

Blenheim High School

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy



At Blenheim High School, the staff and Governors adhere to the principles outlined in the Children Act 1989 believing that all children have a right to be protected from abuse. It is the intention of the procedures within this Policy to ensure that the appropriate action is taken immediately where it is alleged that a student is suspected of being abused. Our prime concern at all times must be the interests and safety of the student(s) and on every occasion that any member of staff has reason to suspect a student has suffered abuse, or is at risk of suffering abuse, one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is informed. Blenheim has adopted the LA Child Protection Policy as its core. This should be read in conjunction with the Online Policy.

Supporting Notes:

1.0 Introduction

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; the Education Act 2002, and in line with government publications:

- Working together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, March 2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, March 2015)
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (HM Government, March 2015)

The guidance reflects "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" DfES Jan 2007, Keeping Children Safe in Education and Surrey Safeguarding Children Board SSCB Child Protection Procedures.

1.2 The Governing body takes seriously its responsibility under section 1752 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm. There is a designated Governor responsible for the strategic oversight of Child Protection and Safeguarding.

1.3 We recognise that all adults, including temporary staff, volunteers and governors, have a full and active part to play in protecting our students from harm, and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern.

1.4 All staff believe that our school should provide a caring, positive safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

1.5 The aims of this policy are:

1.5.1 To support the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence.

1.5.2 To provide an environment in which children and young people feel safe, secure, valued and respected, and feel confident, and know how to, approach adults if they are in difficulties, believing they will be effectively listened to.

1.5.3 To raise the awareness of all teaching and non-teaching staff of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse. (Ref Appendices 1 & 2)

1.5.4 To provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, and ensure we, the school, contribute to assessments of need and support packages for those children.

1.5.5 To emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff.

1.5.6 To develop a structured procedure within the school which will be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.

1.5.7 To develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the Police and Social Care.

1.5.8 To ensure that all staff working within our school who have access to children have been checked as to their suitability, including verification of their identity, qualifications, and a satisfactory List 99 or Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check (according to guidance), and a single central record is kept for audit.

2.0 Safe School, Safe Staff

2.1 We will ensure that:

2.1.1 All members of the governing body understand and fulfil their responsibility to ensure that they, and the school, safeguard and promote the welfare of children through all policies, arrangements, and activities, raise concerns where recognised, and annually review safeguarding arrangements including this policy (see 3.1.9). They have responsibility to ensure that:

- There is a Child Protection Policy
- There is a Staff Code of Conduct
- There is a Governor designated for Safeguarding and Child Protection
- The school operates safer recruitment procedures
- The school has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against the staff
- Senior leaders have DSL responsibility
- The DSL undertakes interagency training and DSL training updated every 2 years
- All other staff have Safeguarding training every 3 years
- Any weaknesses in Child Protection are remedied immediately
- The Chair of Governors is the nominated Governor for allegations against the Headteacher
- Child Protection policies and procedures are reviewed annually

2.1.2 We have three DSLs. They are Tracey Fantham (Headteacher), Denise Otter and Debbie Hussey. They have undertaken the compulsory training delivered through the SSCB and will undertake other training as required every 2 years. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Denise Otter.

2.1.3 All members of staff have been provided with child protection awareness at induction, including in their arrival pack, the school safeguarding statement "Safeguarding Children at Blenheim School – Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People" so that they know with whom to discuss a concern.

2.1.4 The Headteacher, where he/she is not the DSL, and all other staff and governors will have child protection awareness training within their first term, updated by the DCPLD every 3 years, to maintain their understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse.

- All staff have to sign to say they have read and understood the content of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'.

2.1.5 All members of staff, volunteers, and governors know how to respond to a student who discloses abuse through delivery of the awareness raising pack "What to do if you are worried a child is being abused" (as in 2.1.4 above). There are flow charts issued to all members of staff that clearly

outline the procedures to be followed. Each member of staff is also given a laminated card with contact details of DSLs and what to do/not do in the event of a disclosure or concern. These cards are also kept at the Reception Desk and issued to all professionals and volunteers working with children in addition to other safeguarding checks.

