

# CROSSHALL JUNIOR SCHOOL

## SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



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## INTRODUCTION

Crosshall Junior School fully recognises the responsibility it has under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and the Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act, 2021 to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This responsibility is more fully explained in the statutory guidance for schools and colleges 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2021). All staff must be made aware of their duties and responsibilities under Part One of this document, which are set out below.

Staff should read the above document together with 'Annex B' of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021 and 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners' (March 2015) if they are working directly with children. For those staff who do not work directly with children or where English is a second language, Annex A can be issued instead but this is a matter for the school/college to decide.

Through their day-to-day contact with pupils and direct work with families all staff in school have a responsibility to:

- Identify concerns early to prevent them from escalating;
- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn;
- Identify children who may benefit from early help;
- Know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected;
- Follow the referral process if they have a concern.

This policy sets out how the school's governing body discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at the school. Our policy applies to all staff, paid and unpaid, working in the school including governors. Teaching assistants, mid-day supervisors, office staff as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child. Concerned parents/carers may also contact the school and its governors.

It is consistent with the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board procedures.

### **There are four main elements to our policy:**

**PREVENTION** through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils and the creation and maintenance of a whole school protective ethos;

**PROCEDURES** for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix A);

**SUPPORTING CHILDREN** particularly those who may have been abused or witnessed violence towards others;

### **PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

Processes are followed to ensure that those who are unsuitable to work with children are not employed.

This policy is available to parents on request and is on the school website.

## PREVENTION

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to protect children.

The school will therefore:

Establish and maintain an environment where children feel safe, including in a digital context, and are encouraged to talk and are listened to.

Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.

Incorporate into the curriculum, activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safer from abuse in all contexts, including:

- How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.
- How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed.
- The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.
- That some people behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful context and contact and how to report them.
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met.
- About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe.
- That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.
- How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.
- How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard.
- How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.
- Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.

We use P.S! - Healthy and Safer Lifestyles Unit from the Cambridgeshire PSHE Service Personal Development Programme. This Unit reinforces essential skills for every child. Self esteem and confidence building, thinking independently and making assessments of risk based on their own judgements are encouraged throughout the Unit.

## PROCEDURES

We will follow the procedures set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 'Inter-Agency Procedures'. A copy of these procedures can be found on their website:

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

### **The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:**

Dan Ainscow

### **The following members of staff have also received the Designated Safeguarding Lead training:**

Liam Murphy

### **The nominated governor for Safeguarding and Child Protection is:**

Carrie Meeks

### **The Governing body will:**

Appoint a senior member of staff, from the leadership team, to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, DDSL), the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSL and cannot be delegated.

Ensure that the role of DSL and DDSL is explicit in the role holder's job description.

Ensure that the DSL has the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post. Give the DSL the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. (See 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021, Annex C). Ensure that the DSL and deputies have undertaken the two day training provided by the Education Safeguarding Team and that this training is updated **at least every two years**.

Ensure that in addition to the formal training set out above, the DSL and DDSLs refresh their knowledge and skills e.g. via bulletins, meetings or further reading **at least annually**.

Ensure that every member of staff, paid and unpaid, and the governing body knows who the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are and the procedures for passing on concerns from the **point of induction**.

*Staff members are required to complete a logging concern form and pass it to the DSL or DDSL immediately. If there is a concern that the child is at risk of suffering significant harm such as through physical or sexual abuse, the member of staff must seek out the DSL/DDSL and inform them verbally. The DSL or DDSL will normally review these forms on the day that they are received or by the end of the next school day. As needed, actions will be delegated to appropriate members of staff who will, in normal circumstances, complete these within five school days of disclosure (see Appendix D). In order to ensure that we respond in a timely manner to disclosures, staff members must inform the DSL and DDSL that a logging concern form has been completed via email on the same day (see appendix D).*

Ensure that the DSL or DDSL are always available (during school hours, during term-time) to discuss any safeguarding concerns and that all staff are clear upon the course of action they must take if in exceptional circumstances the DSL and DDSL are not available.

*If in exceptional circumstances, the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Staff should call the designated safeguarding lead or designated person on their phones (numbers kept in school office on the 'Logging a Concern' folders). If still unable to contact the DSL/DDSL, staff should speak to a member of the senior leadership team and/or take advice from local children's social care. In these circumstances, any action taken should be shared with the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) as soon as is practically possible.*

Liaise with the three safeguarding partners (Local Authority, clinical commissioning group and police) as appropriate and work with other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018.

Nominate a governor for safeguarding and child protection who has undertaken appropriate training.

Ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:

- the name of the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies and their role;
- how to identify the signs of abuse and neglect;
- how to pass on and record concerns about a pupil/student;
- that they have an individual responsibility to be alert to the signs and indicators of abuse; and for referring safeguarding concerns to the DSL/DDSL;
- that they have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn;
- where to find the Inter-Agency Procedures on the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board website (<https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/lscbprocedures/> );
- their role in the early help process;
- the process for making referrals to children's social care;
- the safeguarding response to children who go missing in education.

Ensure all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. Ensure that staff training is regularly updated and that in addition to this training all staff members receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required **but at least annually**.

Ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies.

