-date with any developments relevant to their role.

The DSL and deputy DSL will also undergo biennial Prevent awareness training which will enable them to understand and support the school with regards to the Prevent duty and equip them with the knowledge needed to advise staff.

The DSL and their deputy(s) will undergo online safety training to help them recognise the additional risks that pupils with SEND face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation, to ensure they have the capability to support pupils with SEND to stay safe online

Online basic child protection awareness and extremism awareness (Prevent) training will also be conducted for all paid and volunteer staff members on an annual basis, as part of the overall safeguarding approach.

48 General Safeguarding Procedures

48.1 Creating a safer culture

Members of school staff will always endeavour to act professionally and conduct any relationships with children in a professional manner. No corporal punishment will be threatened or used by staff. Staff will not use or threaten any form of punishments which could have an adverse impact on the child's well-being.

To avoid over-familiarity and to encourage a respectful environment, all adults will address each other formally in the presence of children, i.e. by their title and surname ("Mr ...", "Mrs ..."). Children are expected to address adults in the same way and will be corrected if they refer to an adult by his/her first name.

48.2 Physical intervention and use of force

In our roles as carers we will do our best to comfort and reassure children who are upset, distressed or in difficulty, in an appropriate and professional manner. Physical intervention is rarely needed and will be avoided, unless a child is at immediate risk of hurting him or herself and/or others. It is

unrealistic to suggest that staff should never touch pupils and staff have the right to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils in certain circumstances. 'Reasonable' means 'using no more force than is needed' and the use of force may involve passive physical contact or active physical contact.

*Physical intervention is always in accordance with the school's Physical Intervention policy. Staff will receive 'Team-Teach' training and will be expected to **apply the training they received in Team-Teach to de-escalate where possible, then use the appropriate holds as practised in the training. However, as a general rule, only the force necessary to stop or prevent danger should be used.***

Children who ask or need to be cuddled or comforted will not be pushed away, however, such levels of contact are avoided so that the safety of the child or the integrity of the adult is not compromised and so that a safe culture, with clear boundaries of expected behaviour, is evident at all times.

- *A comforting arm or guiding hand may be used for individual child when appropriate.*
- *The minimum force necessary will be used to control children in extreme circumstances.*
- *For children who need greater comfort or positive handling, the class teacher or SENCO will liaise with the parents to ascertain the appropriate types of comforting and physical contact that a child needs. These children will be identified by the class teacher or SENCO and communicated to all staff, including visiting and peripatetic teachers.*
- *Before any physical contact is given, staff will first consider whether it is age/gender appropriate.*
- *There may be some children for whom physical contact is particularly unwelcome. These children will be identified by the class teacher or SENCO and communicated to all staff, including visiting and peripatetic teachers.*
- *We recognise that there may be early years' children or children with SEN who will need physical prompts or help.*

48.3 PE and games

Sometimes it will be necessary to help children physically in school, e.g. helping a small child to fasten a trouser button or changing for PE. Where a child cannot perform a task independently, staff will verbalise reasons for actions that could otherwise be misinterpreted or misconstrued, and ensure another adult or child is nearby.

KS2 children do not require help with changing for PE but do require supervision from a distance to maintain order. Girls and boys who wish to change separately will be allowed to do so.

Some physical contact may be necessary to demonstrate exercise or techniques during PE lessons and sport coaching.

48.4 First-aid/medical attention

When children need medical attention, the following guidelines will be followed:

- *If a child is on the ground and cannot get up by themselves, adult, preferably a first-aider, will be sent for.*
- *When appropriate, children will be prompted to clean their own injuries.*
- *If an injury is on or close to a child's torso, the child will be asked check him/herself to ascertain the extent of the injury. If this is not possible, and privacy is required to protect the child's modesty, the medical room will be used to check the injury, with another adult present.*

48.5 Intimate care

When a child needs intimate care that is not already part of a health care plan, two adults will be involved. Depending on the age and maturity of the child, he/she will be encouraged to care for him/herself, with guidance or support from an adult.

Should the child be unable to clean him/herself appropriately, the parents will be contacted and asked to come to school and assist their child. If appropriate, the child may need to be taken home to be made comfortable.