2.1.6 All parents/carers are made aware of the responsibilities of staff members with regard to child protection procedures through publication of the schools' Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, and reference to them in our introductory school pack. The name of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Leads, will be clearly advertised in the school, with a statement explaining the school's role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected abuse. All new members of staff will be given a copy of our safeguarding statement, and the Child protection and Safeguarding Policy, with the DSL' names clearly displayed, as part of their induction into the school.

2.1.7 All visitors to the school site will have to be accompanied at all times unless they show valid photo identification and an original copy of their DBS which is verified by a member of staff.

2.1.8 Our lettings policy will seek to ensure the suitability of adults/community users working with children on school sites at any time.

2.1.9 Third party contractors organising activities for children are aware of the school's child protection guidelines and procedures.

2.1.10 We will ensure that child protection type concerns or allegations against adults working in school are referred to the LADO for advice, and that any member of staff found not suitable to work with children will be notified to the Independent Safeguarding Authority for consideration for barring, following resignation, dismissal, or when we cease to use their service as a result of a substantiated allegation, in the case of a volunteer.

2.1.11 The DSLs who are involved in recruitment and at least one member of the governing body will also complete Safer Recruitment Training (currently on-line on the DfE website) to be renewed every 5 years.

2.1.12 All members of staff are trained in and receive regular updates in e-safety and reporting concerns (Ref Appendix 3).

2.2 Our procedures will be regularly reviewed and up-dated.

2.3 Parents are made aware of the policy in the home school handbook and school website and their entitlement to have a copy of it.

3.0 Responsibilities

3.1 The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy DSLs are responsible for:

3.1.1 Referring a child if there are concerns about possible abuse, to the Children's Services Area Referral, Assessment and Intervention Service (RAIS) Team, and acting as a focal point for staff to discuss concerns. Referrals should be made in writing, following a telephone call using the Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF).

3.1.2 Keeping written records in a locked cabinet of concerns about a child even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.

3.1.3 Ensuring that all such child protection records are kept confidentially and securely, **separate** from student records, until the child's 25th birthday, and are copied on to the child's next school or college. (See 5.6)

3.1.4 Ensuring that an indication of the existence of the additional file in 3.1.3 above is marked on the student records.

3.1.5 Liaising with other agencies and professionals.

3.1.6 Ensuring that they attend either case conferences, core groups, or other multi-agency planning meetings, contribute to assessments, and provide reports which have been shared with the parents.

3.1.7 Ensuring that any student currently with a child protection plan who is absent without explanation for two days is referred without delay to their key worker's Social Care Team.

3.1.8 Organising child protection induction, and update training every 3 years, for all school staff. Updating staff on "Hot Topics" such as female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) including information displayed on Staffroom Safeguarding Noticeboard.

3.1.9 Providing, with the Headteacher, an annual report for the governing body, detailing any changes to the policy and procedures; training undertaken by the DSL, and by all staff and governors; number and type of incidents/cases, and number of children with child protection plans (anonymised). A weekly update is also given to designated Child Protection and Safeguarding Governors and the Leadership Team.

3.1.10 Organising child protection induction, and annual update training for all school staff.

4.0 Supporting Children

4.1 We recognise that a child who is abused or witnesses violence may feel helpless and humiliated, may blame themselves, and find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self-worth.

4.2 We recognise that the school may provide the only stability in the lives of children who have been abused or who are at risk of harm.

4.3 We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.

4.4 Our school will support all students by:

4.4.1 Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness, through the curriculum as well as our relationships, whilst not condoning aggression or bullying.

4.4.2 Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school and encourage students to seek help.

4.4.3 Liaising and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of children.

4.4.4 Notifying Social Care as soon as there is a significant concern and asking that any concerns are recorded by the Local Referral, Intervention and Assessment Service NE.

4.4.5 Providing continuing support to a student about whom there have been concerns who leaves the school by ensuring that appropriate information is copied under confidential cover to the student's new school or FE College and ensuring the school medical records are forwarded as a matter of priority.

4.4.6 Detailed information is available on our website for Parents/Carers and for young people.
<http://www.blenheim.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=Student+Wellbeing+and+Pastoral+Intervention&pid=117>

5.0 Confidentiality

- 5.1 We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.
- 5.2 The Headteacher or DSLs will disclose any information about a student to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.
- 5.3 All staff must be aware that they have a statutory responsibility to appropriately share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
- 5.4 All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or wellbeing.
- 5.5 We will always undertake to share our intention to refer a child to Social Care with their parents /carers knowledge unless to do so could put the child at greater risk of harm, or impede a criminal investigation. If in doubt, we will consult with an Assistant Team Manager at the Local Referral, Intervention and assessment services helpline at this point.
- 5.6. Information referring to any child(en) sent to outside agencies will always use a secure egress email. Any CP files for children attending a new school will be delivered by hand or by Recorded Delivery.