Ensure that parents are informed of the responsibility placed on the school and staff in relation to child protection by setting out these duties on the school website ([www.crosshalljunior.co.uk](http://www.crosshalljunior.co.uk))

Ensure that this policy is available publicly either via the school website ([www.crosshalljunior.co.uk](http://www.crosshalljunior.co.uk)) or by other means.

Help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children who have or have had a social worker are experiencing with teachers and school and college leadership staff.

Where pupils are educated off site or in alternative provision, the school and the provider will have clear procedures about managing safeguarding concerns between the two agencies. Written confirmation that the alternative provider has carried out appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working at the establishment will be sought by the school.

### School Procedures:

For school-organised activities, school will ensure that communication takes place between agencies (e.g. school and provider). When activities are taking place away from school, this will be the responsibility of the trip leader at events. Providers and school should both be aware of any relevant disclosures.

For school-organised activities which take place during the school day (8:45am - 3:20pm), staff will contact either the DSL, DDSL or another relevant member of SLT through the school phone system.

For school-organised activities outside school hours, staff will contact either the DSL, DDSL or another relevant member of SLT through their personal mobile phones. As part of organising trips, Trip Leaders will ensure that they have appropriate contact details and make DSL, DDSL and SLT aware of possible need.

## Liaison with Other Agencies

### The school will:

Work to develop effective links with relevant services to promote the safety and welfare of all pupils/students.

Co-operate as required, in line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' (July 2018), with key agencies in their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance and providing written reports at child protection conferences and core groups.

Notify the relevant Social Care Team immediately if:

- it should have to exclude a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan (whether fixed term or permanently);
- there is an unexplained absence of a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan;
- there is any change in circumstances to a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan.

When a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new school immediately. The Child Protection Chair and Social Work Team will also be informed.

## Record Keeping

### The school will:

Keep clear, detailed, accurate, written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Social Care immediately.

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate safeguarding file for each child.

Records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
- dates to show timescales for action;
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

Hardcopy safeguarding files should be kept confidential and stored securely.

Ensure all relevant safeguarding records are sent to the receiving school or establishment when a pupil moves schools, within five days, in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe

in Education, 2021, (page 148) and the Education Safeguarding Team's Guidance on Keeping and Managing Child Safeguarding Records.

The DSL will consider whether it would be appropriate to share information with the new school/college in advance of a child leaving.

Make parents aware that such records exist except where to do so would place the child at risk of harm.

Ensure all actions and decisions are led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child.

### **Confidentiality and information sharing**

Information about children and their families is defined as 'special category data', i.e. information that identifies a living individual. Collection, storage and sharing of personal data is governed by the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

#### **The school will:**

Ensure staff and volunteers adhere to confidentiality protocols and that information is shared appropriately.

Ensure staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children, (as set out in 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).

Ensure that if a member of staff receives a Subject Access Request (under the Data Protection Act 2018) from a pupil or parent they will refer the request to the DSL or Headteacher.

Ensure staff are clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets.

#### **The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies will:**

Disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a 'need to know' basis. Parental consent may be required.

Aim to gain consent to share information and be mindful of situations where to do so would place a child at increased risk of harm. Information may be shared without consent if a person believes that there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner.

Record when decisions are made to share or withhold information, who information has been shared with and why. (See 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' July 2018)

In cases where the 'serious harm test' is met, schools must withhold providing the data in compliance with schools' obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. Where in doubt schools should seek independent legal advice.

Seek advice about confidentiality from outside agencies if required. (See 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).

## Communication with Parents/Carers

### The school will:

Ensure that parents/carers are informed of the responsibility placed on the school and staff in relation to child protection by setting out its duties in the school prospectus/website.

Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of another agency unless the circumstances preclude this action.

Discuss with Children's Social Care if the school/college believes that notifying parents could place the child or another person at immediate risk of harm or prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. *[Further guidance on this can be found in the Effective Support for Children and Families in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough].*

Record what discussions have taken place with parents or if a decision has been made not to discuss it with parents, the rationale must be recorded. Records may subsequently be disclosable to relevant partner agencies if Child Protection proceedings commence.

## Peer on Peer Abuse

We recognise that peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This can include but is not limited to: bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); abuse within intimate partner relationships; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexual violence and sexual harassment; consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos; causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party; upskirting (part of the Voyeurism (Offences) Act, April 2019) and initiation/ hazing type violence and rituals. Addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

All forms of peer on peer abuse are unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

### The school will therefore:

Create a whole school protective ethos in which peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

Provide training for staff about recognising and responding to peer on peer abuse, including raising awareness of the gendered nature of peer abuse, with girls more likely to be victims and boys perpetrators.

Ensure that staff do not dismiss instances of peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment as an inevitable part of growing up.

Include within the curriculum, information and materials that support children in keeping themselves safe from abuse, including abuse from their peers and online.

Provide high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and/or enrichment programmes including teaching about consent.

Ensure that staff members follow the procedures outlined in this policy when they become aware of peer on peer abuse.

Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBT children are at greater risk.

### **Dealing with Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children**

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex from primary to secondary stage and into colleges. It can also occur online. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same school or college. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.

#### **The school will:**

Be clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

Provide training for staff on how to manage a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment.

Make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, offer appropriate support and take the wishes of the victim into account when decision making.

