



# **St White's Primary School**

## **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures**

Date of Review: November 2017

Date of Next Review: November 2018

Signed, Chair of Governors:

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## 1. Aims

The school aims to ensure that:

- Appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare
- All staff are aware of their statutory responsibilities with respect to safeguarding
- Staff are properly trained in recognising and reporting safeguarding issues

## 2. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#), and the [Governance Handbook](#). We comply with this guidance and the procedures set out by our local safeguarding children board.

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- Section 175 of the [Education Act 2002](#), which places a duty on schools and local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils
- [The School Staffing \(England\) Regulations 2009](#), which set out what must be recorded on the single central record and the requirement for at least one person on a school interview/appointment panel to be trained in safer recruitment techniques
- [The Children Act 1989](#) (and [2004 amendment](#)), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children
- Section 5B(11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the [Serious Crime Act 2015](#), which places a statutory duty on teachers to report to the police where they discover that female genital mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18
- [Statutory guidance on FGM](#), which sets out responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM
- [The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974](#), which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children
- Schedule 4 of the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#), which defines what 'regulated activity' is in relation to children
- Statutory [guidance on the Prevent duty](#), which explains schools' duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism
- The [Childcare \(Disqualification\) Regulations 2009](#) and [Childcare Act 2006](#), which set out who is disqualified from working with children

- This policy also meets requirements relating to safeguarding and welfare in the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#).

This policy is also based on the guidance set out in the Handbook for Designated Safeguarding (Child Protection) Leads in Educational Settings

<http://www.gscb.org.uk/media/15559/dsl-handbook-version-live10-may-17.pdf>

### 3. Definitions

**Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** means:

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

**Child protection** is part of this definition and refers to activities undertaken to prevent children suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm.

**Abuse** is a form of maltreatment of a child, and may involve inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Appendix 1 explains the different types of abuse.

**Neglect** is a form of abuse and is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Appendix 1 defines neglect in more detail.

**Children** includes everyone under the age of 18.

### 4. Equality Statement

Some children have an increased risk of abuse, and additional barriers can exist for some children with respect to recognising or disclosing it. The school is committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children's diverse circumstances. We ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

We give special consideration to children who:

- Have Special Educational Needs Or Disabilities
- Are Young Carers
- May Experience Discrimination Due To Their Race, Ethnicity, Religion, Gender Identification Or Sexuality
- Have English As An Additional Language
- Are Known To Be Living In Difficult Situations – For Example, Temporary Accommodation Or Where There Are Issues Such As Substance Abuse Or Domestic Violence
- Are At Risk Of FGM, Sexual Exploitation, Forced Marriage, Or Radicalisation
- Are Asylum Seekers

## 5. Roles and responsibilities

Safeguarding and child protection is **everyone's** responsibility. This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and governors in the school and is consistent with the procedures of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB), who is responsible for co-ordinating what is done by each person or organisation represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Gloucestershire - and checking that what they do is effective. The Board functions include making sure safeguarding policies are in place; communicating the need to safeguard children; evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by Board partners to safeguard children; and making sure lessons are learnt from Serious Case Reviews. The GSCB also delivers, monitors and evaluates multi-agency training for a variety of frontline staff who work with children and young people.

The Executive of the Board is the committee that oversees the work of the sub groups, feeding information up to the larger Board. In the other direction, it takes information, ideas and concerns from the Board and considers how this should be actioned and which sub groups should be responsible. (Details of the GSCB Subgroups can be found by clicking the link to the left of this page).

The GSCB Sub-groups include:

- Workforce Development Sub Group – training and learning
- Multi Agency Quality Assurance Sub Group (MAQuA) – checking standards and sharing findings
- Child Death Overview Panel Sub Group (CDOP) learning from child deaths
- Communications Sub Group – raising awareness of how to keep children safe
- Serious Case Review (SCR) Sub Group – learning from practice
- CSE and Missing Children Sub Group – understanding and helping children at risk of harm
- Policy and Procedures Sub Group - guidance for staff
- Education and Learning Sub Group - keeping children safe in schools and colleges

The GSCB has worked to align structure and prioritise as closely as possible with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB). Part of this process has been to look closely at the work of both Boards, bringing them together wherever there is an overlap.

The school uses the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board [www.gscb.org.uk](http://www.gscb.org.uk) to keep up to date with Gloucestershire Procedures and Protocols that are currently in place. **(See Appendix 1)**

Our policy and procedures also apply to extended school and off-site activities.

### 5.1 All staff

All staff will read and understand part 1 of the Department for Education's statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), and review this guidance at least annually.

All staff will be aware of:

- Our systems which support safeguarding, including the staff **Code of Conduct and Whistleblowing Policy** and the role of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL)
- The early help process 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 sexual exploitation (CSE), FGM and radicalisation – The Prevent Duty.

Section 12 and **Appendix 4** of this policy outline in more detail how staff are supported to do this.

## **5.2 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL)**

The school's DSL is Mrs Clare Tilling, takes lead responsibility for child protection and wider safeguarding.

During term time, the DSL, Mrs Clare Tilling, Deputy Headteacher, be available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

When the DSL is absent, the deputy DSLs, Mrs Teresa Cross, Headteacher and Mrs Caroline Woodhead, Family Support Worker (FSW) will act as cover.

In the event that the DSL and deputies are required during the holidays, their work email addresses are available for the children and families team to make contact.