6.0 Supporting Staff

- 6.1 We recognise that staff working in the school who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm may find the situation stressful and upsetting and this will be covered in Safeguarding training.
- 6.2 We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the DSLs and to seek further support as appropriate.

7.0 Allegations against staff

- 7.1 All school staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.
- 7.2 All Staff are made aware of the importance of maintaining a professional demeanour and boundaries at all times when dealing with students.
- 7.3 All Staff should be aware of Surrey's Guidance on Behaviour Issues, and the school's own Behaviour Management policy.
- 7.4 Guidance about conduct and safe practice will be given at induction.
- 7.5 We understand that a student may make an allegation against a member of staff.
- 7.6 If such an allegation is made, or information is received which suggests that a person may be unsuitable to work with children, the member of staff receiving the allegation or aware of the information, will immediately inform the Headteacher.
- 7.7 The Headteacher on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer, who is the Area Education Officer (AEO)
- 7.8 If the allegation made to a member of staff concerns the Headteacher, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chair of Governors who will consult as in 7.7 above, without notifying the Headteacher first.

7.9 The school will follow the Surrey procedures for managing allegations against staff. Under no circumstances will we send a child home, pending such an investigation, unless this advice is given exceptionally, as a result of a consultation with the AEO.

7.10 Suspension of the member of staff, excluding the Headteacher, against whom an allegation has been made, needs careful consideration, and the Headteacher will seek the advice of the AEO and Personnel Consultant in making this decision.

7.11 In the event of an allegation against the Headteacher, the decision to suspend will be made by the Chair of Governors with advice as in 7.8 above.

7.12 We have a procedure for managing the suspension of a contract for a community user or third party contractor in the event of an allegation arising in that context.

8.0 Whistle-blowing (See Whistleblowing Policy)

8.1 We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so

8.2 All staff should be aware of their statutory duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues. If it becomes necessary to consult outside the school, they should speak in the first instance, to the AEO, following the Whistleblowing Policy.

9.0 Physical Intervention (See Physical Contact, Touch and the Use of Physical Restraint for all Staff Working with Children and Young People Policy)

9.1 Our policy on physical intervention by staff is set out separately, and acknowledges that staff must only use physical intervention as a last resort, when a child is endangering him/herself or others, and that at all times it must be the minimal force necessary to prevent injury to another person.

9.2 Such events should be recorded and signed by a witness.

9.3 Staff who are likely to need to use physical intervention will be appropriately trained in the Positive Options technique.

9.4 We understand that physical intervention of a nature which causes injury or distress to a child may be considered under child protection or disciplinary procedures.

9.5 We recognise that touch is appropriate in the context of working with children, and all staff have been given "Safe Practice" guidance to ensure they are clear about their professional boundary.

10.0 Anti-Bullying (See Behaviour Management Policy)

10.1 Our policy on bullying is set out in a separate document and acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. This includes all forms e.g. cyber, racist, homophobic and gender related bullying. We keep a record of known bullying incidents. All staff will be made aware that children with SEND and or differences/perceived differences are more susceptible to being bullied/victims of child abuse. We keep a record of bullying incidents.

11.0 Racist Incidents (See Equality Policy)

11.1 Our policy on racist incidents is set out separately, and acknowledges that repeated racist incidents or a single serious incident may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. We keep a record of racist incidents.

12.0 Radicalisation and Extremism

- 12.1 Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.
- 12.2 Blenheim High School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both pupils/students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.
- 12.3 The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Blenheim High School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.
- 12.4 Definitions of radicalisation and extremism, and indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation are in Appendix 4.
- 12.5 Blenheim High School seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.
- 12.6 The school governors, the Head Teacher and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include, the use of school premises by external agencies, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy.
- 12.7 This will be reviewed as part of the annual "Audit of Statutory Duties and Associated Responsibilities" that is monitored by the local authority and the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board.