Implement measures to keep the victim, alleged perpetrator and if necessary other children and staff members, safe. Record any risk assessments and keep them under review.

Give consideration to the welfare of both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in these situations.

Liaise closely with external agencies, including police and social care, when required.

Refer to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education - Part Five', 2021, 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges,' (DfE, September, 2021) for full details of procedures to be followed in such cases. Also see 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' (UKCIS, December 2020)

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN

The school recognises that **any** child may be subject to abuse and that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation and as such will support all children by:

Providing curricular opportunities to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.

Creating an ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and safe environment and values the whole community.

Applying the school's behaviour policy effectively. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the child but does not damage the pupil's sense of self-worth. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.

Liaise with the Learning and Wellbeing Mentor where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health in school for advice on case management.

Liaising with other agencies which support the pupil such as Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service or Early Help Teams.

Promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances

The school recognises that whilst **any** child may benefit from early help, staff are encouraged to consider the wider environmental factors present in a child's life which could pose a threat to their welfare or safety, (contextual safeguarding). Staff are required to be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for children in

particular circumstances. Please see pages 8 – 9 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021 for the complete list. The list includes:

### **Children with Disabilities, Additional Needs or Special Educational Needs**

We recognise that, statistically, children with additional needs, special educational needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with complex and multiple disabilities and/or emotional and behavioural problems should be particularly sensitive to indicators of abuse.

The school has pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or challenging behaviours. The school will support staff to decide appropriate strategies that will reduce anxiety for the individual child and raise self-esteem as part of an overall behaviour support plan agreed with parents/carers.

As part of the PSHE curriculum staff will teach children personal safety skills commensurate with their age, ability and needs. Children will be taught personal safety skills such as: how to recognise if they are feeling unsafe including within family relationships and friendships; how to ask for help; the difference between safe and unsafe secrets; the difference between safe and unsafe physical contact; and how recognise and manage risk including in a digital context. The content of lessons will be shared with parents/carers so that these skills can be supported at home.

The school has pupils who may have communication difficulties and we are aware that they are vulnerable to abuse because they are unable to express themselves to others. Instead, such children will often exhibit changes in behaviours or signs and indicators of abuse recognised by staff with a good knowledge of the child.

Where necessary, the school will provide additional training to staff in the use of Makaton, PECS or other communication systems. Supervision by senior managers will be vigilant to create a protective ethos around the child.

We promote high standards of practice, including ensuring that disabled children know how to raise concerns, and have access to a range of adults with whom they can communicate.

### **Young Carers**

The school recognises that children who are living in a home environment which requires them to act as a young carer for a family member or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol can increase their vulnerability and that they may need additional support and protection.

School will: seek to identify young carers; offer additional support internally; signpost to external agencies; be particularly vigilant to the welfare of young carers and follow the procedures outlined in this policy, referring to Early Help or Social Care as required if concerns arise.

## **Children at Risk of Criminal Exploitation**

Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity. Drug networks or gangs exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas. Exploitation can occur even if activity appears to be consensual.

All staff will consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. School will address indicators of child criminal exploitation with staff through training. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of criminal exploitation arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

The school recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of child criminal exploitation, modern slavery and/or trafficking and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.

## **Children Frequently Missing Education**

School recognises that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities including abuse, neglect, child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, modern slavery, mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, and risk of FGM or forced marriage.

The school monitors attendance of individual pupils closely, as outlined in the Attendance Policy, and analyses patterns of absence to aid early identification of concerning patterns of absence.

The school endeavors to hold more than one emergency contact for each pupil to provide additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child missing education is identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.

When a child is missing from education, the school follows the procedure as set out in Cambridgeshire's Children Missing Education guidance. The school will inform Social Care if a missing child is subject to a Child Protection Plan or there have been ongoing concerns.

## **Children Misusing Drugs or Alcohol**

The discovery that a young person is misusing legal or illegal substances or reported evidence of their substance misuse is not necessarily sufficient in itself to initiate child protection proceedings but the school will consider such action in the following situations:

When there is evidence or reasonable cause:

- To believe the young person's substance misuse may cause him or her to be vulnerable to other abuse such as sexual abuse;
- To believe the pupil's substance related behaviour is a result of abuse or because of pressure or incentives from others, particularly adults;
- Where the misuse is suspected of being linked to parent/carer substance misuse.
- Where the misuse indicates an urgent health or safeguarding concern
- Where the child is perceived to be at risk of harm through any substance associated criminality

### **Children at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) 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.

CSE can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

Potential indicators of sexual exploitation will be addressed within staff training, including raising awareness with staff that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of abuse and may not recognise it as abuse. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of child sexual exploitation arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of CSE.

The school recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.

### **Children Living with Substance Misusing Parents/Carers**

Misuse of drugs and/or alcohol is strongly associated with Significant Harm to children, especially when combined with other features such as domestic violence.

When the school receives information about drug and alcohol abuse by a child's parents/carers they will follow appropriate procedures.

