

# Red Gates School

## Safeguarding Children Policy and Protocol

September 2019

<b>For approval by:</b>	Full Governing Body
<b>Approved by the full Governing Body:</b>	
<b>Signed by Chair of Governors:</b>	
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	September 2020



**Red Gates School**

**Headteacher: Lorraine Slee**

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## Key contacts

**Name of school/college: Red Gates School****Headteacher/principal:**

Name: Lorraine Slee

Contact details: [lorraineslee@redgates.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:lorraineslee@redgates.croydon.sch.uk)

**Designated safeguarding lead:**

Name: Karen Williams

Contact details: [kwilliams129.306@lgflmail.org](mailto:kwilliams129.306@lgflmail.org)

**Deputy designated safeguarding lead:**

Name: Melissa Hendry

Contact details: [melissahendry@redgates.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:melissahendry@redgates.croydon.sch.uk)

**Designated LAC teacher:**

Name: Karen Williams

Contact details: [kwilliams129.306@lgflmail.org](mailto:kwilliams129.306@lgflmail.org)

**Nominated governor for safeguarding:**

Name: Barbara Alcaraz

Contact details: [balcaraz.306@lgflmail.org](mailto:balcaraz.306@lgflmail.org)

### ***London Borough of Croydon***

**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):**

[lado@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:lado@croydon.gov.uk)

LADO: Steve Hall

Email: [steve.hall@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:steve.hall@croydon.gov.uk)

Tel: 0208 255 2889

Mob: 07825 830328

Assistant LADO: Jane Parr

Email: [jane.parr@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:jane.parr@croydon.gov.uk)

Tel: 0208 726 6000 (Ext. 84343)

Mob: 07985 590505

**SPOC (Single Point of Contact):**

For urgent child protection matters requiring immediate attention: Tel: 0208 255 2888

SPOC Professionals Consultation Line

Tel: 0208 726 6464

Email SPOC referrals to: [childrenferrals@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:childrenferrals@croydon.gov.uk)

Manager: Johnathan Lung (Service Leader, Children & Families))

Email: [johnathan.lung@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:johnathan.lung@croydon.gov.uk)

**Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP)**

Website: [croydonlcsb.org.uk](http://croydonlcsb.org.uk)

[Safeguarding learning & development](#)

Email: [safeguardingchildrenboard@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingchildrenboard@croydon.gov.uk)

Tel: 0208 604 7275

## **Part A: Core operational policies and procedures**

### **1 Purpose of policy**

This policy sets out how the school will meet its statutory duty under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and help them to achieve good outcomes. The school will achieve this by providing a safe learning environment and ensuring school staff have the skills and knowledge to take action where children need extra support from early help services or require a social work service because they are in need or need to be protected from harm.

### **2 Roles and responsibilities**

#### **2.1 Croydon's Children Families & Education Directorate**

The Directorate includes services that will support the school to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by:

- co-ordinating the delivery of integrated children's services within the borough, including an early help service
- providing statutory social work services under the Children Act 1989
- providing the school with advice, support and guidance, model policies and procedures, training and dedicated lead officers with responsibility for child protection, safeguarding and online safety
- dealing with allegations against members of staff and volunteers through the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- taking responsibility for those children who are not in education, including children who are known to be home educated.

#### **2.2 Governing Board**

The Governing Board will ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to safeguarding and protecting pupils and that the following are in place:

- The school has the following policies in place and that these are regularly monitored, reviewed and updated where necessary;

- safeguarding policies and procedures covering early help and child protection that are consistent with Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures and Croydon's internal policies
  - a staff code of conduct policy including policies covering staff/pupil relationships and communications and staff use of social media
  - a procedure for responding to incidents where children go missing from education, particularly where there are repeated incidents that suggest potential safeguarding risks may be present.
- The school is able to work jointly with other agencies in order to ensure pupils can access help and support from early help services and statutory social work services and that children's plans are implemented and monitored.
  - The Chair of the Governing Board is aware that they are responsible for liaising with the LADO in the event of an allegation against the head teacher.
  - A senior member of staff is appointed as the designated safeguarding lead with responsibility for carrying out the statutory duties as set out in this policy, the individual is given sufficient time and resources to carry out their responsibilities and that another member of staff is appointed to deputise in their absence.
  - There is a designated teacher nominated to promote the educational achievement of looked after children and previously looked after children and that this person has received appropriate training for the role.
  - Staff receive a thorough induction on joining and are given copies of all relevant safeguarding and child protection policies and the staff code of conduct policy.
  - Staff are confident that they can raise issues with leaders where there are concerns about safeguarding practice at the school and there are robust whistleblowing procedures in place.
  - Steps are taken to ensure parents and pupils are aware of the schools safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures.

- Governors ensure children are given opportunities within the curriculum to learn how to keep themselves safe, including on-line.
- The school has appropriate written procedures in place to ensure safer recruitment practices and reasonable checks on visitors to the school, to deal with allegations against staff or volunteers and to report matters to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required, and that these policies are consistent with statutory guidance and reviewed on an annual basis.
- At least one member of the Governing Board has undertaken accredited safer recruitment training.
- All staff receive safeguarding and child protection training annually and receive regular updates from the designated safeguarding lead to ensure they remain up to date with new legislation.
- The school has procedures in place to deal with allegations made against other pupils.
- Children's wishes and feelings are taken into account when deciding on what action to take or services to provide to protect individual children and there is a robust system in place for gaining feedback from pupils.

### **2.3 The head teacher**

The head teacher will ensure that the school meets its statutory safeguarding duty by ensuring the following:

- Staff members are inducted thoroughly and have read all the schools safeguarding and child protection policies, behaviour policies and the CSCP children missing from education policy so that they are fully aware of their role in safeguarding children and are able to fully implement policies.
- All staff are able to identify those children who need extra help and can make appropriate referrals to early help services.
- All staff are vigilant to harm and abuse, are able to identify those children for whom there are child protection concerns and can make appropriate referrals to children's social care.
- Staff are able to work in partnership with other agencies to safeguard children, including providing early help support, contributing to

assessments and the implementation of the child's plan, attending network meetings and case conferences, monitoring children's progress and liaising with social workers.

- Staff are encouraged to attend learning events and participate in audit activity provided by the Safeguarding Children Partnership as well as promote published learning from events and serious case reviews.
- Safer recruitment practice is followed when recruiting to posts and appropriate action is taken whenever an allegation is made against a member of staff.
- The school offers a safe environment for staff and pupils to learn.
- Safeguarding issues are brought to the attention of the governing body.

#### **2.4 Role of the designated safeguarding lead**

The role of the designated safeguarding lead and their deputies is to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within the school and to be available during school hours for staff to discuss safeguarding concerns.