Response

- 12.8 When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the Headteacher and/ or to the DSL. They should then follow normal safeguarding procedures. If the matter is urgent then Surrey Police must be contacted by dialling 999. In non urgent cases where police advice is sought then dial 101. The Department of Education has also set up a dedicated telephone helpline for staff and governors to raise concerns around Prevent (020 7340 7264).
- 12.9 Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most young people do not become involved in extremist action. For this reason the appropriate interventions in any particular case may not have any specific connection to the threat of radicalisation, for example they may address mental health, relationship or drug/alcohol issues.

13.0 Prevention

- 13.1 We recognise that the school plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our students by providing students with good lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends and an ethos of protection.

13.2 The school community will therefore:

13.2.1 Work to establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to.

13.2.2 Ensure that all children know there is an adult in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.

13.2.3 Include across the curriculum, including PSHCE, opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn for help. This policy also links to our policies on:

- Behaviour and Management Whistleblowing
- Health, Welfare & Safety
- Discipline and Capability
- Attendance
- Medical Needs including Intimate Care
- Substance Misuse Sex and Relationships Education
- Physical Contact, Touch and the use of Physical Restraint
- E-Safety
- Recruitment, Retention and Staff Appointments

13.3 Ensure all staff are aware of school guidance for their use of mobile technology and have discussed safeguarding issues around the use of mobile technologies and their associated risks. We are following the advice of PREVENT in relation to the use of 'Keywords'.

13.4 All staff to receive WRAP training delivered by PREVENT team (Workshop Raising Awareness of PREVENT). Training Presentation, case studies and further information on PREVENT to be made available on school network.

14 Domestic Abuse

14.1 Domestic abuse represents one quarter of all violent crime. It is actual or threatened physical, emotional, psychological or sexual abuse. It involves the use of power and control by one person over another. It occurs regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, age, religion, mental or physical ability. Domestic abuse can also involve other types of abuse.

14.2 We use the term domestic abuse to reflect that a number of abusive and controlling behaviours are involved beyond violence.

14.3 Slapping, punching, kicking, bruising, rape, ridicule, constant criticism, threats, manipulation, sleep deprivation, social isolation, and other controlling behaviours all count as abuse.

14.4 The signs and symptoms of a child suffering or witnessing domestic abuse are similar to other forms of abuse or neglect. (See Appendix 1)

14.5 Through PHSE students to be made aware of what is a healthy relationship and the signs and symptoms of an unhealthy relationship (14.3)

15.0 Health & Safety (See Health and Safety Policy)

15.1 Our Health & Safety policy, set out in a separate document, reflects the consideration we give to the protection of our children both physically within the school environment, and for example in relation to internet use, and when away from the school when undertaking school trips and visits.

16.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

16.1 Our Child Protection Policy and Procedures will be monitored and evaluated by:

- Governing Body visits to the school
- Informal discussions with children and staff
- Pupil surveys and questionnaires
- Scrutiny of Attendance data
- Scrutiny of range of risk assessments
- Scrutiny of GB minutes
- Logs of bullying/racist/behaviour incidents for SLT and GB to monitor
- Review of parental concerns and parent questionnaires

Glossary of Terms

- Wherever the word “staff” is used, it covers ALL staff on site, including ancillary supply and self-employed staff, contractors, volunteers working with children etc, and governors
- SSCB – Surrey Safeguarding Children Board
- AEO – Area Education Officer

APPENDIX 1: Recognising signs of Child Abuse

The following is a list of signs and symptoms that may be consistent with abuse; some children can exhibit one or more of these signs for other reasons. However, if there are concerns about a child displaying any of these indicators, discussions should be held as soon as possible with the CPLO.

Categories of Abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse (including Domestic Abuse)
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Signs of Abuse in Children:

The following non-specific signs may indicate something is wrong:

- Significant change in behaviour
- Extreme anger or sadness
- Aggressive and attention-seeking behaviour
- Suspicious bruises with unsatisfactory explanations
- Lack of self-esteem
- Self-injury
- Depression
- Age inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Child Sexual Exploitation.

Risk Indicators

The factors described in this section are frequently found in cases of child abuse. Their presence is not proof that abuse has occurred, but:

- Must be regarded as indicators of the possibility of significant harm
- Justifies the need for careful assessment and discussion with designated / named / lead person, manager, (or in the absence of all those individuals, an experienced colleague)
- May require consultation with and / or referral to Children's Services

The absence of such indicators does not mean that abuse or neglect has not occurred.