This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

- Use of the family resources to finance the parent's dependency, characterised by inadequate food, heat and clothing for the children
- Children exposed to unsuitable caregivers or visitors, e.g. customers or dealers
- The effects of alcohol leading to an inappropriate display of sexual and/or aggressive behaviour
- Chaotic drug and alcohol use leading to emotional unavailability, irrational behaviour and reduced parental vigilance
- Disturbed moods as a result of withdrawal symptoms or dependency
- Unsafe storage of drugs and/or alcohol or injecting equipment
- Drugs and/or alcohol having an adverse impact on the growth and development of the unborn child

## Children Living with Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of peer on peer abuse is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of 'domestic abuse' (if one or both parties are under 16).

Domestic Abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are 'personally connected' regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour.

The school recognises that where there is Domestic Abuse in a family, the children/young people will always be affected; the longer the violence continues, the greater the risk of significant and enduring harm, which they may carry with them into their adult life and relationships. Domestic Abuse can also affect children in their personal relationships as well as in the context of home life.

Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of Domestic Abuse arise. The school will vigilantly monitor the welfare of children living in domestic abuse households, offer support to them and contribute to any Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) safety plan as required.

At Crosshall Junior School we are working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire County Council to identify and provide appropriate support to pupils who have experienced domestic abuse in their home; this scheme is called Operation Encompass.

In order to achieve this, Cambridgeshire's Education Safeguarding Team will share police information of all domestic incidents, where one of our pupils has been present, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) (DSL)/Domestic Abuse (DA) Lead.

On receipt of any information, the DSL/DA Lead will decide on the appropriate support the child may require. The Operation Encompass information is stored in line with all other confidential safeguarding and child protection information. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools, Colleges and Early Years settings'.

### **Children at risk of 'Honour- Based' Abuse including Female Genital Mutilation**

So called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including breast ironing, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. The school takes these concerns seriously and staff are made aware of the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of HBA through training. Staff are required to treat all forms of HBA as abuse and follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

FGM is a procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. FGM is illegal in the UK. Any indication that a child is at risk of FGM, where FGM is suspected, or where the woman is under 18, will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy. Staff will report concerns to the DSL, who will make appropriate and timely referrals to social care. In these cases, parents will not be informed before seeking advice and the case will still be referred to social care even if it is against the pupil's wishes.

In accordance with the Female Genital Mutilation Act, it is a statutory duty for teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' cases of FGM in under-18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. Teachers should still consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve social care as appropriate, but the teacher will personally report to the police that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out.

### **Children who have returned home to their family from care**

The school recognises that a previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable. School will vigilantly monitor the welfare of previously looked after children, keep records and notify Social Care as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern in accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 'Inter - Agency Procedures.'

### **Children showing signs of Abuse and/or Neglect**

School recognises that experiencing abuse or neglect may have an adverse impact on those children which may last into adulthood without appropriate intervention and support. School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Children who have experienced abuse or neglect may display this through their own behaviour, which may be challenging and defiant or passive and withdrawn. We recognise that children may develop abusive behaviours and that these children may need to be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.

All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school or college and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.

School will provide training for staff to ensure that they have the skills to identify and report cases, or suspected cases, of abuse in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.

### **Children at Risk of Radicalisation**

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a schools' or colleges' safeguarding approach.

The governing body will ensure that the DSL has undertaken Prevent awareness training and that all staff receive training about the Prevent Duty.

Staff are required to be alert to changes in children's behavior which could indicate they need help or protection. Concerns that a child is at risk of radicalisation are referred to the DSL in the usual way. The school's/college's designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral.

See also 'The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers', DfE (June 2015), and 'Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales,' HM Government, (July 2015).

### **Privately Fostered Children**

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16, (under 18 if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or relative in their own home for 28 days or more.

The school will follow the mandatory duty to inform the local authority of any 'Private Fostering' arrangements and refer to the Specialist Fostering Team.

## Children who have Family Members in Prison

The school is committed to supporting children and young people who have a parent or close relative in prison and will work with the family to find the best ways of supporting the child.

The school recognises that children with family members in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including: poverty, stigma, isolation, poor mental health and poor attendance.

The school will treat information shared by the family in confidence and it will be shared on a 'need to know' basis.

The school will work with the family and the child to minimise the risk of the child not achieving their full potential.

## PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN

The school will operate safer recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to Part Three of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021. This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Safer Recruitment Policy.

The governing body will ensure that at least one of the persons who conducts an interview has completed safer recruitment training.

### The following members of staff have undertaken Safer Recruitment training

Anne Eardley  
Sarah Clee

## Allegations that may meet the harms threshold (Part Four, Section One)

Any allegation of abuse made against a member of staff (including supply staff and volunteers) that meets the harms threshold as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021, Part Four, Section One, will be reported straight away to the Head Teacher or Principal.

In cases where the Head Teacher or Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors. The school will follow the procedures set out in Part Four of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021.

The school will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, volunteer or agency/supply staff and adhere to the relevant procedures set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021 and the school's HR Policies, and seek advice from their HR provider.

The Headteacher or Chair of Governors will ensure that all allegations are reported to the LADO within one working day. The LADO will advise on all further action to be taken.

Before contacting the LADO, schools and colleges should conduct basic enquiries in line with local procedures to establish the facts to help them determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation, being careful not to jeopardise any future police investigation.

Where the school or college identify a child has been harmed they should contact children's social care and as appropriate the police immediately.

