



Slaley First School

Child Protection and
Safeguarding Procedures
Policy
2023-2024

Nurturing Ambitious Individuals

Contact details: email:
angela.hayward@slaley.northumberland.sch.uk
Telephone [01434 673220](tel:01434673220)

Policy Statement and Principles

Slaley First School fully recognises its responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

This policy is one of a series in the school's safeguarding portfolio including:

- **Staff Code of Conduct**
- **Physical Restraint Policy**
- **Behaviour Policy**
- **Intimate Care Policy**
- **School Complaints Policy**
- **Anti-Bullying Policy**
- **Whistleblowing Policy**
- **SEND Policy**
- **Children Missing in Education Guidance - NCC**
- **Recruitment and Selection Procedure and Policy**
- **Allegations of Abuse Policy and Procedure**
- **Grievance Policy**
- **Staff Discipline**
- **Mobile Phone Policy**
- **Data Protection Policy**
- **Relationships & Sex Education Policy**
- **Complaints Procedure**
- **Allegations of Abuse**
- **Children with health needs who cannot attend school**
- **School Exclusions**
- **Online Safety Policy**

Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as: 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 refers to the processes undertaken to protect children who have been identified as suffering or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

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

Child includes everyone under the age of 18.

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

Key Personnel

The designated safeguarding leads (DSL) for child protection are **Mrs Angela Hayward**

Contact details: email:
angela.hayward@slaley.northumberland.sch.uk Telephone
[01434 673220](tel:01434673220)

and **Mrs Rachel O'Neill**

Contact details: email:rachel.oneill@slaley.northumberland.sch.uk
Telephone [01434 673220](tel:01434673220)

This policy contributes to the setting's commitment to all local and national requirements.

Ofsted inspecting-safeguarding -Updated 24th August 2021

This policy is available on the school website and is included in the staff handbook, volunteers' handbook and made available to all visitors. All relevant policies, e.g online safety have been updated to reflect the increased use of remote learning and all necessary risk assessments have been completed and make reference to safeguarding procedures.

Our core safeguarding principles are:

- The school's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance
 - To maintain an attitude of "it could happen here"
 - Safer children make more successful learners
- This policy will be reviewed at least annually unless an incident or new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an interim review
- To provide a learning environment where children feel 'challenged, cherished and nurtured'.

Child Protection Statement

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

At Slaley First School, pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online, through various teaching and learning opportunities and the school is fully committed to this as part of the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum. Children are taught to recognise when they are at risk and how to get help when they need it. Abuse will never be tolerated as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour and an unsafe environment for pupils.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff volunteers, visitors and governors and are consistent with those of the local safeguarding partnership.

Policy Principles

The welfare of the child is paramount

- All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection
- All staff have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm
 - The school assesses the risks and issues in the wider community when considering the wellbeing of its pupils
 - Pupils and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support

Policy Aims

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

Safeguarding Legislation and Guidance

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

The Teacher Standards (latest terminology update 2021) state that teachers, including head teachers should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

- The statutory guidance, **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**, covers the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services (including schools and colleges) to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It also provides the framework for NSSP (Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership) to monitor the effectiveness of local services, including safeguarding arrangements in schools. As stated in this guidance schools are relevant agencies in the new safeguarding arrangements established by the three key safeguarding partners (the LA, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the police.)
- The statutory guidance, **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023**, is issued under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and the Education (Non-Maintained Special Schools) (England) Regulations 2011. Schools and colleges must have regard to this guidance when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Unless otherwise stated, 'school' in this guidance means all schools, whether maintained, non-maintained or independent, including academies and free schools, alternative provision academies and pupil referral units. 'School' includes maintained nursery schools. 'College' means further education colleges and sixth form colleges as established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. And relates to their responsibilities to children under the age of 18 (but excludes 16-19 academies and free schools, which are required to comply with relevant safeguarding legislation by virtue of their funding agreement)

All staff and Governors have signed to confirm they have received a copy of the Child Protection Policy and Staff have signed to say they have received a copy of the Staff Code of Conduct and have read Keeping Children Safe in education 2022. (All staff/only staff working directly with children and young people will read Part 1. Staff who do not work directly with children to read

Annex A and DSLs and Assistant DSL will read the full document. A record to confirm this is held on the Single Central Register.

- **What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015 - Advice for practitioners** is non statutory advice which helps practitioners (everyone who works with children) to identify abuse and neglect and take appropriate action and copies are available from the school office.

Due to their day-to-day contact with pupils, school staff are uniquely placed to observe changes in children's behaviour and the outward signs of abuse.

Children may also turn to a trusted adult in school when they are in distress or at risk. It is vital that **all school staff** are alert to the signs of abuse and understand the procedures for reporting their concerns. The school will always act on identified concerns as soon as possible.

Roles and responsibilities The Designated Safeguarding Lead:

- has the status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post, including committing resources and supporting and directing other staff
- is appropriately trained, receiving annual updates and face to face training provided by the safeguarding board every

two years.

- acts as a source of support and expertise to the school community
- encourages a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings
- is alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
- has a working knowledge of NSSP procedures <https://www.proceduresonline.com/northumberlandcs/index.html>
- makes staff aware of NSSP training courses (all available through Learning Together <http://ncc.learningpool.com/>) and the latest policies and procedures on safeguarding
- has an understanding of locally agreed processes for providing early help and intervention <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Family/Support.aspx#earlyhelpassessmentforms>
- keeps detailed written records of all concerns, ensuring that such records are stored securely but kept separate from, the pupil's general file (CPOMS)
- refers cases of suspected abuse to children's social care or police as appropriate
- notifies children's social care if a child with a child protection plan has unexplained absences
- ensures that when a pupil leaves the school, their child protection file is sent securely to the new school (separately from the main pupil file and ensuring secure transit) and confirmation of receipt is obtained. The pupil's social worker should also be informed of the change in school
- attends and/or contributes to child protection conferences
- coordinates the school's contribution to child protection plans
- ensures that all appropriate staff members have a working knowledge and understanding of their role in case conferences, core groups and other multi-agency planning meetings, to ensure that they attend and are able to effectively contribute when required to do so
- develops effective links with relevant statutory and voluntary agencies including the NSSP.
- ensures that all staff sign to indicate that they have read and understood the child protection policy
- ensures that the child protection policy and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated annually, working with governors and trustees
- liaises with the nominated governor and headteacher (where the role is not carried out by the headteacher) as appropriate
- ensures a record of staff attendance at child protection and safeguarding training is maintained
- ensures staff are kept up to date with key priorities within the LA, including learning from serious case reviews
- makes the child protection & safeguarding policy available publicly, on the school's website or by other means
- ensures parents are aware of the school's role in safeguarding and that referrals about suspected abuse and neglect may be made
- has the lead role for Operation Encompass and Operation Endeavour in the school and ensures the school meets all requirements set out in the LA procedures
- reports concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, following the Prevent referral process and refer cases by e-mail to OneCall. If the matter is urgent then Police must be contacted by dialling 999. In cases where further advice from the Police is sought dial 101. The Department of Education has also set up a dedicated telephone helpline for staff and governors to raise concerns around Prevent (020 7340 7264)
- Meet all other responsibilities as set out for DSLs in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.
- Be aware that being absent, as well as missing, from education can be warning sign of a range of safeguarding concerns, including sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or child criminal exploitation (as set out in KCSIE 23)

Whilst the activities of the designated safeguarding lead can be delegated to appropriately trained assistants, the ultimate lead responsibility for child protection, as set out above, remains with the designated safeguarding leads; this lead responsibility should not be delegated.

