

The Vale Primary Academy



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Reviewed and amended Spring term 2016

Date	Signed (EAB)

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Policy Statement, Principles and Terminology

Child protection statement

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We will act quickly and follow our procedures to ensure children receive early help and effective support, protection and justice.

Our core safeguarding principles are:

- the academy's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance
- safer children make more successful learners
- representatives of the academy community will be involved in policy development and review
- policies will be reviewed annually unless an incident or new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an interim review.
- The academy will work with other agencies and share information appropriately to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students.

Policy principles

- Welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection
- All staff have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm.
- There is a culture of transparency, openness and, if needed, challenge with regards to maintaining high standards in safeguarding.
- Pupils and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support

Policy aims

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

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff and EAB members and are consistent with those of the Wakefield District Safeguarding Children Board WDSCB/ West Yorkshire Consortium Procedures.

<http://westyorkscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

Equality Act 2010 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

Research suggests that between 6-19% of school aged children will suffer severe maltreatment, and disabled children are three times more likely to be abused. Due to their day-to-day contact with pupils, academy staff are uniquely placed to observe changes in children's behaviour and the outward signs of abuse. Children may also turn to a trusted adult in the academy when they are in distress or at risk. It is vital that academy staff are alert to the signs of abuse, both inside and outside the school and understand the procedures for reporting their concerns. The academy

will act on identified concerns and provide early help, or support others to do so, to prevent concerns from escalating.

The statements, aspirations and targets in this document also represent a clear approach, which is wholly consistent with the policies and processes of the sponsor, School Partnership Trust Academies (SPTA). The academy will work closely with SPTA's other academies and with SPTA's Core Team and other personnel to ensure this policy is fully developed in line with best practice and fully implemented.

The academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The academy recognises that because academy staff are in regular and frequent contact with children, they are particularly well placed to observe signs of abuse or neglect.

The academy is aware of the responsibilities which all staff have with regard to the protection of children from abuse and from inappropriate and inadequate care. Therefore, the academy is committed to reacting in accordance with SPTA and the Local Authority's agreed procedures in all cases where there is concern.

Terminology

Child/Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to the process of protecting children from maltreatment, preventing the impairment of health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. It can also include issues such as health and safety, use of reasonable force, meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions, providing first aid, educational visits, intimate care and emotional well-being, online safety and associated issues and security – taking into account local context.

Child protection refers to the processes undertaken to protect children who have been identified as suffering, or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

Early Help providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. It is about providing support quickly whenever difficulties emerge to reduce the impact of problems.

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

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

Designated Officer – new term for LADO – a post in the local authority, to coordinate and manage allegations against staff.

Social Care Direct – Wakefield's children social care/Family services.

WDSCB - Wakefield District Safeguarding Children Board -strategically oversee and scrutinise safeguarding in the district.

Signs Of Safety – a new approach to family intervention work in Wakefield district

Continuum of Need – an updated overview of the additional levels of intervention available dependent on need.

Safeguarding Legislation and Guidance

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.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Section 26 Applies to schools and other providers;
To have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2015) covers the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services (including schools and colleges) to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children. It also provides the framework for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's) to monitor the effectiveness of local services, including safeguarding arrangements in schools.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016) is issued under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014 and the Education (Non-Maintained Special Schools) (England) Regulations 2011. Schools and colleges must have regard to this guidance when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Unless otherwise stated, 'school' in this guidance means all schools, whether maintained, non-maintained or independent, including academies and free schools, alternative provision academies, pupil referral units and maintained nursery schools
College means further education and sixth form colleges under the further and higher education act 1992 and relates to under 18's, but excludes 16-19 academies and free schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

All staff should read Part One of this guidance. It is given to all staff as part of their induction into the academy and they are required to sign the safeguarding file in the main office to confirm receipt and then again to confirm the document has been read.

Prevent Duty Guidance – England and Wales

Covers the duty of schools and other providers in section 29 Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf

Teaching Standards

The Teacher Standards 2012 state that teachers, including head teachers should safeguarding children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2014

Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006>

Roles and Responsibilities

The EAB of the academy is responsible for determining the content of this policy and the Head of Academy for implementation. Any determination with respect to individual parents/carers will be considered jointly by the Head of Academy and EAB. While the responsibility for the implementation of this policy and provision rests with the Head of Academy, on an operational basis, the management, responsibility and evaluation of this policy is undertaken by the responsible designated person (DSL).

KEY CONTACTS WITHIN THE ACADEMY Sept 2016

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

NAME: Kerry Burnell

CONTACT NUMBER: 01977 722485

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

NAME: Julie Marris

CONTACT NUMBER: 01977 722485

NOMINATED GOVERNOR FOR SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

NAME: TBC

KEY CONTACTS WITHIN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND SPTA

WAKEFIELD SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD:

CONTACT NAME: Victoria Maybin

EMAIL: VMaybin@wakefield.gov.uk

KNOTTINGLEY PYRAMID INCLUSION TEAM:

LEAD PROFESSIONAL: Paula Harris

SOCIAL WORKER: Mandy Batten

Roles and Responsibilities

All staff and EAB members as part of their academy induction or professional development. All academy staff and where appropriate, EAB members, will use the knowledge, principles and procedures defined in this policy. These are outlined clearly in Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016.

The academy will ensure there is a member of the senior leadership team in the DSL role and that appropriate cover is provided if they are unavailable. This person will have the status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post including committing resources and, where appropriate, supporting and directing other staff. They will ultimately have lead responsibility, which will not be delegated, however deputy leads will be trained to the same level.

DSL responsibilities:

Manage referrals

The designated safeguarding lead is expected to:

- Refer cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care as required;
- Support staff who make referrals to local authority children's social care;
- Refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required;
- Support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme;
- Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required; and
- Refer cases where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required.

Work with others

- Liaise with the executive principal to inform him of issues especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations;
- As required, liaise with the "case manager" (as per Part four) and the designated officer(s) at the local authority for child protection concerns (all cases which concern a staff member); and
- Liaise with staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies. Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff.

Undertake training

The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) will undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training should be updated at least every two years.

The designated safeguarding lead will undertake Prevent awareness training.

In addition to the formal training set out above, their knowledge and skills will be refreshed (this might be via e-bulletins, meeting other designated safeguarding leads, or simply taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals, as required, but at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role so they:

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as early help assessments;
- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so;
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the academy's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff;
- Are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers;
- Are able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals;
- Understand and support the academy with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and are able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation;
- Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses; and
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the academy may put in place to protect them.

Raise Awareness

- The designated safeguarding lead will ensure the academy's child protection policies are known, understood and used appropriately;
- Ensure the academy's child protection policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with the EAB and academy trust regarding this;
- Ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school or college in this; and
- Link with the local LSCB to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding.

Child protection file

- Where children leave the school or college ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible. This should be

transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.

Availability

- During term time the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will always be available (during school hours) for staff in the academy to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Whilst generally speaking the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) would be expected to be available in person, in emergency circumstances they are always contactable by text or email. All staff have the mobile numbers and email addresses of both the DSL and DDSL.
- For any instances which occur out of the academy day or during holiday times the DSL may also be contacted by mobile or email. These details are also held with the MASH team to enable referrals or concerns to be discussed during holiday periods if needed. The DSL or, more usually, the inclusion team social worker, will always send detailed reports to any meetings which take place during holiday times and, if at all possible, will attend in person.