In an abusive relationship the child may:

- Appear frightened of the parent/s
- Act in a way that is inappropriate to her/his age and development (though full account needs to be taken of different patterns of development and different ethnic groups)

The parent or carer may:

- Persistently avoid child health promotion services and treatment of the child's episodic illnesses
- Have unrealistic expectations of the child
- Frequently complain about/to the child and may fail to provide attention or praise (high criticism/low warmth environment)
- Be absent or misusing substances
- Persistently refuse to allow access on home visits
- Be involved in domestic abuse

Staff should be aware of the potential risk to children when individuals, previously known or suspected to have abused children, move into the household.

Recognising Physical Abuse

The following are often regarded as indicators of concern:

- An explanation which is inconsistent with an injury
- Several different explanations provided for an injury
- Unexplained delay in seeking treatment
- The parents/carers are uninterested or undisturbed by an accident or injury
- Parents are absent without good reason when their child is presented for treatment
- Repeated presentation of minor injuries (which may represent a “cry for help” and if ignored could lead to a more serious injury)
- Family use of different doctors and A&E departments
- Reluctance to give information or mention previous injuries

Bruising

Children can have accidental bruising, but the following must be considered as non accidental unless there is evidence or an adequate explanation provided:

- Any bruising to a pre-crawling or pre-walking baby
- Bruising in or around the mouth, particularly in small babies which may indicate force feeding
- Two simultaneous bruised eyes, without bruising to the forehead, (rarely accidental, though a single bruised eye can be accidental or abusive)
- Repeated or multiple bruising on the head or on sites unlikely to be injured accidentally
- Variation in colour possibly indicating injuries caused at different times
- The outline of an object used e.g. belt marks, hand prints or a hair brush
- Bruising or tears around, or behind, the earlobe/s indicating injury by pulling or twisting
- Bruising around the face
- Grasp marks on small children
- Bruising on the arms, buttocks and thighs may be an indicator of sexual abuse

Bite Marks

Bite marks can leave clear impressions of the teeth. Human bite marks are oval or crescent shaped. Those over 3 cm in diameter are more likely to have been caused by an adult or older child.

A medical opinion should be sought where there is any doubt over the origin of the bite.

Burns and Scalds

It can be difficult to distinguish between accidental and non-accidental burns and scalds, and will always require experienced medical opinion. Any burn with a clear outline may be suspicious e.g.:

- Circular burns from cigarettes (but may be friction burns if along the bony protuberance of the spine)
- Linear burns from hot metal rods or electrical fire elements
- Burns of uniform depth over a large area
- Scalds that have a line indicating immersion or poured liquid (a child getting into hot water is his/her own accord will struggle to get out and cause splash marks)
- Old scars indicating previous burns/scalds which did not have appropriate treatment or adequate explanation

Scalds to the buttocks of a small child, particularly in the absence of burns to the feet, are indicative of dipping into a hot liquid or bath.

Fractures

Fractures may cause pain, swelling and discolouration over a bone or joint.

Non-mobile children rarely sustain fractures.

There are grounds for concern if:

- The history provided is vague, non-existent or inconsistent with the fracture type
- There are associated old fractures
- Medical attention is sought after a period of delay when the fracture has caused symptoms such as swelling, pain or loss of movement
- There is an unexplained fracture in the first year of life

Scars

A large number of scars or scars of different sizes or ages, or on different parts of the body, may suggest abuse.

Recognising Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse may be difficult to recognise, as the signs are usually behavioural rather than physical. The manifestations of emotional abuse might also indicate the presence of other kinds of abuse.

The indicators of emotional abuse are often also associated with other forms of abuse.

The following may be indicators of emotional abuse:

- Developmental delay
- Abnormal attachment between a child and parent/carer e.g. anxious, indiscriminate/failure to attach.
- Aggressive behaviour towards others
- Scapegoated within the family
- Frozen watchfulness, particularly in pre-school children
- Low self-esteem and lack of confidence
- Withdrawn or seen as a "loner" – difficulty relating to others

Recognising Signs of Sexual Abuse

Boys and girls of all ages may be sexually abused and are frequently scared to say anything due to guilt and/or fear. This is particularly difficult for a child to talk about and full account should be taken of the cultural sensitivities of any individual child/family.