#### School/college will consider:

- **Looking after the welfare of the child** - the designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that the child is not at risk and referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care.
- **Investigating and supporting the person subject to the allegation** - the case manager should discuss with the LADO, the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action.

The school will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff, supply staff or volunteers relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff, supply staff or volunteer is no longer employed at the school and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities and professional bodies and included in references where applicable.

Staff (including supply staff and volunteers) 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 should not be an automatic response when an allegation is reported. However, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected.

#### Concerns that do not meet the harms threshold (Part Four, Section Two)

Low level concerns that do not meet the harms threshold should be reported to the Headteacher. NB: The term low level does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the harms test.

In cases where the Head Teacher is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors. The school will follow the procedures set out in Part Four of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021.

The school/college will deal with any such concern, no matter how small, where 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 allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

All low-level concerns should be recorded in writing. The record should include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, and action taken. The name of the individual sharing their concerns should also be noted, if the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible.

Schools and colleges can decide where these records are kept, but they must be kept confidential, held securely and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

Hard copies of Logging Concern documents including other relevant information are kept in locked areas within the main school office.

The school will promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the school or college (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately. This will enable the school/college to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of the school/college are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of the institution.

School/College should ensure that **all** staff, paid and unpaid, are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with pupils and parents/carers as advised within the Local Authority's Code of Conduct: 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (May 2019). As part of the Induction process, all staff, paid and unpaid, will receive guidance about how to create appropriate professional boundaries (in both the real and virtual world) with all children, especially those with a disability or who are vulnerable.

All staff have signed to confirm that they have read 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (May 2019).

The school will ensure that staff, supply staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with pupils aged under 18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of Position of Trust).

## **OTHER RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **Use of Mobile Phones Policy**

This is a requirement for all Nursery or primary schools with EYFS but any school may wish to adopt the policy.

Our policy on use of mobile phones, cameras and sharing of images is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually. It is recognised that personal mobile phones have the potential to be used inappropriately and therefore the school has developed a policy to outline the required protocol for all staff, students, volunteers and parents/carers.

## **GOVERNING BODY SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES**

Governing bodies should ensure they facilitate a whole school/college approach to safeguarding. This means ensuring safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. Ultimately, all systems, processes and policies should operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

The governing body fully recognises its responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It aims to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in school are effective and comply with the law and government guidance at all times.

It will:

- Nominate a governor for safeguarding who will take leadership responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements and practice and champion safeguarding issues.
- Ensure an annual safeguarding report is made to the full governing body and copied to the Education Safeguarding Team. Any weaknesses will be rectified without delay.
- Ensure that this Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is annually reviewed, ratified, updated and understood and followed by all staff.
- It will be published on the school website.
- Ensure that children's exposure to potential risks while using the internet is limited by having in place age appropriate filtering and monitoring systems.
- Ensure children's wishes and feelings are taken into account where there are safeguarding concerns.

## **Use of school/college premises for non-school/college activities**

If the governing body provides extended school/college facilities or before or after school activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for safeguarding as written in this policy shall apply.

Where services or activities are provided separately by another organisation or individual, either on or off school site, the governing body will seek assurance that they have appropriate policies and procedures in place to keep children safe and there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

**This policy was ratified on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and will be reviewed Autumn Term 2022**

**Signed by the Headteacher** .....

**Chair of Governors** .....

**This policy links to our:**

Anti-bullying policy  
Attendance policy (including Children Missing Education)  
Behaviour policy  
Complaints policy  
Critical Incident plan  
Equality policy  
First Aid policy  
Health and Safety policy  
Intimate Care policy  
Lone Working policy  
Online Safety and Acceptable Use policy  
Physical Intervention and/or Use of Reasonable Force policy  
Protocol for children not collected from school at the end of the school day/activity  
Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure  
Staff Code of Conduct/Safer Working Practice  
Staff Discipline Policy  
Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy  
Whistleblowing policy

## Appendix A

### Four categories of abuse

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

**Neglect** - 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.

It may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

It may involve the neglect of or lack of responsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

It also includes parents or carers failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-givers
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

**Emotional Abuse** - Is the persistent emotional maltreatment so as to cause severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child that they are:

- Worthless
- Unloved
- Inadequate
- Valued only insofar as they meet another person's needs

It may include:

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

It may also feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children including:

- interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability
- overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning

- preventing participation in normal social interaction.

It may involve:

- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another
- Serious bullying (including cyberbullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- The exploitation or corruption of children

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

**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.

This may involve:

- physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex)
- non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing
- non-contact activities involving:
  - children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images,
  - children in watching sexual activities
  - or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
  - grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

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

## Appendix B

### **Useful Contacts - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board –  
Safeguarding Inter-Agency Procedures  
<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

Education Safeguarding Team

[ECPS.General@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ECPS.General@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit

Tel: 101

### **Useful Contacts - Cambridgeshire**

Education Safeguarding Manager – Sara Rogers  
[sara.rogers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:sara.rogers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Early Help Hub (EHH)

Tel: 01480 376666

Customer Service Centre – social care referrals

Tel: 0345 045 5203

Emergency Duty Team (out of hours)

Tel: 01733 234724

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)  
[LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01223 727967