The Deputy DSL is appropriately trained and, in the absence of the designated lead, carries out those functions necessary to ensure the ongoing safety and protection of pupils. However the senior DSL holds lead responsibility.

The EAB ensures that the academy:

- Creates a culture where the welfare of children is paramount and staff feel confident to challenge over any concerns.
- Complies with their duties under legislation - including the Prevent Duty 2015.
- Contributes to interagency working and plans.
- Takes into account WDSCB procedures.
- Has a nominated EAB member (usually the chair) who liaises with the Designated Officer in the event of an allegation being made against the head teacher.
- Has an effective safeguarding policy (updated annually and on the academy website) as well as staff code of conduct and both are provided to and followed by all staff in a timely manner.
- Has an appropriate response to children who go missing from education and inform and report to the Local Authority when required.
- Appoints a DSL who is a member of the senior leadership team, trained every 2 years, and that the responsibilities are explicit in the role holder's job description. The DSL should be given time, funding and training to support this. There should always be cover for this role.
- Has considered how children are taught about safeguarding – PSHE/SRE.
- Has evidence of the child voice and that there are systems in place for feedback and pupils views.
- Appoints a designated Looked After Children LAC teacher and ensures appropriate training. Ensure staff have awareness of this group and their needs including contact arrangements.
- Have procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against members of staff including allegations made against the Head of Academy and allegations against other children. Procedures are in place for referral to the DBS disclosure and barring service.
- Has safer recruitment procedures that include statutory checks on staff suitability to work with children and ensures recording of this. Ensures

volunteers are appropriately supervised. Ensures at least one person on each appointment panel is safer recruitment trained.

- Develops a training strategy that ensures all staff, including site staff and the Head of Academy, receive information about the school's safeguarding arrangements on induction and appropriate child protection training, which is regularly updated in line with any requirements of the LSCB.
- Ensure appropriate **online filter and monitoring systems** are in place and ensure online safety is included in lessons.

The Head of Academy:

- ensures that the child protection policy and code of conduct are implemented and followed by all staff
- allocates sufficient time, training, support and resources, including cover arrangements when necessary, to enable the DSL and deputy to carry out their roles effectively, including the assessment of pupils and attendance at strategy discussions and other necessary meetings
- ensures that all staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and that such concerns are handled sensitively and in accordance with the whistle blowing procedures
- ensures that pupils are provided with opportunities throughout the curriculum to learn about safeguarding, including keeping themselves safe online
- liaises with the Designated Officer where an allegation is made against a member of staff
- ensures that anyone who has harmed or may pose a risk to a child is referred to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checking

All personnel who come into contact with children in the academy, whatever their status, will be DBS checked, including EAB members. The Head of Academy, working with the office manager, will maintain the single central register.

DBS checking will be rigorous and records will be kept of references obtained in the appointment process detailing when they were obtained and who checked them.

The Central Register will be complete and kept securely in the main office. There will be limited access to the register and the people who have access will be named and advised.

Child Protection Procedures

Categories and Definitions

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

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, for example by hitting them, or by failing to act to prevent harm, for example by leaving a small child home alone, or leaving knives or matches within reach of an unattended toddler.

Abuse may be committed by adult men or women and by other children and young people.

There are four categories of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child. (this used to be called Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, but is now more usually referred to as fabricated or induced illness).

Emotional abuse

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

Sexual abuse

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

Position of Trust

The age of consent for sexual activity is 18 years old if you are in a position of trust over that child.

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Neglect

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

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

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

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

Definitions taken from *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government, 2015).

Indicators of abuse

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

However children may have no physical signs or they may be harder to see (e.g. bruising on black skin) therefore staff need to also be alert to behavioural indicators of abuse.

A child who is being abused or neglected may:

- have bruises, bleeding, burns, fractures or other injuries
- show signs of pain or discomfort
- keep arms and legs covered, even in warm weather
- be concerned about changing for PE or swimming
- look unkempt and uncared for
- change their eating habits
- have difficulty in making or sustaining friendships
- appear fearful
- be reckless with regard to their own or other's safety
- self-harm
- frequently miss school or arrive late
- show signs of not wanting to go home
- display a change in behaviour – from quiet to aggressive, or happy-go-lucky to withdrawn
- challenge authority
- become disinterested in their school work
- be constantly tired or preoccupied
- be wary of physical contact

- be involved in, or particularly knowledgeable about drugs or alcohol
- display sexual knowledge or behaviour beyond that normally expected for their age.

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

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

Impact of abuse

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

Taking Action

It is the responsibility of staff to report and record their concerns as soon as possible.

We actively encourage a ‘never do nothing’ attitude if staff have a concern about a child and promote discussion with DSL if in any doubt.

It is not their responsibility to investigate or decide whether a child has been abused.

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

Wakefield has a Continuum of Need for children and families who need support, this ranges from universal level to level 4. It is worth noting that a cause for concern does not always require a level 4 response, it may be the family need so lower level of support to help the situation.

Key points for staff to remember for taking action are:

- if an emergency take the action necessary to help the child, for example, call 999
- **REPORT your concern to the DSL as soon as possible and certainly by the end of the day**
- **Complete a RECORD of concern (see appendix and master copies in safeguarding files) and immediately pass onto to the DSL**
- do not start your own investigation
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue unnecessarily with colleagues, friends or family.
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed.
- Following the completion of a concern form 2 weeks of daily monitoring will be

completed. If there are not further concerns and the case has not been taken further by social care the file will be closed. If there are further concerns or the case is allocated under the continuum of need a separate file will be started and welfare checks must be completed every week. Staff in these cases will also be required to compile pupil information reports for key meetings.

If you are concerned about a pupil's welfare

There will be occasions when staff may suspect that a pupil may be at risk, but have no 'real' evidence. The pupil's behaviour may have changed, their artwork could be bizarre, they may write stories or poetry that reveal confusion or distress, or physical but inconclusive signs may have been noticed. In these circumstances, **staff will give the pupil the opportunity to talk.** The signs they have noticed may be due to a variety of factors, for example, a parent has moved out, a pet has died, a grandparent is very ill. It is fine for staff to ask the pupil if they are OK or if they can help in any way.

Staff should record these early concerns. If the pupil does begin to reveal that they are being harmed, staff should follow the disclosure advice. Following an initial conversation with the pupil, if the member of staff remains concerned, they should discuss their concerns with the DSL and a concern form should be completed.

Early intervention

If the concern is low level and does not require other agency involvement the DSL will initiate early intervention through the inclusion team to;

- Engage with the parents/carers as soon as possible (unless the situation is so serious that would put the student at increased risk.) We then can evidence quick action was taken and the length of time of involvement.
- We will invite the parents/carers into school for a meeting to demonstrate professional concerns and discuss a supportive working partnership for the best interests of the student (e.g. breakfast club, additional in school support)
- At this meeting we will discuss the plan of next action should the situation not improve.
- We will record all contacts with the family, dates and times, including phonecalls/letters.
- We will then monitor the student closely - behaviour/concerns/interaction with peers and parents/academic progress etc. This will demonstrate the frequency of concerns and help to build patterns.

