



**The Sycamore  
Church of England  
Trust**

Grow together, Learn forever

# Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

**Applicable to:** All Trust Schools

**Adopted By:** Trust Board

**Date Adopted:** December 2025

**Authorised Signatory:**

Mr Ian Young – Trust  
Leader and CEO

Mr Mark Granby – Chair  
of Board of Trustees

**Review Period:** Annually

**Next Review:** December 2026



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## Version Control

Date	Updates/Changes
September 2022	Updates made throughout the policy to reflect the changes to KCSiE 2022
September 2023	Updates made throughout the policy to reflect the changes to KCSiE 2023
December 2024	Updates made throughout the policy to reflect the changes to KCSiE 2024
December 2025	Updates made throughout the policy to reflect the changes to KCSiE 2025

## Quick Reference Information

<b>Name of School: St John's CE Primary School, Radcliffe</b>		
<b>The Headteacher who has the ultimate responsibility for safeguarding is In their absence, the authorised member(s) of staff is/are: Headteacher: Mrs Tracey Cansdale (When headteacher is absent) Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Michelle Milne</b>		
<b>Key School Staff, Roles and Contact Details</b> Include Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) / Deputy DSLs, Pastoral Team / EH Coordinator / SENDCo as applicable		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Location and / or Contact Phone Number</b>
<b>Tracey Cansdale</b>	<b>Headteacher &amp; DSL</b>	St John's CE Primary School, Johnson Street, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 1AW Tel: 0161 723 1078 stjohns@thesycamoretrust.co.uk
<b>Michelle Milne</b>	<b>Deputy Headteacher &amp; DDSL</b>	
<b>Nicole Thompson</b>	<b>Teacher, KS2 Lead &amp; DDSL</b>	
<b>Elizabeth Cope</b>	<b>Safeguarding, EH &amp; Attendance Officer DDSL</b>	
<b>Heather Campbell</b>	<b>Pastoral Team &amp; DDSL</b>	
<b>Claire Hanson</b>	<b>SENDCo &amp; DDSL</b>	

<b>Governance Contacts</b>	<b>Contact Number and Email Address</b>
<b>Chair of Board of Trustees and Board Safeguarding Lead Mark Granby</b>	<b><a href="mailto:m.granby@thesycamoretrust.co.uk">m.granby@thesycamoretrust.co.uk</a> 0161 505 2519</b>
<b>Chair of Local Academy Governing Board Maria Boyle</b>	<b><a href="mailto:m.boyle@thesycamoretrust.co.uk">m.boyle@thesycamoretrust.co.uk</a> 0161 723 1078</b>
<b>Named Local Governor for Safeguarding and Prevent Maria Boyle</b>	<b><a href="mailto:m.boyle@thesycamoretrust.co.uk">m.boyle@thesycamoretrust.co.uk</a> 0161 723 1078</b>
<b>Named Local Governor for Online Safety Maria Boyle</b>	<b><a href="mailto:m.boyle@thesycamoretrust.co.uk">m.boyle@thesycamoretrust.co.uk</a> 0161 723 1078</b>

Our procedure if there is a concern about child welfare or safeguarding is:-

If the child is in immediate danger, inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead without delay. If you cannot contact either of these members of staff, contact MASH on 0161 253 5678 or - 0161 253 6606 (out of hours) If the child is not in immediate danger, input the concern on CPOMS and this will be followed up by the DSL.

## Early Help

<b>Vicki Burgess</b>  Prestwich & Whitefield v.burgess@bury.gov.uk 0161 253 7303	<b>Faye Higgens</b>  East & North f.higgens@bury.gov.uk 0161 253 6601	<b>Julie Barlow</b>  Radcliffe j.barlow@bury.gov.uk 0161 253 6573
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### Children's Social Care:

**MASH:** Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0161-253-5678 (8:45 – 4:45pm)

**Emergency Duty Team:** 0161-253-6606 (Out of Office hours)

**Initial Response Team (IRT):** 0161-253-5454 (for those already open to a Social Worker)

**Family Safeguarding Team (SGT):** 0161-253-6868 (for those already open to a Social Worker)

**Complex Safeguarding Team:** Contact MASH as above

**Care and Support Service (CASS):** 0161-253-6666 (for those open to a Social Worker)

**Virtual School Headteacher: Catherine Hobday-07583 015321** [c.hobday@bury.gov.uk](mailto:c.hobday@bury.gov.uk)

### Education Safeguarding:

#### Community Education and Safeguarding Manager

Gina Andrews – 0161-253-5811/07974-604-223 Email: [g.andrews@bury.gov.uk](mailto:g.andrews@bury.gov.uk)

#### Lead Safeguarding Officer for Schools/Colleges:

Lisa Ricketts 0161 253 5773/073516-186-267

Email – [l.ricketts@bury.gov.uk](mailto:l.ricketts@bury.gov.uk)

Our procedure if there is an allegation that an **adult** has harmed a child, or that a child is a risk from a named adult is:

Contact the Head Teacher immediately.

If the allegation or concern is about the Head Teacher, contact the Trust Leader, Mr. Ian Young, immediately. His contact number is: 0161 723 1078 (option 3).

When managing allegations that might indicate a person could pose a risk of harm if they continue to work in regular or close contact with children in their present position, or in any capacity with children at The Sycamore Church of England Trust.

This policy should be followed where it is alleged that anyone working in The Sycamore Church of England Trust that provides education for children under 18 years of age, including supply teachers and volunteers 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; or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

Allegations against a teacher who is no longer teaching should be referred to the Police. Historical allegations of abuse should also be referred to the Police.

**Police:** 101/999

**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):** Mark Gay – 0161-253-6168/ 07583877250  
[LADO@bury.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@bury.gov.uk)

## Statement of intent

The Sycamore Church of England Trust (known herewith as the Trust) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the physical, mental, and emotional welfare of every pupil, both inside and outside of the schools within the Trust. Schools implement a whole-school preventative approach to managing safeguarding concerns, ensuring that the wellbeing of pupils is at the forefront of all action taken.

This policy sets out a clear and consistent framework for delivering this promise, in line with safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance. It will be achieved by:

- Ensuring that members of the Board of Trustees, the headteacher and staff of each of our schools understand their responsibilities under safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, are alert to the signs of child abuse, and know to refer concerns to the DSL.
- Teaching pupils how to keep safe and recognise behaviour that is unacceptable.
- Identifying and making provision for any pupil that has been subject to, or is at risk of, abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- Creating a culture of safer recruitment by adopting procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk to children.
- Ensuring that the headteacher and any new staff and volunteers are only appointed when all the appropriate checks have been satisfactorily completed. DSLs are appointed within each of the Trust schools. In the absence of the DSL, child protection matters will be dealt with by the deputy DSL. Full contact details are available from each school reception and in the child protection and safeguarding policy. This policy aims to support, create and maintain a safe learning environment and culture where **all** children and adults feel safe, secure and valued and know they will be listened to and taken seriously.

This policy has been developed to ensure that all adults in our trust, including the Senior Leadership Team, regular staff, supply staff, volunteers and visitors, are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and to identify and address any safeguarding concerns and to ensure consistent good practice.

At The Sycamore Trust, we adopt a **child-centred** approach and we have a culture where **‘safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility’**.

‘Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.’

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people goes beyond implementing basic child protection procedures. The aims of this policy are in accordance with both our Mission Statement and our Equality Policy, and it is an integral part of all our activities and functions.

Under the Education Act 2002, schools have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils and are committed to the guidance set out in ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023’ and ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2025’ Our policy ensures that we comply with our statutory duties.

Our policy takes account of non-statutory guidance issued by the DfE and other relevant organisations.

Our policy ensures that we work in partnership with other organisations, where appropriate, to identify any concerns about child welfare and take action to address them and that we comply with local policies, procedures and arrangements.

At The Sycamore Trust, we are aware that our policy should be regularly reviewed, and we are responsive to new and updated guidance and legislation and to promoting the safety of our staff and pupils.

## Acronyms

This policy contains a number of acronyms used in the Education sector. These acronyms are listed below alongside their descriptions.

Acronym	Long form	Description
ACES	Adverse Childhood Experiences	Traumatic events which can have an impact on both children and/or adult's lives.
CCE	Child criminal exploitation	A form of abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, for the financial advantage or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator, and/or through violence or the threat of violence.
CLA/previously LAC	Child Looked After / Looked After Child	A child who has been placed in local authority care or children's services.
CME	Child Missing from Education	Children who are of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll and who are not receiving a suitable education by other means (e.g. privately, electively home educated (EHE) or in alternative provision).
CSC	Children's social care	The branch of the local authority that deals with children's social care.
CSE	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.
DBS	Disclosure and barring service	The service that performs the statutory check of criminal records for anyone working or volunteering in a school.
DfE	Department for Education	The national government body with responsibility for children's services, policy and education, including early years, schools, higher and further education policy, apprenticeships and wider skills in England.
DPO	Data protection officer	The appointed person in school with responsibility for overseeing data protection strategy and implementation to ensure compliance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act.
DSL	Designated safeguarding lead	A member of the senior leadership team who has lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection throughout the school.
EHC plan	Education, health and care plan	A funded intervention plan which coordinates the educational, health and care needs for pupils who have significant needs that impact on their learning and access to education. The plan identifies any additional support needs or interventions and the intended impact they will have for the pupil.
ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency	An agency sponsored by the Department for Education with accountability for funding education and skills training for children, young people and adults.
FGM	Female genital mutilation	All procedures 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 and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation	Legislative provision designed to strengthen the safety and security of all data held within an organisation and ensure that procedures relating to personal data are fair and consistent.
HBA/HBV	Honour-Based Abuse/ Violence	'Honour-based' abuse encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation,

		forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing.
HMCTS	HM Courts and Tribunals Service	HM Courts and Tribunals Service is responsible for the administration of criminal, civil and family courts and tribunals in England and Wales.
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour (also known as Sexually Harmful Behaviour)	Harmful Sexual behaviour is sexual behaviour expressed by children or young people under the age of 18 years old that is developmentally inappropriate, this may be harmful towards oneself or others or be abusive towards another child, young person or an adult.
IICSA	Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse	The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse is analysing case files from the Disclosure and Barring Service to learn more about the behaviours of perpetrators who have sexually abused children in institutions, and to understand institutional responses to these behaviours.
ITT	Initial Teacher Training	A programme of training to achieve qualified teacher status.
KCSIE	Keeping children safe in education	Statutory guidance setting out schools and colleges' duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
LA	Local authority	A local government agency responsible for the provision of a range of services in a specified local area, including education.
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer	<p>All allegations about people who work with children, in statutory, independent, or voluntary organisations, must be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). A referral to the LADO <b>must</b> be made if there is information about a person indicating they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child.</li> <li>▪ Possibly committed an offence against or related to a child.</li> <li>▪ Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.</li> <li>▪ Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.</li> </ul>

LGBTQ+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer plus	Term relating to a community of people, protected by the Equality Act 2010, who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, or other protected sexual or gender identities.
MAT	Multi-academy trust	A trust established to undertake strategic collaboration and provide education across a number of schools
NPCC	The National Police Chiefs' Council	The National Police Chiefs' Council is a national coordination body for law enforcement in the United Kingdom and the representative body for British police chief officers.
PLAC	Previously looked-after children	Children who were previously in local authority care or were looked after by children's services for more than a period of 24 hours. PLAC are also known as care leavers.
PSHE	Personal, social and health education	A non-statutory subject in which pupils learn about themselves, other people, rights, responsibilities and relationships.
PHE	Public Health England	An executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care which aims to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing.
RSE	Relationships and sex education	A compulsory subject from Year 7 for all pupils. Includes the teaching of sexual health, reproduction and sexuality, as well as promoting positive relationships.
SCR	Single central record	A statutory secure record of recruitment and identity checks for all permanent and temporary staff, proprietors, contractors, external coaches and instructors, and volunteers who attend the school in a non-visitor capacity.
SENCO	Special educational needs coordinator	A statutory role within all schools maintaining oversight and coordinating the implementation of the school's special educational needs policy and provision of education to pupils with special educational needs.
SEND	Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities	A pupil is assessed to have SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability that makes it more difficult for them to learn than most pupils their age.
SLT	Senior leadership team	Staff members who have been delegated leadership responsibilities in a school.
TRA	Teaching Regulation Agency	An executive agency of the DfE with responsibility for the regulation of the teaching profession.

VSH	Virtual School Heads	In charge of promoting the educational achievement of all the children looked after (CLA) by the Local Authority.
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## 1. Legal framework

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

- **Education Act 2002:** 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. Section 157 of the same act and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 require proprietors of independent schools (including academies and city technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the school.
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023:** sets out organisational responsibilities for schools and colleges and this applies to maintained, independent, academies, free schools and alternative non-provision academies. This is statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE 2025):** Statutory guidance for schools and colleges was 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. This contains information on what schools and colleges should do and sets out the legal duties with which schools **must** comply.
- **Guidance for Safer Working Practice 2022**
- **Working Together to Improve School Attendance (2024)** – now statutory and reflected in KCSiE 2025
- **Filtering & Monitoring Standards, Plan Technology for Your School self-assessment, Cyber Security Standards, and Generative AI guidance** referenced by KCSiE 2025 to strengthen online safety and digital resilience.

## Legislation

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Education (School Teachers' Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by the Serious Crime Act 2015)
- Apprenticeships, Children and Learning Act 2009
- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

- The General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019 Statutory guidance
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022

### **Statutory guidance**

- HM Government (2020) 'Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation'
- HM Government (2013) 'Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage'
- HM Government (2021) 'Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism'
- DfE (2015) 'The Prevent duty' (updated 2023)
- DfE (2018) 'Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006'
- DfE (2023) 'Academy trust handbook 2025'

### **Non-statutory guidance**

- DfE (2015) 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'
- DfE (2024) 'Information sharing'
- DfE (2017) 'Child sexual exploitation'
- DfE (2021) 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges'
- DfE (2022) 'Recruit teachers from overseas'
- DfE (2024) 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people'
- Department of Health and Social Care (2022) 'Virginity testing and hymenoplasty: multi-agency guidance'
- DfE (2022) 'Working together to improve school attendance'
- DfE (2023) 'Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges'

### **This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:**

- Children Missing Education Policy
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Policy
- Prevent Duty Policy
- Child-on-child Abuse Policy

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Exclusion Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Data and Cyber-security Breach Prevention and Management Plan
- Personal Electronic Devices Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Photography Policy
- Records Management Policy
- LAC Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Behavioural Policy

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **Our Board of Trustees and Local Academy Committee**

Our Trust Board and Local Academy Committees are fully aware of their role in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements – The Bury Safeguarding Children’s Partnership (BSP) arrangements and of the Child Death Review partnership arrangements and will ensure that we work together with appropriate relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs.