The DSL and deputy DSLs will be given the time, funding, training, resources and support to:

- Provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters
- Take part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings and/or support other staff to do so
- Contribute to the assessment of children
- Refer suspected cases, as appropriate, to the relevant body (local authority children's social care, Channel programme, Disclosure and Barring Service, and/or police), and support staff who make such referrals directly

The DSL will also keep the headteacher informed of any issues, and liaise with local authority case managers and designated officers for child protection concerns as appropriate.

The full responsibilities of the DSL are set out in their job description. **(See Appendix 5)**

## **5.3 The governing Body**

The governing board will approve this policy at each review, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing body has appointed a senior governor, Mr Matt Bishop, (Chair of Governors) to monitor the effectiveness of this policy in conjunction with the full governing body. This is always a different person from the DSL.

The chair of governors will act as the 'case manager' in the event that an allegation of abuse is made against the headteacher, where appropriate **(See Appendix 3)**.

## **5.4 The Headteacher**

The headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, including:

- Ensuring that staff (including temporary staff) and volunteers are informed of this policy as part of their induction

- Communicating this policy to parents when their child joins the school and via the school website
- Ensuring that the DSL has appropriate time, funding, training and resources, and that there is always adequate cover if the DSL is absent
- Ensuring that all staff undertake appropriate safeguarding and child protection training and update this regularly
- Acting as the 'case manager' in the event of an allegation of abuse made against another member of staff or volunteer, where appropriate **(See Appendix 3)**
- Ensuring the relevant staffing ratios are met, where applicable
- Making sure each child in the Early Years Foundation Stage is assigned a key person

## 6. Confidentiality

Staff have a professional responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals, particularly the investigative agencies.

Staff should not promise to keep secret information given to them by a child, but should explain that they will pass the information on to those who need to know and can help.

Information should only be shared with those who need to know and safeguarding records should be kept securely locked.

## 7. Information Sharing

The school uses the HM Government guidance on Information Sharing March 2015, which is advice for practitioners for providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers, and refers to the Seven Golden Rules to Sharing Information on p.4 of the pdf and the flow chart on p.12 of when and how to share information.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419628/Information\\_sharing\\_advice\\_safeguarding\\_practitioners](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419628/Information_sharing_advice_safeguarding_practitioners)

The school follows this guidance but notes that 'fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way for the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children' (Keeping Children Safe in Education).

Timely information sharing is essential to effective safeguarding.

Information must be shared on a 'need-to-know' basis, but you do not need consent to share information if a child is suffering, or at risk of, serious harm.

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

Confidentiality is also addressed in this policy with respect to record-keeping in section 11, and allegations of abuse against staff in **Appendix 3**.

In the event that the school is required to share information with other agencies, it provides parents with:

- A leaflet that explains how their information will be shared, when and why **(Appendix 7)**;
- A single consent form for parents to complete and sign **(see Appendix 7)**.

## 8. Recognising abuse and taking action

Staff, volunteers and governors must follow the procedures set out below in the event of a Safeguarding Issue.

### 8.1 If a child is in immediate danger

Staff at St White's School understand that they must:

1. Make a referral to children's social care and/or the police **immediately** if a child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm.
2. Tell the DSL (see section 5.2) as soon as possible if they make a referral directly.

It is important everyone understands that anyone can make a referral.

### 8.2 Local Procedures

**The Gloucestershire County Council explains that:**

1. If you have a concern about a child please contact Children and Families Helpdesk on 01452 426565 (during office hours), but if you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child please contact the Police on 101 at any time.
2. If you prefer you can send an email to [childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**The Gloucestershire County Council also explains that:**

1. When is a child at risk? You should contact us if you feel that:
  - a. A child needs protection - if you feel that a child is suffering harm, neglect or abuse, we can investigate and act to protect the child
  - b. A family is under stress - we can offer support and advice and help families access support from other services
  - c. A child is seriously ill or disabled - we can arrange an assessment of the child's and families' needs and provide support.
2. To find out what the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board are doing in Gloucestershire to protect children and improve their wellbeing, visit <http://www.gscb.org.uk/> The site has information and guidance for:
  - a. Professionals working with children and young people
  - b. Parents and carers
  - c. Young people
  - d. Other information for professionals

This link to the GOV.UK webpage can also be used for reporting child abuse to your local council:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council>

### 8.3 If a Child Makes a Disclosure

Everyone at St White's School understands that if a child discloses a safeguarding issue to them that they should:

- Listen to and believe them. Allow them time to talk freely and do not ask leading questions
- Stay calm and do not show that you are shocked or upset
- Tell the child they have done the right thing in telling you. Do not tell them they should have told you sooner



- Explain what will happen next and that you will have to pass this information on. Do not promise to keep it a secret
- Write up your conversation as soon as possible in the child's own words. Stick to the facts, and do not put your own judgement on it
- Sign and date the write-up and pass it on to the DSL. Alternatively, if appropriate, make a referral to children's social care and/or the police directly (see 8.1), and tell the DSL as soon as possible that you have done so.