The designated safeguarding lead (and their deputies) will:

- liaise with and manage referrals to relevant agencies such as CSSW, the LADO, the Channel Panel, the Police and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS);
- keep the head teacher and the board of governors informed of on-going safeguarding and child protection issues and enquiries;
- provide advice and guidance for staff on safeguarding and child protection issues and making referrals;
- ensure the school's safeguarding and child protection policies are up to date and consistent with Croydon's Safeguarding Children Partnership policies and that policies are reviewed annually;
- ensure all staff, including temporary staff, are aware of and understand policies and procedures and are able to implement them;
- attend regular training, including Prevent awareness training, and the designated teachers meetings hosted by Croydon and the Safeguarding Children Partnership in order to keep up to date with new



policy, emerging issues and local early help, safeguarding and child protection procedures and working practices;

- provide regular updates to all staff members and governors on any changes in safeguarding or child protection legislation;
- have an awareness of those children who may be in need, young carers and children who have special educational needs and liaise with the SENCO when considering any safeguarding action for a child with special needs;
- liaise with the designated teacher for LAC whenever there are safeguarding concerns relating to a looked after child or previously looked after child;
- oversee child protection systems (CPOMS – Child Protection Online Management System) within the school, including the management of records, standards of recording concerns and referral processes;
- provide a link between the school and other agencies, particularly children’s social care and the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership;
- ensure staff, including temporary staff, receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training annually;
- ensure parents are fully aware of the school policies and procedures and that they are kept informed and involved;
- ensure relevant records are passed on appropriately when children transfer to other schools and where appropriate, share relevant information with schools or colleges to enable continued support for the child on transfer.

## **2.5 Working with parents and carers**

The school recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the welfare and safety of pupils.

The school will:

- make parents aware of the school statutory role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils, including the duty to refer pupils on

where necessary, by making all school policies available on the school web-site or on request;

- provide opportunities for parents and carers to discuss any problems with class teachers and other relevant staff;
- consult with and involve parents and carers in the development of school policies to ensure their views are taken into account;
- ensure a robust complaints system is in place to deal with issues raised by parents and carers;
- provide advice and signpost parents and carers to other services and resources where pupils need extra support.

## **2.6 Multi-agency working**

The school will work in partnership with relevant agencies in order to meet its obligations under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and *Working together to safeguard children 2018*.

The school recognises its vital role in safeguarding school-age children and will co-operate with the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership to ensure joint working with partner agencies in order to improve outcomes for children in Croydon.

## **3 Safeguarding children**

The school will carry out its duty to safeguard pupils which is:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- undertaking that role so as to enable children to have optimum life chances so they can enter adulthood successfully.

The school will seek advice from the SPOC Professionals' Consultation Line to help make decisions on the child's level of need and the appropriate service to refer on for services. Staff will consult with the designated safeguarding

lead for advice and to discuss the case prior to making any referral for services.

The SPOC Professionals' Consultation Number is 0208 726 6464

All referrals for a children's social care service will be made by way of Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Safeguarding Referral Form. SPOC is Croydon's "front door" for children's social care referrals and accepts referrals for all cases.

### **SPOC Referral Form**

Parental consent for referral will be sought but a referral will be made regardless of consent being given in cases where the child is at risk of significant harm.

Staff will also share information and work in an integrated way to ensure a co-ordinated response from agencies to support families and meet the child's needs.

#### **3.1 Early help cases**

Staff will identify children who need extra help at an early stage and provide help and support in order to prevent concerns from escalating. In particular, staff will be aware of the needs of the following groups of children whose circumstances may mean they will require early help:

- children with disabilities and additional needs, including those with special educational needs
- young carers
- children showing early signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gangs and organised crime;
- children who frequently go missing from home, school or care;
- children who are misusing drugs or alcohol;
- children at risk of exploitation through modern slavery and trafficking;
- children whose home circumstances are negatively affected by adult substance misuse or mental ill health or domestic abuse;
- children who have returned home from care;
- children who show early signs of abuse or neglect, including where there are concerns about the cumulative effect of low-level neglect;
- children at risk of radicalisation;
- privately fostered children.

- Where the child's extra needs require services, consideration will be given to what early help support can be offered to a child by the school.
- If the child requires an early help service from another agency, the school will make a referral to the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for appropriate help and support. Staff will consult with parents prior to making any referral to discuss the matter and gain consent to refer the child.
- Where the child is receiving an Early Help service, the school will work as part of the Team Around the Child (TAC) and take up the role of lead professional where this is appropriate.
- Early help provision should be monitored and reviewed to ensure outcomes for the child are improving. If the school believes that this is not the case, consideration should be given making a referral for a statutory social work service.

### **3.2 Referral for a statutory social work service**

Where there are concerns about a child's welfare, staff will act immediately by seeking the advice of the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy who are most likely to have the most complete safeguarding overview. Following consultation, the designated safeguarding lead should decide on whether to make a referral to children's social care via SPOC.

Where the referral raises concerns that the child is at risk of significant harm, the case will be passed on to Croydon's MASH team to gather relevant information from other agencies.

SPOC will inform the school of the outcome of any referral and what action children's social care will be taking. This may include any of the following:

- Carrying out a child and family assessment to identify the child's needs and establish if the child is a **child in need** under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. These are children (including disabled children) who are unlikely to meet a reasonable standard of health and development unless provided with services.
- Convening a **strategy meeting under child protection** procedures as set out in section 4 for any child where there are concerns about significant harm and/or taking any immediate action in order to protect the child.

- Providing interim services for the child and their family in the meantime whilst work is on-going (including details of appropriate services).

## 4 Child protection procedures

### 4.1 Role of school

The school will work to the following policy documents in order to support the protection of pupils who are at risk of significant harm.

- Working together to safeguard children (*DfE 2018*)

[Working together to safeguard children](#)

- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (*DfE2015*)

[What to do if you're worried a child is being abused - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

- The London Safeguarding Children Board child protection procedures

[London Safeguarding Children Board: Child Protection Procedures](#)

- Keeping children safe in education (*DFE 2019*)

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

- Croydon Safeguarding Partnership local policies and procedures

[CSCB local policies and procedures](#)

In line with these policies and procedures, the school will:

- identify those pupils where there are child protection concerns and make a referral to SPOC
- attend child protection case conferences in order to effectively share information about risk and harm
- contribute to the development and monitoring of child protection plans as a member of the core group
- carry out the school's role in implementing the child protection plan and continually monitoring the child's wellbeing and liaising with the allocated social worker as required.

### 4.2 Recognition

- Staff have a responsibility to identify those children who are suffering from abuse or neglect and to ensure that any concerns about the welfare of a pupil are reported to the designated safeguarding lead.

- Staff should refer to Part B for a full definition of significant harm and the specific indicators that may suggest a pupil may be at risk of suffering significant harm.
- Any concerns held by staff should be discussed in the first instance with the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy and advice sought on what action should be taken. Where required, advice can be obtained from the SPOC Professionals Consultation Line on a no-names basis.
- Concerns may be monitored over time and recorded on CPOMS. This is overseen by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and actioned as required.