Senior Education Adviser – Phil Nash

Tel: 01223 699448

### **Useful Contacts - Peterborough**

Education Safeguarding Lead – Sue Proffitt  
[susan.proffitt@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:susan.proffitt@peterborough.gov.uk)

Early Help

Tel: 01733 863649

Customer Service Centre – social care referrals

Tel: 01733 864180

Emergency Duty Team (Out of hours)

Tel: 01733 234724

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)  
Gisela Jarman  
Jane Bellamy

Tel: 01733 864038

Tel: 01733 864790

## **Relevant Documents**

“Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges” (September 2021)

“Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings” (May 2019)

“Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers” (July 2018)

“The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers” (June 2015)

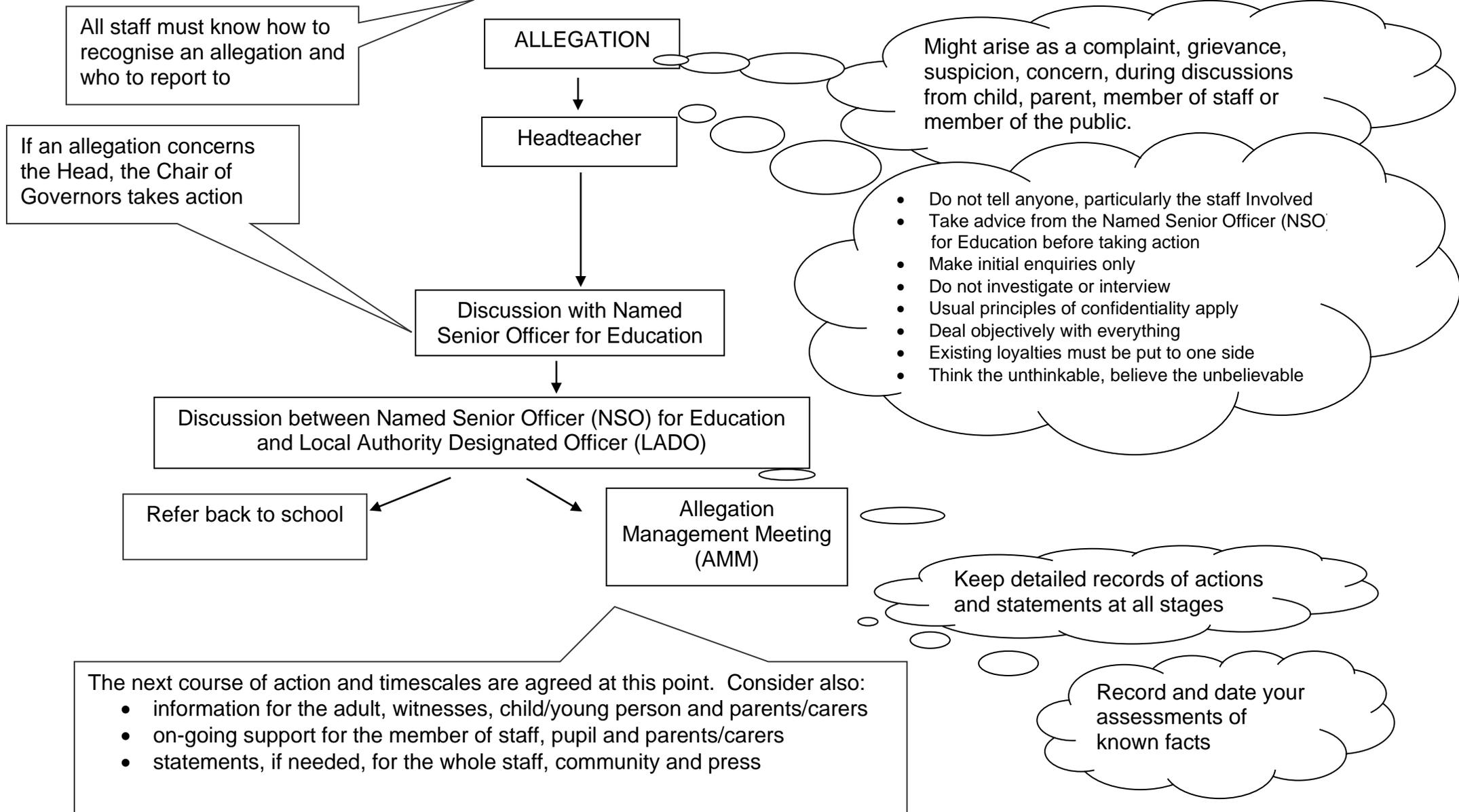
“Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales” (July 2015)

“Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges” (September, 2021)