#### **We will ensure that:**

- All policies, procedures and training across our trust is effective, taking account of Local Authority and DfE guidance and comply with the law at all times.
- Ensure that safeguarding training for staff, including online safety training, is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole trust safeguarding approach and wider staff training and curriculum planning.
- Local governors, as part of their role will ensure that senior leaders and all staff have clear awareness, understanding and training related to online blocks, monitoring and filtering and how this keeps children safe within their setting.
- Trustees and local governors must ensure that they have read and understood ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025’ and that everybody in the setting understands their safeguarding responsibilities.
- Trustees and local governors will ensure that they participate in safeguarding and child protection training at induction.
- A named local governor is identified as the designated Governor for Safeguarding and receives appropriate training.
- Trustees and local governors will attend Safeguarding and Child Protection training within the appropriate timescales.
- The identified local governor will provide the local academy committee with appropriate information about safeguarding and will liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) member of staff.

- Trustees must ensure that an appropriate member of the senior leadership team is appointed as the Designated Safeguarding Lead and that any appointed deputy DSLs receive the same training as a DSL.
- Trustees must understand the role and responsibility of the DSL within each setting e.g. having lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety and understanding filtering and monitoring systems and processes). This should be explicit in the job description of the DSL.
- The Trust Safeguarding Policy and our staff Code of Conduct are reviewed at least annually, and staff are given opportunities to contribute to and shape our safeguarding arrangements and policies.
- We operate safer recruitment and selection practices, including appropriate use of references and checks on new staff and volunteers including overseas checks where relevant.
- We have procedures in place for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff, including supply teachers and volunteers and these are in line with KCSIE and Bury Local Authority procedures. We will work with the LADO and other relevant agencies to support any investigations.
- All staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children and young people receive appropriate training and information about the safeguarding processes.
- There is appropriate challenge and quality assurance of the safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Trustees and local governors understand that online safety and online education duties are fulfilled and consider filters and monitoring and ensuring their effectiveness are regularly reviewed.
- Trustees and local governors hold online safety, including monitoring and filtering as a central theme in their whole setting approach to safeguarding as per KCSIE 2025.
- Have due regard to the 'Teachers' Standards' which set out the expectation that all teachers manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe educational environment and requires teachers to have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils.
- Trustees and local governors understand that the school remains responsible for the pupils, they place in Alternative Provision and robust checks around Safer Recruitment, Quality Assurance and relevant checks are undertaken.
- Trustees and local governors are aware that one of the safeguarding partners were previously referred to as "Clinical Commissioning Group" however their name has evolved to "Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)". These additions provide clear links between the legal duty of the establishment and safeguarding.
- Trustees and local governors are aware of Human Rights Act 1998, The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty and understand their functions in relation to meeting their statutory duties.
- Trustees and local governors will ensure that a child's views, wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide.
- They also know that all children within their setting including children who identify as LGBTQ+ have a trusted adult with whom they can be open with.
- Local governors will ensure that all staff **promote the child's welfare** and will have a culture of listening.

## Our Headteachers

Our Headteachers are fully aware of their role in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, of the Bury Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSP) arrangements and of the Child Death Overview Panel Review arrangements (CDOP). We will ensure that we work together with appropriate relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, identifying and responding to their needs, including:

'providing a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified and contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support to children subject to child protection plans. All schools and colleges should allow access for children's social care from the host local authority and, where appropriate, from a placing local authority, for that authority to conduct, or to consider whether to conduct, a section 17 (CIN) or a section 47 (CP) assessment.' (KCSIE 2025)

Our Headteachers are fully aware of statutory guidance in KCSIE 2025 and will ensure that:

- The policies and procedures are adopted and ratified by the Trust Board to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and they are fully implemented and followed by **all** staff, including supply teachers and volunteers and that they are regularly updated in response to local practice or national changes in legislation.
- All staff including supply teachers and volunteers understand and comply with our Code of Conduct, including Acceptable Use Agreements.
- We evaluate our safeguarding policies and procedures at least on an annual basis and return our completed 175 audit to the Local Authority, biennially.
- We work with the Local Authority to ensure that our policies and procedures are in line with DfE and other local authority guidance.
- In each school, a senior member of staff, known as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), is appointed with a clear job description. He/she has lead responsibility for Child Protection and Safeguarding and receives the appropriate on-going training and support as well as sufficient time and resources to enable them to undertake their duties and responsibilities.
- Parents/carers are aware of and understand our responsibilities to promote the safety and welfare of our pupils by making our statutory obligations and that these are available on the school/college website.
- The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available on our website and a link is included in the Staff Handbook, Induction and the Volunteers' Handbook.
- We co-operate fully with the three local partners, Bury Council, Police and Health – Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) previously known as the Clinical Commissioning Group, (CCG) to develop and follow multi-agency safeguarding procedures and arrangements and that these are in place to monitor the quality of referrals and interventions and the processes for escalation of concerns.
- We create a culture whereby all staff, volunteers and visitors feel confident and have knowledge of how to raise a concern about poor or unsafe practice with regards to the safeguarding and welfare of the children and young people and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively.
- Any staff who are carrying out regulated activities commissioned from external agencies/ organisations have been DBS checked and their employing organisations have

safeguarding policies in place, including safer recruitment and annual safeguarding training appropriate to their roles.

- We ensure a risk assessment takes place to establish that the appropriate checks take place with any volunteers.
- We have appropriate procedures to ensure that there is no risk to children from visitors and we exercise diligence and prevent any organisation or speaker from using our facilities to disseminate extremist views or radicalize pupils and staff.
- All Senior Leaders are aware of the added clarification to paragraphs regarding Human Rights Act 1998, The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- **Human Rights legislation** - The updated guidance makes it clear that being subjected to harassment, violence and or abuse, may breach children's rights, as set out in the Human Rights Act.
- **Equality legislation** - The guidance sets out the significance of the Equality Act 2010 to school safeguarding, including that schools and colleges:
  - must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their protected characteristics
  - must consider how they are supporting pupils with protected characteristics
  - must take positive action, where proportionate, to deal with the disadvantages these pupils face. For example, by making reasonable adjustments for disabled children and supporting girls if there is evidence they are being disproportionately subjected to sexual violence or harassment.
- **Public Sector Duty** - looks at the implications of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) for education settings. This includes a need to be conscious that pupils with protected characteristics may be more at risk of harm and integrate this into safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Preventative education - KCSiE 2025 clearly sets out the steps that schools will need to take when educating children about preventative measures and how children should keep themselves safe.
- Trust leaders will ensure that all staff need to be aware of this information and how they can support in the education of children for spotting the signs.
- SLT also understand that all children within their setting including children who identify as LGBTQ+ will have a trusted adult with whom they can be open with.
- SLT will ensure that all staff **promote the child's welfare** and will have a culture of listening.

### **Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

The DSL is a member of our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and has a specific responsibility for championing the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The designated safeguarding lead should take **lead responsibility** for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place). This should be explicit in the role holder's job description.

He/she takes lead responsibility for Early Help, safeguarding and child protection, although some activities may be delegated as appropriate.

### **The DSL, together with the team as applicable will:**

- Act as the first point of contact with regards to all safeguarding matters.

- Work closely with the Lead for Mental Health within their own school and where available, the mental health support team, where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health.
- Help promote educational outcomes by working closely with attendance leads, teachers and sharing information about their welfare, safeguarding and child protection concerns for children who are looked after or have a social worker and liaise with the Virtual School.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff
- Attend specialist DSL training every two years.
- Each designated safeguarding lead is expected to refer cases:
  - of suspected abuse and neglect to the local authority children's social care as required and support staff who make referrals to local authority children's social care;
  - to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required and support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme;
  - where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) as required, and
  - where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required. NPCC - When to call the police should help understand when to consider calling the police and what to expect when working with the police.
- Keep up to date with legislative changes, local policy and procedures changes/updates and be aware of any guidance issued by the DfE, Bury Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSP) and the Local Authority with regards to safeguarding, e.g. through DSL Networks e.g. Bury Council DSL forums, safeguarding newsletters and bulletins.
- Provide support and training for all staff and volunteers as required.
- Liaise with the three safeguarding partners and work with other agencies in line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2023.
- Ensure that all referrals made to Children's Services are effective and in line with Bury Council's or other relevant Local Authority's procedures and the Greater Manchester Tri-X procedures and follow **escalation processes** if necessary.
- Ensure that all staff with specific responsibility for safeguarding children, including the named DSL, receive the appropriate funding, time, training, resources and support needed to undertake their role.
- Ensure that referrals to the Police are timely and appropriate, following the National Police Chiefs' Guidance.
- As required, liaise with the case manager (Part Four of KCSiE 2025) and the LADO for child protection concerns in cases concerning a staff member.
- Ensure that **all staff** including supply teachers, volunteers, contractors and visitors understand and are aware of our reporting and recording procedures and are clear about what to do if they have a concern about a child or children.
- Help promote educational outcomes for vulnerable children, including those with a Social Worker, in conjunction with other appropriate colleagues, including liaising with the Virtual School.
- Work with the headteacher and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and

identifying the impact that these issues might be having on children's attendance, engagement and achievement at school or college.

- This includes: ensuring that the school or college knows who its cohort of children who have or have had a social worker are, understanding their academic progress and attainment, and maintaining a culture of high aspirations for this cohort, and supporting teaching staff to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help children who have or have had a social worker reach their potential, recognizing that even when statutory social care intervention has ended, there is still a lasting impact on children's educational outcomes.
- Take a holistic view to ensure wider environmental factors e.g. extra familial harm are considered which may be a threat to safety and welfare of children (Contextual Safeguarding).
- A DSL will always be available during school hours during term-time, and at other times as designated by the Headteacher. As per KCSiE 2025 it is the responsibility of the DSL to arrange adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of school activities/out of term activities.
- Promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances.
- Provide additional support for children in need who have welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues which might be impacting on attendance, engagement and achievement in school.
- Ensuring support for those children who have or have had a Social Worker.
- The DSL should be aware of the role of the appropriate adult.

### **Working with others**

- DSLs are aware of the impact of Preventative education which clearly sets out the steps which schools will need to take when educating children about preventative measures and how to keep themselves safe.
- Our DSLs and deputies will be best trained in how to assist a child in discussing their situation without asking leading or provoking questions.
- Our DSLs will work with staff so that they know who to contact and what they should do if a child makes a disclosure but isn't sure or ready to tell the full story.
- Our DSLs should take lead responsibility for online safety as well as filtering and monitoring. Monitoring identifies when the user accesses or searches for certain types of harmful content on the school devices and that the school are alerted so that they can intervene and respond. Filtering is used to block access to harmful sites and content.
- Our DSLs understand the critical importance of recording, holding, using and sharing information:
  - understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and with other schools and colleges on transfer including in-year and between primary and secondary education, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners
  - understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), and
  - be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of all concerns, discussions and decisions made including the rationale for those decisions (Defensible decision

making). This should include instances where referrals were or were not made to another agency such as LA children's social care or the Prevent program etc.

- Our DSLs are supported in developing knowledge and skills to encourage a culture of listening and reducing barriers to disclosure for children.
- Our DSLs will ensure that they **promote the child's welfare** and will have a culture of listening to children.

### **All Staff:**

All staff working at schools in The Sycamore Trust including supply staff and volunteers have responsibility for safeguarding, according to their roles and under the guidance of the DSL. Those staff who work directly with children have a duty to read Part One of KCSiE 2025. Staff who are not in regulated activity (work directly with children) should also read Part One of KCSiE 2025.

### **All staff will:**

- Follow our agreed Staff Code of Conduct Policy and Safer Working Practices guidance as well as Acceptable Use Agreements.
- Attend training sessions/briefings as required to ensure that they are aware of the signs of Abuse, Neglect, Complex Safeguarding Concerns, Contextual Safeguarding e.g. concerns within the wider community and key Local Authority approaches including Early Help.
- Attend training sessions/briefings as required to ensure that they follow relevant policies e.g. Behaviour Management Policy/Physical Restraint Policy/Reasonable Force Policy.
- Provide a safe environment where children can learn, thrive and achieve.
- Be aware of specific vulnerabilities of some children, including those with poor attendance and those with a Social Worker.
- Be approachable with children and respond appropriately to any disclosures without investigating.
- Never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a disclosure, **never** promise confidentiality.
- Know what to do if they have a concern and follow our agreed procedures for recording concerns, sharing information and making referrals.
- Attend multi-agency meetings as and when required, if appropriate to their role.
- Contribute to the teaching of safeguarding within the curriculum as required, if appropriate to their role.
- Provide targeted support for individuals and groups of children as required, if appropriate to their role.
- All staff are aware that "the child(ren) may not feel ready or know how to tell someone they are being abused." Across The Sycamore Trust, safeguarding training for **all** staff, will include the skills and techniques for staff to be taught when supporting a child who is being abused.
- All staff are aware that children who identify as LGBTQ+ have a trusted adult who they can be open with, and they understand that children who do identify as LGBTQ+ are more vulnerable to child on child abuse.
- All staff understand and recognise that children can abuse other children (Child on Child abuse).

- Additionally, staff need to be aware of the new information on supporting children who are lesbian, gay, bi, or trans (LGBT) as this is also a potential for child-on-child abuse to take place. The world is ever evolving and so are the children within it, children have the same rights as anyone else.
- All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and/or alcohol misuse, unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education, serious violence (including that linked to county lines), radicalisation and consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos.
- All staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring; including who to report it to and what to look out for.
- All staff will ensure that they **promote the child's welfare** and will adopt a culture of listening.
- All staff are aware that we have a culture of '**It Could Happen Here**'.