### **4.3 Dealing with disclosures**

If a pupil discloses to a member of staff that they are being abused, the member of staff should;

- listen to what is said without displaying shock or disbelief and accept what the child is saying;
- allow the child to talk freely;
- reassure the child but not make promises that it may not be possible to keep, or promise confidentiality, as a referral may have to be made to children's social care;
- reassure the child that what has happened is not their fault and that they were right to tell someone;
- not ask direct questions but allow the child to tell their story;
- not criticise the alleged perpetrator;
- explain what will happen next and who has to be told;
- make a formal record on CPOMS and pass this on to the designated safeguarding lead.

### **4.4 Referral**

- Where possible, a decision on whether or not to refer a pupil to SPOC should be made by the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy following a discussion with the member of staff who has raised concerns. However this should not delay any referral and any member of staff may make a referral if this is necessary but staff should discuss the matter with a member of the senior management team and take advice from the SPOC team social worker. The designated safeguarding lead should be informed as soon as possible.

- Referrals should be in writing using a SPOC safeguarding referral form completed either by the teacher raising concerns or by the designated safeguarding lead. Urgent child protection referrals will be accepted by telephone but must be confirmed in writing via the SPOC safeguarding referral form within 48 hours.
- Where there is any doubt about whether the concerns raised meet the thresholds for a child protection referral, the designated safeguarding lead may discuss the case on a “no names” basis with the SPOC Professionals’ Consultation Line to obtain advice on how to proceed.
- Parental consent must be sought prior to the referral being made unless to seek consent would place the child at risk of further harm, interfere with a criminal investigation or cause undue delay. If parents do not consent, but the child is at risk of significant harm, the referral should still be made.
- If the child already has an allocated social worker, the referral should be made directly to them. If the child is not already known to children’s social care, referrals should be made to SPOC. If the child lives outside Croydon, a referral should be made to their home local authority.
- All referrals will be acknowledged by the SPOC and the referrer informed of what action will be taken.
- If the school does not think the child’s situation is improving within a reasonable timescale following referral, this should be taken up with children’s social care via the designated safeguarding lead.

#### **4.5 Attendance at case conferences and core groups**

- The designated safeguarding lead will liaise with children’s social care to ensure that all relevant information held by the school is provided to children’s social care during the course of any child protection investigation.
- The designated safeguarding lead will ensure that the school is represented at child protection case conferences and core group meetings:
  - where possible, a member of staff who knows the child best, such as a class teacher or head of year will be nominated to attend

- failing that, the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy will attend
- if no-one from the school can attend, the designated safeguarding lead will ensure that a report is made available to the conference or meeting.

#### **4.6 Monitoring**

Where a pupil is the subject of a child protection plan and the school has been asked to monitor their attendance and welfare as part of this plan;

- monitoring will be carried out by the relevant staff member in conjunction with the designated safeguarding lead;
- all information will be recorded on CPOMS prior to each conference and core group meeting and copies made available to all conferences and core group meetings;
- the designated safeguarding lead will notify the allocated social worker if the child is removed from the school roll, excluded for any period of time or goes missing.

#### **4.7 Records**

- Child protection records relating to pupils are highly confidential and will be kept on CPOMS. All staff have secure logins with restricted access according to role.
- The designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that records are accurate, up to date and that recording is of a high standard.
- Records should show:
  - what the concerns were;
  - what action was taken to refer on concerns or manage risk within the school;
  - whether any follow-up action was taken;
  - how and why decisions were made.
- Any incidents, disclosures or signs of neglect or abuse should be fully recorded with dates, times and locations. Records should also include a note of what action was taken.



- A CPOMS record must be made;
  - whenever concerns arise or there is a serious incident **or**
  - where a child is being monitored, prior to a case conference or core group meeting.
  
- Where a child who is subject to a child protection plan transfers to another school, the designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that copies of all relevant records are passed to the designated safeguarding lead at the new school.
  
- Child protection records will only be kept until the pupil leaves the school and should be disposed of as confidential waste or deleted from the CPOMS system.

#### **4.8 Confidentiality and information sharing**

- All information obtained by school staff about a pupil will be kept confidential and will only be shared with other professionals and agencies with the family's consent.
  
- If the child is under 12, consent to share information about them must be obtained from their parents or carers.
  
- Where a child is at risk of suffering significant harm, schools have a legal duty to share this information with children's social care and make appropriate referrals. Equally, where a child is subject to a child protection investigation, schools must share any information about the child requested by children's social care.
  
- Parental consent to making a child protection referral should be sought but if withheld, the referral must still be made and parents made aware of this. Before taking this step, schools should consider the proportionality of disclosure against non-disclosure; is the duty of confidentiality overridden by the need to safeguard the child?
  
- Parental consent to referral can be dispensed with if seeking consent is likely to cause further harm to the child, interfere with a criminal investigation or cause undue delay in taking action to protect the child. However, schools should discuss this with the SPOC Professionals Consultation Line on a "no names" basis to gain advice on whether this course of action should be taken.

- Only relevant information should be disclosed, and only to those professionals who need to know. Staff should consider the purpose of the disclosure, and remind recipients that the information is confidential and only to be used for the stated purpose.
- In the event that a child makes a disclosure of neglect or abuse, staff cannot guarantee them confidentiality, but must explain why they have to pass the information on, to whom and what will happen as a result. Parents should also be made aware of the school duty to share information.
- Staff should discuss any concerns or difficulties around confidentiality or information sharing with the designated safeguarding lead or seek advice from the SPOC Professionals Consultation Line.

## 5 Safeguarding children

### 5.1 Legal and policy framework

As an early years provider delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), the school aims to meet the specific safeguarding and child protection duties set out in the Childcare Act 2006 and related statutory guidance.

[Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#)

The school will ensure that children taught in nursery and reception classes are able to learn and develop and are kept safe and healthy so that they are ready for school by providing a safe, secure learning environment that safeguards and promotes their welfare, and takes appropriate action where there are child protection concerns.

All safeguarding and child protection policies listed in sections 3 and 4 of this policy will apply equally to children in early years settings so far as they are relevant to that age group.

### 5.2 Mobile phones and photographs

- parents and carers are asked to switch off mobile phones if they are coming into school and leave the setting if they need to use their mobile;
- parents are generally prohibited from taking any photographs of children, but for special events such as school performances,

may do so on the understanding that the images are not posted onto social media sites or otherwise shared;

- staff seek parental permission to take photographs of the children, which must be linked to teaching the curriculum and that they use school equipment only for this purpose;
- staff do not have mobile phones on them and use them only during breaks in the staff room.