The Assistant Designated Person:

Is appropriately trained and, in the absence of the designated person, carries out those functions necessary to ensure the ongoing safety and protection of pupils. In the event of the long-term absence of the designated person, the deputy will assume all of the functions above. At Slaley First School, the Assistant DSL is Rachel O'Neill.

If the DSLs (or assistants) are not available, advice can also be sought from colleagues in One Call, the Local Authority's single point of access on 01670 536400

The Governing Body:

Ensures that the school:

- appoints a DSL for child protection who is a member of the senior leadership team and who has undertaken training in inter-agency working, in addition to basic child protection training
- ensures that the DSL role is explicit in the role holder's job description
- has a child protection policy and procedures
- has a staff code of conduct, which is reviewed annually and made available publicly on the school's website or by other means
- has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against members of staff including allegations made against the head teacher and allegations against other children
- follows safer recruitment procedures that include statutory checks on staff suitability to work with children and disqualification by association regulations
- develops a training strategy that ensures all staff, including the head teacher, receive information about the school's safeguarding arrangements, staff behaviour policy or code of conduct and the role of the DSL on induction, and appropriate child protection training, which is updated at least annually and will receive regular updates. The DSL receives face to face refresher training at two- yearly intervals and accesses an annual update in line with the Local Safeguarding Board requirements
- ensures that all staff, including temporary staff and volunteers are provided with the school's child protection policy and staff behaviour policy
- ensures that the school contributes to early help arrangements and inter agency working and plans
- provides a coordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified
- considers how pupils may be taught about safeguarding, including online as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

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

It is the responsibility of the governing body to ensure that the school's safeguarding, recruitment and managing allegations procedures take into account the procedures and practice of the local authority and NSSP and national guidance.

An annual audit (S175) will be submitted, as required, to the local authority, including an action plan. The governing body should have oversight of the audit and the lead

governor should work in conjunction with the DSL to ensure any gaps areas of concern are addressed.

The Head Teacher:

- ensures that the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures are implemented and followed by all staff
- allocates sufficient time and regularly updates the content of staff training
- allocates support and resources, including cover arrangements when necessary, to enable DSL assistants to carry out their roles effectively, including the assessment of pupils and attendance at strategy discussions and other necessary meetings
- ensures that all staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and that such concerns are handled sensitively and in accordance with the whistleblowing procedures
- ensures that pupils are provided with opportunities throughout the curriculum to learn about safeguarding, including keeping themselves safe online
- school leaders and governors ensure that the child's wishes are taken into account when determining action to be taken or services to be provided
- contacts the LADO immediately an allegation is made against a member of staff, seeking advice and then works with the LADO to follow the advice received
- ensures that anyone who has harmed or may pose a risk to a child is referred to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Good practice guidelines and staff code of conduct

To meet and maintain our responsibilities towards pupils we need to agree standards of good practice which form a code

of conduct for all staff. Good

practice includes:

- treating all pupils with respect
- setting a good example by conducting ourselves appropriately
- involving pupils in decisions that affect them
- encouraging positive, respectful and safe behaviour among pupils
- being an active listener
- being alert to changes in pupils' behaviour and to signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation
- recognising that challenging behaviour may be an indicator of abuse
- reading and understanding the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Staff Behaviour Policy and guidance documents on wider safeguarding issues, for example bullying, behaviour, physical contact, sexual exploitation, extremism, online safety and information-sharing
- asking the pupil's permission before initiating physical contact, such as assisting with dressing,
- physical support during PE or administering first aid
- maintaining appropriate standards of conversation and interaction with and between pupils and
- avoiding the use of sexualised or derogatory language
- being aware that the personal and family circumstances and lifestyles of some pupils lead to an increased risk of abuse
- applying the use of reasonable force only as a last resort and in compliance with school and NSSP procedures
- referring all concerns about a pupil's safety and welfare to the DSL, or, if necessary directly to police or children's social care
- following the school's rules with regard to relationships with pupils and communication with pupils, including on social media.

Abuse of Position of Trust

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

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

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

Children who may be particularly vulnerable

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

Using Technology

Some children are at greater risk of harm than others, both **online and offline**.

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

- displaying early signs of abuse and/or neglect
- with certain medical conditions
- experiencing anxiety or mental health problems
- looked after or returned home after a period of care
- disabled or have special educational needs
- young carers affected by parental substance misuse, domestic violence or parental mental health needs or misusing substances themselves
- asylum seekers
- living away from home or in temporary accommodation

- vulnerable to being bullied, or engaging in bullying
- live transient lifestyles
- living in chaotic and unsupportive home situations
- vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, disability or sexuality
- at risk of sexual exploitation
- do not have English as a first language
- at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM)
- at risk of forced marriage
- at risk of being drawn into extremism or being radicalised
- showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
- frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- children missing education' is different from 'children absent from education' and Slaley First School recognizes that children being absent from education for prolonged periods and/or on repeat can act a warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues (KCSIE 23)
If the parent/carer of a child with an education, health and care (EHC) plan has expressed their intention to educate their child at home, Local Authorities will need to review the plan and work closely with parents/carers
- at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- privately fostered

This updated list provides examples of additionally vulnerable groups and is not exhaustive.

Helping children to keep themselves safe

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult helps prevention. We will therefore raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills to keep them safe, this will include activities to improve their resilience. Children are taught to recognise when they are at risk and how to get help when they need it.

The school will therefore:

- establish and maintain an environment and positive ethos where children feel secure, supported and are encouraged to talk, are listened to, can learn, develop and feel valued;
- ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty;
- include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for PSHE which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse, develop resilience and that they know to whom to turn for help. This overview is available on the school's website - CURRICULUM.

Support for those involved in a child protection issue

Child abuse is devastating for the child and can also result in distress and anxiety for staff who become involved. We will support pupils, their families, and staff by:

- taking all suspicions and disclosures seriously
- responding sympathetically to any request from pupils or staff for time out to deal with distress or anxiety
- maintaining confidentiality and sharing information on a need-to-know basis only with relevant individuals and agencies
- storing records securely
- offering details of helplines, counselling or other avenues of external support
- where a member of staff is the subject of an allegation made by a pupil, ensure that lines of communication are maintained
- following the procedures laid down in our child protection, whistleblowing, complaints and disciplinary procedures
- cooperating fully with relevant statutory agencies
- providing access to supervision for those staff dealing with child protection issues

Children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or certain health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges. Also, additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These can include:

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

Complaints Procedure

Our complaints procedure will be followed where a pupil or parent raises a concern about poor practice towards a pupil that initially does not reach the threshold for child protection action. Complaints are managed by senior staff, the headteacher and governors. An explanation of the complaints procedure is available on our school website and from the school office.