If a pupil discloses to you

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

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

may feel that they have been misled into revealing more than they would have otherwise.

During their conversations with the pupils it is best practice for staff to:

- allow pupils to speak freely
- remain calm and not overreact – the pupil may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting their listener
- give reassuring nods or words of comfort – 'I want to help', 'This isn't your fault', 'You are doing the right thing in talking to me'
- not be afraid of silences, and allow space and time for pupil to continue, staff will recognise the barriers the pupil may have had to overcome to disclose.
- clarifying or repeating back to check what they have heard if needed but will not lead the discussion in any way and will not ask direct or leading questions – such as.. whether it happens to siblings too, or what does the pupil's mother think about it.
- use questions such as Tell me.....? Is there anything else?
- at an appropriate time tell the pupil that in order to help them, the member of staff must pass the information on
- not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort. It may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused.
- Remember professional boundaries and not share personal experiences such as 'that happened to me'
- avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing earlier. Saying things such as 'I do wish you had told me about this when it started' or 'I can't believe what I'm hearing' may be the staff member's way of being supportive but may be interpreted by the child to mean that they have done something wrong
- tell the pupil what will happen next. The pupil may agree to go with you to see the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Otherwise let them know that you will be consulting them.
- write up their conversation as soon as possible on the record of concern form and hand it to the designated lead
- seek support if they feel distressed

Notifying parents

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

However, if the academy believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, advice will first be sought from Social Care Direct.

Records and Monitoring

Why recording is important

Our staff will be encouraged to understand why it is important that recording is timely, comprehensive and accurate and what the messages from serious case reviews are in terms of recording and sharing information.

Any concerns about a child will be recorded and given to the DSL ASAP. All records will provide a factual and evidence based account and there will be accurate recording of any actions. Records will be signed, dated and, where appropriate, witnessed.

At no time will a staff take photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person. The body map will be used instead in accordance with recording guidance.

It may be appropriate for the DSL to open a secure safeguarding file and start a chronology page. This will help in building patterns and decision making.

We will feedback to the staff member any actions, however this will be on a need to know basis. It may not be appropriate for staff members to know every detail of the child's life.

The DSL is required to manage the keeping of records in relation to matters regarding safeguarding children. These records will be stored securely. Where a person makes an oral statement, a written record will be produced, signed and dated by the author. Staff are required to complete concern forms for any area of concern within the realms of this policy. (See Appendix 2) This will then lead to further action by the DSL and the completion of daily welfare sheets for a period of at least 2 weeks. (See safeguarding file)

Staff should be given as much information as necessary in order to help the child concerned. In general, this will mean that, where a child is on the Child Protection register, or where there are concerns about a child, the member of staff chosen by the child to provide support will be kept informed. It may be appropriate in some cases to inform other staff, giving few details but raising general awareness, that there are issues that may affect a child's behaviour and level of achievement at that time.

In the event of a child causing concern transferring to another school, the academy will:

- i Find out the name of the receiving school/academy;
- ii Contact the relevant member of staff at that school to discuss the transfer;
- iii Send all information relating to the child to the receiving school/academy – delivering the documentation in person if possible and ensuring that it is signed for on receipt; and
- iv: Inform all of the relevant agencies of the transfer.

Listening to children

The academy recognises the importance of listening to children at all times, particularly when they are distressed, worried or concerned. It is appreciated that at times particular children may feel stressed and confused. The academy shall identify quiet areas and provide the opportunity for these children to take respite from the normal day when necessary.

All staff shall be made aware that children who are not known to be the subjects of concern may, however, be experiencing ill treatment, neglect or abuse. This means that staff should be aware of the need for sensitivity when dealing with all children at all times. The system of the concern forms and daily welfare checks should be used for any children presenting a concern, whether or not they were previously known to be the subjects of concern.

The academy recognises that children who are distressed through experiences outside the classroom may be less able to achieve their potential. While it is clear that such children need firm boundaries, staff will take into account the child's distress when managing behaviour.

Children in the academy will be regularly anonymously questioned regarding their perceptions of how 'safe' they feel when at the academy. The academy council will also be used to assess children's perceptions of how safe they feel. The data collected from these surveys will be used to inform changes in policies and practice.

Confidentiality

The right of each child to confidentiality and privacy will be respected and all communications about the case will be kept to a minimum on a 'need to know' basis.

Children should be reassured that their best interests will be maintained. However, staff cannot offer or guarantee confidentiality and should ensure that the child understands that all disclosures made to an adult will be shared with the DSL.

When confidentiality has to be broken, the child should be supported, as appropriate and reassured about the academy's 'duty of care'.

The academy shares a common purpose with parents/carers to educate and keep children safe from harm and to have their welfare promoted, so is committed to working with parents/carers positively, openly and honestly. The academy will ensure that all parents/carers are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. The academy respects parents'/carers' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless it has parental/carer permission or it is necessary to do so in order to protect a child.

The Academy will share with parents/carers any concerns academy staff may have about their child unless to do so may place a child at risk of harm.

Monitoring

The academy will monitor children whose names are on the Child Protection Register in line with what has been agreed in the child protection plan. Children deemed 'at risk' or known to be vulnerable will be regularly reviewed by a Professionals Meeting convened by the academy to ensure swift, integrated and appropriate intervention. Daily welfare checks will be completed for all children at stage 4 and higher on the continuum of need until there is a change in this status or the DSL or other agency professionals request the cessation of this. Daily welfare checks will be completed for at least 2 weeks following any concern form referral to the DSL. The decision to cease these will be made by the class teacher, in consultation with the DSL, if no further concerns have been identified.

Parents/carers will be made aware of the academy's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the fact that this may require cases to be referred to the investigative agencies in the interests of the child.

Guidelines for monitoring

When?

When there is concern in the academy about:

- Marks on the body
- Unusual/different behaviour (including academic functioning)
- Mood changes
- Puzzling statements or stories by a child
- Information from others
- Unusual patterns of attendance
- If requested by another agency e.g. following a case conference

Who should monitor?

- Teachers
- Other academy staff
- Other staff in regular contact with the child

What should be monitored?

- Patterns of attendance
- Academic progress
- Changes of mood
- Changes in classroom functioning
- Relationships with peers and adults
- Behaviour
- Statements, comments, stories, 'news', drawings
- General demeanour and appearance
- Parental interest and comments
- Home/family changes
- Medicals
- Response to PE/sport
- Injuries/marks, past and present
- Multi agency reports, case reviews etc.