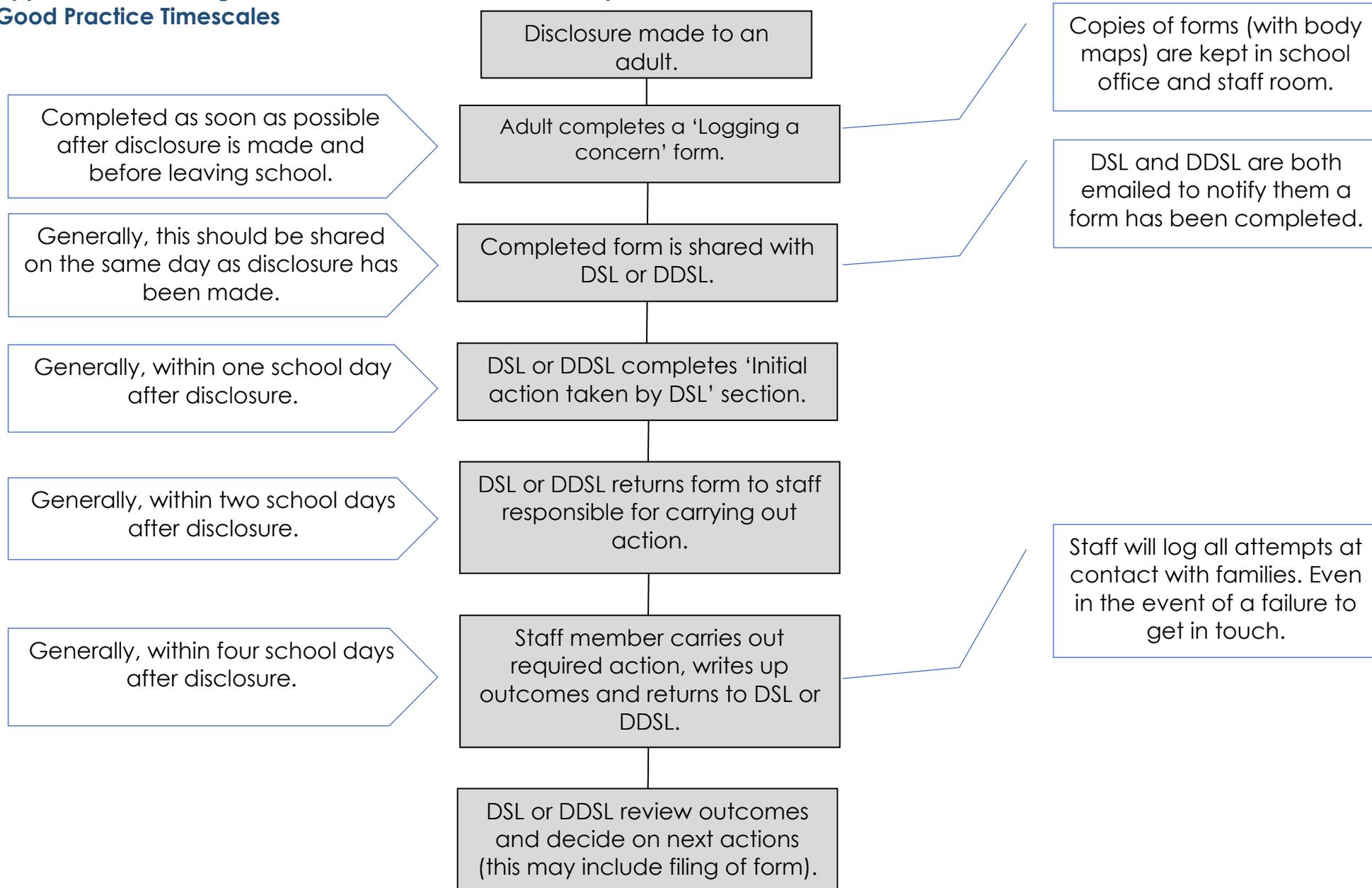
Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people (UKCIS, December 2020)

“What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners” (March, 2015)

“Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children” (July 2018)



## Appendix D - Dealing with a disclosure that does not require an immediate referral. Good Practice Timescales



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## Annex 1



### **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy COVID-19 school arrangements for**

#### **Crosshall Junior School**

**Crosshall Junior School: Crosshall Junior School  
Policy owner: Designated Safeguarding Leads  
Date: 05/01/21  
Date shared with staff: 05/01/21  
Date published on school website: 05/01/21**

This revised addendum of the Crosshall Junior School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements when schools need to close due to a lockdown, to protect all children, whether attending school or remaining at home, from harm and abuse.

Crosshall Junior School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and will ensure compliance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) which remains in force throughout the response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

The following safeguarding principles therefore remain unchanged:

- The best interests of children must always continue to come first;
- If anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately;
- A DSL or deputy should be available;
- It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children;
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online.

## Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Dan Ainscow	01480 475972	safeguarding@crosshalljunior.co.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Liam Murphy	01480 475972	safeguarding@crosshalljunior.co.uk
Headteacher	Anne Eardley	01480 475972	office@crosshalljunior.co.uk
Chair of Governors	Nick Abell	01480 475972	debbie.godfrey@crosshalljunior.co.uk
Designated Teacher – Looked After Children	Sarah Clee	01480 475972	office@crosshalljunior.co.uk

## Supporting Children In School

Crosshall Junior School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Crosshall Junior School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement protective measures including social distancing: implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings

The school continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of Covid-19.

Crosshall Junior School will continue to be a safe space for children to attend and flourish. We recognise that for those children returning to school as vulnerable children or the children of critical workers will be challenging and staff will support children to adjust to the necessary changes to the school environment and routines. Supporting pupil wellbeing will be at the forefront of our approach and school staff will seek to provide reassurance to pupils as we manage the transition period. Staff will talk to the children about the changes to the school day in an age appropriate manner, acknowledge and listen to pupil anxieties and support children to understand the altered routines.