48.6 Children who are not collected from school at the end of the day.

KS2 pupils are regularly reminded by their teachers that if they are not collected at the end of the day as anticipated, that they should return to their teacher and ask for help. The procedure for this is as follows:

- The child will be taken to the school office by the teacher.
- The teacher and/or office staff will contact parents/carers.
- If parents/carers cannot be contacted, the emergency contact will be used.
- The child will be made comfortable and supervised by the teacher until collection, and if that is not possible, the teacher will designate a named adult to take over responsibility for the child until collection.
- The child will not be left entirely alone without knowing where the named person is, in school, while waiting.
- If it is felt by school staff that the collecting adult is not able to look after the child (and therefore the child is at risk) staff should seek advice from the DSL or Deputy DSL the deputy DSL and/or MASH (01904 551900).
- If neither the parents/carers or the emergency details can be contacted, advice should be sought from the MASH.
- All FS and KS1 pupils are handed over directly to an adult and if not collected, the procedure above is followed.

48.7 Educational visits

The suitability of residential accommodation will be checked before and during use. Adequate levels of supervision are provided for pupils who may pose a risk to other pupils during school visits and off-site activities.

49 Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the DSL and the governing body.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.

All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with all processes and procedures outlined in this policy as part of their induction programme.

50 Contacts and advice

Expert organisations

- [Barnardo's](#)
- [Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#)
- [NSPCC](#)
- [Rape Crisis](#)
- [University of Bedfordshire: Contextual Safeguarding](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Support for victims

- [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#)
- [MoJ Victim Support](#)
- [Rape Crisis](#)

- [The Survivor's Trust](#)
- [Victim Support](#)

Toolkits

- [Brook](#)
- [NSPCC](#)
- [Safeguarding Unit, Farrer and Co, and Carlene Firmin, MBE, University of Bedfordshire](#)

Further information on confidentiality and information sharing

- [Gillick Competency Fraser Guidelines](#)
- [Government Information Sharing Advice](#)
- [Information Commissioner's Office: Education](#)
- [NSPCC: Things to Know and Consider](#)

Further information on sexting

- [UK Council for Child Internet Safety: Sexting Advice](#)
- [London Grid for Learning – Collection of Advice](#)

Support for parents

- [Parentzone](#)
- [Parentsafe – London Grid for Learning](#)
- [CEOP Thinkuknow – Challenging Harmful Sexual Attitudes and their Impact](#)
- [CEOP Thinkuknow – Supporting Positive Sexual Behaviour](#)

Dringhouses Primary School

Child Protection Incident/Log of Concern

This form must be completed in pen and handed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy DSL **as soon as possible** after the incident or disclosure. Please include as much detail as possible and **continue on the back of the sheet if necessary**. Please also attach a body map if there are any marks on the child.

Date and Time	
Name of pupil concerned and class	
Reported by:	
Reported to:	

Incident, disclosure or general concern:

Action Taken

Parents Aware: Yes / No **Parents Informed by**

Social Services Aware: Yes / No **Social Services Informed by**

	Signature	Date
Reporter:		
DSL		
Deputy DSL		
Other (please state):		

Dringhouses Primary School
Information for meeting about a child

Meeting:

Date:

Child:

Class Teacher:

Year:

Please fill as much information as possible and return to _____
by _____. Thank you.

Academic progress (including most recent assessment data) and any interventions:

Attendance:

Behaviour (any recent changes):

Physical Appearance / General Health:

Social Interactions:

Contact with parents / carers:

Any other concerns:

Completed by _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**Dringhouses Primary School
Minutes of Multi-Agency Meeting**

Child:		Date of Birth:	
---------------	--	-----------------------	--

Date:		Meeting:	
--------------	--	-----------------	--

Attendees:	
-------------------	--

Apologies:	
-------------------	--

Aim of Meeting:	
------------------------	--

Points for Discussion:

Points for Action:

Date of Next Meeting:	
------------------------------	--

Safeguarding Procedure -Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities in School