Good Practice Guidelines and Staff Code of Conduct

To meet and maintain our responsibilities towards pupils we need to agree standards of good practice which form a code of conduct for all staff. Good practice includes:

- treating all pupils with respect
- being alert to changes in pupils' behaviour and to signs of abuse and neglect
- recognising that challenging behaviour may be an indicator of abuse
- setting a good example by conducting ourselves appropriately, including online.
- involving pupils in decisions that affect them
- encouraging positive, respectful and safe behaviour among pupils including challenging inappropriate or discriminatory language or behaviour.
- avoiding behaviour or language which could be seen as favouring pupils.
- avoiding any behaviour which could lead to suspicions of anything other than a professional relationship with pupils.
- reading and understanding the academy's child protection policy and guidance documents on wider safeguarding issues, for example bullying, behaviour, and appropriate IT/social media use.
- asking the pupil's permission before initiating physical contact, such as assisting with dressing, physical support during PE or administering first aid
- maintaining appropriate standards of conversation and interaction with and between pupils. Avoiding the use of sexualised or derogatory language, even in joke.
- being clear on professional boundaries and conduct with other staff when pupils present.
- being aware that the personal, family circumstances and lifestyles of some pupils lead to an increased risk of abuse
- applying the use of reasonable force only as a last resort and in compliance with academy procedures
- referring all concerns about a pupil's safety and welfare to the DSL, or, if necessary directly to police or children's social care
- following the academy's rules with regard to communication with pupils and use of social media and online networking
- avoiding unnecessary time alone with children and risk manage any time alone or 1:1 working.
- avoiding sharing excessive personal information with children.

The current SPTA code of conduct for staff can be found in the policy files and as part of staff induction.

Safer Working Practices in Education guidance 2015

<http://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Guidance-for-Safer-Working-Practices-2015-final1.pdf>

Abuse of Position of Trust

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

Children Who May Be Particularly Vulnerable

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

Some groups such as SEN can be disproportionately impacted by bullying/communication barriers/dismissal of signs and indicators as relating to the disability without further exploration.

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

- missing education/missing from education
- disabled or have special educational needs
- young carers
- Looked After Children
- privately fostered children
- affected by domestic abuse
- affected by substance misuse/drug use
- affected by mental health issues including self-harm and eating disorders.
- affected by poor parenting
- at risk of Fabricated or Induced Illness
- at risk of gang and youth violence.
- asylum seekers
- living away from home
- vulnerable to being bullied, or engaging in bullying including cyber, homophobic, racist etc.
- live transient lifestyles
- LGBT (lesbian gay bisexual transgender)
- missing from home or care
- living in chaotic and unsupportive home situations
- vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, disability or sexuality
- vulnerable to extremism or radicalisation.
- vulnerable to faith abuse
- involved directly or indirectly in child sexual exploitation CSE or trafficking
- do not have English as a first language
- at risk of Honour Based Violence (HBV) including; female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

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

Some Current Issues

There are many issues of concern affecting children today and not all can be listed here. We will have a consistent approach of following our procedures and consulting with other agencies if there are any concerns with any of our pupils.

Online safety is exceptionally important and will continue to receive a high priority as an issue, as it is often how issues are facilitated CSE, radicalisation, bullying etc. Appropriate filters and monitoring are in place, as well as education of staff and pupils. See later section.

Peer on Peer Abuse – sexting/cyberbullying/sexual assaults

This will always be taken seriously and acted upon, under the appropriate policy e.g. safeguarding, bullying, not dismissed as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'. These issues will be part of PSHE lessons and discussions. Victims will be supported through the schools pastoral system. Any hate crime/incident will be reported through local reporting mechanisms – see appendix.

Sexting

School will follow the updated guidance;

<http://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/Managing-Sexting-Incidents/Sexting-Advice.aspx>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

Bullying

Is a very serious issue that can cause considerable anxiety and distress. At its most serious level, bullying can have a disastrous effect on a child's wellbeing and in very rare cases has been a feature in the suicide of some young people.

All incidences of bullying, including cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying will be recorded and reported and will be managed through our behaviour and tackling-bullying procedures. All pupils and parents receive a copy of the procedures on joining the school and the subject of bullying is addressed at regular intervals in PSHE education. If the bullying is particularly serious, or the tackling bullying procedures are deemed to be ineffective, the Headteacher and the DSL will consider implementing child protection procedures.

Bullying incidents including discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour e.g. racist, disability and homophobic bullying and use of derogatory language will be recorded and analysed.

There will be occasions when a pupil's behaviour warrants a response under child protection rather than anti-bullying procedures.

Add link to your bullying policy here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

Children with sexually harmful behaviour

Research suggests that up to 40 per cent of child sexual abuse is committed by someone under the age of 18.

The management of children and young people with sexually harmful behaviour is complex and the school will work with other agencies to maintain the safety of the whole school community. Young people who display such behaviour may be victims of abuse themselves and the child protection procedures will be followed for both victim and perpetrator. Staff who become concerned about a pupil's sexual behaviour should speak to the DSL as soon as possible.

Missing Children

A child going missing from education, which includes within the school day, is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation. Unauthorised absences will be monitored and followed up in line with procedures, particularly where children go missing on repeated occasions. All staff will be aware of the signs of risk and individual triggers including travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.

All pupils will be placed on admission and attendance registers as required by law. We will inform the local authority of any child removed from our admission register. We will inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend for a continuous period of 10 days or more, in-line with local Wakefield procedures. Missing Officer – details in Contacts List.

Child Sexual Exploitation CSE

This involves exploitative situations where a child, male or female, receives something from an adult as a result of engaging in sexual activity. This can be seemingly 'consensual' relationships to serious organised crime gangs. There will be an imbalance of power where the perpetrator holds power over the victim. This is a serious crime. Details of procedures are found here - <http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-children/safeguarding/wakefield-district-safeguarding-children-board/safeguarding-for-professionals/child-sexual-exploitation>

The police team can be contacted for extra support and information - see Contacts List.

Female Genital Mutilation FGM

This is illegal and a form of child abuse. It involves a procedure to remove all or some of the female genitalia or any other injury to these organs. Staff will be aware of the signs and indicators of this and their duty to report.

Domestic Abuse

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

Local details;

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/Documents/health-care-advice/adult-services/domestic-abuse-theres-no-excuse.pdf>

•

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/health-care-and-advice/adults-and-older-people-services/domestic-abuse>

Female Genital Mutilation FGM

This is illegal and a form of child abuse. It involves a procedure to remove all or some of the female genitalia or any other injury to these organs. Staff will be aware of the signs and indicators of this and their legal duty to report **known** cases to the police.

Multi agency guidelines;

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/512906/Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM_-_FINAL.pdf

Forced Marriage

Is illegal and a form of child abuse. A marriage entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties, where violence threats or coercion is used.

Multi agency guidelines;

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322307/HMG_MULTI_AGENCY_PRACTICE_GUIDELINES_v1_180614_FINAL.pdf

Preventing Radicalisation

This is part of our wider safeguarding duty. We will intervene where possible to prevent vulnerable children being radicalised. The internet has become a major factor in radicalisation and recruitment.

As with all other forms of abuse, staff should be confident in identifying pupils at risk and act proportionately. We will work with other partners including the Channel Panel. The DSL is appropriately trained and be able to offer advice, support and information to other staff. We will ensure safe internet filters are in place and ensure our pupils are educated in online safety.

All staff have had Prevent training and undertaken a quiz to check understanding. Prevent police officer in Wakefield – Richard Marsh (See Contacts List)
<http://educateagainsthate.com/>

Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. (*Close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.)

The academy will follow requirements of reporting as set out by WDSCB.