#### 8.4 If you discover that FGM has taken place or a pupil is at risk of FGM

All staff at St White's Primary School undertake the Home Office FGM E-learning course for professionals <https://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/> and understands that:

- The Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe in Education explains that FGM comprises "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or 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'.
- Possible indicators that a pupil has already been subjected to FGM, and factors that suggest a pupil may be at risk, are set out in **appendix 4**.
- **Any teacher** who discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a **pupil under 18** must immediately report this to the police, personally. This is a statutory duty, and teachers will face disciplinary sanctions for failing to meet it.
- The duty above does not apply in cases where a pupil is *at risk* of FGM or FGM is suspected but is not known to have been carried out. Staff should not examine pupils.
- **Any other member of staff** who discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a **pupil under 18** must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures.
- **Any member of staff** who suspects a pupil is *at risk* of FGM, must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures.

The GSCB provides information and resources to help staff fully understand their roles and responsibilities. The can be sourced here. <http://www.gscb.org.uk/i-work-with-children-young-people-and-parents/issues-affecting-children-and-young-people/honour-based-violence/>

#### 8.5 If you have concerns about a child (as opposed to a child being in immediate danger)

Figure 1 illustrates the procedure to follow if you have concerns about a child's welfare and the child is not in immediate danger.

Where possible, speak to the DSL first to agree a course of action. Alternatively, make a referral to local authority children's social care directly (see 'Referral' below).

You can also contact the charity NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 if you need advice on the appropriate action.

#### Early Help

If early help is appropriate, the DSL will support you in liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate.

The DSL will keep the case under constant review and the school will consider a referral to local authority children's social care if the situation does not seem to be improving. Timelines of interventions will be monitored and reviewed.

## **Referral**

If it is appropriate to refer the case to local authority children's social care or the police, the DSL will make the referral or support you to do so.

If you make a referral directly (see section 8.1), you must tell the DSL as soon as possible.

The local authority will make a decision within 1 working day of a referral about what course of action to take and will let the person who made the referral know the outcome. The DSL or person who made the referral must follow up with the local authority if this information is not made available, and ensure outcomes are properly recorded.

If the child's situation does not seem to be improving after the referral, the DSL or person who made the referral *must* escalate the case by contacting the local authority and make sure the case is reconsidered to ensure the concerns have been addressed and the child's situation improves.

## **8.6 If you have concerns about extremism**

The GSCB explains that radicalisation is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo or reject and/or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice. The threats to children & young people take many forms, not only the high profile incidents of those travelling to countries such as Syria and Iraq to fight, but on a much broader perspective also. The internet, in particular social media, is being used as a channel to promote and engage. Often this promotion glorifies violence, attracting and influencing many people including children and in the extreme cases, radicalising them. Research concludes that children can be trusting and not necessarily appreciate bias that can lead to them being drawn into these groups and adopt these extremist views, and in viewing this shocking and extreme content may become normalised to it.

The GSCB also explains that Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is 1 of the 4 elements of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent strategy:

Responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views;

Provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support; and

Works with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to deal with.

- Prevent covers all forms of terrorism and extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism.
- The Home Office works with local authorities, a wide range of government departments, and community organisations to deliver the Prevent strategy. The police also play a significant role in Prevent, in much the same way as they do when taking a preventative approach to other crimes.

Prevent uses a range of measures to challenge extremism including:

Supporting people who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist or extremist activity through the Channel process, see <http://www.itai.info/what-is-channel/> to find out more about this

Working with and supporting community groups and social enterprise projects who provide services and support to vulnerable people

Working with faith groups and institutions to assist them in providing support and guidance to people who may be vulnerable; and

Supporting local schools, local industry and partner agencies through engagement, advice and training.

All staff at St White's School undertake Online Home Office training on the Prevent Strategy. <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/> They understand that:

If a child is not at immediate risk of harm, where possible, speak to the DSL first to agree a course of action. Alternatively, make a referral to local authority children's social care directly if appropriate (see 'Referral' above).

Where there is a concern, the DSL will consider the level of risk and decide which agency to make a referral to. This could include [Channel](#), the government's programme for identifying and supporting individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, or the local authority children's social care team.

The Department for Education also has a dedicated telephone helpline, 020 7340 7264 that school staff and governors can call to raise concerns about extremism with respect to a pupil. You can also email [counter.extremism@education.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gov.uk). Note that this is not for use in emergency situations.