### **5.3 Staff training, skills and supervision**

The school will ensure that:

- all staff have the relevant qualifications and skills for their role and receive the relevant induction, child protection and safeguarding training in line with this policy;
- all staff receive supervision that helps them to effectively safeguard children by providing opportunities to discuss issues and concerns and decide on what action to take;
- all staff are able to communicate effectively in English both orally and in writing;
- a member of staff who holds a current paediatric first aid certificate is available on the school premises at all times:

### **5.4 Staff ratios**

The school will ensure that:

- staff levels comply with statutory guidance and can meet the needs of the children, provide suitable levels of supervision and keep them safe;
- parents are kept informed of staff members and numbers;
- children are kept within staff sight and hearing at all times.

### **5.5 Health**

The school will:

- promote the health of children
- take necessary steps to stop the spread of infection

- administer medicines only in line with the school's policy
- take appropriate action where children are ill
- ensure any meals provided are nutritious and prepared in a hygienic manner
- notify Ofsted of any serious accident, illness or death of any child within 14 days.

## **5.6 Health and safety and suitability of premises**

The school will ensure that all indoor and outdoor spaces and facilities used are safe and fit for purpose and comply with school policies and standards for site safety and health and safety as set out in section 8 of this policy.

Additionally, the school will ensure that all potential hazards within the school and during school trips are regularly risk assessed.

The school has specific policies for ensuring that records of parents details, and contact numbers for emergencies are kept up to date and that children are released to the care of their parent or other responsible adult with the parent's consent.

## **5.7 Managing behaviour**

The school will take all reasonable steps to ensure that behaviour management techniques are appropriate to the child's age and that corporal punishment is not used or threatened.

[Behaviour and discipline in schools](#)

All staff are trained to at least an introductory level in PROACT-SCIPr-UK to support behaviour across the school.

# **6 Safer recruitment**

## **6.1 General principles**

The school recognises safer recruitment practices are an essential part of creating a safe environment for children and will ensure that staff working in the school are suitable do to so and do not pose any kind of risk to children.

The school will follow the *Keeping children safe in education* guidance (DfE 2019).

- The school will carry out extensive checks and enquiries on applicants for all positions, including voluntary and support roles and governors in accordance with statutory requirements.
- No staff member, volunteer, governor or anyone involved in the management of a school will be allowed to take up posts until all checks and enquiries required for that position have been satisfactorily completed, including section 128 checks relating to the recruitment of governors.
- Checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service will be carried out at the level appropriate to the candidate's role in the school (see section 6.4).
- All job advertisements and application forms will clearly state that the role is a safeguarding role and that applicants will be expected to agree to undergo DBS and other checks as part of safer recruitment practices.
- Staff and governors who normally sit on interview panels will be trained in safer recruitment and no interview should go ahead unless at least one member of the panel has undertaken safer recruitment training. Schools will take up the accredited safer recruitment training offered through the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership or any other accredited training provider.
- Although the head teacher will have day-to-day responsibility for the recruitment of staff, the Governing Board will ensure that they maintain an overview of recruitment systems in order to scrutinise practice and ensure all statutory checks are carried out.
- Staff in school responsible for carrying out recruitment checks should ensure they have a copy of any relevant documents or take relevant issue numbers from documents as proof that the document has been seen.
- Checks will be taken out on existing staff where concerns arise regarding their suitability to work with children or a person moves into a post that is a regulated activity.
- In schools, the head teacher will be responsible for keeping a single central record of all staff and volunteers (including governors) who work at the school.

- The single central records should include details of all checks carried out and the outcome of these checks or any certificates obtained.
- Where the school has salaried trainee teachers, the school will ensure that all necessary checks are carried out on the trainees, including DBS checks, and that the outcome of these checks is recorded on the single central record.
- Where staff are recruited via third parties such as employment agencies, the head teacher will:
  - seek written confirmation from the agency that the agency has carried out all necessary checks on the individual
  - request written confirmation of the outcome of all checks
  - request written confirmation that an enhanced DBS certificate has been received by the agency
  - check the identity of agency staff when they first present for work to ensure they are the person against whom the checks were taken out.

## **6.2 Checks to be taken out**

The school will verify the following information for all new staff:

- The applicant's identity must be verified from their passport or other photographic ID and proof of address must be provided.
- The applicant's right to work in the UK must be evidenced through documentation. Only original documentation should be accepted and its validity checked in the presence of the applicant.
- Where the applicant will be involved in regulated activity, an enhanced DBS check will be taken out, including information from the barred list. If the applicant will begin work before an enhanced DBS check can be completed, a barred list check will be obtained.
- In the case of teaching staff, checks will be made on the applicant's academic and vocational qualifications and further checks made on Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA) Teacher Services system to ensure they are not prohibited from teaching under a teacher prohibition order.
- Where the applicant has been living abroad, similar enquiries will be made in the country of origin relating to the applicant's qualifications and suitability to teach via the TRA Teacher Services system.

- Enquiries will be made regarding the applicant's state of physical and mental health to the extent that it may affect their capacity to carry out their role.
- The school will keep copies of the following documents on staff personnel files:
  - documents used as proof of identity such as passports or driving licences, until such time as the approval process is completed;
  - a summary of the DBS certificate may be kept;
  - documents that prove the staff member's right to work in the UK (failure to do so can result in a fine for employing illegal workers).

### **6.3 References**

- Applicants will be asked to provide a full employment history and details of at least two referees, including previous and recent employers, who should be a senior member of staff with the authority to provide references. References from colleagues will not be acceptable.
- All references will be taken up prior to interview and will be requested directly from the referee, including references for internal candidates. Referees will be contacted to resolve any issues that emerge from the references provided.
- References will be taken up from current employers only; if the applicant is not currently employed, verification will be sought from their previous school as to the dates the applicant was employed and the reasons for leaving the post.
- Any information provided by applicants as part of an application process will be verified with independent sources and any reference received electronically will be checked to verify the originating source.

### **6.4 DBS checks**

In order to ensure that people who work in the school are suitable to do so and are not barred from working with children, the school will apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for police checks and other barred list information as part of the recruitment process.

Full DBS checks which include barred list checks will only be taken out on individuals who are involved in regulated activity. This is defined as close, unsupervised contact on a regular basis involving activities such as:

- teaching
- training
- supervising
- care
- guidance and advice
- driving a vehicle
- personal or intimate care.

The activity must be carried out regularly as part of the staff member's day to day responsibilities and the checks will be reasonable in order to safeguard children.

Full DBS checks with barred list checks will also be carried out on permanent staff members working at the school or unpaid volunteers who regularly work unsupervised at the school and whose work means they have an opportunity for regular contact with children.

Other staff, contractors and supervised volunteers who have opportunities for regular contact with children but do not carry out a regulated activity will be subject to an enhanced DBS check but **not** barred list checks.

Decisions on whether a person is carrying out a regulated activity or whether their role provides opportunities for regular contact with children requiring a DBS check will be made by whoever is responsible for recruitment in the school, for example the head teacher or governor, and the following will be taken into consideration when deciding on this.

- the age of the children;
- their level of vulnerability;
- the numbers of children in the group;
- the nature of the role;
- opportunities for contact with the children.