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-children/fostering-and-adoption/what-is-fostering/private-fostering>

Dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility>

Helping Children to Keep Themselves Safe

Children will be taught, through the curriculum, in PSHE and Citizenship, about the risks of different kinds of child abuse and neglect, equipping them with the skills they need to help them stay safe.

Child safeguarding will be interwoven with many aspects of the existing curriculum. It can help children to:

- Promote their understanding of relationships
- Increase self-esteem and awareness
- Make judgements and solve problems
- Be assertive
- Recognise, accept and express feelings
- Explore the nature of trust
- Identify 'okay' adults within personal safety networks
- Take decisions and accept responsibility for self and others
- Be self-reliant and independent

The academy will encourage children to feel safe and to talk about their feelings, thereby:

- Reducing isolation in the emotions they experience
- Relieving tension by enabling students to talk and be listened to
- Providing an opportunity to develop an appropriate vocabulary, making violence less likely as a way of expressing needs
- Allowing children to perceive situations more clearly for planning an action or change
- Making children feel protected by a culture which actively promotes a 'listening environment'

Our approach is designed to help children to think about risks they may encounter and have help to work out how those risks might be overcome and the support available to them. Discussions about relationships and risk are empowering and enabling for all children and promote sensible behaviour rather than fear or anxiety. Children are taught how to conduct themselves and how to behave in a responsible manner. Children are also reminded regularly about e-safety, including sexting and tackling bullying procedures including the legalities and consequences. Parents are reminded about this and the academy safeguarding procedures at least twice per half term via the weekly newsletter.

The academy continually promotes an ethos of respect for children and the emotional health and wellbeing of our children is important to us. Children are encouraged to speak to a member of staff in confidence about any worries they may have. However all our children are aware that if they disclose that they are being harmed or that they have, or intend, to harm another that this cannot be kept secret and that information will need to be shared.

PSHE association <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/>

All children need to know what to do in case someone tries to harm them. Knowing that when children are abused or harmed, the abuse or harm may be perpetrated by someone they know, teaching children to avoid dangerous situations, and to recognise inappropriate touching and comments can encourage them to trust their own judgement and to feel safer, more aware and confident.

Support for those involved in a child protection issue

Child abuse is devastating for the child and can also result in distress and anxiety for staff who become involved.

We will support pupils, their families, and staff by:

- taking all suspicions and disclosures seriously
- nominating a link person (*DSL*) who will keep all parties informed and be the central point of contact
- where a member of staff is the subject of an allegation made by a pupil, separate link people will be nominated to avoid any conflict of interest
- responding sympathetically to any request from pupils or staff for time out to deal with distress or anxiety
- maintaining confidentiality and sharing information on a need-to-know basis only with relevant individuals and agencies
- maintaining and storing records securely
- offering details of helplines, counselling or other avenues of external support
- following the procedures laid down in our whistleblowing, complaints and disciplinary procedures
- cooperating fully with relevant statutory agencies.

Allegations against staff

When an allegation is made against a member of staff, set procedures must be followed. It is important to have a culture of openness and transparency and **a consultation with the Designated Officer will happen if staff have;**

- **Behaved in a way which has harmed, or may have harmed a child;**
- **Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or**
- **Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they would pose a risk of harm to children.**

Allegations against staff should be reported to the Head of Academy. Allegations against the Head of Academy should be reported to the Chair of the EAB. Staff may also report their concerns directly to Police or Designated Officer or the NSPCC Whistle blowing helpline if they believe direct reporting is necessary to secure action

It is rare for a child to make an entirely false or malicious allegation, although misunderstandings and misinterpretations of events do happen. We recognise that a child may also make an allegation against an innocent party because they are too afraid to name the real perpetrator. However if a child is found to continually make false allegations this may be a sign of mental health issues and a referral to services such as CAMHs (Child and Adolescent Mental Health) may be required.

An uncomfortable fact is that some professionals do pose a serious risk to pupils and we must act on every allegation. However, staff who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension is not the default option and alternatives to suspension will always be considered. In some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected. Staff will be advised to contact their trade union and will also be given access to a named representative.

The full procedures for dealing with allegations against staff can be found in *Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2016)*.

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

Staff Training and Induction

It is important that all staff have regular training to enable them to recognise the possible signs of abuse and neglect and to know what to do if they have a concern. All staff, including site staff and the Head of Academy, will be regularly trained in Safeguarding and given at least annual updates in the form of email/newsletter/staff meetings.

The DSL will receive training updated at least every two years, including training in inter-agency procedures. They will be supported and encouraged to attend additional training to keep up to date, including forums and multi-agency training offered by WDSCB and the Safeguarding Advisor.

EAB members will receive strategic governor safeguarding training.

All training will be recorded and monitored to flag in advance when updates are required.

The booklet 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' 2015 and Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 is given to all staff and further copies are available from the office.

New staff and governors will receive an induction in safeguarding which includes the school's child protection policy, details for the DSL, reporting and recording arrangements specific to the school, dates of their last training, the staff code of conduct and the whistleblowing policy. Staff will sign to say they have received this and understood.

Supply staff and other visiting staff will be given the school's visiting staff information with a brief summary of the above. Each class also contains a red file with specific child centred information. These are stored securely within the storeroom of each classroom and will be passed to any new teachers who work with that class.

Safer recruitment

Our school endeavours to ensure that we do our utmost to employ 'safe' staff by following the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016) together with WDSCB, SPTA and the academy's individual procedures.

Recruitment, selection and pre-employment vetting is carried out in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016. Including;

Verifying identity

Enhanced DBS (disclosure and barring service) check for those in regulated activity
Prohibition from teaching check – teacher services system – for all teaching posts/EEA restrictions.

Verification on mental and physical fitness

Right to work in UK

Professional qualifications.

Governors of maintained school will have enhanced DBS check
Sect 128 provision (managers of independent schools in addition to DBS)

References will be sought before interview so any concerns can be explored.

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

The Single Central Record is maintained in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016.

We will obtain written confirmation from supply agencies that agency and third party staff have been appropriately checked and ensure the correct person arrives in school.

Volunteers

Volunteers, including EAB members will undergo checks commensurate with their work in the school and contact with pupils i.e. if they are in regulated activity or not.

Contractors

We will check the identity of all contractors working on site and requests evidence of checks where they work in regulated activity or unsupervised.

Visitors

Schools do not have the power to ask for DBS checks or see the certificate. The Head of Academy will use their professional judgement regarding escorting visitors in the school. All visitors will be asked to wear a badge identifying them as a visitor.

Site security

Visitors to the school are asked to sign in, if necessary show ID, and are given a badge, which confirms they have permission to be on site. Parents who are simply delivering or collecting their children do not need to sign in. All visitors are expected to enter through one entrance and observe the school's safeguarding and health and safety regulations to ensure children in school are kept safe. A brief overview of these expectations including identification of the DSL and DDSL and fire evacuation procedures is available at reception and displayed around the academy. The Head of Academy will exercise professional judgement in determining whether any visitor should be escorted or supervised while on site.

Extended school and off-site arrangements

Where extended school activities are provided by and managed by the school, our own child protection policy and procedures apply and the DSL will be available. If other organisations provide services or activities on our site we will check that they have appropriate procedures in place, including safer recruitment procedures and clarify whose procedure is to be followed if there are concerns. There will be clear communication channels to ensure the DSL is kept appropriately informed.