**Teaching staff have a mandatory duty to report any cases/disclosures of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to the Police on 999/101.**

### **Concerns about a child:**

- If a member of staff has any concern about a child's welfare, they will act on them immediately by speaking to the DSL or a deputy DSL.
- All staff members are aware of the procedure for reporting concerns and understand their responsibilities in relation to confidentiality and information sharing.
- If a referral is made about a child by anyone other than the DSL, the DSL **must** be informed as soon as possible.
- DSLs are required to monitor/follow up on a referral if they do not receive information from the Local Authority regarding what action is necessary for the pupil.
- The DSL will endeavour to follow any recommendations from the Local Authority if a referral is not deemed to meet threshold for Children's Social Care intervention. This could include provision of Early Help support or completing a ***Story so Far*** assessment to identify the child's needs. The DSL will continue to monitor progress and changes and if at any point it is felt the child is at risk, a further referral may be made.
- All concerns, discussions and decisions made, as well as the reasons for making those decisions, will be recorded in writing/electronically by the DSL and kept securely on the record-keeping system.
- If a pupil is in immediate danger, a referral will be made to MASH and/or the Police immediately.
- If a child has committed a crime, such as sexual violence, the Police will be notified without delay.
- Where there are safeguarding concerns, the school will ensure that the child's wishes are always taken into account, and that there are systems available for children to provide feedback and express their views.
- When responding to safeguarding concerns, staff members will act calmly and supportively, ensuring that the child feels like they are being listened to and believed.
- An inter-agency assessment, known as the ***Story so Far***, will be undertaken where a child and their family could benefit from co-ordinated support from more than one agency, where threshold is not met for Social Care involvement. These assessments will identify

what help the child and family may require in preventing needs escalating to a point where further intervention would be needed.

## Acceptable Use Agreements

This section is in association with the Staff Code of Conduct Policy.

### Mobile Phone Use/Smart Watches and Camera Safety:

- Across The Sycamore Trust, staff members, visitors and volunteers will **not** use personal mobile phones/personal electronic devices when school children are present.
- Staff may use personal mobile phones/electronic devices in the staffroom during breaks and non-contact time however, again this should be when there are no school children present.
- Mobile phones/electronic devices will be safely stored and in silent mode whilst pupils are present. Staff will use their professional judgement in emergency situations.
- Staff may take personal mobile phones/electronic devices on trips, but they must only be used in emergencies and should not be used when school children are present.
- Personal mobile phones/electronic devices **will not** be used to take images or videos of pupils or staff under **any** circumstances.
- The sending of inappropriate messages or images from personal mobile devices/electronic devices is strictly prohibited.
- Staff who do not adhere to this policy will face disciplinary action.
- Staff will not actively use Smart watches to receive messages and/or photographs or send messages whilst children are present.
- Photographs and videos of pupils will be carefully planned but **not** using personal devices before any activity with particular regard to consent and adhering to The Sycamore Trust Data Protection Policy and the GDPR Principles and Guidance.
- The Senior Leaders will oversee the planning of any events where photographs and videos will be taken. Where photographs and videos will involve CLA/LAC pupils, adopted pupils, or pupils for whom there are security concerns, the headteacher will liaise with the DSL to determine the steps involved.
- The DSL will, in known cases of a pupil who is a CLA/LAC or who have been adopted, liaise with the pupil's social worker, carers or adoptive parents to assess the needs and risks associated with the pupil e.g. the consent with regards to taking photographs and/or videos.
- Staff will report any concerns about another staff member's use of personal mobile phones/electronic devices to the Headteacher, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy as well as the Whistleblowing Policy. If the concern is about the headteacher then the Trust Leader, Chair of the Board of Trustees or the LADO should be contacted. If the Chair of the Board of Trustees is contacted they can seek advice from the LADO.

## Training And Awareness Raising

All new staff and regular volunteers will receive appropriate Safeguarding Training and information during Induction, including Online Safety training and training on filtering and monitoring. An emphasis on the impact of technology on increasing risks to children, knowing that children and young people can be both victims and perpetrators of abuse. All staff should have awareness of the school's policy and procedures around filtering and monitoring.

All new staff and volunteers should be made aware of the systems within each school across the trust which support safeguarding e.g. the Behaviour Policy, Acceptable Use Agreements and so on. These documents should be easily accessible and may be placed on the school website for ease of access to staff.

All staff must ensure that they have read and understood Part One of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025' and that everybody in the setting understands their safeguarding responsibilities.

The Trust Board and Local Academy Committees should ensure that those staff who work directly with children and those who do not work directly with children read at least Part One of the statutory guidance in KCSiE 2025. A self-declaration form should be completed by each member of staff to confirm that the required documentation has been read.

All staff will receive regular Safeguarding and Child Protection training which is regularly updated and includes basic safeguarding information about our policies and procedures, signs and symptoms of abuse (physical, emotional, neglect and sexual abuse), indicators of vulnerability to exploitation and radicalisation, how to manage a disclosure from a child as well as when and how to record a concern about the welfare of a child, with regular updates in relation to local and national changes.

All staff need to understand the impact mental health problems may have on all aspects of safeguarding and that this could be an indicator of abuse, including the relevance of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the impact on the child/young person.

All staff members will receive regular Safeguarding and Child Protection updates, as required, providing them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

All interview panels will include at least one member who has completed up to date Safer Recruitment training within the last three years.

*All staff and volunteers should read and sign to say that they have read and understood the following policies on an annual basis:*

- The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- The Behaviour Policy
- Whistleblowing policy and procedures
- The Staff Code of Conduct including Acceptable Use Agreements.
- The Safeguarding Response to Children Who Go Missing from Education (CME)
- The identity and roles of the DSL and any deputies

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

## Inter-agency Working

- Each school in the trust contributes to inter-agency working as part of its statutory duty for safeguarding and child protection.
- The trust are aware of and will follow the local safeguarding arrangements.
- The trust will work with the three local partners; the Local Authority, the Police and Health (Integrated Care Boards) ICBs
- The trust will work with Children's Social Care (CSC) and other services to protect the welfare of its pupils, through the Early Help process/pathway and by contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support.

The trust recognises the importance of proactive information sharing between professionals and local agencies to effectively meet pupil's needs and identify a need for early help or further intervention.

- Staff members are aware that whilst the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 place a duty on schools to process personal information fairly and lawfully, they also allow for information to be stored and shared for safeguarding purposes – data protection regulations do not act as a barrier to sharing information where failure to do so would result in the pupil being placed at risk of harm.
- Staff members will ensure that fear of sharing information does not stand in the way of their responsibility to promote the welfare and safety of pupils. If staff members are in doubt about sharing information, they will speak to the DSL or deputy DSL. The school also recognises the particular importance of inter-agency working in identifying and preventing CSE.

## Definitions

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

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

- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical 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

*Definition taken from KCSiE 2025*

For the purposes of this policy, **“consent”** is defined as having the freedom and capacity to choose to engage in sexual activity. Consent may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another and can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs. A person only consents to a sexual activity if they agree by choice to that activity and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice. Children under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity. The age of consent is 16.

For the purposes of this policy, “**sexual violence**” refers to the following offences as defined under the Sexual Offences Act 2003:

- **Rape:** A person (A) commits an offence of rape if they intentionally penetrate the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with their penis, B does not consent to the penetration, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- **Assault by penetration:** A person (A) commits an offence if they intentionally penetrate the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of their body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- **Sexual assault:** A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if they intentionally touch another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- **Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent:** A person (A) commits an offence if they intentionally cause another person (B) to engage in an activity, the activity is sexual, B does not consent to engaging in the activity, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. This could include forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.

For the purposes of this policy, “**sexual harassment**” refers to unwanted conduct of a sexual nature that occurs online or offline, inside or outside of school. Sexual harassment is likely to violate a pupil’s dignity, make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated, and create a hostile, offensive, or sexualised environment. If left unchallenged, sexual harassment can create an atmosphere that normalises inappropriate behaviour and may lead to sexual violence. Sexual harassment can include, but is not limited to:

- Sexual comments, such as sexual stories, lewd comments, sexual remarks about clothes and appearance, and sexualised name-calling.
- Sexual “jokes” and taunting.  
Physical behaviour, such as deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone’s clothes, and displaying images of a sexual nature.
- Online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. This includes:
  - The consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos.
  - Sharing unwanted explicit content.
  - Upskirting.
  - Sexualised online bullying.
  - Unwanted sexual comments and messages, including on social media. - Sexual exploitation, coercion, and threats.

For the purposes of this policy, “**upskirting**” refers to the act, as identified in the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, of taking a picture or video under another person’s clothing, without their knowledge or consent, with the intention of viewing that person’s genitals or buttocks, with or without clothing, to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. Upskirting is a criminal offence. Anyone, including pupils and staff, of any gender can be a victim of upskirting.

For the purposes of this policy, the “**consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos**”, colloquially known as “**sexting**”, is defined as the sharing between pupils of sexually explicit content, including indecent imagery. For the purposes of this policy, “**indecent imagery**” is defined as an image which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Nude or semi-nude sexual posing
- A child touching themselves in a sexual way
- Any sexual activity involving a child
- Someone hurting a child sexually
- Sexual activity that involves animals

For the purposes of this policy, “**abuse**” is defined as a form of maltreatment of a child which involves inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing the 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, institutional or community setting by those known to them or by others, e.g. via the internet. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by one or multiple adults or other children.

For the purposes of this policy, “**physical abuse**” is defined as a form of abuse which may involve actions such as hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical abuse can also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

For the purposes of this policy, “**emotional abuse**” is defined as the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. This may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child the opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, ‘making fun’ of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children, such as interactions that are beyond their developmental capability, overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, including cyberbullying, causing the child to frequently 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, but it may also occur alone.

For the purposes of this policy, “**sexual abuse**” is defined as abuse that involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, and regardless of whether the child is aware of what is happening. This may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration, or non-penetrative acts, such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. It may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can be perpetrated by people of any gender and age.

For the purposes of this policy, “**neglect**” is defined as the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of a child’s

health or development. This may involve a parent or carer failing to provide a child with adequate food, clothing or shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); failing to protect a child from physical or emotional harm or danger; failing to ensure adequate supervision (including through the use of inappropriate caregivers); or failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

In all cases, if staff are unsure, they should always speak to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy.

## **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)**

ACES are a wide range of stressful or traumatic experiences that occur when a child is growing up. They include events that affect a child directly (such as abuse) or indirectly (such as living with domestic abuse or a parent with mental health problems.) ACES can be single events, long term or repeated experiences. ACES are very common – about half of all people will have experienced one ACE and about one in ten will have experienced four or more ACES. Research shows the more ACES that occur (in childhood) the higher the chances of adults having poor mental health and also physical health conditions such as liver disease and cancer. Having more ACES also increases the likelihood of engaging in health harming behaviours such as smoking, using drugs, criminal behaviour, early sexual activity. A lot of people do not develop problems despite having ACES. Improving the chances of staying well despite experiencing ACES include relationships with trusted adults, trauma informed practice and physical activity in childhood.

## **Domestic Abuse**

*The cross-government definition of domestic abuse or violence is:*

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

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. Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

*The Domestic Abuse Act came into force in April 2021.* The act sets out the first definition in law of what constitutes domestic abuse. The definition goes well beyond physical violence. It recognises that domestic abuse can be emotional, coercive or controlling or economic. To fall within the definition, both victim and perpetrator must be “personally connected”. The definition ensures that different types of relationships are captured, including ex-partners and family members. The definition is gender neutral to ensure that all victims and all types of domestic abuse are sufficiently captured, and no victim is excluded from protection or access to services. The Domestic Abuse statutory guidance provides more detail around the features of domestic

abuse, including recognising that the majority of victims are women, the majority of perpetrators are men.

Across our trust, we understand the potential short-term and long-term detrimental impact on children's health, wellbeing and ability to learn if they have experienced domestic abuse at home or within their own intimate personal relationships.

Staff across our schools can identify the signs of domestic abuse and the impact on the child:

### **Signs of domestic abuse:**

It can be difficult to tell if domestic abuse is happening and those carrying out the abuse can act very differently if other people are around. Children and young people might also feel frightened or confused, keeping the abuse to themselves. Common indicators that a child may be witnessing domestic abuse could include:

- aggression/bullying
- anti-social behaviour
- anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts
- attention seeking
- bed wetting, nightmares or insomnia
- constant or regular sickness, like colds, headaches, mouth ulcers
- drug or alcohol misuse
- eating disorders
- problems in school, difficulty concentrating and/or learning
- tantrums
- withdrawal

### **Operation Encompass**

Operation Encompass operates at Bury Council. It helps the police and schools to work together to provide emotional and practical help and support to children and their parents/carers who are or have experienced domestic abuse. The system ensures that when the Police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, e.g. where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident e.g. the Police will inform the Early Help team who will inform the key adult (usually the designated safeguarding lead) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can provide support to the child or the parent according to their needs.

### **National Domestic Abuse Helpline:**

Refuge runs the National Domestic Abuse Helpline, which can be called free of charge and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247. Its website provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. It also has a form through which a safe time for a call from the team can be booked.

## Contextual Safeguarding Issues (previously known as extra-familial harm)

All staff working within The Sycamore Trust are aware of Contextual Safeguarding issues and that these issues can put children or young people at risk of harm. Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, children/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. 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. All staff should be aware of Contextual Safeguarding and how this can impact on the child.

Children and young people may encounter risk in any of these environments e.g. outside of the family home. Sometimes the different contexts are inter-related and can mean that children and young people may encounter multiple risks. Contextual Safeguarding looks at how we can best understand these risks, engage with children and young people and help to keep them safe. It's an approach that's often been used to apply to adolescents, though the lessons can equally be applied to younger children, especially in today's ever-changing landscape.

Common behaviours linked to children who are at risk of contextual safeguarding issues include drug taking, knife crime, alcohol abuse, deliberately missing from home or being absent from education and sharing nudes or semi-nude images/videos previously known as sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery) put children in danger. (This list is not exhaustive).

### Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):

CSE involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where children or young people may receive something e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts or simply affection as a result of engaging in sexual activities. The perpetrator will not only groom the victim (possibly over a long period of time) but will always hold some kind of power which increases as the exploitative relationship develops.

Sexual exploitation involves a degree of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressures from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including online bullying (cyberbullying) and grooming. It is important to recognise that some children/young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse and sometimes they are unaware that this is happening.

Each school's Online Safety Policy will ensure the safety of children by ensuring they cannot access inappropriate material when using the internet and that suitable blocks, filtering and monitoring software is in place.