External Coaches/Activity Leaders to have the following assurances in place prior to the club starting	
Enhanced DBS Clearance	
Public Liability Insurance (£5,000,000)	
Coaching/Other relevant qualification	
First Aid Qualification	
References from other schools/organisations	
Safeguarding Procedures	
PARENTAL CONSENT	<p>Parental consent will be obtained before children are allowed to participate.</p> <p>Parents will be asked to confirm whether their child will be collected or will make his/her own way home.</p> <p>Parents will be asked to notify school office or visit leader in advance if their child is unable to attend on any occasion, so that the register can be marked accordingly.</p>
NOTIFICATION OF A PLACE	Parent(s)/Carer(s) will be notified whether their child does/does not have a place in the club.
REGISTRATION	<p>The activity leader will maintain a register of children expected to attend, provide a copy of the register to the school office and notify school office staff of any changes.</p> <p>School office staff will create and maintain a group list on Integriss, provide teachers with a copy of the list and inform teachers of any changes.</p>
ATTENDANCE	Teachers of children in reception classes will ensure that children are escorted to the club/activity venue. Children in other year groups will be reminded by teachers to make their own way there.
NON –ATTENDANCE	<p>Activity leader to notify school office staff of any children who do not turn up for the club/activity as expected; office staff to notify activity leader of any messages from parents advising that children will not be attending sessions.</p> <p>Office staff will contact the parents of those children who are absent from the club and for whom prior notification of absence has not been received, to check on the children's whereabouts.</p>
HAND OVER	<p>At the end of the session, parents are expected to wait on the playground until the children are brought out to them. The activity leader will personally hand children over to parents who are collecting them, and mark the register accordingly.</p> <p>The activity leader will ensure that children who are making their own way home are marked as having left the premises.</p>
CANCELLATION OF CLUB / ACTIVITY	<p>Parents will be sent a text as soon as the club/activity leader notifies the school that the club/activity is cancelled (Office staff will ensure that the names on the group list on Integriss match those on the paper register to ensure that a text is sent to all relevant parents).</p> <p>Office staff will notify teachers of the cancellation to ensure that children are not sent out to clubs/activities that are not taking place.</p> <p>Teachers will supervise children until parent/carer arrives to collect them.</p>

Dringhouses Primary School

Safeguarding Log of Concern

(GENERAL CONCERN – not child protection)

To be completed in pen by any member of staff who has a **general safeguarding concern**, e.g. relating to health and safety, school security, educational visits, meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions, first aid, etc.

Date and Time:	
Reported by:	
Reported to:	

Incident or concern:

Action Taken

	Signature	Date
Reporter:		
DSL (Headteacher)		
Deputy DSL		
Other (please state):		



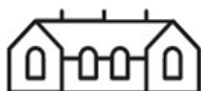
STAFF SAFEGUARDING CHECKLIST – 2022/23

Please complete and return to the School Business Manager

I have read and understood the following key documents:	
	Part One of “KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION” (DfE - September 2022)
	Dringhouses Primary School’s SAFEGUARDING POLICY (Rev. September 2022)
	Dringhouses Primary School’s CODE OF CONDUCT/HANDBOOK (Rev. September 2022)
	Dringhouses Primary School’s BEHAVIOUR POLICY (Rev. September 2022)
	Dringhouses Primary School’s SECURITY POLICY (Rev. September 2012)
	Dringhouses Primary School’s INFORMATION POLICY (GDPR) (Summer 2022)
	Dringhouses Primary School’s CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION POLICY (September 2022)
	Dringhouses Primary School’s EXTREMISM & ANTI-RADICALISATION POLICY (Sept 22)
I have completed the following safeguarding awareness training:	
	Basic Child Protection Awareness Training: (Certificate of completion to be copied to the school business manager)
	Basic Extremism Awareness Training (“Prevent Duty”): (Certificate of completion to be copied to the school business manager)
I confirm the following	
	(applicable to school staff who use a vehicle for school-related activities): I have provided relevant ‘ safe driver ’ documentation: (current motor insurance certificate, to include ‘business’ category; valid driving licence; up-to-date MOT Certificate)

Name Signature.....

Role in School Date
Dringhouses Primary School



Peripatetic Teacher/Instructor Safeguarding Checklist

Please complete and sign this Sheet and hand it in to the School Business Manager at the school office.