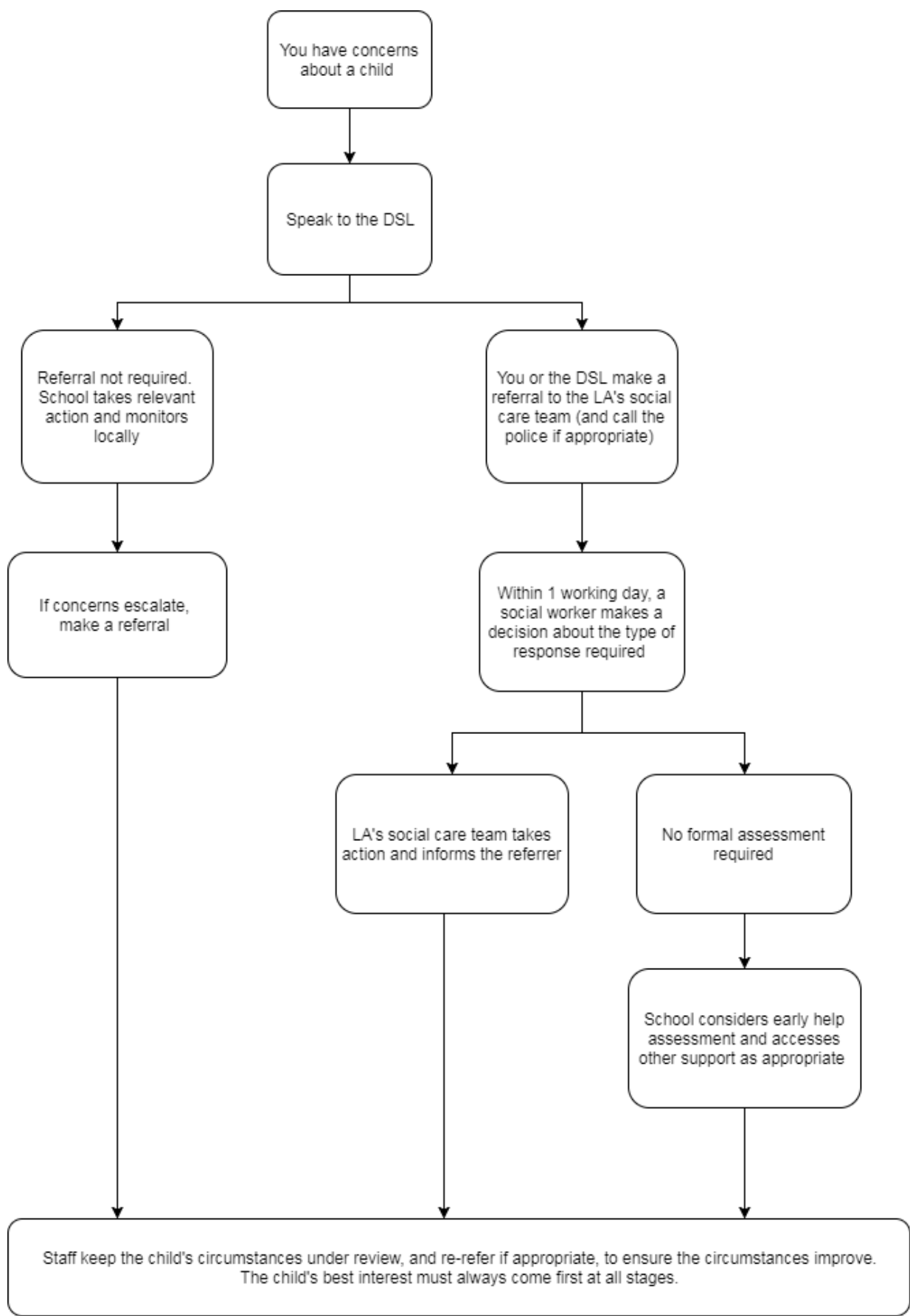
In an emergency, call 999 or the confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 if you:

Think someone is in immediate danger

Think someone may be planning to travel to join an extremist group

See or hear something that may be terrorist-related

**Figure 1: procedure if you have concerns about a child’s welfare (no immediate danger)**



## 8.7 Concerns about a staff member or volunteer

If you have concerns about a member of staff or volunteer, speak to the Headteacher. If you have concerns about the Headteacher, speak to the chair of governors.

You can also discuss any concerns about any staff member or volunteer with the DSL.

The Headteacher/chair of governors/DSL will then follow the procedures set out in **Appendix 3**, if appropriate.

Where appropriate, the school will inform Ofsted of the allegation and actions taken, within the necessary timescale. **(See Appendix 3 for more detail).**

## 8.8 Allegations of abuse made against other pupils

The School recognises that children are capable of abusing their peers. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as "banter" or "part of growing up".

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:

Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence

Could put pupils in the school at risk

Is violent

Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol

Involves sexual exploitation or sexual abuse, such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos (including sexting)

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

You must tell the DSL and record the allegation, 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 – both the victim(s) and the child(ren) against whom the allegation has been made – with a named person they can talk to if needed

The DSL will contact the children and young persons' service (CYPS) for mental health support, if appropriate

The School will minimise the risk of peer-on-peer abuse by:

Challenging any form of derogatory or sexualised language or behaviour

Being 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

Ensuring our curriculum helps to educate pupils about appropriate behaviour and consent

Ensuring pupils know they can talk to staff confidentially by ensuring that the school's Family Support Worker, Caroline Woodhead, is available for pupils to talk to. Publicising her role with all pupils and parents/carers so that they know that she is available. Having two anti-bullying champions in school, Caroline Woodhead and Clare Tilling, who are available to discuss any concerns that pupils, parents/carers may have. All classes have mood thermometers which are

used daily by pupils to indicate their emotional well-being which is then used by the teacher to support individually or to refer to Caroline for attention as a matter of urgency.

Ensuring staff are trained to understand 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

## **9. Notifying parents**

Where appropriate, the School will discuss any concerns about a child with the child's parents. The DSL will normally do this in the event of a suspicion or disclosure.

Other staff will only talk to parents about any such concerns following consultation with the DSL.

The school will investigate any injuries that are brought to its attention in a timely manner.

If the School believes that notifying the parents would increase the risk to the child, they 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, the School will normally notify the parents of all the children involved.

## **10. Mobile phones and cameras**

Staff are allowed to bring their personal phones to school for their own use, but will limit such use to non-contact time when pupils are not present. Staff members' personal phones will remain in their bags or cupboards during contact time with pupils.

Staff will not take pictures or recordings of pupils on their personal phones or cameras.

The School will follow the Data Protection Act 1998 when taking and storing photos and recordings for use in the school.