**All staff** should be aware of how to understand and identify the risk of these harms.

### School staff will be aware of the following indicators that a child is the victim of CSE:

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

- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant

**Referring cases:** Where CSE, or the risk of it, is suspected, staff will discuss the case with the DSL. If after discussion concerns still remain, Local Safeguarding Procedures will be triggered, including a referral to the Local Authority: The Complex Safeguarding team (CST) via Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

### **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE):**

Child criminal exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person into any criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

- 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, this would be criminal exploitation
- 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 place both boys and girls being criminally exploited at higher risk of sexual exploitation
- Can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults

**All staff** should be aware of how to understand and identify the risk of these harms and recognise that the experiences of girls being criminally exploited and the indicators of CCE for girls can be very different to boys.

### **County Lines:**

County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. Exploitation is an integral part of the County Lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools, further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, special educational needs schools, children’s homes and care homes. Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations and are known to be exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging’, where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network. One of the ways of identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes (both

from home and school). If a child is suspected to be at risk of or involved in county lines, a safeguarding referral should be considered alongside consideration of availability of local services e.g. Complex Safeguarding Team/third sector organisations who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation.

**School staff will be aware of the following indicators that a child is the victim of County Lines:**

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

**Child on Child Abuse including sexual violence and sexual harassment:**

**All staff** should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as Child on Child abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- Bullying (including cyberbullying) prejudiced based and discriminate bullying
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between children/peers
- Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- Up-skirting, which 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; sending nudes/semi nudes (previously known as sexting or known as youth produced sexual imagery)
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals
- Physical may include an online element that facilitates, threatens and or encourages physical abuse
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent

**Procedure:**

**All staff** are aware of Child on Child abuse. These issues will be addressed through our curriculum and assemblies throughout the year.

In respect of sexual violence and sexual harassment between children, our school, will take a proactive approach to prevent such incidents from taking place. Safeguarding is taught as part of the curriculum. We appreciate that whilst adults in school are working hard to keep children safe, children also play a large part in keeping themselves and their peers/other children safe

from abuse and neglect. An age-appropriate curriculum is rolled out in school to build capacity amongst our students in their understanding of particular issues, and what actions they can take to be safe e.g. through PSHE/RSE e.g. Healthy Relationships, British Values, Anti-bullying, Online safety etc.

Pupils will be made aware of what constitutes unreasonable pressure from peers/other children to engage in risk-taking or inappropriate behaviour, and of how to report their concerns. Allegations of abuse by child/ren will be treated as seriously as allegations of abuse from an adult, it should **never** be dismissed as normal behaviour. Staff should report such concerns to the DSL.

Across the trust, we understand the importance of ensuring children understand the law on child on child abuse is there to protect them rather than to criminalise them.

We also understand the emphasis and the importance of understanding intra familial harms and any necessary support for siblings following incidents.

**All staff** should be aware of indicators which may be a sign that children are at risk from or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

**All staff** should be aware of the associated risks and understand the measures in place to manage these. Advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults.

- The DSL will implement robust reporting procedures for child on child abuse and communicate these to all staff, pupils and parents/carers as appropriate.
- Reports made regarding child on child abuse will be risk assessed by the DSL on a case-by-case basis and, where required, investigated immediately and reported to the relevant agency, e.g. the Early Help teams, Police or MASH where required:

**MASH:** Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0161-253-5678 (8:45 – 4:45)

**Emergency Duty Team:** 0161-253-6606 (Out of Office hours)

**Complex Safeguarding Team:** Contact MASH as above

#### **Early Help Teams:**

**Bury East Locality Team (including Tottington/Ramsbottom)** Telephone: 0161 253 5200

**Whitefield Locality Team (including Prestwich)** Telephone: 0161 253 5077

**Radcliffe Locality Team** Telephone: 0161 253 7465/7468

- Both the alleged perpetrator and victim will be provided with support whilst the report is being investigated.
- Pupils will be provided with the contact details of relevant bodies who can provide support to them during this time, e.g. Childline, NSPCC etc...

- The DSL will keep the victim, the alleged perpetrator and their families up-to-date where necessary with details of the investigation, including the conclusion and how appeals can be made.
- Individuals will be given a copy of the school's amended Complaints Procedures Policy to assist them with the appeals process.
- Senior leaders across our trust understand the crucial part education settings play in preventative education within the context of a whole-school or college approach that creates a culture that does not tolerate any form of prejudice or discrimination, including sexism and misogyny/misandry.
- The expectation is that trust values and standards in this area will be underpinned e.g. in the behaviour policy, pastoral support system, as well as a planned programme of evidence-based RSE.
- Across our trust, we understand that we should be part of discussions with statutory safeguarding partners.

### **Serious Violence:**

**All staff** should be clear as to the school's policy and procedures with regards to **serious violence**.

**All staff** to be aware of risk factors to look out for which may increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence:

Through training, all staff will be made aware of the indicators which may signal a pupil is at risk from, or is involved with, serious violent crime. These indicators include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Increased absence from school
- A change in friendships
- New relationships with older individuals or groups
- A significant decline in academic performance
- Signs of self-harm
- A significant change in wellbeing
- Signs of assault
- Unexplained injuries
- Unexplained gifts or new possessions

Staff will be made aware of some of the most significant risk factors that could increase a pupil's vulnerability to becoming involved in serious violent crime. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A history of committing offences
- Substance abuse
- Anti-social behaviour
- Permanently excluded from school
- Experienced child maltreatment
- Involved in offending such as theft or robbery
- Truancy
- Peers involved in crime and/or anti-social behaviour

Staff members who suspect a pupil may be vulnerable to, or involved in, serious violent crime, will immediately report their concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

### **Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB):**

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) is developmentally inappropriate sexualised behaviour which is displayed by children and young people, and which may be harmful or abusive. It may also be referred to as sexually harmful behaviour or sexualised behaviour.

### **Hackett (2010) defines Harmful Sexual Behaviour as:**

‘Sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people under the age of 18 years old that are developmentally inappropriate, maybe harmful towards self or others, or be abusive towards a child, young person or adult’.

In addition, sexual behaviour between young people, where one of the children is much older can be considered harmful (especially if there is more than two years difference, and if one is pre-pubescent and one is not). However, a younger child can still harm an older child. Harmful sexual behaviour is characterised by a range of behaviours that can include:

- Sexual name-calling
- Sexual harassment
- Online sexual bullying
- Sexual image sharing
- Sexual assault
- Rape

### **Harmful sexual behaviour may include (HSB):**

- Using sexually explicit words and phrases
- Inappropriate touching
- Sexual violence or threats
- Full penetrative sex with other children or adults
- Sexual interest in adults or children of very different ages to their own
- Forceful or aggressive sexual behaviour
- Compulsive habits
- Sexual behaviour affecting progress and achievement

Harmful sexual behaviour is especially difficult issue to deal with, partly because it is hard to think of children sexually abusing other children, but also because it is not always easy to tell the difference between abusive and normal sexual behaviours in children. Children, particularly in the younger age groups, may engage in such behaviour with no knowledge or intent. It is important to consider what is developmentally appropriate.

While around one third of child sexual abuse is committed by other children and young people under the age of 18, the circumstances are often very different from when adults abuse, meaning they often require a different response.

In such circumstances, instead of talking about ‘the abuser’, we often use the term ‘young person who has exhibited harmful sexual behaviour’. As children themselves, they have the right to be

protected and supported to lead better lives. We must not ignore the risk they may continue to pose, but we must also recognise that, with the right help, the vast majority will not re-offend.

In conclusion, the process of dealing with referrals for HSB should not be seen as somehow separate or different to child sexual abuse referrals of any other type and in order that children are safeguarded (victim and/or perpetrator) agencies and their representatives will need to commit to the multi-agency requirements for Child Protection Strategy Discussions/Meetings.

All referrals to either Greater Manchester Police or Children's Social Care regarding HSB should be considered in conjunction with the Child Protection Procedures.

### **Honour Based Abuse (HBA):**

Honour based abuse is a collection of practices used to control behaviour within families in order to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour.

HBA occurs when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

### **Examples of HBA:**

- Physical abuse (kicking and beating)
- Psychological pressure (strict monitoring, humiliation, threats)
- Forced marriage
- Abandonment (leaving someone in their country of origin or sending them back there)
- Forced suicide
- Honour killing (murder)
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) FGM is encompassed within the term Honour Based Abuse

ALL staff and volunteers will report all cases of suspected Honour Based Violence to the DSL immediately.

### **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):**

FGM comprises of all procedures involving partial alteration 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.

Whilst **all** staff must speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy with regards to any concerns about female genital mutilation (FGM), there is a mandatory **reporting duty for teachers**. If a teacher, in the course of their work discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher **must** report this to the police. If FGM hasn't been carried out but there is evidence that the child is at risk of FGM or a disclosure of risk, the DSL will contact the MASH Team: 0161-253-5678 to seek advice.

- ALL staff need to be alert to the possibility of when a female pupil may be at risk of FGM or when it may have been conducted on them.

- At any Sycamore Trust school, if a child accidentally shows their female genitalia to a staff member without being asked this must be reported to the DSL or the headteacher immediately and recorded on their internal record keeping systems.

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

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

**Breast Ironing:**

What is Breast Flattening or Breast Ironing?

The process during which young pubescent girls' breasts are ironed, massaged, flattened and/or pounded down over a period of time (sometimes years) in order for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts.

**Forced Marriage:**

Forced Marriage is one where one or both parties do not consent to marriage but are forced to do so through violence, threats or any form of coercion and is an abuse of human rights. Schools play an important role in safeguarding children from being forced to marry. A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. A forced marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage. In an arranged marriage the families take a leading role in choosing the marriage partner, but the marriage is entered into freely by both parties. Forced marriage is illegal in England and Wales. Forced marriage cannot be justified on either religious or cultural grounds. The legal age of marriage is now eighteen years.

**Indicators that Forced Marriage or HBA may have already taken place include the following:**

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

**Modern Slavery:**

**The Modern Slavery Act 2015** places a new statutory duty on public authorities, including schools, to notify the National Crime Agency (NCA) (section 52 of the Act) on observing signs or receiving intelligence relating to modern slavery. The public authority (including schools) bears

this obligation where it has 'reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of slavery or human trafficking'.

- **All staff** must be aware of the above and contact the DSL should they suspect or receive information that either parents or their children may be victims of modern slavery.

### **Sharing Nudes or Semi-Nude Images/Videos:**

(previously known as sexting and the sharing of indecent images of pupils):

At any Sycamore Trust school we ensure that staff are aware to treat the sharing of indecent images of pupils through sharing nudes or semi-nude images/video as a safeguarding concern.

- Staff will receive appropriate training regarding child sexual development and will understand the difference between sexual behaviour that is considered normal and expected for the age of the pupil, and sexual behaviour that is inappropriate and/or harmful. Staff will receive appropriate training around how to deal with instances of sharing nudes/semi-nudes in the school community, including understanding motivations, assessing risks posed to pupils and how and when to report instances of sharing nudes or semi-nude images/video.
- Staff will be aware that creating, possessing, and distributing indecent imagery of pupils is a criminal offence, regardless of whether the imagery is created, possessed, and distributed by the individual depicted; however, staff will ensure that pupils are not unnecessarily criminalised. Where a member of staff becomes aware of an incidence of sharing nudes or semi-nude images/video that involves indecent images of a pupil, they will refer this to the DSL as soon as possible.

### **Where a pupil confides in a staff member about the circulation of indecent imagery, depicting them or someone else, the staff member will:**

- Refrain from viewing, copy, printing, sharing, storing or saving the imagery
- Tell the DSL immediately if they accidentally view an indecent image and seek support
- Explain to the pupil that the incident will need to be reported
- Respond positively to the pupil without blaming or shaming anyone involved and reassuring them that they can receive support from the DSL
- Report the incident to the DSL. The DSL will attempt to understand what the image contains without viewing it and the context surrounding its creation and distribution – they will categorise the incident into one of two categories:
  - 1) **Aggravated:** incidents which involve additional or abusive elements beyond the creation and distribution of indecent images of pupils, including where there is an adult involved, where there is an intent to harm the pupil depicted, or where the images are used recklessly.
  - 2) **Experimental:** incidents involving the creation and distribution of indecent images of pupils where there is no adult involvement or apparent intent to cause harm or embarrassment to the pupil. Where it is necessary to view the imagery, e.g. if this is the only way to make a decision about whether to inform other agencies, the DSL should:
    - Discuss this decision with the headteacher or member of the SLT/DSL team.
    - Record how and why the decision was made using defensible decision making.

Where the incident is categorised as 'experimental', the pupils involved are supported to understand the implications of sharing indecent imagery and to move forward from the incident. Where there is reason to believe that indecent imagery being circulated will cause harm to a pupil, the DSL will escalate the incident to MASH.

Where indecent imagery of a pupil has been shared publicly, the DSL will work with the pupil to report imagery to sites on which it has been shared and will reassure them of the support available as well as contacting the Police.

### **Safeguarding Children with SEND:**

We are using the term special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to refer to children but may also include, additional needs, require additional support for learning and/or additional learning or support needs.

At any Sycamore Trust school we are aware that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can be especially vulnerable to abuse. They are three to four times more likely to be at risk of abuse. Disabled and deaf children are three times more likely to be abused than their peers. Additional barriers can sometimes exist when recognising abuse in SEND children such as:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration.
- Being more prone to peer group isolation than other children.
- The potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs.
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.
- Cognitive understanding – being unable to understand the difference between fact and fiction in online content and then repeating the content/behaviours in school/college or the consequences of doing so.

### **We therefore:**

- Raise staff awareness about the extra vulnerabilities of children with SEND, particularly those adults who are working in 1:1 or small group situations
- Offer support for those staff working with children with SEND
- Ensure that every child has a way of communicating their voice and that it is listened to and responded to
- Closely monitor children with SEND through high vigilance of staff and the open ethos of the school
- Offer pastoral support to children with SEND when monitoring has identified that they require this additional support
- Every child in school knows that they can communicate any worries they might have with any adult in school
- Maintain positive, open and honest relationships and communication with parents/carers of children with SEND and ensure that opportunities for regular communication are used

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

## **Pupils potentially at greater risk of harm**

Each school within the trust recognises that some groups of pupils can face additional safeguarding challenges, and understands that further barriers may exist when determining abuse and neglect in these groups of pupils. Additional considerations for managing safeguarding concerns and incidents amongst these groups are outline below.