I have provided evidence of the following:

- ☐ Photo ID (passport/driving licence)
- ☐ DBS clearance Certificate
- ☐ EL/PL Insurance Certificate (£5,000,000)
- ☐ Coaching/Teaching Certificate
- ☐ First Aid Certificate
- ☐ Risk Assessments relating to the activity I deliver
- ☐ Reference/Testimonials

I have received, read and understood the following:

- ☐ Visiting Teacher Code of Conduct/Handbook
- ☐ Safeguarding Policy
- ☐ 'Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1' (DfE)
- ☐ Behaviour Policy
- ☐ Security Policy
- ☐ Information (GDPR) Policy
- ☐ Procedures for Extra-Curricular Activities
- ☐ School Risk Assessments appropriate to the activity/location (please list):
.....
- ☐ I have undertaken the online Basic Safeguarding and 'Prevent' (anti-extremism) training
- ☐ I consent to photographs in which my image appears being used on the school website and Twitter feed and understand that I can withdraw this consent at any time.

Signed Name

Role: Date



APPENDIX H

Dringhouses Primary School

Volunteer/Student Agreement & Safeguarding Checklist

Please complete and sign this Sheet and hand it in to the School Business Manager at the school office.

- ☐ An Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check has been undertaken
- ☐ I have received and have read and understand the Volunteer/Student Code of Conduct/ Handbook
- ☐ I have received, read and understood the school's Safeguarding Policy
- ☐ I have received, read and understand 'Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1' (Dfe)
- ☐ I have received, read and understood the school's Behaviour Policy
- ☐ I have received, read and understand the School's Security Policy
- ☐ I have received, read and understand the School's Confidentiality Policy
- ☐ I have received, read and understand the following Risk Assessments: Manual Handling, Working at Height, Classroom.
- ☐ I have undertaken the online Basic Safeguarding and 'Prevent' (anti-extremism) training
- ☐ I agree to support the School's Aims
- ☐ I agree to sign in and out in the visitor book on every visit to the school.
- ☐ I agree to wear the visitor badge issued by the school at all times whilst working on the school premises.
- ☐ I agree to treat information obtained from being a volunteer in school as **strictly confidential**
- ☐ I consent to photographs in which my image appears being used on the school website and Twitter feed and understand that I can withdraw this consent at any time.

Signed

Name

Date

Disqualification declaration for staff / unsupervised volunteers

DRINGHOUSES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Name:

Position:

Orders and other restrictions

Have any orders or other determinations related to childcare been made in respect of you?	Yes / No
Have any orders or other determinations related to childcare been made in respect of a child in your care?	Yes / No
Have any orders or other determinations been made which prevent you from being registered in relation to childcare, children's homes or fostering?	Yes / No
Are there any other relevant orders, restrictions or prohibitions in respect of you as set out in Schedule 1 of the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018?	Yes / No
Are you barred from working with children by the DBS?	Yes / No
Are you prohibited from teaching?	Yes / No

Specified and statutory offences

Have you ever been cautioned, reprimanded, given a warning for or convicted of:	
• Any offence against or involving a child?	Yes / No
• Any violent or sexual offence against an adult?	Yes / No
• Any offence under The Sexual Offences Act 2003?	Yes / No
• Any other relevant offence?	Yes / No
Have you ever been cautioned, reprimanded for or convicted of a similar offence in another country?	Yes / No

Provision of information

If you have answered yes to any of the questions above, provide details below. You may provide this information separately, but you must do so without delay.

Details of the order restriction, conviction or caution:

The date(s) of the above:

The relevant court(s) or body/bodies:

You should also provide a copy of the relevant order, caution, conviction, etc. In relation to cautions/convictions, a DBS Certificate may be provided. Please return this form in a sealed envelope to the school business manager

Declaration

In signing this form, I confirm that the information provided is true to the best of my knowledge and that:

- I understand my responsibilities to safeguard children.
- I understand that I must notify my headteacher immediately of anything that affects my suitability to work within the school. This includes any cautions, warnings, convictions, orders or other determinations made in respect of me that would render me disqualified from working with children.