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

Complaints which escalate into a child protection concern will automatically be managed under the school's child protection procedures.

Whistleblowing if you have concerns about a colleague

Staff who are concerned about the conduct of a colleague, including supply staff, towards a pupil are undoubtedly placed in a very difficult situation. They may worry that they have misunderstood the situation and they will wonder whether a report could jeopardise their colleague's career. All staff must remember that the welfare of the child is paramount. The school's whistleblowing code, available in the Staff Handbook, enables staff to raise concerns or allegations, initially in confidence and for a sensitive enquiry to take place.

All concerns of poor practice or possible child abuse by colleagues should be

reported to the head teacher. Complaints about the head teacher should be reported to the chair of governors.

Staff may also report their concerns directly to children's social care or the police if they believe direct reporting is necessary to secure immediate actions

Allegations against staff

When an allegation is made against a member of staff, including supply staff, governors, volunteers and agency staff, set procedures must be followed. It is rare for a child to make an entirely false or malicious allegation, although misunderstandings and misinterpretations of events do happen.

A child may also make an allegation against an innocent party because they are too afraid to name the real perpetrator. Even so, we must accept that some professionals do pose a serious risk to pupils and we must act on every allegation.

Staff who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress.

Suspension is not the default option and alternatives to suspension will always be considered. In some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected. In the event of suspension the school will provide support and a named contact for the member of staff.

The school allegation procedure will be used in respect of all cases in which it is alleged that a teacher or member of staff (including volunteers) in a school or college that provides education for children under 18 years of age has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;

- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children

The full procedures for dealing with allegations against staff can be found in *Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2021)* part 4 and in the school's Allegations against staff Policy and Procedures.

Staff, parents and governors are reminded that publication of material that may lead to the identification of a teacher who is the subject of an allegation is prohibited by law. Publication includes verbal conversations or writing, including content placed on social media sites.

Allegations concerning staff who no longer work at the school, or historical allegations will be reported to the police.

Section 2: concerns that do not meet the harm threshold

The section is based on 'Section 2: Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold' in part 4 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.

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.

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

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 a mobile phone
- Engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door
- Using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language

Sharing Low-Level Concerns

We recognise the importance of creating a culture of openness, trust and transparency to encourage all staff to 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

Responding to low-level concern

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.

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.

As outlined in KCSIE 23 Robust records will be taken and recorded on CPOMs of any low-level concerns and early intervention is key.

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

Domestic Abuse

Slaley First School recognises that domestic abuse can be psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear or experience the effects of abuse at home. All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others.

Staff Training

It is important that all staff receive training to enable them to recognise the possible signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation and to know what to do if they have a concern. All staff must pay regard to the Teacher's Standards. New staff and governors will receive a mandatory briefing during their induction, which includes the school's child protection policy, behaviour policy, staff behaviour policy, e safety policy, reporting and recording arrangements, and details for the DSL.

All staff, including the head teacher (unless the head teacher is the DSL) and governors will receive training that is regularly updated and the Governing Body will facilitate a whole school approach to safeguarding. The NSSP recommends staff receive annual updates and a detailed programme (either online or face to face) at least every three years. The DSL (and deputies) will receive annual safeguarding training, with subjects to reflect local and national priorities and including a refresher session on their roles and responsibilities every two years.

Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that, as part of the requirement for staff to undergo regular updated safeguarding training, including online safety

(paragraph 114) and the requirement to ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety (paragraph 119), that safeguarding training for staff, including online safety training, is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole school safeguarding approach and wider staff training and curriculum planning. All staff sign to confirm they have received a copy of the child protection policy and staff code of conduct and have read Keeping Children Safe in education 2023. (All staff/only staff working directly with children and young people will read Part 1. Staff who do not work directly with children to read Annex A and DSL and Assistant DSL will read full document.

Supply staff and other visiting staff will be given the school's Visiting Staff Leaflet and a copy of the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which will be made available to them on their arrival (situated in the foyer of the school).

Safer Recruitment and Selection Procedures

Slaley First School endeavors to ensure that we do our utmost to employ safe staff following the school's Staff Recruitment procedures (available from the school office).

At least one member of each recruitment panel will have attended safer recruitment training.

The school obtains written confirmation from supply agencies or third party organisations that agency staff or other individuals who may work in the school have been appropriately checked. The school advises all agencies of their procedures for dealing with allegations, ensuring agencies are fully aware of the guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) in relation to the school having a lead role in the management of any allegations, working with the LADO. Trainee teachers will be checked either by the school or by the training provider, from whom written confirmation will be obtained. The school maintains a single central record of recruitment checks undertaken.

Slaley First School will consider the following information when defining the role (through the job or role description and person specification):

- the skills, abilities, experience, attitude, and behaviours required for the post; and
- the safeguarding requirements, i.e. to what extent will the role involve contact with
- children and will they be engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

The advert will include:

- the school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and make clear that safeguarding checks will be undertaken;
- the safeguarding responsibilities of the post as per the job description and personal specification; and
- whether the post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020. Which means that when applying for certain jobs and activities certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected', so they do not need to be disclosed to employers, and if they are disclosed, employers cannot take them into account. Further information about filtering offences can be found in the DBS filtering guide.

Application forms

Where a role involves engaging in regulated activity relevant to children, schools and colleges should include a statement in the application form or elsewhere in the information provided to applicants that it is an offence to apply for the role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

Slaley First School will also provide a copy of the school's child protection policy and practices and policy on employment of ex-offenders in the application pack or refer to a link on its website.

Slaley First School will require applicants to provide:

- personal details, current and former names, current address and national insurance number;
- details of their present (or last) employment and reason for leaving; 53 Legislation.gov.uk - section 7(1)(a) of the SVGA 2006.
- full employment history, (since leaving school, including education, employment and voluntary work) including reasons for any gaps in employment;
- qualifications, the awarding body and date of award;
- details of referees/references (see below for further information); and
- a statement of the personal qualities and experience that the applicant believes
- are relevant to their suitability for the post advertised and how they meet the person specification.

Slaley First School should not accept copies of curriculum vitae in place of an application form.

Shortlisting

Shortlisted candidates should be asked to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children. Self- declaration is subject to Ministry of Justice guidance on the disclosure of criminal records, further information can be found on GOV.UK For example:

- if they have a criminal history;
- whether they are included on the barred list;
- whether they are prohibited from teaching;
- whether they are prohibited from taking part in the management of an independent school;
- information about any criminal offences committed in any country in line with the law as applicable in England and Wales, not the law in their country of origin or where they were convicted;
- if they are known to the police and children's social care;
- have they been disqualified from providing childcare (see paras 245-249); and,
- any relevant overseas information.