### **Pupils who need social workers**

Pupils may need social workers due to safeguarding or welfare needs. These needs can leave pupils vulnerable to further harm and educational disadvantage.

As a matter of routine, the DSL will hold and use information from the LA about whether a pupil has a social worker in order to make decisions in the best interests of the pupil's safety, welfare, and educational outcomes.

Where a pupil needs a social worker, this will inform decisions about safeguarding, e.g. responding to unauthorised absence, and promoting welfare, e.g. considering the provision pastoral or academic support.

### **Home-educated children**

Parents may choose elective home education (EHE) for their children. In some cases, EHE can mean that children are less visible to the services needed to safeguard and support them.

In line with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, the school will inform the LA of all deletions from the admissions register when a pupil is taken off roll.

Where a parent has expressed their intention to remove a pupil from school for EHE, the school, in collaboration with the LA and other key professionals, will coordinate a meeting with the parent, where possible, before the final decision has been made, particularly if the pupil has SEND, is vulnerable, and/or has a social worker.

### **LAC and PLAC**

Children most commonly become looked after because of abuse and/or neglect. Because of this, they can be at potentially greater risk in relation to safeguarding. PLAC, also known as care leavers, can also remain vulnerable after leaving care.

The Board of Trustees will ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep LAC and PLAC safe. This includes ensuring that the appropriate staff have the information they need, such as:

- Looked after legal status, i.e. whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents, or on an interim or full care order.
- Contact arrangements with parents or those with parental responsibility.
- Care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after the pupil.

The DSL in each school will be provided with the necessary details of pupils' social workers and the VSH, and, for PLAC, personal advisers.

Further details of safeguarding procedures for LAC and PLAC are outlined in the school's LAC Policy.

### **LGBTQ+ pupils**

The fact that a pupil may be LGBTQ+ is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm; however, staff will be aware that LGBTQ+ pupils can be targeted by other individuals. Staff within the trust will also be aware that, in some cases, a pupil who is perceived by others to be LGBTQ+ (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as pupils who identify as LGBTQ+.

Staff will also be aware that the risks to these pupils can be compounded when they do not have a trusted adult with whom they can speak openly with. All staff will endeavour to reduce the additional barriers faced by these pupils and provide a safe space for them to speak out and share any concerns they have.

### **Context of safeguarding incidents**

Safeguarding incidents can occur outside of school and can be associated with outside factors. All staff, particularly the DSL and deputy DSL(s), will always consider the context of safeguarding incidents. Assessment of pupils' behaviour will consider whether there are wider environmental factors that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. The school will provide as much contextual information as possible when making referrals to CSCS.

### **Use of the school premises for non-school activities**

Where a school within the trust hires or rents out school facilities or school premises to organisations or individuals, e.g. for providers to run community or extracurricular activities, it will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to keep pupils safe, including seeking approval from the board of trustees, where required. The trust will ensure that schools within the trust refer to the DfE's guidance on keeping children safe in out-of-school settings in these circumstances.

Where a school within the trust provides the activities under the direct supervision or management of school staff, child protection arrangements will apply.

Where activities are provided separately by another body, this may not be the case; therefore, the board of trustees or delegated authority will seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place, including inspecting these as needed.

The board of trustees or delegated authority will also ensure that there are arrangements in place to liaise with schools within the trust on these matters where appropriate. The board of trustees or its delegated authority will ensure safeguarding requirements are included in any transfer of control agreement, i.e. a lease or hire agreement, as a condition of use and occupation of the premises and specify that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement.

## Extra-Curricular activities and clubs

Extra-curricular activities and clubs hosted by external bodies, e.g. charities or companies, will work in collaboration with the school to effectively safeguard pupils and adhere to local safeguarding arrangements.

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

All national governing bodies of sport that receive funding from either Sport England or UK Sport must aim to meet the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport.

## The PREVENT Duty:

At any Sycamore Trust school we are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015). Schools/Colleges in the exercise of their functions, are required to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. The Prevent duty should be seen as part of our wider safeguarding obligations. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and other senior leaders should familiarise themselves with the revised Prevent Duty guidance: for England and Wales, which is specifically concerned with schools (and also covers childcare). The guidance is set out in terms of four general themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training, and IT policies.

‘The Prevent duty’ section clarifies that an individual needs to consent to any support delivered through the Channel programme, and signposts the DfE’s [The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation](#) guidance.

## Preventing 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.

- Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to fundamental values e.g. British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.
- Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government, or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child’s vulnerability. However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with other safeguarding risks, staff are alert to changes in children’s behaviour, which could

indicate that they may need help or protection. The staff and the DSLs use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) making a Prevent referral. The school's or college's Designated Safeguarding Lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral.

### **Radicalisation:**

The Sycamore Trust recognises that protection from extremism and radicalisation is a vital element of safeguarding. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism, there is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology.

- ALL staff and volunteers will have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism', known as the 'Prevent Duty'
- ALL staff and volunteers will have a general understanding of how to identify a child who may be at risk of radicalisation
- ALL staff and volunteers will use professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately
- ALL staff and volunteers will have access to the school's Prevent Policy to support them in the above
- School will nominate a Prevent Lead, who will undertake Prevent Lead training
- ALL staff will undertake Prevent training
- The nominated Prevent Local Governor will undertake specific Governor WRAP training offered by Bury Council
- The Trust Online Safety Policy will ensure the safety of children by ensuring they cannot access terrorist and extremist material when using the internet and that suitable blocks, monitoring and filtering software is in place
- DSLs understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel Panel

### **What should I do if I am concerned that someone is becoming radicalised?**

If you're concerned about someone in your community, please contact your local Police force by dialling 101 and ask for the PREVENT team, or if you require urgent police assistance dial 999.

The Counter Terrorism Northwest Officer for Bury is Caelan Lord: Mobile: 07469 129 538

### **Channel**

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from the school or college may be asked to attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

**WRAP - Prevent Training:** Roy Thickett [r.thickett@bury.gov.uk](mailto:r.thickett@bury.gov.uk)

## **Mental Health**

All staff working in a Sycamore Trust school are aware that mental health/emotional wellbeing issues can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health condition. Staff, however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health condition or are at risk of developing one.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. All staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken by speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy DSL.

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

At any Sycamore Trust school, we understand that we have an important role to play in supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of our pupils.

## **Online Safety:**

The Internet is an essential part of everyday life for education, business and social interaction and we have a duty to provide children with quality access to it as part of their learning experience.

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Online safety is a safeguarding issue not an ICT issue. The purpose of Internet use in our school/setting/college is to help raise educational standards, promote pupil achievement, and support the professional work of staff as well as enhance our management information and business administration.

Some risks to children being online could include the following:

Child sexual exploitation; child criminal exploitation, radicalisation; sexual abuse, grooming and/or cyber bullying. Technology can often provide the platform that facilitates harm. At each of our trust schools, we have an effective approach to online safety and educate both staff and children.

Across our trust schools, we communicate with parents and carers to reinforce the importance of children being safe online and share the following information with parents/carers:

- what systems they have in place to filter and monitor online use

- what they are asking children to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access
- who from the school or college (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

**Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example, pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views. Misinformation, disinformation (including fake news) and conspiracy theories are also classed as safeguarding harms.

**Disinformation:** is the deliberate creation and spread of false or misleading content, such as fake news.

**Misinformation:** is the unintentional spread of this false or misleading content.

**Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example, commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults;

**Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.

**Commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

At the Sycamore Trust, we recognise the importance of online safety training for staff, including monitoring and filtering and the requirements to ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety. The DfE has published [Filtering and Monitoring Standards](#) which set out guidance for our school:

- identify and assign roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems
- review filtering and monitoring provision at least annually.
- block harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning
- have effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs

Staff at the Sycamore Trust participate in Online Safety training at Induction.

At the Sycamore Trust, we have considerably enhanced information covering online safety, remote learning, blocks and filters, monitoring information security, cybercrime, reviewing online safety provision and information and support.

Where pupils need to learn online from home, each school will support them to do so safely.

At the Sycamore Trust, we understand that a significant part technology has on safeguarding and wellbeing issues of children and young people including social media. Social media can provide positive connectivity for children however it can also make children vulnerable to abuse.

At each of our trust schools, we provide advice and guidance on safety on social media and digital resilience. This is explored through the curriculum and any issues around the use of social media e.g. grooming or cyberbullying or any issues around social media can be reported to the DSL where a multi-agency safeguarding response will be considered e.g. Police and/or MASH.

We will ensure that appropriate blocks and filtering methods (without ‘over-blocking’) are in place to ensure that pupils are safe from all types of inappropriate, harmful and/or unacceptable, including terrorist and extremist material. **KCSiE 2025** highlights the appropriateness of any filters and monitoring systems are a matter for individual schools and colleges and will be informed in part, by the risk assessment required by the Prevent Duty.

We will encourage children to use social media safely, including opportunities for them to think and discuss the issues and to check their sources of information.

We will ensure that children do not misuse their devices whilst in school.

We have separate Acceptable Use Agreements for both staff and children. This covers the use of all technologies and platforms used, both on and offsite.

We follow the guidelines ‘Safeguarding online guidelines for minimum standards’ and the advice on the UK Safer Internet Website.

We work with parents to promote good practice in keeping children safe online, digital resilience including to support their children learning at home.

We ensure that all staff adhere to safe and responsible online behaviours when providing home learning and communicating with families.

Online safety additions to the **KCSiE 2025** guidance state that governing bodies and proprietors should regularly review the effectiveness of school filters and monitoring systems. They should ensure that the leadership team and relevant staff are:

- aware of and understand the systems in place
- manage them effectively
- know how to escalate concerns when identified. Schools and colleges should use communications with parents and carers to reinforce the importance of children being safe online.

Schools should share information with parents/carers about:

- what systems they have in place to filter and monitor online use
- what they are asking children to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access
- who from the school or college (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online

The DSL is the leader responsible for filtering and monitoring on school devices.

We are aware that the UK Safer Internet Centre has published guidance as to what “appropriate” filtering and monitoring might look like: UK Safer Internet Centre: appropriate filtering and monitoring. South West Grid for Learning ([swgfl.org.uk](http://swgfl.org.uk)) have created a tool to check whether a school or college’s filtering provider is signed up to relevant lists (CSA content, Sexual Content, Terrorist content Your Internet Connection Blocks Child Abuse & Terrorist Content).

## **Cybercrime:**

Cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either 'cyber-enabled' (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer).

### **Cyber-dependent crimes include:**

- Unauthorised access to computers (illegal 'hacking'), for example accessing a school's computer network to look for test paper answers or change grades awarded.
- Denial of Service attacks or 'booting'. These are attempts to make a computer, network or website unavailable by overwhelming it with internet traffic from multiple sources.
- Making, supplying or obtaining malware (malicious software) such as viruses, spyware, ransomware, botnets and Remote Access Trojans with the intent to commit further offence, including those above.

The DSL and team are aware that children with particular skill and interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime. The DSL should consider referring into the Cyber Choices Programme. This is a nationwide Police programme supported by the Home Office and led by the National Crime Agency, working with regional and local Policing. It aims to intervene where young people are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests.

## **Child Abduction and Community Safety Incidents:**

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers. Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation. As children get older and are granted more independence (for example, as they start walking to school on their own) it is important they are given practical advice on how to keep themselves safe. It is important that lessons focus on building children's confidence and abilities rather than simply warning them about all strangers. The DSL will work with the relevant services to ensure that the child/ren and families access the right support.

## **Children and The Court System:**

'Children and the court system' – Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are now two age-appropriate guides included for schools to support children in the court system. The guides explain each step of the process, support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained.

[Age 5-11 ywp-5-11-eng.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[ywp-5-11-eng.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Age 12-17 ywp-12-17-eng.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[ywp-12-17-eng.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Children With Family Members in Prison:**

Approximately 200,000 children in England and Wales have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. NICCO (The National Information Centre on Children of Offenders) provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

Children with family members in Prison may be classed as vulnerable. The DSL will work closely with the family to ensure that they have the right support.

### **Homelessness:**

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead DSL (and/or any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity.

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

- Household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour
- Any mention of a family moving home because "they have to"

However, it should also be recognised in some cases children/young people could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Referrals to the Local Housing Authority do not replace referrals to MASH/CSC where a child is being harmed or at risk of harm. For 16 and 17-year-olds, homelessness may not be family-based and referrals to MASH/CSC will be made as necessary where concerns are raised. Children's services will be the lead agency for these young people and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a deputy) should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child's circumstances.

### **Early Help:**

#### **What is Early Help?**

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

#### **What staff should look out for:**

- Has a disability or has certain health conditions and has specific Special Educational Needs or Disabilities - SEND (whether or not they have a statutory EHC plan)
- Are young carers
- Has a mental health need
- Is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups e.g. county lines
- Are frequently missing or going missing from care or from home
- Has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from schools, colleges and in Alternative Provision or a Pupil Referral Unit
- Is Misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- Are at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or sexual/criminal exploitation
- Are in a family circumstance presenting challenges such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
- Are returned home to their family from care
- Show early signs of abuse and/or neglect
- Are at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Have certain health conditions and has specific additional needs
- Have a mental health need
- Are risk of sexual or criminal exploitation
- Has a parent/carer in custody or in prison, or are affected by parental offending
- Are at risk of 'honour' based abuse such as FGM or Forced Marriage
- Are persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day
- Are privately fostered

Early Help will also be used to address non-violent harmful sexual behaviour to prevent escalation. All staff will be made aware of the local Early Help process and understand their role in it. The DSL will take the lead where early help is appropriate.

## Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy & Procedures

### Child's Voice

Children are encouraged to contribute to the development of policies and share their views. All staff should be able to reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.

A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Children who identify as LGBTQ+ should have a trusted adult who they can be open with.

We ensure that we create a culture of listening.

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

Systems are in place, and are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously, and knowing they can safely express their views and give feedback.

### Attendance:

We view poor attendance as a potential safeguarding issue and in accordance with our Attendance Policy, and the statutory guidance Working Together to Improve School Attendance 2024; absences are rigorously pursued, monitored and recorded. Any concerning patterns are reviewed and shared with the relevant agencies. In partnership with the appropriate agencies, we take action to pursue and address all unauthorised absences in order to safeguard the welfare of children in our care.