When our pupils attend off-site activities, including day and residential visits and work related activities, we will risk assess and check that effective child protection arrangements are in place. We will clarify who's procedures are to be followed, with the DSL kept appropriately informed. Evolve risk assessment procedures will be implemented for all off site activities, overseen by the EVC and monitored regularly

by the EAB.

If alternative providers are used we will ensure they have effective safeguarding in place, with the DSL kept appropriately informed.

Photography and images

The vast majority of people who take or view photographs or videos of children do so for entirely innocent and acceptable reasons. Sadly, some people abuse children through taking or using images, so we must ensure that we have some safeguards in place.

To protect pupils we will:

- seek their consent for photographs to be taken or published (for example, on our website, on twitter or in newspapers or publications)
- seek parental consent
- not use pupils full name with an image
- ensure pupils are appropriately dressed
- ensure that personal data is not shared.
- store images appropriately, securely and for no longer than necessary.
- only use school equipment, i.e. not personal devices.
- encourage pupils to tell us if they are worried about any photographs that are taken of them.

Physical intervention and use of reasonable force

All staff are encouraged to use de-escalation techniques and creative alternative strategies that are specific to the child. Restraint will only be used as a last resort and all incidents of this are reviewed, recorded and monitored. Reasonable force will be used in accordance with government guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>
link to you procedure here

Intimate Care

If a child requires regular intimate care on site this is likely to be written into a care plan which staff will adhere to. If an accident occurs and a child needs assistance with intimate care this will be risk managed to afford dignity to the child as well as security to the staff member. Staff will behave in an open and transparent way by informing another member of staff and having the child's consent to help. Parents will be informed and incidents recorded.

The Academy policy for toileting and intimate care is available on the website or from the office.

Online Safety

Our pupils increasingly use mobile phones, tablets and computers on a daily basis. They are a source of fun, entertainment, communication and education. However, we know that some adults and young people will use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive communications, to enticing children to engage in sexually harmful conversations, webcam photography, encouraging radicalisation or face-to-face meetings. The school's e-

safety policy (available on the website and from the office) explains how we aim to keep pupils safe in school which includes reasonable filters and monitoring. Cyberbullying and sexting by pupils, via texts and emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and in the absence of a child protection concern will be managed through our anti-bullying and confiscation procedures.

Chatrooms and some social networking sites are the more obvious sources of inappropriate and harmful behaviour and pupils are not allowed to access these sites in school. Some pupils will undoubtedly be 'chatting' outside school and are informed of the risks of this through PSHE/SRE. Parents are encouraged to consider measures to keep their children safe when using social media.

Acceptable IT use for staff, pupils will be enforced and parents are also informed of expectations. Our e-safety and PSHE policies include information on acceptable use of ICT as does the code of conduct. All of these are available on the website or from the office. E-safety reminders and useful links are also communicated to parents at least twice per term via the weekly newsletter.

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

First aid and managing medical conditions.

Staff will be trained appropriately in first aid.

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on schools to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions. Individual Health care Plans may need to be drawn up and multi-agency communication will be essential. Staff will be appropriately trained and responsibilities will be carried on in accordance with government guidance Sept 2014.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484418/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf

The academy policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions can be accessed via the website or from the office.

The safeguarding file

The establishment of a safeguarding file is an important principle in terms of storing and collating information about children which relates to either a safeguarding concern or an accumulation of welfare concerns which are outside of the usual range of concerns in ordinary life events.

It needs to be borne in mind that what constitutes a 'concern' for one child may not be a 'concern' for another and the particular child's circumstances and needs will differ i.e. a child subject to a child protection plan, looked after child, Child in Need may be looked at differently to a child recently bereaved, parental health issues etc. We will therefore use professional judgement when making this decision as will have clear links and discussions between pastoral staff and DSL's.

This file will be kept separately from the main pupil file and **will held be securely only to be accessed by appropriately trained people. The main file, open to staff, will have a marker to signify that a separate safeguarding file exists for that child so that all staff coming into contact with that child are aware that an additional vulnerability exists.**

The academy will keep written records of concerns about children even where there is no need to refer the matter to external agencies immediately. These will be cross referenced to previous individual files if appropriate and to other members of the same family if appropriate.

All incidents/episodes will be recorded e.g. phone calls to other agencies, in the chronology with more detail and analysis in the body of the file. This will help build a picture and help the DSL in analysis and action, which may include **no further action, monitoring, whether a CAF (level 3) should be undertaken, or whether a referral should be made to other agencies - Social Care Direct/Early Help Hubs in line with the Continuum of Need document and reflecting the Signs of Safety approach.**

In cases where there is multi agency involvement - meetings and plans, actions and responsibilities shall be clarified and outcomes recorded.

Files will be made available for external scrutiny for example by a regulatory agency or because of a serious case review or audit.

Records will be kept up to date and **reviewed regularly by the DSL** to evidence and support actions taken by staff in discharging their safeguarding arrangements.

If the child moves to another school, the file will be securely sent or taken, to the DSL at the new establishment/school and a **written receipt will be obtained.** There will be a timely liaison between each school's DSL to ensure a smooth and safe transition for the child. We will retain a copy of the chronology to evidence actions, in accordance with record retention guidance.

Referral to Social Care Direct (Level 4)

The DSL will make a referral to Social Care Direct if it is believed that a pupil is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm – Level 4 on the Continuum of Need. If there is already a social worker assigned to this case -for safeguarding reasons, the social worker should be contacted.

The pupil (subject to their age and understanding) and the parents will be told that a referral is being made, unless to do so would increase the risk to the child.

If the situation does not appear to be improving the school will press for reconsideration and if necessary follow WDSCB professional disagreement procedure.

http://westyorkscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_res_profdisag.html?zoom_highlight=professional+disagreement

Any member of staff can refer to other agencies in exceptional circumstances i.e. in an emergency or when there is a genuine concern that action has not been taken.

Confidentiality and sharing information

Staff will only discuss concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Head of Academy or EAB chair (depending on who is the subject of the concern). That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

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

However, if we believe that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, advice will first be sought from Social Care Direct.

The Seven Golden Rules for Safeguarding Information Sharing 2015

- Data Protection/Human rights laws are not a barrier.
- Be open and honest. (unless unsafe or inappropriate)
- Seek advice. (anonymise if necessary)
- Share with consent if appropriate.
- Consider safety and wellbeing.
- Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure.
- Keep a record of decision and reason for it.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>

The Data Protection Act does not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child. Ideally information sharing will be done in writing so that there is an evidence trail however there may be occasions where this method is too slow. **In cases where agencies such as MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) ring the school requesting information reception staff will take a message and inform the DSL immediately**, the DSL will ensure they can identify who is requesting the information before sharing and then record what has been shared, when, why and with whom.

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

Any personal safeguarding information shared with external agencies will be done so securely e.g. by secure email, password protected or recorded delivery.