The school has robust procedures for day to day staff management and supervision and clear procedures for reporting and acting on concerns. Staff carrying out roles involving regulated activity will be suitably supervised on a regular basis by senior staff carrying out a similar role.



The school will ensure that all DBS checks carried out on staff are renewed after 3 years of the original DBS disclosure.

## **6.5 Volunteers**

The head teacher will ensure that the following are carried out in relation to unpaid volunteers such as parents who accompany pupils on school outings or provide help in the classroom:

- All volunteers will be required to undergo a recruitment process, such as references, DBS and other checks and interviews that is appropriate and proportional to the duties assigned to them.
- Volunteers who are carrying out a regulated activity, for example being left unsupervised with children or providing personal care to children should be subject to an enhanced DBS check, including barred list information.
- New volunteers who are not carrying out regulated activity but who have an opportunity for regular contact with children will be subject to an enhanced DBS check but this may not include a barred list check.
- For other volunteers who are not carrying out regulated activity and do not have regular contact with children, the head teacher will carry out a risk assessment to decide whether an enhanced DBS check should be carried out depending on:
  - The nature of the role
  - What information is already known about the volunteer
  - What references from work or volunteering activity the volunteer has provided regarding suitability
  - Whether the role is eligible for an enhanced DBS check.
- The school will ensure that all volunteers are competent to carry out the duties assigned to them and are only assigned duties that are suitable to their qualification and experience.
- Volunteers carrying out a regulated activity but for whom a DBS check has not been carried out will be suitably supervised by teaching staff at all times at a level that ensures the safety of pupils.
- All volunteers will be fully inducted in relation to all school policies and procedures.

## 7 Staff practice and conduct

### 7.1 Induction and training

- The head teacher will ensure that all staff are fully inducted, are made aware of the following policies of the school and that staff are fully aware of their role in implementing these:
  - Safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures
  - Behaviour policy
  - Staff code of conduct
  - Children missing from education policy.
- Staff will be asked to confirm in writing that they have received and read all relevant staff policies, including “*What to do if you are worried a child is being abused*” guidance.
- The designated safeguarding lead will ensure that all staff are fully inducted with regard to the school child protection procedures and that they receive safeguarding and child protection training annually.
- The head teacher will keep a central record of all statutory and other training undertaken by staff members, governors and volunteers.
- School staff and governors will receive multi-agency safeguarding training at the level that is appropriate to their roles and responsibilities.
- As well as basic safeguarding training, the designated safeguarding lead and their deputy will receive specific training on their role and other relevant multi-agency training courses.
- Schools staff will also receive training on Early Help and the SPOC safeguarding referral process as part of their safeguarding training.
- School staff will receive regular and timely updates on child protection and safeguarding issues via the designated safeguarding lead in order to ensure they remain up to date with new legislation.

### 7.2 Conduct and safe teaching practice

- The school expects staff and volunteers to set a good example to pupils through their own conduct and behaviour and aims to protect

them from the risk of allegations being made against them by ensuring they maintain high standards of professionalism and appropriate boundaries.

- The head teacher will ensure that there is a written code of conduct in place and that each member of staff, including volunteers, signs a code of conduct agreement on appointment that sets out the school expectations with regards to standards of professional behaviour and that all staff receive copies of relevant policies.
- Governors will have their own separate code of conduct. This is a responsibility of the governing board.
- Staff will be expected to follow the school social media policy in terms of their use of social media, particularly in relation to professional standards and relationships with pupils. All staff and volunteers will sign an acceptable use agreement before being given access to the school computer system.

### **7.3 Providing intimate or personal care to pupils**

Staff at Red Gates support children with their intimate care routines. During these routines the following is observed;

- Staff follow the schools intimate care policy.
- When providing intimate care, staff should carefully and sensitively observe the child's emotional response and report any concerns to the designated safeguarding lead.

### **7.4 Behaviour management, physical intervention and restraint**

The school has a behaviour management policy, which has been agreed by the Governing Board and follows government guidance; any use of physical intervention and restraint will be linked to the implementation of this policy.

### **7.5 Allegations against staff**

In the event that an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer, the school will follow Croydon's procedures for managing allegations against a member of staff.

[The Management of Allegations against Staff who work with Children and Young People](#)

The Governing Board will appoint the head teacher as the school representative for the purposes of the allegations procedures and who will link with the Local Authority Designated Officer for all allegations raised. A further staff member will be identified as their deputy to act in their absence or if allegations are made against the responsible staff member.

All allegations in relation to staff members will be referred to the head teacher; allegations against the head teacher will be referred to the Chair of the Governing Board.

## 7.6 Whistleblowing

The school fosters a culture of openness in line with the “Freedom to speak up” review and will put in place strategies and procedures to ensure that staff feel enabled to raise concerns relating to the safeguarding of children or poor practice within the school that may cause a risk to children.

The school recognises that there may be circumstances where staff and pupils feel unable to raise concerns or incidents of malpractice within the school environment as there is reasonable doubt that these would be dealt with adequately.

All staff and volunteers have a legal duty to raise concerns where they feel individuals or schools are failing to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Where it is not possible to raise concerns within the school, staff and volunteers may report concerns to the following;

- Croydon’s lead officers for child protection or safeguarding where there are issues regarding the welfare of a pupil;
- The following numbers can be used where there are issues regarding the school overall procedures around safeguarding
  - Croydon Council’s confidential whistle blowing email address – [schoolwhistle@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:schoolwhistle@croydon.gov.uk)
  - the Ofsted whistle-blowing line on **0300 123 3155**
  - the NSPCC whistleblowing advice line on **0800 028 0285** or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) .

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that these numbers are advertised on the school premises and made available to staff and pupils.

- The CSBP has an [escalation policy](#) which can be used by staff in school settings

## 8 Health and safety and risk assessments

### 8.1 Responsibility for health and safety

The Governing Board and head teacher will ensure that there is a robust health and safety policy in place in order to meet the statutory responsibility for the safety of pupils and staff within the school environment.

Any health and safety policy adapted by the school will be based on the government guidance (link below) and will seek to balance risk avoidance against providing pupils with opportunities to take part in activities that help them learn to manage risk themselves.

[Health and safety: Advice on legal duties and powers](#)

Day-to-day responsibility for health and safety issues in the school will be delegated to a member of staff who is competent to carry out these duties and who has received the appropriate training. There should also be a named governor responsible for health and safety. These are:

**Name:** Eileen Lawlor

**Designation:** School Business Manager

**Contact details:** eileenlawlor@redgates.croydon.sch.uk

**Name:** James Stremes

**Designation:** Governor with responsibility for health & safety

**Contact details:** jamesstremes@redgates.croydon.sch.uk

### 8.2 Risk assessments

The school will seek to identify and manage risk through the use of risk assessments. These will be carried out:

- on an annual basis for the school environment as a whole;
- for all school trips;
- for pupils travelling between locations during the school day;
- whenever there are any changes to the school environment or school practices;
- following any serious incident.