The School has an extensive Online Safety Policy that incorporates Acceptable Use Agreements, Technical Security Policy and Social Media Policy for staff, pupils and parents to sign. The Acceptable Use Agreements are situated in the front of children's planners and signed by all parties.

## **11. Complaints and concerns about school safeguarding practices**

### **11.1 Complaints against staff**

Complaints against staff that are likely to require a child protection investigation will be handled in accordance with the School's procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against staff. **(See Appendix 3).**

### **11.2 Other complaints**

Complaints relating to Staff or Governors private and personal history or conduct outside of school, in a private capacity, do not fall within the remit of the school complaint policy and will not be dealt with by the school *unless it directly affects the safeguarding of children at St White's.*

The Early Years team take account of requirements related to complaints set out in the safeguarding and welfare section of the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (paragraph 3.4) that explains, *'Providers must be alert to any issues for concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere. Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children. These should be in line with the guidance and procedures of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB). The safeguarding policy and procedures includes an*

*explanation of the action to be taken in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, and cover the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting.'*

[https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/05/eyfs\\_statutory\\_framework\\_march\\_2012.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/05/eyfs_statutory_framework_march_2012.pdf)

### **11.3 Whistle-blowing**

St White's School has a separate whistleblowing policy that covers concerns regarding the way the school safeguards pupils. The policy also makes reference to the School's Health and Safety Policies. The Whistleblowing policy explains:

What areas of malpractice or wrongdoing are covered by the procedures

The options available for reporting a concern, including who to approach within the school and externally

How the school will respond to such concerns

What protection is available to staff who report another member of staff

The school buildings and site are appropriately secure, with a clear record kept of any risk assessments carried out.

The school is aware of the legislation regarding drone use. If a camera fitted drone flies nearer than 150 metres to the school, it will contact the police and the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) following guidance available at: [www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Unmanned-aircraft/Our-role/Airspace-restrictions-for-unmanned-aircraft-and-drones/](http://www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Unmanned-aircraft/Our-role/Airspace-restrictions-for-unmanned-aircraft-and-drones/) (16:04, 23-9-17).

The Early Years team take account of requirements related to paragraph 3.75 of the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage; and understand that, 'Providers must have regard to the Government's statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. *'If providers have concerns about children's safety or welfare, they must notify agencies with statutory responsibilities without delay. This means the local children's social care services and, in emergencies, the police.'*

### **12. Record-keeping**

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.

Non-confidential records will be easily 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. The GSCB guidelines on maintaining records and logs safeguarding issues, section 2.5 explains that, *The DSL is responsible for collating all appropriate information on individual children, including a confidential record of all pupils who have a Child Protection Plan (previously called being 'on the Child Protection Register') and making sure that records are passed on when a child transfers school/setting in any circumstances including progression post 16. Since May 2000, when a child transfers schools/settings, the Head Teacher must send to the new school/setting (maintained or independent):*

- *The completed statutory transfer form*
- *All educational records relating to the child, including copies of the pupil reports and any information regarding child protection concerns.*

*If school/setting is unclear where a pupil is moving, the Headteacher should follow the Children Missing Education guidance and liaise with the Education Entitlement and Inclusion team before deleting the pupil's name from the school admissions register. Schools/settings should also check the National Missing Children database for pupils arriving with no records from previous schools/settings or where the previous school/setting is not known.*

See <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/article/114779/Children-missing-education> or email [missingpupils@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:missingpupils@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

The DSL will monitor attendance patterns and refer to the Education, Entitlement and Inclusion team where appropriate, collate the appropriate information for reports to be presented at Child Protection Conferences, maintain records and manage the education contribution to the Child Protection Plan recommended at the Child Protection Conference. They will also maintain up to date written records of visits from other agencies.

This gives responsibilities to keep information accurate, relevant and secure and to ensure that there is a justification for holding the information. Data Protection is not a barrier to sharing information between professionals but ensures that information is shared appropriately. Individuals have a right of access to information held about themselves but there are exemptions to this. The school will always take advice via the Safeguarding Children Service or from the setting's own legal adviser before providing access to Child Protection (Safeguarding) records.

Records are:

Paper-based, written legibly, dated and signed and follow in a clear chronological order and include a chronology form

Electronic copies are kept in a secure file on the server that is only accessible by the DSL and deputy DSLs

Accurate, relevant and secure

Held in a secure, locked cabinet. Only the DSL and Deputy DSLs have keys to the cabinet

Containing personal data and their use will comply with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Shared appropriately, using the guidance as set out in the

Collated and shared appropriately in accordance with the HM Government guidance on Information Sharing March 2015,

Used for reports to be presented at Child Protection Conferences

Maintained and managed so as to ensure the school is able to make the education contribution to the Child Protection Plan recommended at the Child Protection

In addition:

**Appendix 2** sets out our policy on record-keeping specifically with respect to recruitment and pre-employment checks

**Appendix 4** sets out our policy on record-keeping with respect to allegations of abuse made against staff

## **13. Training**

### **13.1 All staff**

All staff members will undertake safeguarding and child protection training at induction, including on whistle-blowing procedures, to ensure they understand the school's safeguarding systems and



their responsibilities, and can identify signs of possible abuse or neglect. If personal training is not available within 5 working days of the commencement of post, the online GSCB training will be undertaken first. Safeguarding training will be regularly updated and will be in line with advice from our local safeguarding children board.

All staff will have training on the government's anti-radicalisation strategy, Prevent, to enable them to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

Staff will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings) as required, but at least annually.