This information should only be requested from applicants who have been shortlisted. The information should not be requested in the application form to decide who should be shortlisted.

Applicants should be asked to sign a declaration confirming the information they have provided is true. Where there is an electronic signature, the shortlisted candidate should physically sign a hard copy of the application at point of interview.

The purpose of a self-declaration is so that candidates will have the opportunity to share relevant information and allow this to be discussed and considered at interview before the DBS certificate is received.

Slaley First School will ensure that at least two people carry out the shortlisting exercise and should consider any inconsistencies and look for gaps in employment and reasons given for them and explore all potential concerns.

Employment History and References

The purpose of seeking references is to allow employers to obtain factual information to support appointment decisions. Schools and colleges should obtain references before interview, this allows any concerns raised to be explored further with the referee and taken up with the candidate at interview.

Slaley First School will:

- Not accept open references e.g. to whom it may concern;
- Not rely on applicants to obtain their reference;

Ensure any references are from the candidate's current employer and

Have been completed by a senior person with appropriate authority (if the referee is school or college based, the reference should be confirmed by the headteacher/principal as accurate in respect to investigations;

Obtain verification of the individual's most recent relevant period of employment where the applicant is not currently employed;

Secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the applicant worked with children (if not currently working with children), if the applicant has never worked with children, then ensure a reference from their current employer;

Always verify any information with the person who provided the reference; Ensure electronic references originate from a legitimate source;

Contact referees to clarify content where information is vague or insufficient information is provided;

Compare the information on the application form with that in the reference and take up any discrepancies with the candidate;

Establish the reason for the candidate leaving their current or most recent post;

Ensure any concerns are resolved satisfactorily before appointment is confirmed.

When asked to provide references Slaley First School will ensure the information confirms whether they are satisfied with the applicant's suitability to work with children and provide the facts (not opinions) of any substantiated safeguarding allegations but should not include information about allegations which are unsubstantiated, unfounded, false, or malicious. References are an important part of the recruitment process and should be provided in a timely manner and not hold up proceedings.

Selection

Slaley First School will use a range of selection techniques to identify the most suitable person for the post. Those interviewing will agree structured questions. These will include:

- finding out what attracted the candidate to the post being applied for and their motivation for working with children;
- exploring their skills and asking for examples of experience of working with children which are relevant to the role; and
- probing any gaps in employment or where the candidate has changed employment or location frequently, asking about the reasons for this.

The interviews should be used to explore potential areas of concern to determine the applicant's suitability to work with children. Areas that may be concerning and lead to further probing include:

- implication that adults and children are equal;
- lack of recognition and/or understanding of the vulnerability of children;
- inappropriate idealisation of children;
- inadequate understanding of appropriate boundaries between adults and children; and,
- indicators of negative safeguarding behaviours.

Any information about past disciplinary action or allegations should be considered in the circumstances of the individual case.

New Staff

Offers of appointment will be conditional until satisfactory completion of the necessary pre-employment checks. A DBS certificate will be obtained before or as soon as practicable after appointment including when using the DBS update service.

In line with guidance in **KCSIE 23**, copies of DBS will **NOT** be kept.

Pre-appointment vetting checks are regulated.

Schools are 'specified places' which means that the majority of staff and volunteers will be engaged in regulated activity. A fuller explanation of regulated activity can be found in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) part three.

The Headteacher will also ensure that new links included in KCSIE 23 are viewed by staff-

- A [video on supporting children](#) who are victims of sexual abuse.
- A link to [South West Grid for Learning](#), a charity that provides support regarding abuse and technology, and [The Marie Collins Foundation](#), a harmful-sexual-behaviour support service.
- A [county lines toolkit for professionals](#).
- Government guidance on [forced marriage](#).
- LGFL "[Undressed](#)" - a website that features a video and song that schools can use to teach young children about the risk of being tricked into getting undressed online.

'Digital Screening'

In line with **KCSIE 23** and as part of the shortlisting process, Slaley First School will carry out an online search as part of due diligence on the shortlisted candidates. This may help identify any incidents or issues that have happened, and are publicly available online, which the school or college might want to explore with the applicant at interview. In line with guidance in **KCSIE 23**, all shortlisted candidates will be informed that digital screening will be taking place.

Volunteers

Volunteers, including governors will undergo checks commensurate with their work in the school and contact with pupils. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been appropriately checked be left unsupervised or be allowed to

engage in regulated activity.

Supervised volunteers

Volunteers who work only in a supervised capacity and are not in regulated activity will undergo the safe recruitment checks appropriate to their role, in accordance with the school's risk assessment process and statutory guidance.

Out of hours concerns (as per recommendations in KCSIE 2023)

The Headteacher will

- check that out-of-hours hire contracts for organisations working with children that the meet the expectations in the guidance on keeping children safe in out-of-schools settings.
- Ensure that information about incidents relating to out-of-hours hire contracts for organisations working with children are communicated
-
- Remember that when an allegation is received relating to out-of-hours contracts, that Slaley First School's safeguarding policy will be followed including informing the LADO if necessary

Contractors

The school checks the identity of all contractors working on site and requests DBS checks and barred list checks where required by statutory guidance.

Contractors who have not undergone checks will not be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity.

Site security

Visitors to the school, including contractors, are asked to sign in and are given a badge, which confirms they have permission to be on site. Parents who are simply delivering or collecting their children do not need to sign in. All visitors are expected to observe the school's safeguarding and health and safety regulations to ensure children in school are kept safe. The head teacher will exercise professional judgement in determining whether any visitor should be escorted or supervised while on site.

Extended school and off-site arrangements

All extended and off-site activities are subject to a risk assessment to satisfy health and safety and safeguarding requirements. Where extended school activities are provided by and managed by the school, our own child protection policy and procedures apply. If other organisations provide services or activities on our site we will check that they have appropriate procedures in place, including safer recruitment procedures.

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

Photography and images

The vast majority of people who take or view photographs or videos of children do so for entirely innocent and legitimate reasons. Sadly, some people abuse children through taking or distributing images, so we must ensure that we have some safeguards in place. To protect pupils we will:

- seek parental consent for photographs to be taken or published (for example, on our website or in newspapers or publications)
- use only the pupil's first name with an image
- ensure pupils are appropriately dressed
- encourage pupils to tell us if they are worried about any photographs that are taken of them.

E-Safety

Our pupils increasingly use electronic equipment on a daily basis to access the internet. However, we do not share content and images via social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, MSN, Tumblr, Snapchat and Instagram.

Filtering and Monitoring (KCSIE 2023)

Slaley First School will provide a safe environment to learn and work, including when online. Filtering and monitoring are both important parts of safeguarding pupils and staff from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

Clear roles, responsibilities and strategies are vital for delivering and maintaining effective filtering and monitoring systems. It's important that the right people are working together and using their professional expertise to make informed decisions. Our governing bodies and proprietors have overall strategic responsibility for filtering and monitoring and need assurance that the standards are being met.

To do this, Slaley First School has assigned.