Consideration should also be given to conducting risk assessments before PTA and other parent led events (e.g. fireworks or fairs) where people outside the school may have unregulated access or the usual measures for health and safety may not be sufficient.

### **8.3 Working with aggressive and violent parents**

Where schools are working with families who are known to children or adult social care and there are concerns about the behaviour of parents towards members of school staff, this must be discussed with the head teacher and the designated safeguarding lead and the information shared with children's social care.

If there are high levels of risk involved in contact with parents, children's social care may convene a risk assessment meeting with the network in order to discuss strategies to reduce risk, and it is vital that schools and colleges are part of this process.

### **8.4 Site security and visitors**

- The Governing Board is responsible for the security of the school premises and will take steps to ensure it is a safe environment and securely protected against trespass and/or criminal damage.
- The head teacher will decide whether or not contractors should be subject to DBS checks before being allowed access to the building, depending on the level of access they are likely to have to pupils.
- Where the visitor is employed by an organisation where DBS checks are normally required, for example NHS staff, the head teacher will request written confirmation that relevant checks have been carried out for that individual.
- All visitors and contractors will be:
  - informed to report to reception on arrival;
  - expected to provide proof of identity
  - expected to wear a name-badge at all times when on the school premises;
  - suitably supervised by school staff at all times;
  - made aware of school health and safety procedures.
- The head teacher will ensure that any contract entered into with contractors' sets out clearly the expectations for worker's behaviour and the responsibility of contractors to monitor and ensure compliance with school policies.
- Contracted workers will not be allowed to approach or speak to pupils in any circumstances and must ensure that all equipment and working practices are in line with health and safety standards.

- Visiting organisations such as theatre groups who will be performing for or working directly with pupils will be expected to have adequate child protection procedures in place and must agree with class teachers in advance what level of supervision or contact they will have regarding pupils.

## **8.6 Monitoring and review**

To enable the school to monitor the safety of the premises and the school environment, as well as the implementation of policies, the head teacher and the governing board will ensure that;

- all school policies are regularly monitored by the designated safeguarding lead and annually reviewed by the head teacher and agreed by the governing board;
- the school keeps a central record of all accidents and incidents including what action was taken and by whom;
- staff are aware of their responsibility to record accidents and incidents;
- the head teacher has an overview all accidents/incidents;
- serious accidents and incidents are reported to the Governing Board ;
- the designated safeguarding lead ensures a high standard of recording of all concerns held about children;
- all accidents and incidents are scrutinised on a regular basis by the board of governors to identify any problems or weaknesses around school safeguarding policies and procedures or any emerging patterns, and agreeing to any course of action.

## **Part B:**

All children at Red Gates School may be more vulnerable to harm and abuse. They may also have difficulty in reporting harm and abuse due to communication difficulties and professionals may miss vital indicators.

School policies reflect these issues and recognise that staff need to be vigilant to signs of abuse and be able to help the children to overcome barriers to seeking the necessary help.

### **Definitions of abuse**

## **9 DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE**

The following definitions of abuse are set out in statutory government guidance and provide the framework for responding to risk to children.

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. A person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children and young people may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

### **Physical abuse**

9.1 Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child - see definition of Fabricated or Induced Illness.

### **Emotional abuse**

9.2 Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the child's emotional development and may involve:

- Conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person
- Imposing age or developmentally inappropriate expectations on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction



- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another
- Serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children
- Exploiting and corrupting children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

### **Sexual abuse**

- 9.3 Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts.

Sexual abuse includes abuse of children through sexual exploitation.

Penetrative sex where one of the partners is under the age of 16 is illegal, although prosecution of similar age, consenting partners is not usual. However, where a child is under the age of 13 it is classified as rape under **Section 5 Sexual Offences Act 2003**.

Sexual abuse includes non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of pornographic materials, watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

### **Neglect**

- 9.4 Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and / or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent failing to:

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

## 10: FURTHER DEFINITIONS

As well as the definitions above, there are circumstances which can be indicative of abuse, or constitute abuse and are in any case, damaging to children. You should be aware of the need to act on concerns about the following.

### **Domestic (Family) Violence**

- 10.1 Domestic or Family Violence adversely affects children, whether or not it is significant enough to warrant action under Child Protection Procedures.

When a member of staff becomes aware that a child may be living in a household where there is emotional, physical or sexual violence, they should attempt to find out whether the family are receiving help and should consider contacting the SPOC advice line.

Further advice and guidance can be obtained from the Family Justice Centre, who can be contacted by phoning their helpline of 0208 688 0100 or by emailing [fjc@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:fjc@croydon.gov.uk)

Specific guidance on adolescent to parent violence and abuse is published by the Home Office

[Adolescent to parent violence and abuse \(APVA\)](#)

### **Bullying**

- 10.2 Staff should be aware of and act in accordance with the Croydon Anti-Bullying Strategy.

Bullying is not acceptable behaviour. Staff members witnessing a child being bullied or receiving complaints over bullying have a duty to do whatever is within their power to stop the situation, while avoiding putting themselves or the child in danger.

Staff should always discuss instances of bullying with a senior manager. This should occur immediately if the situation is beyond their ability to deal with.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Guidance on early indicators of violent and aggressive behaviour may be found in the corporate safety policy on preventing violence to staff, and through the provision of appropriate instruction, training and supervision on practical conflict management (and associated) techniques.

It is important to be aware of the possible use of weapons to covertly, or overtly threaten. All actual or threatened use of weapons or threat of physical force must be reported to the Police.

### **Children Who Go Missing From Care and Home**

- 10.3 The **London Child Protection Procedures** define a child as 'missing' if their whereabouts are unknown, whatever the circumstances of their disappearance.

Children who go missing place themselves at risk of substance abuse, criminal exploitation and addiction. There is a very high correlation (probably 98%) between children who go missing and those who are sexually exploited. If a school becomes aware of a child who is missing from home or care and that child has not been reported missing to the police, they should do so using 101.

Running away may be an indicator of other problems and therefore a referral to SPOC should be considered. Early intervention after the first episode may prevent a child being exploited.

[Children who run away or go missing from home or care](#)

### **Children Missing From Education (CME)**

- 10.4 A **Child Missing from Education** is defined by the DfE as “a child of compulsory school age who is not on a school roll, nor being educated otherwise (e.g. privately or in alternative provision) and who has been out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time (usually four weeks or more).” In Croydon, referrals for CME are accepted after 10 working days of reasonable checks being carried out by the educational provider and their Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- In Croydon, the main reasons behind Children Missing from Education are those who fail to start at an appropriate education provision either at the start of the new academic year or following a mid-year transfer, becoming lost from school rolls, or failure to register at a new school when moving in or out of the Borough.
  - Where a parent notifies the school that they are removing the child so they can be educated at home, the following notifications should be made:
    - The Learning Access team must be notified of all decisions.
    - If the child is already known to children's social care, their allocated social worker should be notified immediately.