Our Attendance Policy identifies how individual cases are managed and how we work proactively with parents/carers to ensure that they understand why attendance is important. In certain cases, this may form part of an Early Help Assessment e.g. Story So Far or a Parenting Contract.

Where a child is open to Children's Social care and is placed at Child in Need or Child Protection. The child's school attendance needs to be at the centre of meetings to ensure that they are receiving a suitable education. Where all other areas of compliance are being met, it is important the agencies continue to support education and recognize educational neglect is a barrier and can present safeguarding issues in a child's life.

We implement the statutory and Local Authority requirements in terms of monitoring and reporting Children Missing from Education (CME) if they have been absent from school for more

than twenty school days, part-time timetables and off-rolling and understand how important this practice is in safeguarding children and young people.

Community Learning Officer for CME:  
Child Missing from Education (CME)  
Email: [cme@bury.gov.uk](mailto:cme@bury.gov.uk)  
Fax: 0161 253 5730

### **Children absent from school:**

Staff are aware a child being absent from school is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and, as such, these pupils are particularly at risk of being victims of harm, sexual and criminal exploitation, forced marriage, female genital mutilation or radicalisation. Staff will monitor pupils that are absent from school, particularly on repeat occasions, and report them to the DSL following normal safeguarding procedures, and in accordance with the School Attendance Policy.

As per KCSiE 2025: Paragraph 29

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm e.g. unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education can be signs that children are at risk.

### **Electively Home Educated - EHE (Homeschooling):**

Many home educated children can have an overwhelmingly positive learning experience. We would expect the parents' decision to home educate to be made with their child's best education at the heart of the decision. However, this is not the case for all, and home education can mean some children are **less visible** to the services that are there to keep them safe and supported in line with their needs.

We will inform their Local Authority of all deletions from their admission register when a child is taken off roll.

Where a parent/carer has expressed their intention to remove a child from school with a view to educating at home, we recommend that LAs, schools, and other key professionals work together to coordinate a meeting with parents/carers where possible.

Ideally, this would be before a final decision has been made, to ensure the parents/carers have considered what is in the best interests of each child. This is particularly important where a child has SEND, is vulnerable, and/or has a social worker.

Where professionals do not believe that elective home education is in the child's best interests, it is essential to pass concerns to the EHE team. A multi-agency meeting will be arranged to determine whether there are any safeguarding concerns and if the family should be directed back into education.

If you have reason to question whether a child is receiving 'suitable' home education, you can notify the Local Authority via email:

Community Learning Officer for EHE:  
Elective Home Education (EHE)  
[eh@bury.gov.uk](mailto:eh@bury.gov.uk)  
0161-253-6972

### **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community - GRT:**

GRT communities are amongst the most socially excluded, they are often misunderstood and disadvantaged, and they are one of the groups who are most at risk of low attainment in education. Our GRT communities are recognised by Equality legislation. Respect applies not only to adult members of the GRT communities but also children and young people. Our GRT Community includes

Community Learning Officer for GRT:  
Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community - GRT  
[tes@bury.gov.uk](mailto:tes@bury.gov.uk)

### **Alternative Provision (AP):**

The school will remain responsible for a pupil's welfare during their time at an alternative provider. When placing a pupil with an alternative provider, the school will obtain written confirmation that the provider has conducted all of the relevant safeguarding checks on staff, quality assurance and check that an appropriate Service Level Agreement is in place.

Children who require access to AP will have a personalized learning plan designed to meet their needs. Their attendance will be monitored rigorously in accordance with the School Register Regulations. Our DSL will work together with the DSL at the Alternative Provider to ensure that any safeguarding concerns are followed up appropriately.

Governing bodies and proprietors are aware of the additional risks of harm that their pupils may be vulnerable to when accessing Alternative Provision.

The KCSiE 2025 guidance provides additional information to clarify and reflect existing alternative provision guidance, highlighting how schools should:

- gain written confirmation from the alternative provider that **appropriate staff safeguarding checks** have been carried out, as well as written information about any arrangements that may put the child at risk
- have records of the address of the alternative provider and any subcontracted provision or satellite sites the child may attend
- regularly review any alternative provision placements to make sure the placement continues to be safe and meets the child's needs. If safeguarding concerns occur, the placement should be immediately reviewed and ended if necessary. (KCSiE Para 169 – 170).

## Suspensions/Exclusions:

The DSL will be involved when a fixed term or permanent exclusion is being discussed and any safeguarding issues will be considered. If it is open to Early Help, Child in Need or Child Protection Plan, the Early Help Practitioner or Social Worker will be informed.

Where it is felt that a child or young person is likely to be permanently excluded, schools should instigate a multi-agency assessment to ensure that there is improved understanding of the needs of the young person and their family and that the appropriate key agencies are involved.

If a child is in care, and at risk of suspension or is suspended or permanently excluded the school **must** inform the Virtual School as well as the social worker.

The Attendance Team from Bury Council, Social workers and the Virtual School can now attend the Pupil Discipline Committee meetings to appeal the permanent exclusion on behalf of the child.

## Vulnerable Groups:

We ensure that all key staff work together to safeguard vulnerable children.

Any child may benefit from early help at times, but all staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Has a disability or has specific needs
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan)
- Is a young carer
- Has a social worker
- Is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organized crime groups
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- Is at risk of being radicalized or exploited
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- Has returned home to their family from care
- Is a privately fostered child
- Is an international new arrival, refugee or asylum seeker
- Is looked after (Child Looked After), previously 'looked after child' or under a special guardianship order (SGO)
- Requires mental health support

## Virtual Headteacher:

The role of virtual school head to include a non-statutory responsibility for oversight of the attendance, attainment and progress of children with a social worker. The Bury Council Virtual School provides training and networking opportunities for Designated Teachers to help them carry out their role effectively. The role has been extended to include responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of children in kinship care. This would include children subject to special guardianship orders and child arrangement orders, not just children under care orders.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/virtual-school-head-role-extension-to-children-with-a-social-worker>

## Designated Teacher:

Each of our trust schools has a designated teacher, who is a member of the senior leadership team and they have Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). The designated teacher is responsible for championing the educational needs of looked after children and ensuring they have good quality PEPs. They should be the main author and champion of the PEP within the school context.

We have high expectations of looked after children and we take the time to understand their needs. (See Appendix E)

## Private Fostering:

**Private fostering** is when a child or young person under the age of 16 (or under age 18 if the child or young person is SEND) is cared for by someone who is **not** their parent or a 'close relative' for 28 days or more. This is a **private arrangement** made between a parent and a carer.

Where one of our schools becomes aware of a pupil being privately fostered, they will notify the Local Authority Children's Social Care as soon as possible to allow the LA to conduct any necessary checks.

## Disqualification Under the Childcare Act:

**Childcare disqualification** is an additional requirement to the general child safeguarding arrangements provided under the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) regime, which apply to all children.

We are aware that the childcare disqualification arrangements apply to staff working with young children in childcare settings, including primary schools, nurseries and other registered settings, such as childcare provision on college sites.

The arrangements predominantly apply to individuals working with children aged 5 and under, including reception classes, but also apply to those working in wraparound care for children up to the age of 8, such as breakfast clubs and after school care.

We will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals to whom these regulations apply are not disqualified under the Childcare Disqualification Regulations 2018. Checks will be recorded in accordance with these regulations.

## **Case Management, Record Keeping & Multi-Agency Working:**

### **Keeping Records:**

We keep and maintain up to date information on children on the school roll including where and with whom the child is living, attainment, attendance, referrals to and support from other agencies. The record will also include a chronology of any other significant event in a child's life and up to date contact details for adults who have day to day care of the child.

We keep copies of all referrals to Children and Families Services, the Early Help Hubs and any other agencies related to safeguarding children.

We keep our safeguarding records secure.

We send a pupil's child protection or safeguarding file separately from the main file to a new establishment if they leave as soon as we are informed of the new school and request a receipt of receiving such documents.

### **Pupils Moving Schools:**

Where pupils are moving to another setting, the school will continue to do whatever it reasonably can to provide the receiving institution with any relevant welfare, safeguarding and child protection information. The DSL will ensure that the receiving school has access to pupils' EHC plans, Child in Need plans, Child Protection Plans or, for CLA/LAC, their Personal Education Plan (PEP), and is informed who the child's Social Worker is (and, for CLA, who the responsible Virtual School is).

Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and in promoting children's welfare, including in relation to their educational outcomes. Schools and colleges have clear powers to share, hold and use information for these purposes.

### **Recording and Reporting Concerns:**

All staff, volunteers and visitors have a responsibility to report **any** concerns about the welfare and safety of a child and all such concerns must be taken seriously. If a concern arises all staff, including supply teachers, volunteers and visitors must:

- Speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the person who acts in their absence.
- Agree with this person what action should be taken, by whom and when it will be reviewed.
- Record the concern using CPOMS, our safeguarding recording system.

## **Working With Parents/Carers:**

Our responsibility is to safeguard and promote the welfare of all the children in our care. We aim to do this in partnership with our parents/carers and would expect them to provide up-to-date contact details, including at least two emergency contacts.

In most cases parents/carers will be informed when concerns are raised about the safety and/or welfare of their child and given the opportunity to address any concerns raised.

We aim to engage with parents/carers through the Local Authority Early Help processes, including holding 'strength-based model' conversations.

We will inform, and gain consent from parents/carers if possible, if a referral is to be made to Children's Social Care or any other agency **unless it is believed that by doing so would put the child at risk** e.g. in cases of suspected sexual abuse, Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) or placing the child at risk of significant harm. We will record the reasons if consent is not gained.

In such cases the DSL or Headteacher will seek advice from MASH/Children's Social Care.

## **Multi-Agency Working:**

We will develop effective links with other relevant agencies and co-operate as required with any enquiries regarding child protection issues.

We will develop effective links with the Early Help Hubs and carry out an Early Help Assessment as appropriate.

We will notify the named Social Worker if:

- A child subject to a Child Protection Plan is at risk of permanent exclusion.
- There is an unexplained absence of a child who is subject to a Child Protection Plan.
- It has been agreed as part of any Child Protection Plan or Core Group Plan. (This list isn't exhaustive).

We will regularly review and report concerns, if necessary, as detailed in KCSIE 2023 and will follow Local Authority as well as the Greater Manchester Tri-X procedures if there is a need to re-refer or to escalate.

## **Confidentiality & Information Sharing:**

Staff will ensure that confidentiality protocols are followed and under no circumstances will they disclose any information about children outside of their professional role.

Information about children will only be shared with other members of staff on a need-to-know basis.

All staff and volunteers understand that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies, in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. This is a matter of routine.

We have arrangements in place that set out clearly the process and principles for sharing information within school and with the three safeguarding partners, other organisations, agencies and practitioners as required. This includes an agreed rationale for gaining consent, when and what to share, when and what not to share and systems for recording these decisions.

We comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR in that we ensure that we process all personal information lawfully and keep it safe and secure, with appropriate retention schedules.

### **Holding and sharing information:**

The critical importance of recording, holding, using and sharing information effectively is set out in Parts 1, 2 and 5 of KCSiE 2025, and therefore the designated safeguarding lead should be equipped to:

- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and college, and with other schools and colleges on transfer including in-year and between primary and secondary education, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners
- understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), and
- be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of all concerns, discussions and decisions made including the rationale for those decisions. This should include instances where referrals were or were not made to another agency such as LA children's social care or the Prevent program.

### **Child Protection (CP), Child in Need (CiN) & Team Around The Family Meetings And Conferences:**

A Child Protection Conference will be held by Children's Social Care (CSC) if it is considered that the child is suffering or at risk of significant harm.

We will attend and contribute to initial and review Child Protection (CP) conferences, Child in Need (CIN) reviews and relevant multi-agency meetings, including Core Groups.

Members of staff who are asked to attend a Child Protection Conference or other Core Group Meetings (either in person or virtually) about an individual pupil/family will need to have as much relevant updated information about the child as possible using the most up-to-date proforma to the Chair, within the required timescales, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Reports will always include the voice of the child, which is especially important where there may be barriers to communication. We will discuss and share reports with the parents/carers before the conference.

### **Concerns/Disclosures by Children, Staff & Volunteers:**

Any concern, disclosure or expression made by a child will be listened to seriously and acted upon as quickly as possible to safeguard his or her welfare.

All staff and volunteers must be clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets.

We will make sure that the child or adult who has expressed the concern or made the complaint will be informed not only about the action to be taken but also where possible about the length of time required to resolve the complaint.

We will endeavour to keep the child or adult informed about the progress of the complaint/expression of concern.

### **Learning From Rapid Reviews:**

The Bury Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSP) will always undertake a Rapid Review (RR) when a child has been seriously harmed or when a child dies (including death by suicide), where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in their death or if a child has been significantly harmed.

#### **The purpose is to:**

- Find out if there are any lessons to be learnt from the case about how local professionals and agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- Identify what those lessons are, how they will be acted on and what is expected to change as a result of the serious case review.
- Improve inter-agency working to better safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

If required, we will provide an individual management report for a Rapid Review and will cooperate fully with implementing outcomes of the review including reviewing policy, practice and procedures as required.

A Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) may also be instructed if they know or suspect that a child has been seriously harmed or died because of abuse or neglect. The CSPR Review Panel and relevant safeguarding partners will co-ordinate reports from education and the three local partners within five working days.

Our DSL will keep up to date with the findings from Rapid Reviews and other learning reviews nationally and in Bury.

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) may contact the Safeguarding Lead for Schools/Colleges at Bury Council who will contact the educational establishment for information if there has been a death of a child.

## **The Curriculum:**

We are committed to promoting emotional health and wellbeing and to supporting the development of the skills needed to help keep children safe and healthy. This includes face to face teaching, blended learning and online learning as needed in response to any crisis situation that may arise.

Senior Leaders and Local Governors are aware that the opportunities to teach safeguarding and recognize that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all children and a more personalised and contextualized approach for more vulnerable children, victims of abuse and children with SEND might be needed.

All children have access to an appropriate curriculum, differentiated to meet their needs. They are encouraged to express and discuss their ideas, thoughts and feelings through a variety of activities and have access to a range of cultural opportunities which promote the fundamental British values of tolerance, respect and empathy for others.