Special Circumstances

Looked after Children LAC

The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse or neglect. The school ensures that appropriate staff have information about a child's looked after status and care arrangements including contact. The designated teacher for Looked After Children and the DSL have details of the child's social worker. As well as the name and contact details of the local authority's virtual head for children in care. They will work with the virtual head to discuss how funding can be best used to support the progress of LAC and meet the needs in their PEP (Personal Education Plan)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

Monitoring and Review

The Head of Academy will ensure that this policy is well-publicised to all staff, including those who join the academy on a temporary basis. This person will ensure that all procedures in this policy are robustly and routinely carried out and that in the event of any changes regarding best practice or statutory legislation, staff and EAB members will be clearly and promptly informed.

The Head of Academy who is the DSL will make an annual report to the EAB on any changes to this policy and implementation of this.

Approval by EAB and Review Date

The EAB will review this policy at least every year and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.

This policy has been formally approved and adopted by the EAB at a formally convened meeting.

Local Contact Details

Social Care Direct

Phone: 0345 8503 503

Minicom: 01924 303450 (type talk welcome)

Email: social_care_direct@wakefield.gov.uk

Local Early Help Knottingley and Pontefract

Phone: 01977 722451

Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service WDDAS

0800 915 915

Designated Officer (LADO)

Jane McCann

JaneMccann@wakefield.gov.uk

01924 320 155

NSPCC Primary schools service

Michelle Poucher. Area Coordinator

07834 498 354 mpoucher@nspcc.org.uk

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/>

Prevent Police Officer

Richard Marsh

richard.marsh1@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

07525918232

CSE Police Team

DA.CSE@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

01924 878397

Child Missing Education Officers

Francesca Hunter fhunter@wakefield.gov.uk 01924 307449

George Sykes gsykes@wakefield.gov.uk 01924 3037395

Virtual Head for LAC

Gary Stuart

gstuart@wakefield.gov.uk 01924 307391

Safeguarding Advisor for Education

Vicki Maybin

vmaybin@wakefield.gov.uk 07788743527

Continuum of Need document;

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-children/safeguarding/wakefield-district-safeguarding-children-board/wakefield-early-help-offer-and-continuum-of-need>

Signs of Safety webpage;

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-children/safeguarding/signs-of-safety>

**Safeguarding Information webpage for schools;
Young Peoples Charter, link to CAF page, TRAINING, TEMPLATES, AUDIT, managing allegations etc**

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-children/safeguarding/wakefield-district-safeguarding-children-board/safeguarding-for-schools-and-colleges>

NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline

0800 028 0285

OnlineSafety

ICT4C

<http://shareit.ict4c.co.uk/enews/>

National Association People Abused in Childhood NAPAC

<http://www.mindingyourhead.info/service/napac-national-association-people-abused-childhood>

Stop It Now

Leading charity working in the field of sexual abuse. Also provides support for people who are worried about their own thoughts or behaviour towards children.

<http://www.stopitnow.org.uk/>

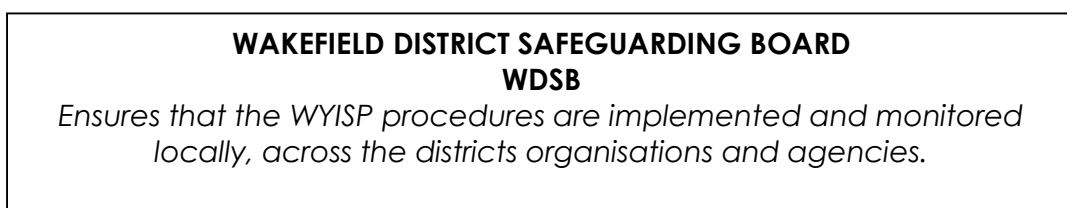
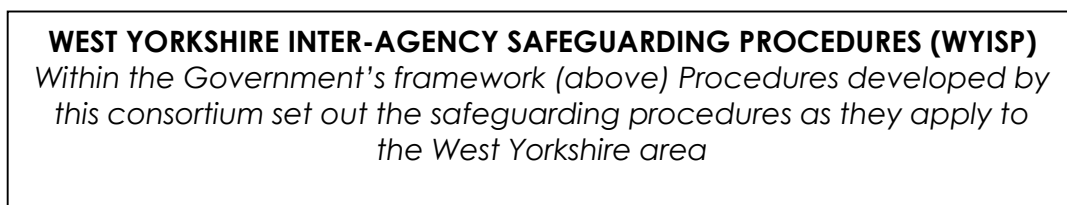
Reporting Hate Crime

Hate Crime/incident is any behaviour that anyone thinks was caused by hatred of:

- race
- sexual orientation
- gender identification
- disability
- religion or faith

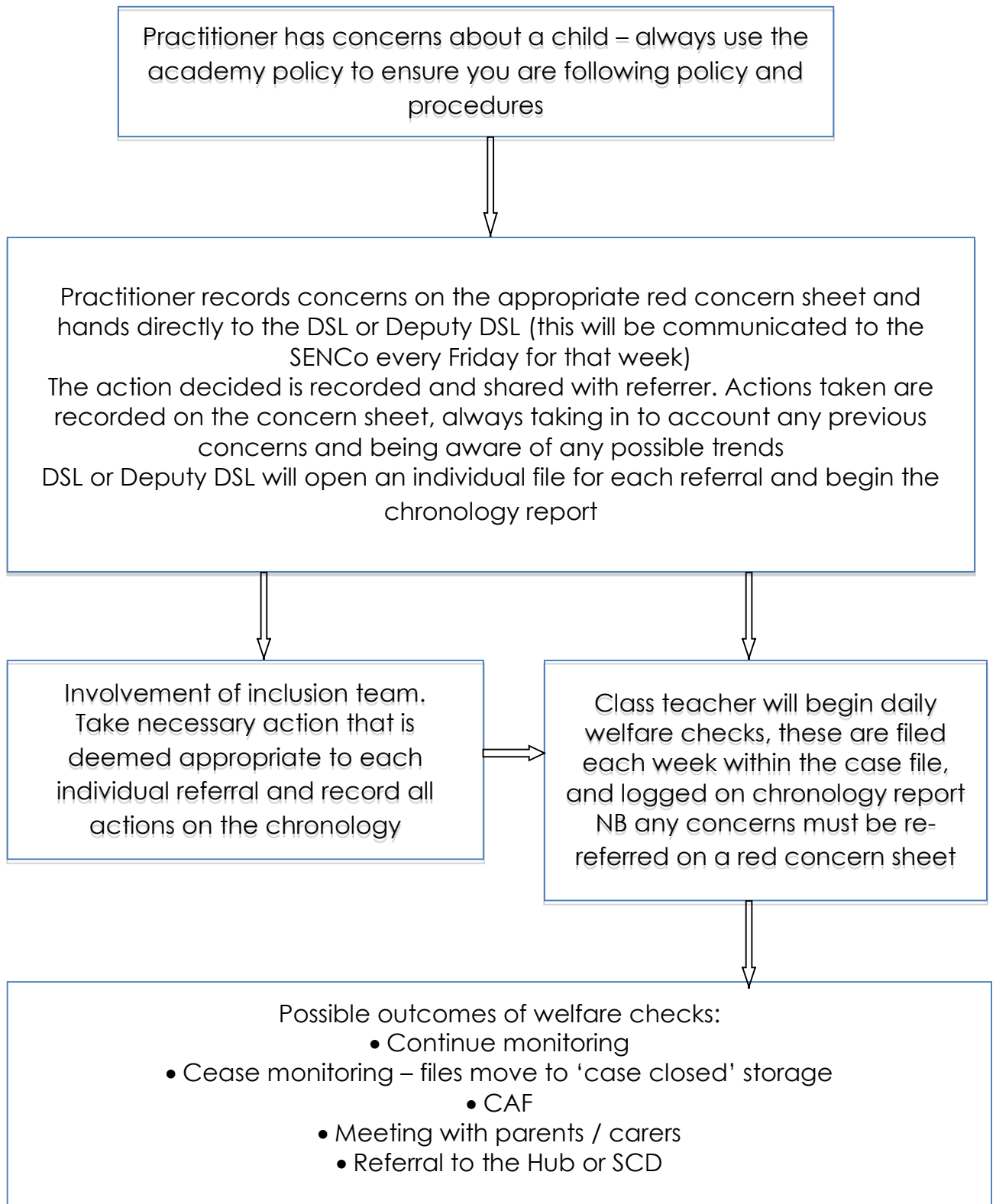
<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/community-and-housing/community/hate-crime>