Volunteers will receive appropriate training, if applicable.

Whole school child protection training is undertaken every 3 years.

### **13.2 The DSL and deputies**

The DSL and deputies will undertake child protection and safeguarding training at least every 2 years.

In addition, they will update their knowledge and skills at regular intervals and at least annually (for example, through e-bulletins, meeting other DSLs, or taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments).

They will also, along with all other staff, undertake Prevent awareness training.

### **13.3 Governors**

All governors receive training about safeguarding, to make sure they have the knowledge and information needed to perform their functions and understand their responsibilities.

### **13.4 Recruitment – interview/appointment panels**

At least one person on any interview/appointment panel for a post at the school will have undertaken safer recruitment training. This will cover, as a minimum, the contents of the Department for Education's statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education, and be in line with local safeguarding procedures.

### **Early Years**

### **13.5 Staff who have contact with pupils and families**

All staff who have contact with children and families will have supervisions which will provide them with support, coaching and training, promote the interests of children and allow for confidential discussions of sensitive issues.

## **14. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed **annually** by The DSL, Clare Tilling, Deputy Headteacher, deputy DSL, Teresa Cross, Headteacher, deputy DSL, Caroline Woodhead, FSW, the safeguarding governor, Mr Matt Bishop. As part of the review, this policy will be shared with the staff of St White's Primary School. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board. The Young Person's Guide to Keeping Children Safe, written by the Office of the Children's Rights Director, is shared with the school's children so that they are clear about how professionals should work together to help keep them safe.

## **15. Early Help**

The school is committed to providing support and early help for all our children and families as soon as a problem emerges and before issues worsen. The School Offer Leaflet and Information

Report, outline what SEND is and the school's SEND pathway that is followed to safeguard children who have additional needs, ensuring that barriers are removed so that they can make the progress that is commensurate with their ability. See appendices 5 and 6.

In addition, the school provides a range of early help to our families and the leaflet setting out what is offered is in appendix 7. The role of the family support worker is pivotal to the provision of early help within school and complements the Children and Families Directory, Family Information Service.

<http://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/service.page?id=1Yb8skz9bTg>

## 16. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Behaviour
- Staff code of conduct
- Staff whistleblowing
- Complaints
- Health and safety
- SEN
- Medical
- Attendance
- Relationships and Sex Education
- First aid
- E-Safety
- Anti-bullying
- Positive Behaviour

These appendices are based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education.

## Appendix 1: Types of Abuse

Abuse, including neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap.

**Physical abuse** may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Emotional abuse may involve:

Conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person

Not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate

Age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction

Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another

Serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children

**Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve:

Physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing

Non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet)

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

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

Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)

Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger

Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)

Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

## **Appendix 2: Safer recruitment and DBS checks – policy and procedures**

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.

### **Appointing New Staff**

When appointing new staff, we will:

- Verify their identity
- Obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate, including barred list information for those who will be engaging in regulated activity (see definition below). We will not keep a copy of this for longer than 6 months
- 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, including (where relevant) any teacher sanctions or restrictions imposed by a European Economic Area professional regulating authority, and criminal records checks or their equivalent

The School will seek references on all short-listed candidates, including internal candidates, before interview. We will scrutinise these and resolve any concerns before confirming appointments.

The School will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the Childcare Disqualification (Regulations) 2009 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
- Carrying out paid, or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school or college where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children
- 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**

If we have concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with children, we will carry out all the relevant checks as if the individual was a new member of staff. We will also do this if an individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is.

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

Where the 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e. that no action or inaction occurred but the present risk that it could was significant)

Where the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence

If there is reason to believe that the individual has committed a listed relevant offence, under the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 \(Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions\) Regulations 2009](#)

If 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 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.

### **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 Childcare Disqualification (Regulations) 2009 and Childcare Act 2006.

### **Volunteers**

The School 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
- Obtain an enhanced DBS check without barred list information for all volunteers who are not in regulated activity, but who have an opportunity to come into contact with children on a regular basis, for example, supervised volunteers
- Carry out a risk assessment when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check for any volunteers not engaging in regulated activity
- Ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the Childcare Disqualification (Regulations) 2009 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**

All governors will have an enhanced DBS check without barred list information. They will have an enhanced DBS check with barred list information if working in regulated activity.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Appendix 3: allegations of abuse made against staff**

This section of this policy is written in accordance with the GSCB's allegation management guidance <http://www.gscb.org.uk/i-work-with-children-young-people-and-parents/allegations-management/> and applies to all cases in which it is alleged that a current member of staff or volunteer has:

Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child, or

Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, or

Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to children

It applies regardless of whether the alleged abuse took place in the school. Allegations against a teacher who is no longer teaching and historical allegations of abuse will be referred to the police.

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

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

## **Suspension**

Suspension 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 it 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 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

### **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

**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)

### **Procedure for dealing with allegations**

In the event of an allegation that meets the criteria above, the Headteacher (or chair of governors where the Headteacher is the subject of the allegation) – the ‘case manager’ – will take the following steps:

- Immediately 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
- **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 consider what other support is appropriate. The school, with the permission of the individual, makes a referral to Occupational Health and encourages them to communicate directly with their union to seek representation
- 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 and the outcome, where there is not a criminal prosecution, including the outcome of any disciplinary process (in confidence)
- 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

The Early years team 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, the school will immediately suspend that individual from teaching, pending the findings of the investigation by the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

Where the police are involved, wherever possible the local authority and the school's governing body 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.