Recognition can be difficult, unless the child discloses and is believed. There may be no physical signs and indications are likely to be emotional/behavioural.

Some behavioural indicators associated with this form of abuse are:

- Inappropriate sexualised conduct
- Sexually explicit behaviour, play or conversation, inappropriate to the child's age
- Continual and inappropriate or excessive masturbation
- Self-harm (including eating disorder), self-mutilation and suicide attempts
- Involvement in prostitution or indiscriminate choice of sexual partners
- An anxious unwillingness to remove clothes e.g. for sports events (but this may be related to cultural norms or physical difficulties)

Some physical indicators associated with this form of abuse are:

- Pain or itching of genital area
- Blood on underclothes
- Pregnancy in a younger girl where the identity of the father is not disclosed
- Physical symptoms such as injuries to the genital or anal area, bruising to buttocks, abdomen and thighs, sexually transmitted disease, presence of semen on vagina, anus, external genitalia or clothing.

Sexual Abuse by Young People

The boundary between what is abusive and what is part of normal childhood or youthful experimentation can be blurred. The determination of whether behaviour is developmental, inappropriate or abusive will hinge around the related concepts of true consent, power imbalance and exploitation. This may include children and young people who exhibit a range of sexually problematic behaviour such as indecent exposure, obscene telephone calls, fetishism, bestiality and sexual abuse against adults, peers or children.

Developmental Sexual Activity encompasses those actions that are to be expected from children and young people as they move from infancy through to an adult understanding of their physical, emotional and behavioural relationships with each other. Such sexual activity is essentially information gathering and experience testing. It is characterised by mutuality and of the seeking of consent.

Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour can be inappropriate socially, inappropriate to development, or both. In considering whether behaviour fits into this category, it is important to consider what negative effects it has on any of the parties involved and what concerns it raises about a child or young person. It should be recognised that some actions may be motivated by information seeking, but still cause significant upset, confusion, worry, physical damage, etc. It may also be that the behaviour is “acting out” which may derive from other sexual situations to which the child or young person has been exposed.

If an act appears to have been inappropriate, there may still be a need for some form of behaviour management or intervention. For some children, educative inputs may be enough to address the behaviour.

Abusive sexual activity included any behaviour involving coercion, threats, aggression together with secrecy, or where one participant relies on an unequal power base.

Assessment

In order to more fully determine the nature of the incident the following factors should be given consideration. The presence of exploitation in terms of:

- **Equality** – consider differentials of physical, cognitive and emotional development, power and control and authority, passive and assertive tendencies
- **Consent** – agreement including all the following:
 - Understanding that is proposed based on age, maturity, development level, functioning and experience
 - Knowledge of society’s standards for what is being proposed
 - Awareness of potential consequences and alternatives
 - Assumption that agreements or disagreements will be respected equally
 - Voluntary decision
 - Mental competence
- **Coercion** – the young perpetrator who abuses may use techniques like bribing, manipulation and emotional threats of secondary gains and losses that is loss of love, friendship, etc. Some may use physical force, brutality or the threat of these regardless of victim resistance.

In evaluating sexual behaviour of children and young people, the above information should be used only as a guide. Further information and advice is available in the Surrey multi-agency protocol “Working with Sexually Active Young People” available at www.surreycc.gov.uk/safeguarding, by choosing Safeguarding Children – Protocols and Guidance for Professionals. Assessment, Consultation and Therapy (ACT) 01306 745310 can also assist professionals in identifying sexual behaviour of concern in children and adolescents.

Recognising Neglect

Evidence of neglect is built up over a period of time and can cover different aspects of parenting. Indicators include:

- Failure by parents or carers to meet the basic essential needs e.g. adequate food, clothes, warmth, hygiene and medical care

- A child seen to be listless, apathetic and irresponsive with no apparent medical cause
- Failure of child to grow within normal expected pattern, with accompanying weight loss
- Child thrives away from home environment
- Child frequently absent from school
- Child left with adults who are intoxicated or violent
- Child abandoned or left alone for excessive periods

Child Sexual Exploitation

The following list of indicators is not exhaustive or definitive but it does highlight common signs which can assist professionals in identifying children or young people who may be victims of sexual exploitation.