Mrs Angela Hayward (Headteacher) and Melissa Baynes to be responsible for ensuring the expected standards are met. The roles and responsibilities of staff and third parties, for example, external service providers are also determined.

Technical requirements to meet the standard

The senior leadership team are responsible for:

- procuring filtering and monitoring systems
- documenting decisions on what is blocked or allowed and why
- reviewing the effectiveness of the provision
- overseeing reports

They are also responsible for making sure that all staff:

- understand their role
- are appropriately trained
- follow policies, processes and procedures
- act on reports and concerns

Filtering and monitoring procedures will be reviewed annually.

When checking filtering and monitoring systems you should make sure that the system setup has not changed or been deactivated. The checks will include a range of:

- school owned devices and services, including those used off site
- geographical areas across the site
- user groups, for example, teachers, pupils and guests

You should keep a log of your checks so they can be reviewed. You should record:

- when the checks took place
- who did the check
- what they tested or checked
- resulting actions

We will ensure that:

- all staff know how to report and record concerns
- filtering and monitoring systems work on new devices and services before releasing them to staff and pupils
- blocklists are reviewed and they can be modified in line with changes to safeguarding risks

Governors

As the guidance in KCSIE 23 states, Slaley First school will ensure that all governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training at induction.

Unfortunately, some adults and young people will use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts and emails, to grooming and enticing children to engage in sexually harmful conversations, webcam photography or face-to-face meetings.

Pupils may also be distressed or harmed by accessing inappropriate websites that promote unhealthy lifestyles, extremist behaviour and criminal activity.

Our Headteacher Mrs Angela Hayward is our E- Safety Officer and Mrs Melissa Baynes (Vice chair of Governors) is our Governor responsible for E-Safety.

The school's **online safety policy**, available on our school website and from the office, explains how we try to keep pupils safe in school and whilst they are accessing on-line learning whilst out of school and protect and educate pupils in the safe use of technology. Cyberbullying and consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes (sexting) by pupils will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. Serious incidents may be managed in line with our child protection procedures.

Rules for students on site usage in school is set out in our acceptable use policy. There is a copy for both staff, children and parents to sign at the beginning of each academic year. Signed copies are kept in pupil and staff files in the school office. The e-safety policy can be found in the 'Parent Zone' on our school website, but is also available from the school office. All staff receive e-safety training and the school's e-safety coordinator is Mrs. Angela Hayward (Headteacher) The school considers e-safety as a priority. Mobile phones are allowed on site but use must be controlled. When pupils use the school's network to access the internet, they are protected from inappropriate content by our filtering and monitoring systems.

Staff/Pupil Relationships

The school provides advice to staff regarding their personal online activity and has strict rules regarding online contact and electronic communication with pupils. Staff found to be in breach of these rules may be subject to disciplinary action or child protection investigation. These rules are set out in the acceptable use policy published on our website. Signed copies are also kept.

Child Protection Procedures Recognising Abuse

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

Abuse may be committed by adult men or women and by other children and young people.
The four types of abuse are physical, sexual, emotional and neglect.

Details of the definitions of the 4 types of abuse are included as Appendix A

Appendix A also includes definitions of the specific categories and details on specific forms of abuse eg sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation (CCE) and child on child abuse. All school staff need to understand the need to be particularly vigilant, taking advice from the DSL if they believe they identify a child who may need extra support or referred to an external agency. Also they should recognise that even if there are no reported cases of child on child abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not being reported.

Impact of abuse

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

Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school or college and/or can occur between children outside the school or college. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) will consider the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur.

Children's social care assessments will consider such factors so it is important that schools and colleges provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and the full context of any abuse.

Taking Action

Any child, in any family in any school could become a victim of abuse. Staff should always maintain an attitude of "it could happen here".

Victims will be taken seriously and will be supported and kept safe. Child on Child Abuse

Peer abuse is behaviour by an individual or group, intending to physically, sexually or emotionally hurt others.

KCSIE (2022) makes particular reference to child-on-child abuse

It is essential that all our staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers, (many of which are listed below)

WE HAVE A ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACH TO SEXUAL ABUSE OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as “just banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys” can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

All staff should recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. All staff should be aware of safeguarding issues from peer abuse including:

- bullying (including online bullying)
physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- sexual violence and sexual harassment
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

This abuse can:

- Be motivated by perceived differences e.g. on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other differences
- Result in significant, long lasting and traumatic isolation, intimidation or violence to the victim; vulnerable adults are at particular risk of harm Children or young people who harm others may have additional or complex needs e.g.:
- Significant disruption in their own lives
- Exposure to domestic abuse or witnessing or suffering abuse
- Educational under-achievement
- Involved in crime

Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is the first priority of any education setting, but emotional bullying can sometimes be more damaging than physical. School staff, alongside their Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Deputy, have to make their own judgements about each specific case and should use this policy guidance to help.

2. Responsibility

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), 2022 states that

‘Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure their child protection policy includes procedures to minimise the risk of child on child abuse and sets out how allegations of child on child abuse will be investigated and dealt with’.

It also emphasises that the voice of the child must be heard

‘Governing bodies, proprietors and school or college leaders should ensure the

child’s wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide.

Systems should be in place for children to express their views and give feedback. Ultimately, all system and processes should operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.’

At Slaley First School we continue to ensure that any form of abuse or harmful behaviour is dealt with immediately and consistently to reduce the extent of harm to the young person, with full consideration to the impact on that individual child’s emotional and mental health and well-being.

3. Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is also to explore child on child abuse. The policy also includes a planned and supportive response to the issues. At Slaley First School we have the following policies in place that should be read in conjunction with this policy:

This policy is supported by the key principles of the Children's Act, 1989 that the child's welfare is paramount. Another key document is Working Together, 2018, highlighting that every assessment of a child, 'must be informed by the views of the child'. (Working Together, 2018:21) This is echoed by Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021 through ensuring procedures are in place in schools and settings to hear the voice of the child.

- Staff should be aware of the potential uses of information technology for bullying and abusive behaviour between young people.
- Staff should be aware of the added vulnerability of children and young people who have been the victims of violent crime (for example mugging), including
- the risk that they may respond to this by abusing younger or weaker children.

The alleged perpetrator is likely to have considerable unmet needs as well as posing a significant risk of harm to other children. Evidence suggests that such children may have suffered considerable disruption in their lives, may have witnessed or been subjected to physical or sexual abuse, may have problems in their educational development and may have committed other offences. They may therefore be suffering, or be at risk of suffering, significant harm and be in need of protection. Any long-term plan to reduce the risk posed by the alleged perpetrator must address their needs.

6. Types of abuse

There are many forms of abuse that may occur between peers and this list is not exhaustive. Each form of abuse or prejudiced behaviour is described in detail followed by advice and support on actions to be taken. (See Appendix A) Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Sexually harmful behaviour from young people is not always contrived or with the intent to harm others. There may be many reasons why a young person engages in sexually harmful behaviour and it may be just as distressing to the young person who instigates it as to the young person it is intended towards. Sexually harmful behaviour may include:

- inappropriate sexual language
- inappropriate role play
- sexual touching
- sexual assault/abuse.