Crosshall Junior School recognises that the current circumstances may adversely affect the mental health of children and their parents. School staff have been

briefed to look out for changes in behaviour or in a child's emotional state, which could range from being excessively clingy, fearful, withdrawn or aggressive as more children return to school. As always, pupil wellbeing is at the heart of our work, and school staff will seek to provide appropriate support for pupils both in school and where required from specialist services.

Crosshall Junior School recognises that for some children, home may not be a safe space, and there may be children who are relieved to return to school. School staff have been reminded of the need to respond sensitively to pupils' differing experiences. School staff have been asked to be particularly vigilant for signs and indicators that a child may have experienced/be experiencing abuse or neglect. School staff have been trained about how to handle a disclosure from a child, and understand that any safeguarding concerns, including those that relate to the period of school closure, must be referred immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies) in the usual way.

Crosshall Junior School will ask parents and carers to ensure that all personal details held by the school, such as emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. At this time, parents and carers will also be asked to advise the school if there are any changes regarding the child's welfare, health and wellbeing that it would help school to be made aware of. Where the school is aware of particular circumstances affecting a child or family, such as bereavement, a relationship breakdown, an incident of domestic violence, this will be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis so that children can be best supported.

### **Supporting Children Not in School**

Crosshall Junior School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people.

Crosshall Junior School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at Crosshall Junior School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Where the DSL has identified a child about whom there have been concerns but not currently open to social care, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan will be recorded, as should a record of all contact made.

Crosshall Junior School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

If we are unable to contact a child about whom there have been concerns after a reasonable number of attempts, we may need to seek further advice about safe and well checks.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

## **Vulnerable children**

All vulnerable children continue to be eligible to attend school full time during the period of lockdown.

Vulnerable children include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined, following risk assessment (risk assessment guidance), that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training'), those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the school and local authority's discretion

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those about whom there have been concerns but not currently open to Social Care.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Crosshall Junior School will continue to work with and support children's Social Workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's Social Workers and the Local Authority Virtual School Head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be Sarah Clee.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a Social Worker will attend an education setting, unless the child/household is shielding or clinically

vulnerable. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the Social Worker and Crosshall Junior School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Crosshall Junior School and Social Workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Crosshall Junior School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Crosshall Junior School or the Social Worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Crosshall Junior School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Crosshall Junior School will notify their Social Worker.

### **Attendance monitoring**

Crosshall Junior School will continue to follow up with any parent/carer if they were expecting the child to attend and they subsequently do not attend school. Non-attendance will be followed up in line with the school's normal attendance protocols.

Crosshall Junior School will continue to inform Children's Social Care if a child with a Social Worker does not attend school either in person or remotely.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead Arrangements**

Crosshall Junior School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Dan Ainscow

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Liam Murphy

We will endeavour to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not possible, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or email.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

It is important that all Crosshall Junior School staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). All staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them.

The DSL will continue to engage with Social Workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which are being held remotely.

### **Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. As well as completing a 'logging a concern' form staff should email **both** DSL and DDSL on the same day as disclosure is made about the completion of the form. This is in order to ensure there is no delay in action. The member of SLT responsible for co-ordinating safeguarding on site must also be informed.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the Headteacher according to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors:  
Nick Abell

### **Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Crosshall Junior School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check

- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

There is no requirement to obtain a new DBS check for returning staff who have continued to be employed but have not been working in regulated activity during partial school closures. If for any reason the school have concerns about an individual, new checks will be obtained in the usual way.

Where Crosshall Junior School are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 183 to 188 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Crosshall Junior School will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 179 of KCSIE.

Crosshall Junior School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 143 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk)

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Crosshall Junior School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 164 – 171 in KCSIE.

### **Online safety in schools and colleges**

Crosshall Junior School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

### **Children and online safety away from school and college**

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as

per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

School closures bring lots of challenges for both school staff and parents, and both are increasingly looking to the benefits of technology to continue delivering some form of learning experience for children.

As always, there are huge benefits to be gained from the appropriate use of technology, and accessing learning resources whilst at home is a great example of this. However, parents (and teachers) need to be aware of the potential risks that go along with this.

Crosshall Junior School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

Crosshall Junior School recognises that during any closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

### **Radicalisation**

School staff have received training about Prevent. The school has a Prevent Lead: Anne Eardley. All school staff are aware of the need to treat concerns about radicalisation as safeguarding concerns, and immediately share them with their Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies). DSLs continue to refer concerns about radicalisation to partner agencies, including Channel Panel which remains operational, in line with usual procedures.

The Department for Education has also published information here on [prevent management support for schools and colleges](#).

### **Children moving schools**

As always, where children join our school from other settings we will seek confirmation from the DSL whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided securely before the child begins at our

school and a call made from our DSL or a deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe.

In some unusual circumstance this may not be possible. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed Social Worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head.

Safeguarding information about children placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the child's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the child.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

**This policy has been remotely approved by Governors on 05/01/21 and is available on the school website at [www.crosshalljunior.co.uk](http://www.crosshalljunior.co.uk) .**

With thanks to the Stowe Valley MAT Central Team for the use of their template