- If the child is not known to social care but the school has concerns about their welfare, the designated safeguarding lead should make a referral to children's social care via SPOC.

Contacts for CME Team

Email: ChildrenMissingfromEducation@croydon.gov.uk

Telephone: 0208 726 6000

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

- 10.5 Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of sexual abuse involving exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example food, drugs, alcohol, gifts or in some cases simply affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities. Sexual exploitation can take many different forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship to serious organized crime involving gangs and groups.

Exploitation is marked out by an individual or group taking advantage of an imbalance of power in the relationship and involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation and sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming.

It is important to recognize that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of this abuse and may not recognize it as abuse. Young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and so procedures are in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.

Schools will refer to the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk.

### **Child Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

- 10.6 Child trafficking is the recruitment and movement of children for the purpose of exploitation; it is a form of child abuse. Children may be trafficked within the Country, or from abroad. It overlaps with Sexual Exploitation and Private Fostering. Children may be trafficked for:

- Sexual exploitation
- Labour exploitation
- Domestic servitude
- Cannabis cultivation
- Criminal activity

- Benefit fraud
- Forced marriage
- Moving drugs.

If you become aware of child or young person who may be at risk a referral should be made to SPOC

[Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked](#)

### **Child Criminal Exploitation – County Lines**

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

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

If you become aware of child or young person who may be at risk a referral should be made to SPOC

[Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance](#)

### **Young People at Risk of Gang Activity or Serious Youth Violence**

10.8 Red Gates is a source of safety and security for its pupils. Supporting staff awareness to the risks associated with gangs and serious youth violence is key to helping keep our pupils safe in their communities.

The Serious Violence Strategy, which was introduced by the government in 2018, identifies offences such as homicides and knife and gun crime as key factors which account for around one percent of all recorded crime. The impact of serious violent crime on individuals and the community is significant.

Staff should be aware of the indicators which may signal that children are at risk from, exposed to or are involved with serious violent crime.

- Increased absence
- Relationships with older individuals/siblings or groups
- Signs of self-harm or significant change in well being.
- Signs of assault or unexplained injuries.
- Unexplained gifts or new possessions.

These may indicate involvement or exposure to criminal networks or gangs.

### **Private Fostering**

- 10.9 Private Fostering arrangement is one that is made privately between two parties without the involvement of the Local Authority for a child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled). This arrangement would be with someone who is not a parent or close relative, for 28 days or more.

Private Fostering is used as a form of childcare by parents who are not able to take care of their child on a day to day basis, for whatever reason. However, unreported Private Fostering Arrangements can be used in order to exploit children.

The Law requires that the Local Authority should be informed at least six weeks in advance of a Private Fostering arrangement or 48 hours after the arrangement has been made if in an emergency.

Schools have a legal duty to notify Croydon of any pupils they know to be privately fostered.

### **Children at Risk of Forced Marriages**

- 10.10 No faith supports the idea of forcing someone to marry without their consent. This should not be confused with arranged marriages between consenting adults. Forced marriage is an example of honour based abuse.

“Forced Marriage is an abuse of human rights” Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 16 (2)

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used.

- Hundreds of young people, some as young as 13, are taken abroad each year and forced into marriage
- Forced marriage can involve child and sexual abuse including abduction, violence, rape, enforced pregnancy and enforced abortion.
- Rejection can place a young person at risk of murder, also known as “Honour Killing”.
- Forced marriage is not sanctioned within any culture or religion.

Young people rarely feel able to disclose their feelings about forced marriage. However there are some warning signs that may indicate the possibility of an impending forced marriage:

- Extended absence from school/college, truancy, drop in academic performance, low motivation, excessive parental restriction and control of movements, and history of siblings leaving education early to marry
- Poor attendance in the workplace, poor performance, parental control of income and limited career choices.
- Evidence of self-harm, treatment for depression, attempted suicide, social isolation, eating disorders or substance abuse.
- Evidence of family disputes/conflict, domestic violence/abuse or running away from home.

A young person demonstrating any of the above may not be necessarily at risk, but if you feel concerned about a potential forced marriage you should contact Children’s Social Care; if a child is at immediate risk you should contact the police.

Further advice on forced marriage can be obtained from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s Forced Marriage Unit by phone 0207 008 0151 or emailing [fmf@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmf@fco.gov.uk)  
[Forced marriage - FCO Guidance](#)

### **Under-age Marriage**

10.11 In England, a young person cannot legally marry or have a sexual relationship until they are 16 years old or more

### 10.12 **“Honour” Based Violence**

Honour based violence is where the person is being punished by their family or their community. They are being punished because of a belief, actual or alleged that a person has not been properly controlled enough to conform to and thus this is the “shame” or “dishonour” of the family. Staff working with victims of forced marriage and honour based violence need to be aware that they may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim and may only have one chance to save a life.

If a disclosure is made health professionals should provide information about specialist advice and services or assist by referring to the Police, Social Care, Support Groups, and Counselling Services.

There may be occasions when the level of concern or the imminence of marriage requires referral to Social Services.

Accurate records must be maintained at all times documenting what has been said and done.

Honour based violence is an ancient cultural tradition that encourages violence towards family members who are considered to have dishonoured their family. It is rooted in domestic violence and is often a conspiracy of family members and associates meaning victims are at risk from their parents and families.

**For this reason, staff should not approach the family or family friends, or attempt to mediate between the child and family, as this will alert them to agency involvement.**

**National Contact Numbers: Forced Marriage Unit – 0207 608 0151**

**Honour Network – 0800 5999 247**

**National Domestic Helpline – 0808 2000 247**

### **Female genital mutilation (FGM)**

10.13 Female genital mutilation includes procedures that intentionally alter or injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is a surprisingly common form of abuse in the UK. FGM is carried out on children between the ages of 0–18, depending on the community in which they live. It is extremely harmful and has short and long term effects on physical and psychological health.

- FGM is internationally recognized as a violation of the human rights of girls and women, and is illegal in most countries, including the UK.
- FGM is an example of honour based abuse.
- The school takes these concerns seriously and staff will be made aware of the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of FGM. Any indication that FGM is a risk, is imminent, or has already taken place will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy. All concerns around FGM, including any disclosure made by a pupil, will be discussed with the Designated



Safeguarding Lead before any action is taken. The school will follow the statutory guidance on FGM in order to safeguard girls who are at risk of FGM.

[Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation](#)

- **Since 31 October 2015 it is a legal requirement to report known cases of FGM (visually identified or verbally disclosed) to the police under the FGM Mandatory Reporting Duty. Any such disclosures will be referred to the police by contacting them on the 101 number. This duty does not apply in relation to “at risk” or suspected cases. In these cases the Designated Person will make appropriate and timely referrals to MASH if FGM is suspected. In these cases, parents will not be informed before seeking advice. The case will still be referred to MASH even if it is against the pupil’s wishes.**

### **Ritualistic Abuse**

10.14 Some faiths believe that spirits and demons can possess people (including children). What should never be condoned is the use of any physical violence to get rid of the possessing spirit. This is physical abuse and people can be prosecuted even if it was their intention to help the child.

### **10.15 Peer on peer abuse**

Education settings are an important part of the inter-agency framework not only in terms of evaluating and referring concerns to Children’s Services and the Police, but also in the assessment and management of risk that the child or young person may pose to themselves and others in the education setting.

If one child or young person causes harm to another, this should not necessarily be dealt with as abuse. When considering whether behaviour is abusive, it is important to consider:

- Whether there is a large difference in power (for example age, size, ability, development) between the young people concerned; or
- Whether the perpetrator has repeatedly tried to harm one or more other children; or
- Whether there are concerns about the intention of the alleged perpetrator.

Where a pupil’s behaviour is likely to cause significant harm to other pupils, for example through, bullying, cyber bullying, upskirting,

physical violence or initiation rites, the school will refer the perpetrator and the victim to children's social care via SPOC.

It should be noted that 'Upskirting' typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is now a criminal offence and may constitute sexual harassment.

## 10.16 Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Sexual Violence and Harassment

### Policy

- The school recognises that sexual violence and sexual harassment between pupils is a serious safeguarding issue and such behaviour will not be tolerated. School behaviour management and anti-bullying policies will reflect the school's approach and staff and pupils will be made aware of the standard of expected behaviour and the likely responses to any incidents of sexual violence and harassment.
- The school will follow the statutory guidance *Sexual violence and sexual harassment between pupils* and will work with relevant agencies to safeguard and support victims, take appropriate action against alleged perpetrators and ensure a safe learning environment for all pupils.  
[Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)
- The school will take all necessary steps to put in place a planned PHSE curriculum at an appropriate level to reflect the needs of the children, to convey the school's policy for preventing harmful sexual behaviour and to promote respectful behaviour between pupils.
- The school will promote an environment where victims feel empowered to raise concerns and report incidents. Any reports of sexual violence or harassment will be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated by the school and appropriate referrals made to the police and children's social care.
- The school will ensure that staff and governors receive relevant training to help them ensure an effective response to incidents that protects individual victims and safeguards the welfare of all pupils and staff.
- The school will ensure staff are able to provide appropriate support to victims and alleged perpetrators that meets their needs and continues to promote their education.

## Procedures

- The school will ensure there is a robust response to all incidents and will follow the procedures set out in Part 5 of the *Keeping children safe in education* statutory guidance.
- Reported incidents will be investigated by the member of staff to whom the young person discloses in partnership with the designated safeguarding lead, who will also carry out a risk assessment to look at any continued risk to the victim or other pupils and staff from the alleged perpetrator within the school environment.
- Where the allegation involves material posted online, the school will request that the electronic device is handed over as part of the investigation and will use legal powers to search and confiscate property as set out in the statutory guidance *Searching, screening and confiscation advice for schools*.  
[Searching, screening and confiscation guidance](#)
- The member of staff and designated safeguarding lead will write up a record of the investigation that will set out how the school will respond to the incident.
- The designated safeguarding lead may take advice from SPOC Professionals' Consultation Line before making a decision. Possible outcomes include referral to Early Help Services, MASH, Learning Access and/or the police, or managing the matter internally under school behaviour policies.
- Where a referral will be made to children social care or the police, the designated safeguarding lead will discuss the issue with the relevant agency and following this discussion a decision will be made on whether and how to inform the alleged perpetrator and their parents.
- The school will take any necessary action to continue to safeguard the victim and other pupils within the school environment based on the level of risk established from the risk assessment, including decisions about the victim and alleged perpetrator sharing classrooms.
- Where necessary and appropriate, the school will consider the support needs of the alleged perpetrator and will make referrals to relevant agencies for support on their behalf.

## 10.17 Sexting

Sexting is the exchange of self-generated sexually explicit images, through mobile picture messages or webcams over the Internet. Pupils may also call it cybersex or sending a nudie, picture or selfie. Sexting is illegal. By sending an explicit image, a pupil is producing and distributing child abuse images and risks being prosecuted, even if the picture is taken and shared with their permission. It is easy to send a photo or message but the sender has no control about how it's passed on. When images are stored or shared online they become public. They can be deleted on social media or may only last a few seconds on apps like Snapchat, but images can still be saved or copied by others. These images may never be completely removed and could be found in the future, for example when applying for jobs or university. Pupils may think 'sexting' is harmless but it can leave them vulnerable to:

- Blackmail when an offender may threaten to share the pictures with the pupil's family and friends unless the pupil sends money or more images.
- Bullying may result when images are shared with their peers or in school.
- Unwanted attention when images posted online attract the attention of sex offenders, who know how to search for, collect and modify images.
- Emotional distress resulting from embarrassment and humiliation.

If they are very distressed this could lead to suicide or self-harm Pupils are informed of the consequences of sexting and the legal implications through PSHE and assemblies.

## 10.18 Safeguarding Children and Young People Vulnerable to Violent Extremism and Radicalisation (PREVENT DUTY)

The school safeguarding duty includes the duty to promote British values in order to counter the extremist narrative and prevent young people from being radicalised and being drawn into terrorism.

[Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools](#)

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools' wider safeguarding duties. 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. As with managing

other safeguarding risks, schools should be alert to changes in children's behaviour that could indicate that they are in need of protection.

- School staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately. This may include making a referral to the Channel programme” (Keeping Children Safe in Education, Department for Education, September 2019)
- Our school safeguarding policy therefore complies with the schools' duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 in accordance with the Department of Education advice for schools specific guidance for schools  
[The Prevent Duty](#)
- Where a school has concerns that a young person might be considering extremist ideologies and/or may be radicalised and would benefit from specialist support to challenge extremist ideologies, or that a younger pupil may be at risk due to their parent's radicalisation, the school/college should make a referral to SPOC using the SPOC Safeguarding Referral Form.

### **Online Safety**

10.19 As part of their duty to provide a safe learning environment, where appropriate, schools should ensure their pupils know how to remain safe online.

The DfE published [Teaching Online Safety in Schools](#) identifying the importance of including reporting and acting on online safety concerns within the Child Protection Policy, school behaviour policy and bullying policy.

Pupils should be just as clear about what is expected of them online as offline.

### **Looked After and Previously Looked after Children**

10.20 The school recognises that looked after and previously looked after children are particularly vulnerable due to their status and their pre-care experiences.

The school's designated teacher for LAC has specialist knowledge of the issues faced by this cohort and for this reason, the designated safeguarding lead will consult with the designated teacher to seek advice whenever there are concerns about the welfare of a looked after or previously looked after child.