Staff should be aware of the importance of:

- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up
- Upskirting: where someone takes a picture under a person's clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without permission and or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.

At Slaley First School we understand the importance of recognising this abuse.

Staff should recognise that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys perpetrators but at Slaley First School, all sexual abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Bullying

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behaviour among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both young people who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behaviour must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Young people who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm
- others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they
- involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviours happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.
- Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumours, attacking someone physically or verbally or for a particular reason e.g. size, hair colour, gender, sexual orientation, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Online Bullying

Online Bullying is the use of technology (social networking, messaging, text messages, e- mail, chat rooms etc.) to harass threaten or intimidate someone for the same reasons as stated above. Online bullying can take many forms

- Abusive or threatening texts, emails or messages
- Posting abusive comments on social media sites
- Sharing humiliating videos or photos of someone else
- Stealing someone's online identity
- Spreading rumours online
- Trolling – sending someone menacing or upsetting messages through social networks, chatrooms or games
- Developing hate sites about another person
- Prank calls or messages
- Group bullying or exclusion online
- Anonymous messaging
- Encouraging a young person to self-harm
- Pressuring children to send sexual messages or engaging in sexual conversations

Where there is a safeguarding concern Governing bodies and school leaders should ensure the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide.

Sexting / Sharing nude or indecent imagery

The term 'sexting' relates to the sending of indecent images, videos and/or written messages with sexually explicit content; these are created and sent electronically. They are often 'shared' via social networking sites and instant messaging services. Upskirting: typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence.

This must always be referred immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead DSL will follow the UKCIS: Sexting in schools and colleges 2016 guidance.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/551575/6.243

[9 KG NCA Sexting in Schools WEB 1 .PDF](#)

Initiation/Hazing

Hazing is a form of initiation ceremony which is used to induct newcomers into an organisation such as a private school, sports team etc. There are a number of different forms, from relatively mild rituals to severe and sometimes violent ceremonies. The ceremony welcomes newcomers by subjecting them to a

series of trials which promote a bond between them. After the hazing is over, the newcomers also have something in common with older members of the organisation, because they all experienced it as part of a rite of passage.

Many rituals involve humiliation, embarrassment, abuse, and harassment.

Prejudiced Behaviour

The term prejudice-related bullying refers to a range of hurtful behaviour, physical or emotional or both, which causes someone to feel powerless, worthless, excluded or marginalised, and which is connected with prejudices around belonging, identity and equality in wider society – for example disabilities and special educational needs, ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, gender, home life, (for example in relation to care, parental occupation, poverty and social class) and sexual identity. Key points for staff to remember for taking action are:

- in an emergency take the action necessary to help the child, if necessary call 999
- report your concern as soon as possible to the DSL, definitely by the end of the day
- do not start your own investigation
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends or family
- complete a written record (CPOMS)
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed.

Procedures to minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse If you are concerned about a pupil's welfare

There will be occasions when staff may suspect that a pupil may be at risk but have no 'real' evidence. The pupil's behaviour may have changed or their patterns of attendance may have altered. In these circumstances, staff will try to give the pupil the opportunity to talk. The signs they have noticed may be due to a variety of factors, for example, a parent has moved out, a pet has died, a grandparent is very ill or an accident has occurred. It is fine for staff to ask the pupil if they are OK or if they can help in any way.

Record keeping

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded on CPOMS. Information should be kept confidential and stored securely.

Records 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.

Staff should record these early concerns on CPOMS. If the pupil does begin to reveal that they are being harmed, staff should follow the advice below.

Following an initial conversation with the pupil, if the member of staff remains concerned, they should discuss their concerns with the DSL.

Concerns which do not meet the threshold for child protection intervention will be managed through the Early Help process <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Family/Support.aspx#earlyhelpassessmentforms>

If a pupil discloses to you

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

Sometimes they may not be aware that what is happening is abusive.

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

During their conversations with the pupils staff will:

- allow them to speak freely
- remain calm and not overreact – the pupil may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting their listener
- give reassuring nods or words of comfort – 'I'm so sorry this has happened', 'I want to help', 'This isn't your fault', 'You are doing the right thing in talking to me'

- not be afraid of silences – staff must remember how hard this must be for the pupil
- **Under no circumstances** ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings too, or what does the pupil's mother think about all this
- at an appropriate time tell the pupil that in order to help them, the member of staff must pass the information on and explain to whom and why
- not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort. It may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused
- avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing earlier. Saying things such as 'I do wish you had told me about this when it started' or 'I can't believe what I'm hearing' may be the staff member's way of being supportive but may be interpreted by the child to mean that they have done something wrong
- tell the pupil what will happen next. The pupil may agree to go to see the designated senior person. Otherwise let them know that someone will come to see them before the end of the day.
- report verbally to the DSL even if the child has promised to do it by themselves
- seek support if they feel distressed.

Notifying parents

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

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

Referral to children's social care

- **The DSL will make a referral to children's social care** if it is believed that a pupil is **suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm**.
- The pupil (subject to their age and understanding) and the parents will be told that a referral is being made, unless to do so would increase the risk to the
- child.
- Any member of staff may make a direct referral to children's social care if they genuinely believe independent action is necessary to protect a child.
- The DSL should keep relevant staff informed about actions taken, they do not need to share all information but staff must be confident their concerns have been actioned

Confidentiality and Sharing Information

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

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

Child protection information will be stored and handled in line with the Data Protection Act 1998 and GDPR. Information sharing is guided by the following principles. The information is:

- necessary and proportionate
- relevant
- adequate
- accurate
- timely
- secure

Information sharing decisions will be recorded, whether or not the decision is taken to share.

CPOMS Screens should be switched to 'BLANK SCREEN' if the computer has to be left unattended for any amount of time.

The DSL will normally obtain consent from the pupil and/or parents to share sensitive information within the school or with outside agencies. Where there is good reason to do so, the DSL may share information *without* consent, and will record the reason for not obtaining consent.

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

The Data Protection Act and GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping a child safe.

The school's confidentiality and information-sharing policy is available to parents and pupils on request and is available from the school office and published on the school website.

Investigations that involve the Police Authority

In line with guidance in KCSIE 23, the DSL at Salley First school will ensure that, in the case of a police investigation of any sort, an appropriate adult will "support, advise and assist" the young person, and also "observe whether the police are acting properly and fairly to respect the young persons rights and entitlements.

The child's wishes.

Where there is a safeguarding concern, governing bodies, proprietors and school or college leaders should ensure the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. Systems should be in place for children to express their views and give feedback. Ultimately, all systems and processes should operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

Reporting directly to child protection agencies

Staff should follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy particularly those concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect. However, they may also share information directly with children's social care, police or the NSPCC if:

- the situation is an emergency and the designated senior person, their deputy, the head teacher and the chair of governors are all unavailable
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the pupil's safety
- for any other reason they make a judgement that direct referral is in the best interests of the child.
- they believe there is a conflict of interest in reporting to the Headteacher.