Signs include:

- underage sexual activity
- inappropriate sexual or sexualised behaviour
- sexually risky behaviour, 'swapping' sex
- repeat sexually transmitted infections
- in girls, repeat pregnancy, abortions, miscarriage
- receiving unexplained gifts or gifts from unknown sources
- having multiple mobile phones and worrying about losing contact via mobile
- having unaffordable new things (clothes, mobile) or expensive habits (alcohol, drugs)
- changes in the way they dress
- going to hotels or other unusual locations to meet friends
- seen at known places of concern
- moving around the country, appearing in new towns or cities, not knowing where they are
- getting in/out of different cars driven by unknown adults
- having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- contact with known perpetrators
- involved in abusive relationships, intimidated and fearful of certain people or situations
- hanging out with groups of older people, or anti-social groups, or with other vulnerable peers
- associating with other young people involved in sexual exploitation
- recruiting other young people to exploitative situations
- truancy, exclusion, disengagement with school, opting out of education altogether
- unexplained changes in behaviour or personality (chaotic, aggressive, sexual)
- mood swings, volatile behaviour, emotional distress
- self-harming, suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, overdosing, eating disorders
- drug or alcohol misuse
- getting involved in crime
- police involvement, police records
- involved in gangs, gang fights, gang membership
- injuries from physical assault, physical restraint, sexual assault.

APPENDIX 2

Forced Marriage (FM)

This is an entirely separate issue from arranged marriage. It is a human rights abuse and falls within the Crown Prosecution Service definition of domestic violence. Young men and women can be at risk in affected ethnic groups. Whistle-blowing may come from younger siblings. Other indicators may be detected by changes in adolescent behaviours. Never attempt to intervene directly as a school or through a third party. Always call either the Contact Centre or the Forced Marriage Unit 020 7008 0151.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

It is essential that staff are aware of FGM practices and the need to look for signs, symptoms and other indicators of FGM.

What is FGM?

It involves procedures that intentionally alter/injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. There are 4 types of procedure:

- Type 1 Clitoridectomy – partial/total removal of clitoris
- Type 2 Excision – partial/total removal of clitoris and labia minora
- Type 3 Infibulation entrance to vagina is narrowed by repositioning the inner/outer labia
- Type 4 all other procedures that may include: pricking, piercing, incising, cauterising and scraping the genital area.

Why is it carried out?

Belief that:

- FGM brings status/respect to the girl – social acceptance for marriage
- Preserves a girl's virginity
- Part of being a woman / rite of passage
- Upholds family honour
- Cleanses and purifies the girl
- Gives a sense of belonging to the community
- Fulfils a religious requirement
- Perpetuates a custom/tradition
- Helps girls be clean / hygienic
- Is cosmetically desirable
- Mistakenly believed to make childbirth easier

Is FGM legal?

FGM is internationally recognised as a violation of human rights of girls and women. It is **illegal** in most countries including the UK.

Circumstances and occurrences that may point to FGM happening are:

- Child talking about getting ready for a special ceremony
- Family taking a long trip abroad
- Child's family being from one of the 'at risk' communities for FGM (Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Sierra Leon, Egypt, Nigeria, Eritrea as well as non-African communities including Yemeni, Afghani, Kurdistan, Indonesia and Pakistan)
- Knowledge that the child's sibling has undergone FGM
- Child talks about going abroad to be 'cut' or to prepare for marriage