Signed:

Print name:

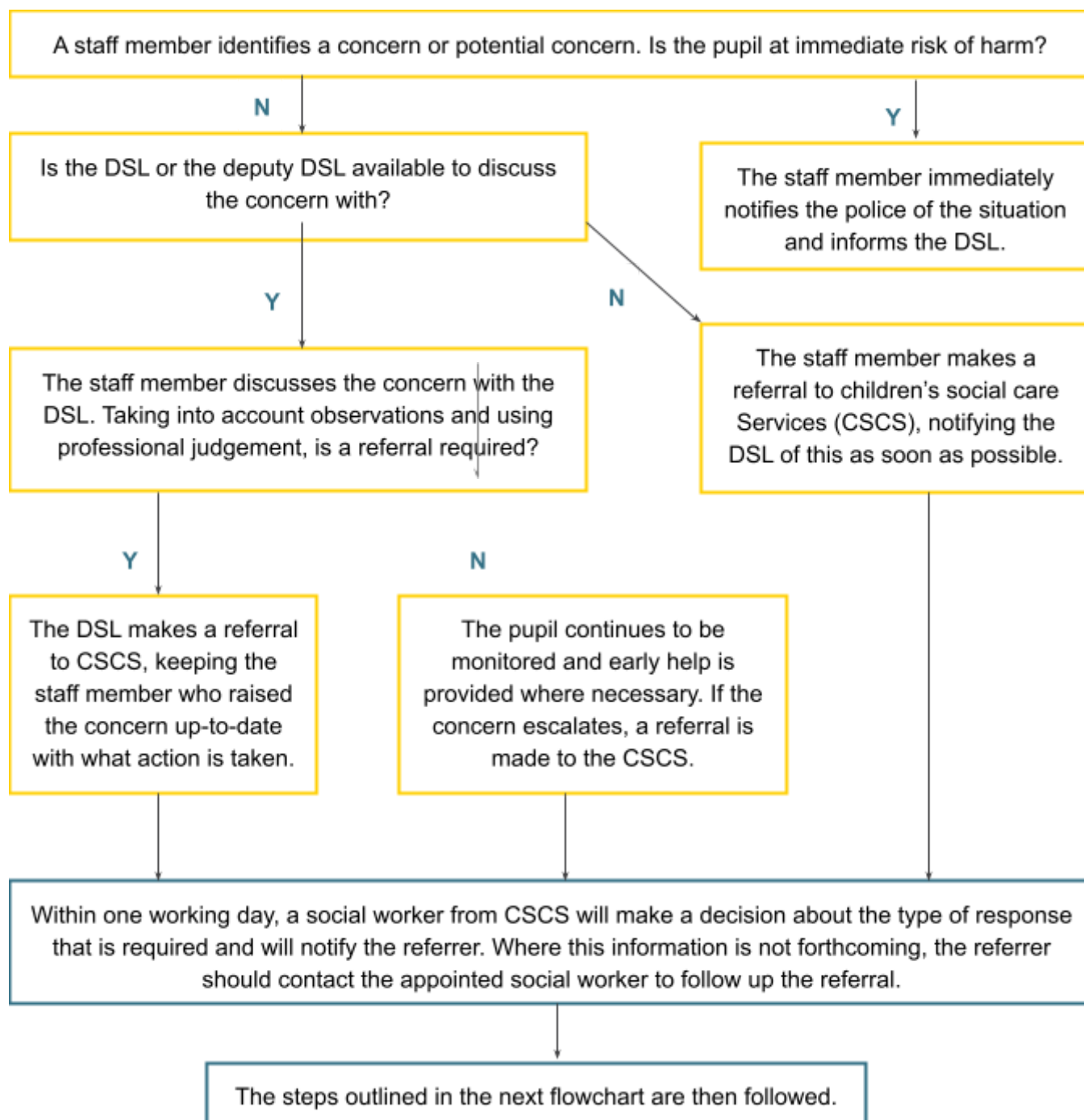
Date:

Safeguarding Reporting Process

The process outlined within the first section should be followed where a staff member has a safeguarding concern about a child. Where a referral has been made, the process outlined in the 'After a referral is made' section should be followed.

The actions taken by the school are outlined in yellow, whereas actions taken by another agency are outlined in blue.

Before a referral is made



After a referral is made

Once a referral has been made, a social worker from CSCS will notify the referrer that a decision has been made and one of the following responses will be actioned.