### **Timescales**

Any cases where it is clear immediately that the allegation is unsubstantiated or malicious will be resolved within 1 week

If the nature of an allegation does not require formal disciplinary action, we will institute appropriate action within 3 working days

If a disciplinary hearing is required and can be held without further investigation, we will hold this within 15 working days

### **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 case manager and the school's personnel adviser will discuss with the designated officer whether to 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 case manager and personnel adviser will discuss with the designated officer whether to refer the matter to the NCTL 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 or malicious allegations**

If an allegation is shown to be deliberately invented, or malicious, the headteacher, or other appropriate person in the case of an allegation against the headteacher, will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the pupil(s) who made it, or whether the police should be asked to consider whether action against those who made the allegation might be appropriate, even if they are not a pupil.

## **Confidentiality**

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 local authority's designated officer, 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

## **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. Such records will include:

- A clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation
- Details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved
- Notes of any action taken and decisions reached (and justification for these, as stated above)
- If an allegation or concern is not found to have been malicious, the school will retain the records of the case on the individual's confidential personnel file, and provide a copy to the individual. We will retain these 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.

- The records of any allegation that is found to be malicious will be deleted from the individual's personnel file.

## **References**

When providing employer references, we will not refer to any allegation that has been proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious, or any history of allegations where all such allegations have been proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious.

## **Learning lessons**

After any cases where the allegations are *substantiated*, we 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

## **Appendix 4: Specific Safeguarding Issues**

### **Children Missing From Education**

Children Missing Education (CME) refers to 'any child of compulsory school age who is not registered at any formally approved education activity eg school, alternative provision, elective home education, and has been out of education provision for at least 4 weeks'.

CME also includes those children who are missing (family whereabouts unknown), and are usually children who are registered on a school roll / alternative provision. This might be a child who is not at their last known address and either has not taken up an allocated school place as expected, or has 10 or more days of continuous absence from school without explanation, or left school suddenly and the destination is unknown. It is the responsibility of the Education Performance and Inclusion team, on behalf of the Local Authority (LA), to:

- Collate information on all reported cases of CME of statutory school aged children in Gloucestershire maintained schools, academies. Free schools, alternative provision academies and Alternative Provision Schools (APS).
- Liaise with partner agencies and other LAs and schools across Britain to track pupils who may be missing education.

Ensure each child missing education is offered full time education within 2 weeks of the date the LA was informed.

Education Performance and Inclusion team

Shire Hall,

Westgate Street,

Gloucester GL1 2TP

Tel 01452 328033 / 427800

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.

There are many circumstances where a child may become missing from education, but some children are particularly at risk. These include children who:

- Are at risk of harm or neglect
- Come from Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller families
- Come from the families of service personnel
- Go missing or run away from home or care
- Are supervised by the youth justice system
- Cease to attend a school
- Come from new migrant families

The School will follow our procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of going missing in future. This includes informing the local authority if a child leaves the school without a new school being named, and adhering to requirements with respect to sharing information with the local authority, when applicable, when removing a child's name from the admission register at non-standard transition points.

Staff will be trained in signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns which may be related to being missing, such as travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.

If a staff member suspects that a child is suffering from harm or neglect, we will follow local child protection procedures, including with respect to making reasonable enquiries. We will make an immediate referral to the local authority children's social care team, and the police, if the child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status.

This can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults, but does not always involve physical contact and can happen online. For example, young people may be persuaded or forced to share sexually explicit images of themselves, have sexual conversations by text, or take part in sexual activities using a webcam.

Children or young people who are being sexually exploited may not understand that they are being abused. They often trust their abuser and may be tricked into believing they are in a loving, consensual relationship.

If a member of staff suspects CSE, they will discuss this with the DSL. The DSL will trigger the local safeguarding procedures, including a referral to the local authority's children's social care team and the police, if appropriate.

Indicators of sexual exploitation can include a child:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends

- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant
- Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs and/or alcohol
- Going missing for periods of time, or regularly coming home late
- Regularly missing school or education, or not taking part in education

## **FGM**

The DSL will make sure that staff have access to appropriate training to equip them to be alert to children affected by FGM or at risk of FGM.

Section 8.4 of this policy sets out the procedures to be followed if a staff member discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out or suspects that a pupil is at risk of FGM.

Indicators that FGM has already occurred include:

- A pupil confiding in a professional that FGM has taken place
- A mother/family member disclosing that FGM has been carried out
- A family/pupil already being known to social services in relation to other safeguarding issues
- A girl:
  - Having difficulty walking, sitting or standing, or looking uncomfortable
  - Finding it hard to sit still for long periods of time (where this was not a problem previously)
  - Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating
  - Having frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems
  - Avoiding physical exercise or missing PE
  - Being repeatedly absent from school, or absent for a prolonged period
  - Demonstrating increased emotional and psychological needs – for example, withdrawal or depression, or significant change in behaviour
  - Being reluctant to undergo any medical examinations
  - Asking for help, but not being explicit about the problem
  - Talking about pain or discomfort between her legs

Potential signs that a pupil may be at risk of FGM include:

- The girl's family having a history of practising FGM (this is the biggest risk factor to consider)
- FGM being known to be practised in the girl's community or country of origin
- A parent or family member expressing concern that FGM may be carried out
- A family not engaging with professionals (health, education or other) or already being known to social care in relation to other safeguarding issues
- A girl:
  - Having a mother, older sibling or cousin who has undergone FGM
  - Having limited level of integration within UK society

- Confiding to a professional that she is to have a “special procedure” or to attend a special occasion to “become a woman”
- Talking about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent, or parents stating that they or a relative will take the girl out of the country for a prolonged period
- Requesting help from a teacher or another adult because she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk of FGM
- Talking about FGM in conversation – for example, a girl may tell other children about it (although it is important to take into account the context of the discussion)
- Being unexpectedly absent from school
- Having sections missing from her ‘red book’ (child health record) and/or attending a travel clinic or equivalent for vaccinations/anti-malarial medication

The above indicators and risk factors are not intended to be exhaustive.

### **Forced Marriage**

Forcing a person into marriage is a crime. A forced marriage is one 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 a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological.

Staff will receive training around forced marriage and the presenting symptoms. We are aware of the ‘one chance’ rule, i.e. we may only have one chance to speak to the potential victim and only one chance to save them.

If a member of staff suspects that a pupil is being forced into marriage, they will speak to the pupil about their concerns in a secure and private place. They will then report this to the DSL.

The DSL will:

- Speak to the pupil about the concerns in a secure and private place
- Activate the local safeguarding procedures and refer the case to the local authority’s designated officer
- Seek advice from the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151 or [fm@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fm@fco.gov.uk)
- Refer the pupil to an education welfare officer, pastoral tutor, learning mentor, or school counsellor, as appropriate

### **Preventing Radicalisation**

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Schools have a duty to prevent children from being drawn into terrorism. The DSL will undertake Prevent awareness training and make sure that staff have access to appropriate training to equip them to identify children at risk.

We will assess the risk of children in our school being drawn into terrorism. This assessment will be based on an understanding of the potential risk in our local area, in collaboration with our local safeguarding children board and local police force.

We will ensure that suitable internet filtering is in place, and equip our pupils to stay safe online at school and at home.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Radicalisation can occur quickly or over a long period.

Staff will be alert to changes in pupils' behaviour.

The government website [Educate Against Hate](#) and charity [NSPCC](#) say that signs that a pupil is being radicalised can include:

- Refusal to engage with, or becoming abusive to, peers who are different from themselves
- Becoming susceptible to conspiracy theories and feelings of persecution
- Changes in friendship groups and appearance
- Rejecting activities they used to enjoy
- Converting to a new religion
- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- Talking as if from a scripted speech
- An unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- Increased levels of anger
- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet use
- Expressions of sympathy for extremist ideologies and groups, or justification of their actions
- Accessing extremist material online, including on Facebook or Twitter
- Possessing extremist literature
- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and joining, or seeking to join, extremist organisations

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of bullying or discrimination. It is important to note that these signs can also be part of normal teenage behaviour – staff should have confidence in their instincts and seek advice if something feels wrong.

If staff are concerned about a pupil, they will follow our procedures set out in section 8.6 of this policy, including discussing their concerns with the DSL.

Staff should **always** take action if they are worried.

Further information on the school's measures to prevent radicalisation are set out in other school policies and procedures, including Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Attendance and Punctuality – Pupils Policy, Online Safety including Acceptable Use policy, SMSC Policy.

### **Checking the Identity and Suitability of Visitors**

All visitors will be required to verify their identity to the satisfaction of staff and advised to leave their belongings, in a safe place during their visit. Visitors will be asked to turn off their mobile phones (see section 10).

If the visitor is unknown to the setting, their credentials and reason for visiting will be checked, 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. Support staff ask for copies of DBS checks from all visitors. Any regular visitor to site, and all supply staff will be DBS checked before allowing access to the site.

Children are trained to understand the lanyard system and know that they must not be alone with adults wearing red lanyards. Lanyards are given out:

Red lanyards for visitors (no DBS)

Yellow lanyards for supply teachers (DBS seen)

Green for all visitors who have DBS checks completed.

All visitors to school, including visiting speakers, will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times if wearing a red lanyard as they have not been DBS checked. School 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.

### **Non-Collection of Children**

If a child is not collected at the end of the session/day, staff will take the child to the school office where support staff will take charge of the child and record the time that they are collected in the 'Pupils Out' book along with the signature of the collecting adult.

The school will follow section 10 of the Attendance and Punctuality Policy which states that:

- 10.1** The school takes late collection of children very seriously. It accepts that emergency situations can arise due to unforeseen circumstances. Notification, however, must be given to the school as soon as the situation arises.
- 10.2** In the event of a child not being collected, the school will make every effort to contact their parents/carers. If this proves to be impossible, then the school will try to contact the alternative emergency name, who is authorised by the child's parent, to collect them on behalf of their parent/carer. If no contact has been established with the parents/carers, or emergency contact, within 45 minutes of the usual collection time, the school will follow their child protection procedures i.e. it will contact the Children and Families Services emergency duty teams on 01452 614 194 to report their concerns.

### **Missing Pupils**

Our procedures are designed to ensure that a missing child is found and returned to effective supervision as soon as possible. If a child goes missing, we will contact the police and communicate with parents/carers.

**Appendix 5:** SEND Information Report (See School Website)

**Appendix 6:** School Offer Leaflet (See School Website)

**Appendix 7:** Early Help Leaflet (See School Website)