This enables them to develop the necessary skills to build self-esteem, respect others, support those in need, resolve conflict without resorting to violence, questions and challenge and to make informed choices in later life.

Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE), Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), Citizenship and Religious Knowledge lessons will provide opportunities for children and young people to discuss and debate a range of subjects including lifestyles, family patterns, religious beliefs and practices and human rights issues.

**Relationships, Sex, and Health Education:** Guidance was updated in 2025 – Includes content on online safety, including scams, AI risks, and misinformation, as well as a renewed emphasis on challenging misogyny and understanding power imbalances in relationships

We take account of the latest advice and guidance provided to help address specific vulnerabilities and forms of grooming and exploitation e.g. Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child on Child abuse, Radicalisation, 'Honour-based' Abuse, including Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation Breast Ironing, Modern Slavery and County Lines.

All children know that there are adults in our school/setting/college whom they can approach if they are in difficulty or feeling worried and that their concerns will be taken seriously and treated with respect.

## Safer Recruitment:

We are committed to keeping pupils safe by ensuring that adults who work or volunteer in school are safe to do so.

We therefore ensure that:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2025, Part 3 guidance is adhered to, to ensure that there is a strong reference and commitment to safeguarding during advertisement, selection and recruitment of new staff.

An enhanced DBS check with barred list information will be undertaken for all staff members engaged in regulated activity.

*A person will be considered to be in 'regulated activity' if, as a result of their work, they:*

- *Are responsible on a daily basis for teaching, training, instructing or the care or supervision of children.*
- *Regularly work in the school at times when children are on the premises.*
- *Regularly come into contact with children under 18 years of age. (Regular is defined as; at least 3 times in a 30-day period).*

The DfE's DBS Workforce Guides will be consulted when determining whether a position fits the child workforce criteria.

The trust board will conduct the appropriate pre-employment checks for all prospective employees, including internal candidates and candidates who have lived or worked outside the UK.

- The appropriate DBS and suitability checks will be carried out for all Trustees, Local Governors, volunteers, and contractors.
- The original DBS certificate is seen for all appointees to the school, even where the on-line DBS system indicates that the check is clear.

There are sufficient staff and local governors who have undertaken appropriate Safer Recruitment training in the last 5 years and reached the required standard as verified by the course facilitators, to enable at least one person on every recruitment panel to be appropriately trained and there are at least 2 people on each selection panel

- Written assurances will be obtained from agencies and other employers that provide staff to work in school, to confirm that appropriate pre-employment checks have been undertaken in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2025
- Individual identity checks will be undertaken on those staff detailed above to ensure they are employees of the named agency/employer
- Conduct an online search as part of our due diligence on shortlisted candidates. This may help identify any incidents or issues that have happened and are publicly available online and will inform shortlisted candidates of this procedure.
- A transfer of control agreement will be used where other agencies/organisations use school premises and are not operating under school's safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Adults who are involved in the management or provision of child care of children in Early Years, or in out of school provision for children up to 8 years old, will make a declaration that they are not disqualified under the Child Care Act 2006.

Disqualification Under the Child Care Act - It is good practice to ensure that this declaration is renewed annually for those staff working in a relevant setting and is evidenced. When an issue is declared, advice will be sought from Ofsted about the need to apply for a waiver. If a waiver is necessary, a risk assessment will be carried out and proportionate measures put in place until a waiver has been issued or matters resolved otherwise [disqualification@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:disqualification@ofsted.gov.uk)

### **Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA):**

In KCSiE 2025 there are updates related to TRA Employer Access Service/Section 128 checks- these links have been updated with new link to GOV.UK page.

Advice will be sought from Human Resources, LADO and/or Schools Safeguarding Officer if any staff are unclear about any aspects of Safer Recruitment.

Susan Roberts - Senior HR Business Partner Schools/Colleges- Bury Council  
[s.roberts@bury.gov.uk](mailto:s.roberts@bury.gov.uk)  
☎ 0161-253-5632

Mark Gay - Local Authority Designated Officer [LADO@bury.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@bury.gov.uk)  
☎ 0161-253-5342/0758-387-250

Jane Gould - Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) [LADO@bury.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@bury.gov.uk)  
☎ 0161-253-5465

Gina Andrews - Community Education and Safeguarding Manager at Bury Council  
[g.andrews@bury.gov.uk](mailto:g.andrews@bury.gov.uk)  
☎ 0161-253-5811/07974-604-223

Lisa Ricketts - Lead Safeguarding Officer for Schools/Colleges at Bury Council -  
[l.ricketts@bury.gov.uk](mailto:l.ricketts@bury.gov.uk)  
☎ 0161-253-5773/07356-186-267

### **Referral to the DBS:**

There is a legal requirement for schools and colleges to make a referral to the DBS where they remove an individual from regulated activity (or would have removed an individual had they not left), and they believe the individual has:

- engaged in relevant conduct in relation to children and/or adults, and/or
- satisfied the harm test in relation to children and/or vulnerable adults, and/or
- been cautioned or convicted of a relevant (automatic barring either with or without the right to make representations) offence.

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

### **Single central record (SCR):**

Every trust school keeps an SCR which records all staff, including agency and third-party supply staff (for longer placements), and teacher trainees on salaried routes, who work at the school.

The following information is recorded on the SCR:

- An identity check
- A barred list check
- An enhanced DBS check
- A prohibition from teaching check
- A check of professional qualifications, where required
- A check to determine the individual's right to work in the UK
- Additional checks for those who have lived or worked outside of the UK
- Any other information deemed relevant.

If any checks have been conducted for volunteers or Local Governors, these may also be recorded on the SCR. If risk assessments are conducted to assess whether a volunteer should be subject to an enhanced DBS check, the risk assessment will be recorded. Best practice indicates that volunteers should have the relevant DBS check. Academies, Special Post-16 institutions and Independent Training Providers should maintain a single central record.

The details of an individual will be removed from the SCR once they no longer work at the school.

### **Managing Allegations and Concerns Against Staff, Teachers including Supply Teachers, Volunteers and Contractors Part 4 Of Keeping Children Safe in Education:**

There are clear policies in line with those from the Bury Safeguarding Children's Partnership as well as Greater Manchester Tri-X Procedures online for dealing with allegations against staff or people who work with children. All allegations against staff, supply staff, volunteers, contractors and any person who may use or hire the school premises, will be managed in line with the school/college's Whistleblowing Policy – a copy of which will be provided to, and understood by, all staff at induction.

The school will ensure all allegations against staff, including those who are not employees of the school, are dealt with appropriately and that the school liaises with the relevant parties. When managing allegations against staff, the school will recognise the distinction between allegations that meet the harms threshold and allegations that do not, also known as "low-level concerns".

### **LADO THRESHOLDS:**

Allegations that meet the harms threshold include instances where staff have:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child.
- Committed or possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.

- Behaved towards a child in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.
- Behaved, or may have behaved, in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

All staff are aware of these procedures and aware of the following expectations and protocol:-

- ALL staff and volunteers are aware that they must refer allegations or concerns around staff (including supply staff) conduct to the Headteacher.

ALL staff and volunteers are aware of the requirement to, and process of referring allegations or concerns around the Headteacher to the Chair of the Board of Trustees and how to contact them.

- The Headteacher and/or Chair of the Board of Trustees will discuss the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- ALL staff and volunteers remember that the welfare of the child is paramount and that they have a duty to inform Headteacher if any adult's conduct gives cause for concern.
- All staff recognise the importance of sharing and reporting low-level concerns surrounding staff or any adult in a position of trust to the Headteacher.
- ALL staff are aware that the school/college's Whistleblowing Policy enables staff to raise concerns or allegations in confidence and for a sensitive enquiry to take place.
- Staff are fully aware of Guidance for Safer Working Practice 2022 and Staff Code of conduct and are aware of professional expectations of their own behaviour and conduct.
- Further information, LADO information and flowchart of how allegations are managed:

The trust recognises that children may make disclosures against someone who is in a position of trust/is working or volunteering with children, not in the school setting. This may be an adult in a place of worship, a sports coach or a club leader. After ensuring that the child is safe, we recognise that we must refer to the LADO and share information.

- Low-level concerns at each trust school ensure that all staff are aware of how to recognise and report low-level concerns around staff behaviour or conduct.

The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant. 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 and or videos 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
- using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating, or offensive language

At each school in the trust, we 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, contractors or those that have hired/let the premises) are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

We will strive to embed a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the school's values and expected behaviour set out in the staff code of conduct are lived, monitored and reinforced constantly by all staff.

We will ensure that staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer, where, for example, they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.

All staff are clear on how to report low level concerns and will be empowered to do so. Staff must report their concerns to the Head teacher. If concerns are surrounding the Head teacher, this must be referred to the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2025, will be followed in view of recording and storage of such concerns.

If in doubt whether the concern is a low-level concern, the Headteacher will consult with LADO for advice and guidance.

The Trust Board will ensure low-level concern procedures and staff behaviour expectations are clearly addressed within the staff code of conduct, and procedures are implemented effectively, ensuring that appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard children and facilitate a whole school or college approach to dealing with any concerns.

### **Safety On & Off Site:**

- Our site is secure with safeguards in place to prevent any unauthorised access and also to prevent children leaving the site unsupervised.
- We have good up to date knowledge of our local area and any safeguarding risks within the wider community.
- We will ensure that any contractor, or any employee of a contractor, who is to work in our school, has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check. We are responsible for determining the appropriate level of supervision depending on the circumstances. We will always check the identities of contractors and their staff on arrival.
- We operate a responsible booking protocol and will carry out appropriate checks on all organisations which request to hire our facilities.
- We exercise due diligence to prevent any organisation or speaker from using our facilities to disseminate extremist views or radicalize pupils or staff.
- All school visits are fully risk-assessed and no child will be taken off-site without parental/carers permission.
- We have a Health & Safety policy e.g. for contacting parents and for reporting to the emergency services, including Police and hospitals.
- Pupils will be directed to practical online support, such as Childline, NSPCC and other agencies where they feel unsafe and require support outside of school.

## **Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) 2025:**

The new EYFS framework, effective September 2025, places a greater emphasis on safeguarding by requiring strengthened safer recruitment practices, including verifying references for all new employees.

Providers must ensure their safeguarding policies clearly outline action plans for safeguarding concerns, handling staff misconduct allegations, and regulating the use of mobile phones and cameras within the setting. Additionally, the updated framework mandates enhanced safeguarding training, a Paediatric First Aid requirement for all staff included in ratios, and robust whistleblowing policies to create a safer environment for young children.

### **Key Aspects of Safeguarding in the New EYFS Framework (2025)**

#### **Safer Recruitment:**

Providers must obtain and check references for all new staff and volunteers to ensure they are suitable to work with children, a crucial step to prevent risks.

#### **Enhanced Safeguarding Training:**

All staff are expected to receive improved training to understand and implement safeguarding procedures effectively.

#### **Paediatric First Aid (PFA):**

There is a new requirement for all staff included in the staff-to-child ratios to hold a PFA certificate or an emergency certificate.

#### **Clear Policies and Procedures:**

Safeguarding policies must be detailed, covering how to respond to safeguarding concerns, what to do if staff are accused of misconduct, and specific rules for using mobile phones and cameras in the setting.

#### **Whistleblowing Policies:**

Providers are now required to have clear whistleblowing policies to encourage staff to raise concerns confidentially and without fear of reprisal.

#### **Monitoring Child Absence:**

The framework includes changes related to monitoring children's absence, an important aspect of identifying potential safeguarding issues.

### **Communication and confidentiality**

All child protection and safeguarding concerns will be treated in the strictest of confidence in accordance with the data protection policies of the trust and individual schools within the trust.

Where there is an allegation or incident of sexual abuse or sexual violence, the victim is entitled to anonymity by law; therefore, the school will consult its policy and agree on what information will be disclosed to staff and others, in particular the alleged perpetrator and their parents. Where a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system, the school will do all it can to protect the anonymity of the pupils involved in the case.

Concerns will only be reported to those necessary for its progression and reports will only be shared amongst staff members and with external agencies on a need-to-know basis. During the disclosure of a concern by a pupil, staff members will not promise the pupil confidentiality and will ensure that they are aware of what information will be shared, with whom and why.

Where it is in the public interest, and protects pupils from harm, information can be lawfully shared without the victim's consent, e.g. if doing so would assist the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime. Before doing so, the DSL will weigh the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and others. Where a referral is made against the victim's wishes, it is done so carefully with the reasons for the referral explained to the victim and specialist support offered.

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

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

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

## **Monitoring and review**

This policy is reviewed at least annually by the trust board. This policy will be updated as needed to ensure it is up-to-date with safeguarding issues as they emerge and evolve, including any lessons learnt.

Schools within the trust are to communicate any changes to their school policy with all members of staff. All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with all processes and procedures outlined in their school policy as part of their induction programme. The next scheduled review date for this policy is December 2025.

## **Appendix A: Whistleblowing Flowchart:**

This flowchart should be used for concerns about:-

- any unlawful act, whether criminal or a breach of civil law.
- maladministration.
- breach of any statutory code of practice.
- breach of, or failure to implement or comply with Financial Regulations.
- any failure to comply with appropriate professional standards.
- fraud, corruption or dishonesty.
- actions which are likely to cause physical/mental/psychological danger to any person, or to give rise to a risk of significant damage to property.
- loss of income to the school.
- abuse of power, or the use of the school's powers and authority for any unauthorised or ulterior purpose.
- discrimination in the provision of education.
- any other matter that staff consider they cannot raise by any other procedure.

## What do when a concern is raised against a member of staff:

### Making a Disclosure

Raise concerns with the Headteacher either in writing or verbally. If the concern is regarding the headteacher or principal, report to the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Trust Leader or the LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer. The concern must include: the names of individuals, dates and places where applicable and the reasons for concerns.

**The earlier the concerns are disclosed, the easier it is for action to be taken**



### Responding to a disclosure

An investigation may need to be carried out under strict confidentiality. At this point, the subject of the complaint will not be informed, until it becomes necessary to do so.

Depending on the nature of the concern, matters raised may:

- be investigated internally
- be referred to the Police
- be referred to the Audit Commission
- form the subject of an independent inauiru.