Work Experience

The school has detailed procedures to safeguard pupils undertaking work experience, including arrangements for checking people who provide placements and supervise pupils on work experience which are in accordance with the guidance in *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023)*

Children staying with host families

The school may make arrangements for pupils to stay with a host family during a foreign exchange trip or sports tour. The school will ensure that hosting arrangements are as safe as possible.

Some overseas pupils may reside with host families during school terms and we will work with the local authority to check

that such arrangements are safe and suitable

Children who move on to another school

In line with KCSIE 22 guidance, Where children leave Slaley First School, the DSL will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school **within 5 days** for an in-year transfer or within the ***first 5 days*** of the start of a new term to allow the new school to have support in place for when the child arrives.

Our designated safeguarding lead who has responsibility for Child Protection issues is:

Mrs Angela Hayward (Headteacher) Last trained October 2021

Mrs. Rachel O'Neill

Last Trained - April 2022

Lead governor for Safeguarding / E-safety

Mrs. Melissa Baynes

Our E-Safety Coordinator is: Mrs. Angela Hayward (Headteacher)

Safer Recruitment and Selection online training

One member of the selection panel for staff appointments must have completed either the on-line or face-to-face safer recruitment training

Currently the following people are trained in safer recruitment:

Mrs. Melissa Baynes (Chair of Governors) Mrs. Angela Hayward (Headteacher)

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	Definitions of Abuse and other harmful behaviour
APPENDIX B	LA and NSSP contacts
APPENDIX C	Standards for effective child protection practice in schools
APPENDIX D	Frequently asked questions
APPENDIX E	Children who go missing from education
APPENDIX F	Dealing with indecent or potentially illegal images of children
APPENDIX G	Dealing with allegations against people who work with children
APPENDIX H	School child protection files – a guide to good practice

APPENDIX A

Five categories of abuse Physical abuse

Physical abuse is a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer

fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child. (this used to be called Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, but is now more usually referred to as fabricated or induced illness).

Emotional abuse

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

Sexual Abuse

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

Neglect

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

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Child on Child Abuse

Peer abuse is behaviour by an individual or group, intending to physically, sexually or emotionally hurt others (see **child on child abuse** above).

Indicators of abuse

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

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

A child who is being abused, neglected or exploited may:

- have bruises, bleeding, burns, fractures or other injuries

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

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

Additional examples of abuse are outline below, with details provided in Appendix

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Section Two of KCSIE 23 outlines concerns or allegations that do not meet the harm threshold.

Governing bodies and proprietors should have policies and processes to deal with any concerns or allegations which do not meet the harm threshold, referred to in this guidance as 'low-level' concerns. It is important that schools and colleges have appropriate policies and processes in place to manage and record any such concerns and take appropriate action to safeguard children.

Low-level concerns

As part of our whole school approach to safeguarding, Slaley First School will ensure that an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the school will be promoted. Creating a culture in which all concerns about adults are shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with appropriately, is paramount to Slaley First School.

Inappropriate, problematic or concerning behaviour will be identified early hence minimising the risk of abuse and ensuring that adults working in or on behalf of our school are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries in accordance with the ethos and values of Slaley First School.

What is a low-level concern?

A low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' - that an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college 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 harm threshold or is otherwise not serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

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

- being over friendly with children
- having favourites
- taking photographs of children on their mobile phone, contrary to school policy
- engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door, or
- humiliating children.

Such behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum, from the inadvertent or thoughtless, or behaviour that may look to be inappropriate, but might not be in specific circumstances, through to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse.

Low-level concerns may arise in several ways and from a number of sources. For example: suspicion; complaint; or disclosure made by a child, parent or other adult within or outside of the organisation; or as a result of vetting checks undertaken. It is crucial that all low-level concerns are shared responsibly with the right person and recorded and dealt with appropriately. Ensuring they are dealt with effectively should also protect those working in or on behalf of schools and colleges from becoming the subject of potential false low-level concerns or misunderstandings.

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

Human Trafficking

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate care. A trafficking case may involve a range of agencies such as the police, local authorities and charities and the NRM makes it easier for these agencies to work together. If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999. If you receive information on a potential trafficker or you think a child is a victim of trafficking:

- Professionals: contact the [Child Trafficking Advice Centre \(CTAC\)](#)
- General public: [contact the NSPCC](#) to discuss concerns with one of our
- counsellors, or you can contact your local police or children's services (01670 534000).

Honour based violence

So-called ‘honour-based’ violence (HBV) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. All forms of so called HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. If in any doubt, staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV, or already having suffered HBV.

Indicators

There are a range of potential indicators that a child may be at risk of HBV. Guidance on the warning signs that FGM or forced marriage may be about to take place, or may have already taken place, can be found on pages 38-41 of the Multi agency statutory guidance on FGM (pages 59-61 focus on the role of schools and colleges) Handling case of forced marriage.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

Female genital Mutilation

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external

female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon **teachers** along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under

18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears

to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies. Information on when and how to make a report can be found at Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information.

Teachers **must** personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should also still consider and discuss any such case with the school or college’s designated safeguarding lead and involve children’s social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers should follow local safeguarding procedures.

Symptoms of FGM

FGM may be likely if there is a visiting female elder, there is talk of a special procedure or celebration to become a woman, or parents wish to take their daughter out-of-school to visit an ‘at-risk’ country (especially before the summer holidays), or parents who wish to withdraw their children from learning about FGM. Staff should not assume that FGM only happens outside the UK.

Indications that FGM may have already taken place may include:

- difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may even look uncomfortable.
- spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating.
- spending long periods of time away from the classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems.
- frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems
- prolonged or repeated absences from school or college, especially with noticeable behaviour changes (e.g. withdrawal or depression) on the girl’s return
- reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations.
- confiding in a professional without being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.
- talking about pain or discomfort between her legs

Forced marriage

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. 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. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some communities use religion and culture as a way to

coerce a person into marriage. Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage. School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fmfu@fco.gov.uk and more information can be accessed using the following link https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322307/HMG_MULTI_AGENCY_PRACTICE_GUIDELINES_v1_180614_FINAL.pdf

Recognising Extremism

Some children are more susceptible to extremist ideology

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

showing sympathy for extremist causes

- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives,

programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent.)

- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, artwork or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Indicators of child sexual exploitation may include:

- Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones, etc. without plausible explanation;
- Gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks;
- Exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work;
- Leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late;
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls;
- Returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol;
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age/sexually transmitted infections;
- Evidence of/suspicions of physical or sexual assault;
- Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups;
- Multiple callers (unknown adults or peers);
- Frequenting areas known for sex work;
- Concerning use of the Internet or other social media;
- Increasing secretiveness around behaviours; and
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

Potential vulnerabilities include:

Although the following vulnerabilities increase the risk of child sexual exploitation, it must be remembered that not all children with these indicators will be exploited.

Child sexual exploitation can occur without any of these issues.