Policies into practice



Appendix 1

What to do if you are concerned about a child



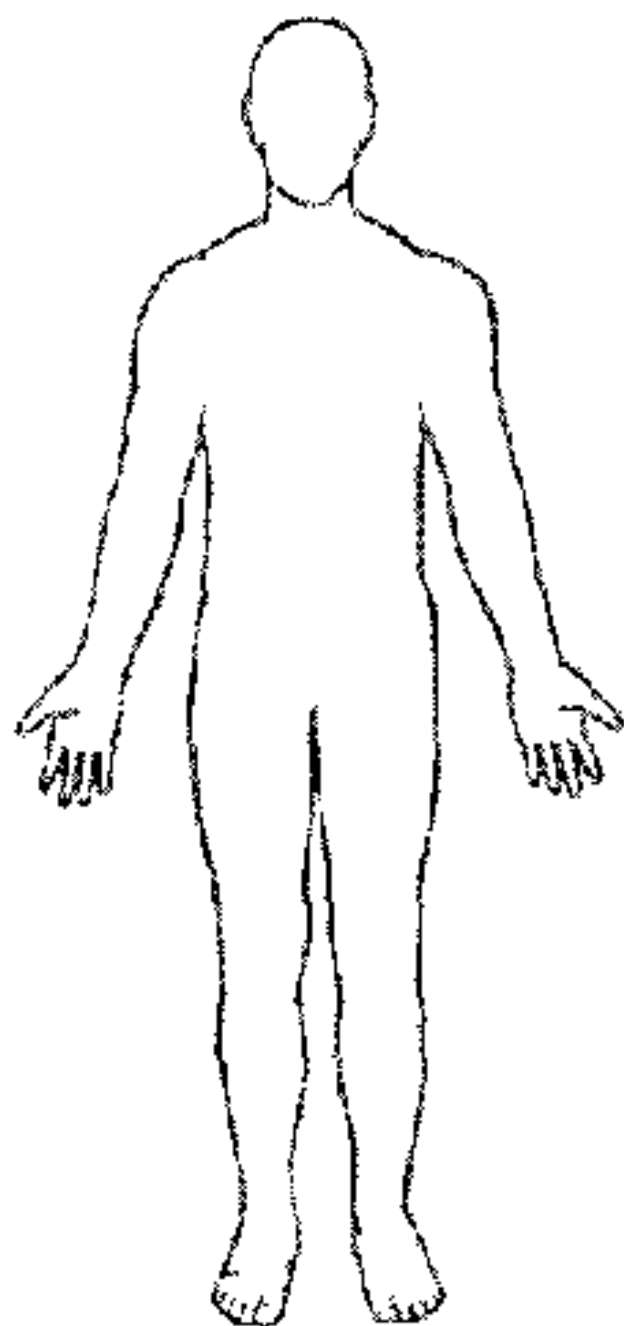
Appendix 2: Cause for concern form



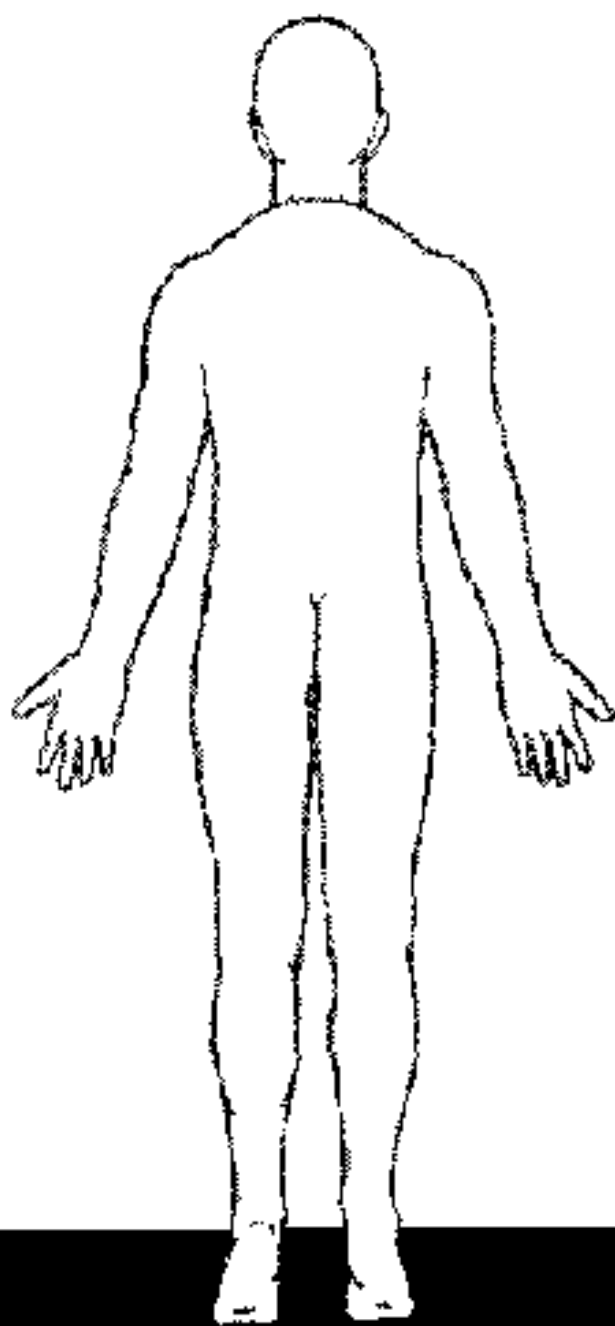
Child's Name:	d.o.b.
Date:	Time:
Member of Staff logging concern: (please print)	
Position:	
Nature of incident / concern including relevant background (record child's words verbatim) Use the body map if needed and sign and date it.	
<div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">Signed:.....</div>	

For DSP use

Action taken	By whom	Outcome
Discuss with child		
Monitoring sheet		
Check behaviour records		
Contact parents		
Contact Inclusion team		
Refer to Social Care direct		
Other		



Front



Back