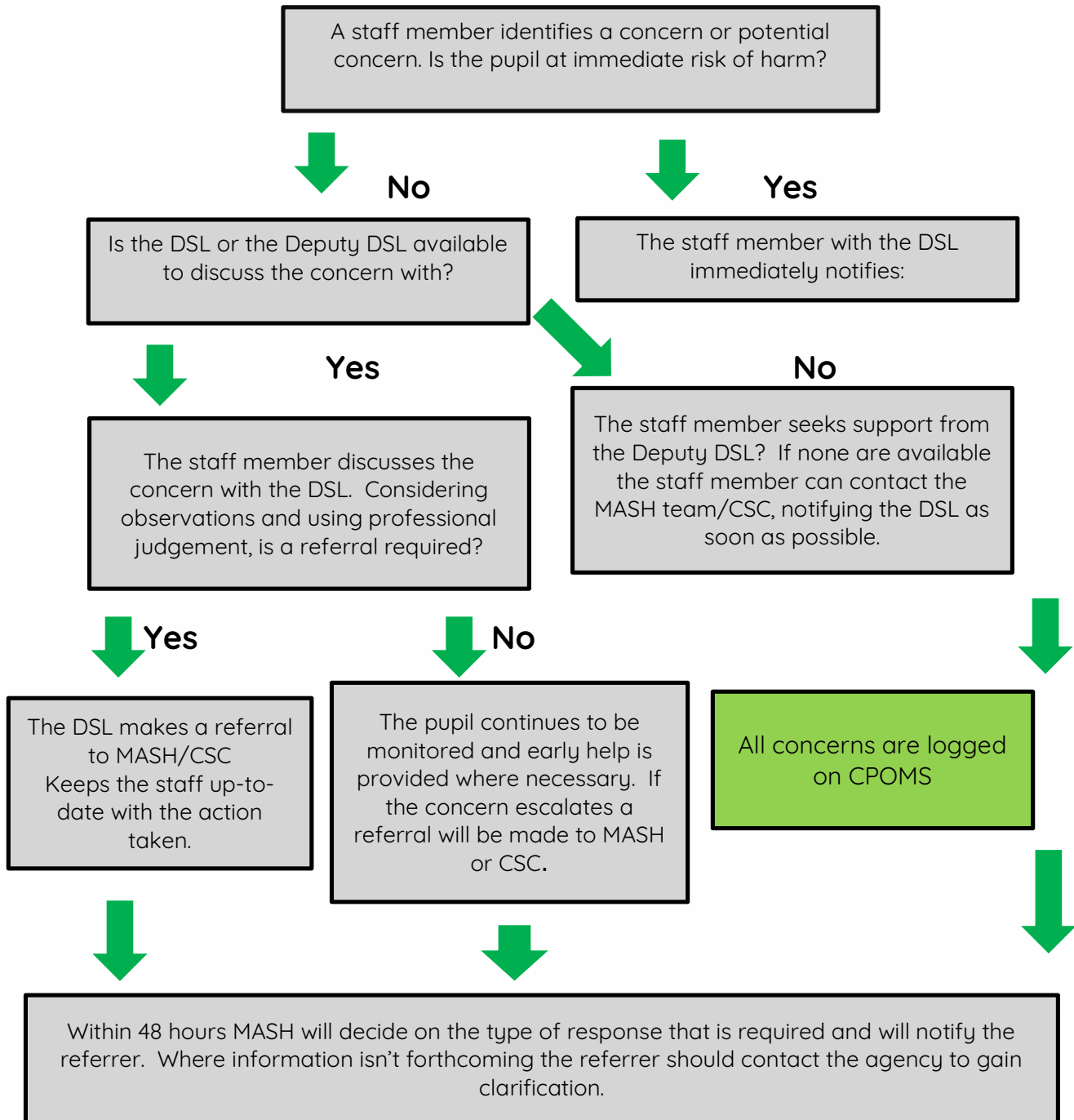
The Designated Officer will offer to keep the whistleblower informed about the investigation and its outcome.

The feedback will be provided within one month of the completion of the investigation.

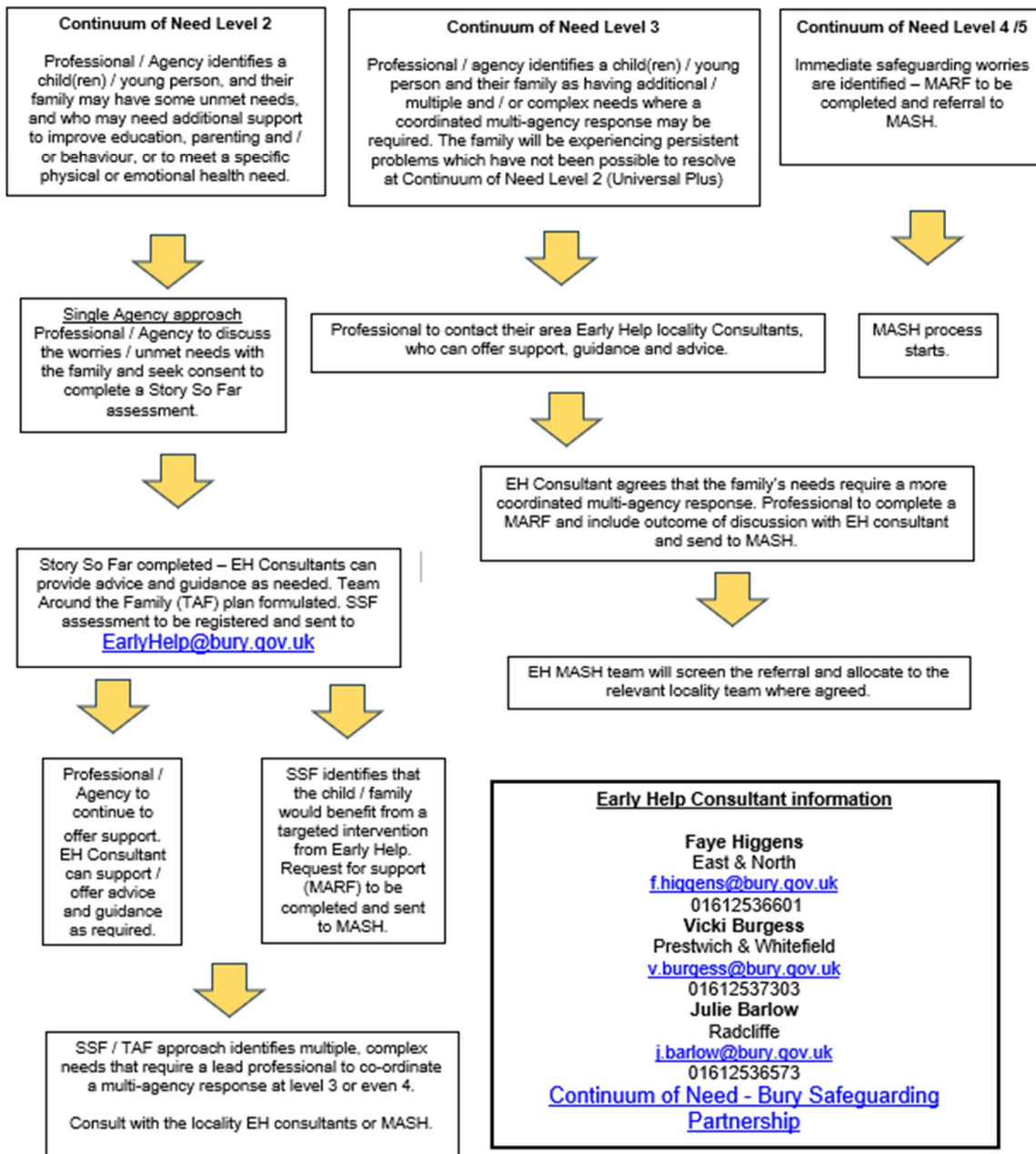
## Appendix B: Managing Referrals and Disclosures:

Safeguarding Reporting Process The process outlined within the first section should be followed where a staff member has a safeguarding concern about a child. Where a referral has been made, the process outlined in the 'After a referral is made' section should be followed. The actions taken by the school are outlined in yellow, whereas actions taken by another agency are outlined in blue.

### Making a referral:



## Appendix C: Early Help





**CHILD'S Details, to include full name, date of birth and address/INITIAL ACCOUNT OBTAINED** (Preferably with parent or carer present unless they are the person of potential concern)

(Note: no leading questions should be asked, questions should be kept open and to a minimum, i.e., what was the incident, and how did they feel, did anyone witness this?)

**PARENTS/CARERS details of child if known and contact numbers - CARERS VIEW** (what was their response and what action would parents/carer like to see taken)

**ANY WITNESSES? - Full details of contact details**

(Note: if so do not discuss what the child has said, ask only if they are aware on any incident that has occurred involving the child and ask that they make a note of their account, print name, sign and date)

**IS THERE ANY CCTV FOOTAGE TO PROVE OR DISPROVE THE ALLEGATION? If there is, what does it show?**

(Please check this first and ensure a copy is kept)

**HAVE THERE BEEN ANY HISTORIC ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE CHILD?**

(dates and outcomes)

**HAVE THERE BEEN ANY HISTORIC ALLEGATIONS OR CONCERNS IN RELATIONS TO THE MEMBER OF STAFF?**

(dates, what the allegation was and outcome)

**Office Use Only:**

**POLICE ADVICE OR RESPONSE**

--

**HR/Employer ADVICE OR RESPONSE**

--

**CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE ADVICE OR RESPONSE**

--

**LADO ADVICE OR RESPONSE - Final Outcome**

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**Office use only:**

Date of Closure: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emails received to show confirmation of above if needed.**

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## Appendix E:

### Useful Links And Websites:

#### **Bullying:**

[Preventing and Tackling Bullying Advice](#)

#### **Child Criminal Exploitation CCE:**

[Children Who May Have Been Trafficked - Government Guidance](#)

[Trafficking: Safeguarding children -](#)

[Child Trafficking Government Guidance](#)

**County Lines:** Further information on the signs of a child's involvement in county lines is available in guidance published by the Home Office below:

[What to do if you are worried a child has been abused](#) DfE advice.

County Lines Toolkit provided by the Children's Society in partnership with Victim Support and the NPCC National Police Chief's Council.

[County Lines toolkit](#)

#### **Children and the Court System:**

[Get Help With Child Arrangements](#)

[Young Witness Booklet - 5 - 11 year olds](#)

[Young Witness Booklet 12-17 year olds](#)

#### **Children Missing from Education:**

[Children Who Go Missing From Education \(CME\)](#)

#### **DOMESTIC ABUSE: Domestic Abuse Bill/Factsheet**

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline:** Refuge runs the National Domestic Abuse Helpline, which can be called free of charge and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247. Its website provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. It also has a form through which a safe time from the team for a call can be booked.

[Domestic Violence and Abuse Home Office](#)

[Get Help Now - Effects of Domestic Abuse](#)

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)

[Save Lives & Domestic Abuse](#)

[Domestic Abuse Services and Refuge in the North West - Safenet](#)

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):** [Multi-agency Guidance for FGM](#)

**Forced Marriage:**

[Government Guidance - Forced Marriage](#)

[Multi-agency practice guidelines: handling cases of forced marriage](#)

[Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage](#)

[Multi-agency practice guidelines for Forced Marriage and learning disabilities](#)

[Forced Marriage Multi-Agency Guidance](#)

**Gangs:**

[Gangs and Youth Violence - Schools/Colleges - Home Office Advice](#)

**Harmful Sexual Behaviour:**

[Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#) Lucy Faithfull Foundation has developed a HSB Toolkit.

[Beyond Referrals](#) Contextual Safeguarding Network – Beyond Referrals (schools) provides a school self-assessment toolkit and guidance for addressing HSB in schools.

[Marie Collins Foundation](#)

**Information Sharing for Practitioners:**

[Information Sharing](#)

**Mental Health/Bullying:**

[Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#)

[Mental health and behaviour in schools guidance](#)

**Modern Slavery:**

[Modern Slavery – guidance](#)

You can also access [documents related to the Modern Slavery Act](#).

**Online Safety:**

[Teaching Online Safety in Schools](#)

[DfE advice - Online Safety in Schools](#)

[Education for a connected world](#)

[Think U Know How](#) National Crime Agency

[Public Health England Resources](#)

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

**Reasonable Force:** [Reducing the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Intervention](#)

**Prevent Duty:**

[Prevent Duty Guidance](#)

[British Values Toolkit](#)

**Sharing Nudes and Semi-nudes:**

**Information on sending nudes (previously known as sexting):**

[Sharing Nudes and Semi Nudes Guidance](#)

### **Sexual Violence and Harassment:**

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 – Part 5 – Child on Child Sexual Violence and Harassment [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023](#)

[Strategy to End Violence against women and girls - Home Office Strategy](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: Statutory Guidance](#)

### **Expert Organisations:**

[Barnardo's](#)

[Lucy Faithful Foundation](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[Rape Crisis](#)

### **Support for victims:**

[Anti-Bullying Alliance](#)

[MoJ Victim Support](#)

[Rape Crisis](#)

[The Survivor's Trust](#)

[Victim Support](#)

### **Toolkits:**

[Brook](#)

[NSPCC](#)

### **Further Information on confidentiality and information sharing:**

[Gillick Competency Fraser Guidelines](#)

[Government Information Sharing Advice](#)

[Information Commissioner's Officer: Education](#)

### **Support for parents:**

[Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support.

[Commonsensemedia](#) provide independent reviews, age ratings, & other information about all types of media for children and their parents.

[Government Advice](#) about protecting children from specific online harms such as child sexual abuse, sexting, and cyberbullying.

[Internet Matters](#) provide age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world.

[ParentZone](#)

[Parentsafe - London Grid for Learning](#)

[CEOP Thinkuknow - Challenging Harmful Sexual Attitudes and their Impact](#)

[CEOP Thinkuknow - Supporting Positive Sexual Behaviour](#)

Parents Protect Traffic Light Tool

Concerned about a child/yp - harmful sexual behaviour

**Useful websites:**

NSPCC Preventing Child Abuse

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-action-plan-to-tackle-child-abuse-linked-to-faith-or-belief> DfE advice

<https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/relationship-abuse/what-is-relationship-abuse/> Home Office

Serious Violence Strategy Home Office Strategy

Sexual Violence and Harassment:

Sexual violence and harassment between children in schools and colleges refer to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 for new updates on this guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-strategy> Home Office Strategy