- Having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse;
- Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example);
- Recent bereavement or loss;
- Social isolation or social difficulties;
- Absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality;

- Economic vulnerability;
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status;
 - Connections with other children and young people who are being sexually exploited;
 - Family members or other connections involved in adult sex work;
 - Having a physical or learning disability or health condition;
 - Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories); and
- Sexual identity.

Child criminal exploitation: county lines

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered. Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding has been developed by Carlene Firmin at the University of Bedfordshire over the past six years to inform policy and practice approaches to safeguarding adolescents. Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra- familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Therefore children's social care practitioners need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts

<https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/about/what-is-contextual-safeguarding>

Advice Area	Contact
Discussion about a CP or child welfare referral and advice on the operation of CP/Safeguarding Procedures , how to refer and where	<p>If this is a new contact then please ring:-</p> <p>OneCall: 01670 536400</p> <p>The online referral form is available at online referral form</p>
Allegations against people working with children	Louise Prudhoe (DO) 01670 623979
Queries in relation to the model CP policy for schools or related guidance	Carol Leckie 01670 622720
HR advice for schools	SchoolsHR@northumberland.gov.uk
MAPPA – Risk Management re individuals who may pose a risk to children	Neil O’Toole neil.o’toole@northumberland.gov.uk
Monitoring/Quality Assurance re operation of schools safeguarding arrangements	<p>Jane Walker 01670 622734</p> <p>Or Carol Leckie 01670 622720</p>

APPENDIX E Standards for effective child protection practice in schools

A school should measure its standards with regard to safeguarding against the expectations of the Ofsted Framework (Refer to [Early years inspection handbook for Ofsted registered provision May 2019](#)) and [Ofsted Safeguarding Guidance](#)

and the arrangements of the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP)

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/northumberlandcs/index.html>

In best practice, schools:

- operate safe recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to DfE guidance on safer recruitment, including the maintenance of a single central register of all staff (including volunteers) with DBS numbers and training record;
- have an ethos in which children feel secure, their viewpoints are valued, and they are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
- provide suitable support and guidance so that pupils have a range of appropriate adults to whom they can turn if they are worried or in difficulties;
- work with parents to build an understanding of the school’s responsibility to ensure the welfare of all children and a recognition that this may occasionally require children to be referred to investigative agencies as a constructive and helpful measure;
- are vigilant in cases of suspected child abuse, recognising the signs and indicators, have clear procedures

whereby teachers report such cases to senior staff and are aware of local procedures so that information is effectively passed on to the relevant professionals;

- monitor children who have been identified as at risk, keeping, *in a secure place*, clear records of pupils' progress, maintaining sound policies on confidentiality, providing information to other professionals, submitting reports to case conferences and attending case conference. Staff should not disclose any information to anyone unless they are told to do so by a relevant authority involved in the safeguarding process;
- provide and support child protection updates regularly to school staff and in particular to designated teachers every two years to ensure their skills and expertise are up to date.
- people on this and on both positive behaviour policies and the school's approach to bullying;
- have a clear understanding of the various types of bullying - physical, verbal and indirect, and act promptly and firmly to combat it, making sure that pupils are aware of the school's position on this issue and who they can contact for support;
- take particular care that pupils with additional needs in mainstream and special schools, who may be especially vulnerable to abuse, are supported
- effectively with particular attention paid to ensuring that those with communication difficulties are supported to express themselves to a member of staff with appropriate communicative skills;
- have a clear policy about the handling of allegations of abuse by members of staff, ensuring that all staff are fully aware of the procedures and that they are followed correctly at all times, using the guidance
- have a written whole school policy, produced, owned and regularly reviewed by schools staff and which clearly outlines the school's position and positive action in respect of the aforementioned standards.

Appendix D- Frequently Asked Questions

Q What do I do if I hear or see something that worries me?

A Tell the designated member of staff or head teacher.

If that is not possible, telephone Children's Services (OneCall 01670 536400) as quickly as possible. (In an emergency call 999 for the police)

If staff discover through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18 it must be reported to the police.

Q What are my responsibilities for child protection?

A

- To know the name of your Designated Safeguarding Lead and who to contact if they are not available
- **To respond** appropriately to a child
- **To report** to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or directly to Social Care if that is not possible
- **To record** your concerns, using your schools agreed paperwork

Don't do nothing

Q Can I go to find someone else to listen?

A No! You should never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.

Can I promise to keep a secret?

No! The information becomes your responsibility to share in order to protect. As an adult, you have a duty of care towards a child or young person **Can I ask the child questions?**

No! Nor can you make judgements or say anything about the alleged abuser; it may be construed as contriving responses.

You **can** ask a child to repeat a statement.

Do I need to write down what was said?

Yes, as soon as possible, exactly what was said. Use your school's agreed recording system (CPOMS)

Appendix E- Children Missing Education

Northumberland Safeguarding Board procedures

http://northumberlandlscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_child_miss_edu.htm

National Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education>

Northumberland Safeguarding Board Procedures can be found at

http://northumberlandlscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/esafety_social_media.pdf

Appendix G Dealing with allegations against people who work with children

What is a Designated Officer or DO?

The role of the DO was initially set out in the HM Government guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 and continues in Working Together 2018.

The DO works within Children's Services and should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
- possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.

This role applies to paid, unpaid, volunteer, casual, agency and self-employed workers and all adults outside the school workforce. They capture concerns, allegations or offences; this can include concerns about their own personal life, e.g incidents of domestic violence or child protection concerns relating to their own family.

If there is an allegation against the Headteacher then concerns should be reported directly to the Chair of Governors and DO.

The DO is involved from the initial phase of the allegation through to the conclusion of the case. They will provide advice, guidance and help to determine whether the allegation sits within the scope of the procedures. **Schools should seek advice from the DO as soon as an allegation is made.**

The DO coordinates information-sharing with the right people and will also monitor and track any investigation, with the aim to resolve it as quickly as possible – The DO for Northumberland is

Louise Prudhoe **LADO@northumberland.gov.uk or by telephone on 01670 623979**

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding/Safeguarding-children-information-for-professional.aspx#designatedofficerpreviouslylado>

Appendix H- School Child Protection Files – a guide to good practice

Child protection file should include:

Copy of referral form

- Minutes of strategy meetings
- Any written submission to a child protection conference / child protection plan review
- Minutes of child protection conference / child protection plan reviews
- Log of phone calls / contact with parent/carer and professionals

All safeguarding concerns raised with the DSL (whether or not they require referral to Children's Social Care) should be recorded. This should include any action taken by the member of staff raising the concern and also any action taken by the designated person (eg talking to child individually, contacting parents, taking advice from other professionals etc). These records should be kept, as with a child protection file, securely, separate to the child's main school file.

At the point of transfer to another school, child protection records should be transferred, securely and directly from DSL to DSL, separate to the child's main school file. School should ensure a record of posting is maintained and that the receiving school records receipt of documents. The main school file should have a 'flag' which shows that additional information is held by the DSL.

Updated September 2023

Next Review – September 2024