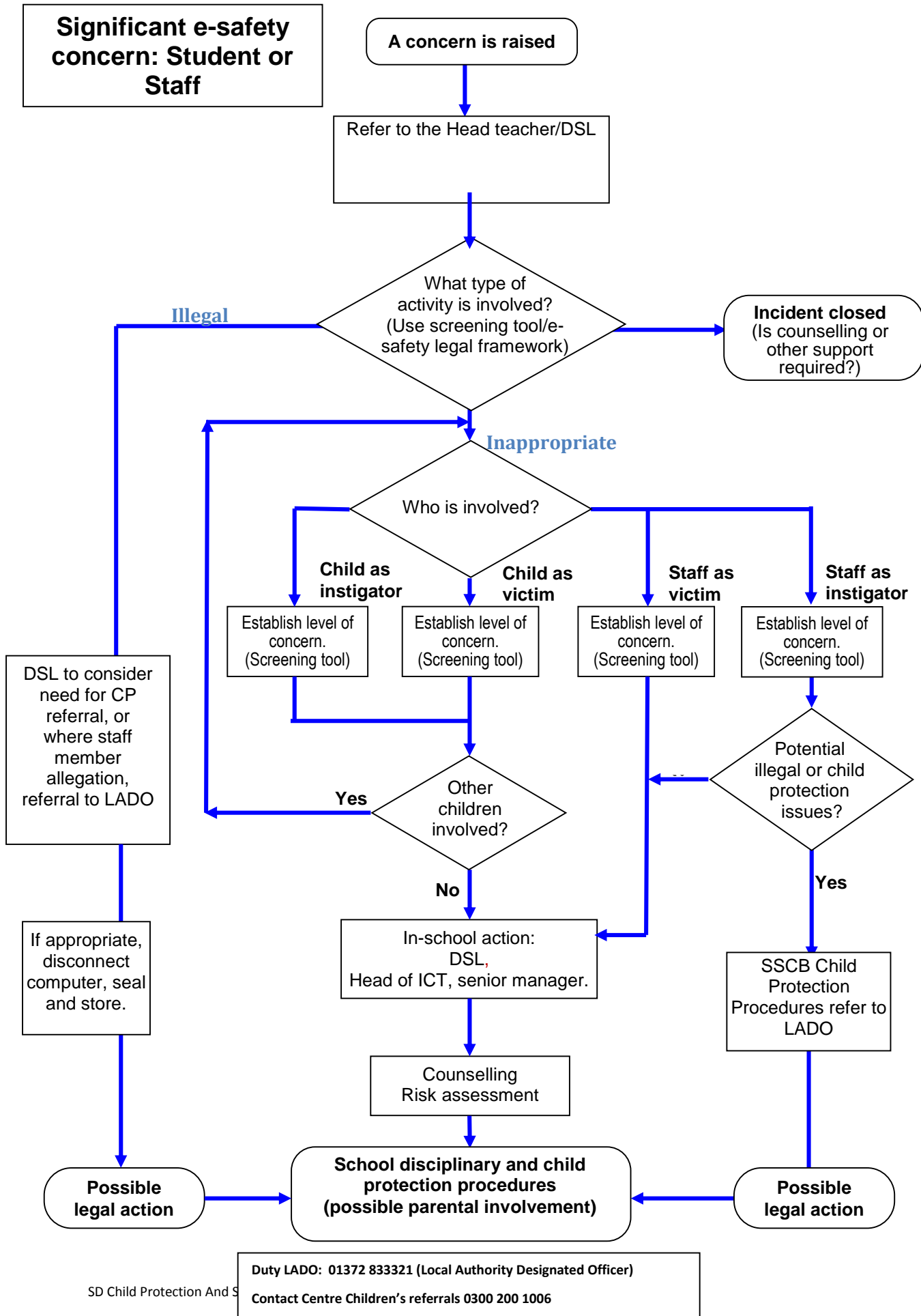
Signs that may indicate a child has undergone FGM:

- Prolonged absence from school and other activities
- Behaviour change on return from a holiday abroad, such as being withdrawn and appearing subdued
- Bladder or menstrual problems
- Finding it difficult to sit still and looking uncomfortable
- Complaining about pain between the legs
- Mentioning something somebody did to them that they are not allowed to talk about
- Secretive behaviour, including isolating themselves from the group
- Reluctance to take part in physical activity
- Repeated urinal tract infection
- Disclosure

The 'One Chance' rule

As with Forced Marriage there is the 'One Chance' rule. It is essential that settings /schools/colleges take action **without delay** and call the local referral, intervention and assessment services for NE.

APPENDIX 3



Appendix 4

INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:
Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
 - Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
 - Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
 - Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
 - Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.
4. There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.
5. Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.
6. Indicators of vulnerability include:
 - Identity Crisis – the student / pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
 - Personal Crisis – the student / pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
 - Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the student / pupil’s country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
 - Unmet Aspirations – the student / pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
 - Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
 - Special Educational Need – students / pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.
7. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.
8. More critical risk factors could include:
 - Being in contact with extremist recruiters;

- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

The Department of Education guidance [The Prevent Duty](#) can be accessed via this link.