



# Langdon Park School

## SCHOOL POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

**Updated: September 2023**

**Review Date: September 2024**

<b>Designated Safeguard Lead:</b>	Evelyn Morrison
-----------------------------------	-----------------

<b>Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead:</b>	Lify Begum
--	------------

<b>Designated Governor:</b>	Paul Bargery
-----------------------------	--------------



## Contents

1.	CORE SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES	5
2.	PURPOSE OF POLICY	5
3.	SAFEGURDING LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE	6
4.	TOWER HAMLETS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP SUPPLEMENTARY SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE	7
5.	TOWER HAMLETS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP	7
6.	KEY DEFINITIONS	8
7.	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	8
8.	RIGHTS OF THE CHILD	13
9.	CHILDREN WHO MAY BE POTENTIALLY MORE AT RISK OF HARM	14
10.	CHILDREN IN NEED OF A SOCIAL WORKER	15
11.	CHILDREN REQUIRING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT	15
12.	LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND PREVIOUS LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	16
13.	SEND CHILDREN	17
14.	CHILDREN ABSENT FROM EDUCATION & CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION	17
15.	ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION	20
16.	WHISTLEBLOWING	20
17.	REPORTING OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF & CONCERNS THAT DO NOT MEET THE HARM THRESHOLD	21
18.	STAFF SAFEGUARDING TRAINING INCLUDING TRAINING FOR GOVERNORS	22
19.	VISITORS	24
20.	EXTENDED SCHOOL AND OFF-SITE ARRANGEMENTS	24
21.	IDENTIFYING ABUSE	25
22.	INDICATORS OF ABUSE	25
23.	VOICE OF THE CHILD	26
24.	SAFEGUARDING ISSUES	27
25.	CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	27
26.	CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION INCLUDING COUNTY LINES	28
27.	SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE	30
28.	ONLINE HARMS	30
29.	DOMESTIC ABUSE	33
30.	SO-CALLED HONOUR-BASED ABUSE	34
31.	RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM	36
32.	CHILD-ON-CHILD ABUSE	37
33.	CHILD-ON-CHILD SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT	39
34.	YOUTH PRODUCED SEXUAL IMAGERY	44
35.	BULLYING (INCLUDING CYBERBULLYING)	47

36.	HOMELESSNESS	47
37.	CHILDREN AND THE COURT SYSTEM	47
38.	CHILDREN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN PRISON	48
39.	PRIVATE FOSTERING	48
40.	YOUNG CARERS	48
41.	CHILD ABDUCTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY INCIDENTS	49
42.	MODERN SLAVERY	49
43.	FORCED MARRIAGES	50
43.	TAKING SAFEGUARDING ACTION	50
44.	EARLY HELP	53
45.	HANDLING THE REPORTING OR SHARING OF CONCERNS	54
46.	CONFIDENTIALITY AND SHARING INFORMATION	58
47.	REFERRING TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	59
48.	ESCALATION PROCEDURES	60
49.	SAFER RECRUITMENT AND SAFER WORKING PRACTICE	61
50.	Appendix 1: MASH Poster	63
51.	Appendix 2: MASH Interagency Referral Form	65
52.	Appendix 3: Referral route for safeguarding concerns related to Radicalisation or Extremism	71
53.	Appendix 4: SVSH flow chart	73

Our Vision at Langdon Park School is to:

- Inspire, ignite and unlock the creativity and imagination of every child and adult in our community.
- Develop students self-confidence, self-belief and readiness to play a positive role within their local and the global community.
- Promote tolerance, understanding, collaboration and self-improvement.
- Instil a sense of confidence, curiosity, resilience and determination to meet the challenges of the Modern World.

Our Vision is underpinned by our four principles of, Professionalism, Inclusion, Pedagogy and Curriculum.

Our Child Protection Policy and procedures are made available and accessible to staff, parents and visitors and communicated in many ways including the school website, staff shared google and T drive, staff handbook, staff induction, staff training, parent pack/induction material and material in the school reception.

Langdon Park School's safeguarding policies will be reviewed annually, or earlier if needed in the light of an incident, new legislation or guidance calls for the need for a review

The purpose of Langdon Park School's safeguarding policy is to ensure **every child** who is a registered student at our school is safe and protected from harm. The explicit definition of safeguarding is "preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development".

This means we will always work to:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

This policy will give clear direction to staff, supply staff, volunteers, visitors and parents about expected behaviour and our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children at our school. The term 'child' refers to a young person under the age of 18.

Everyone who encounters children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of **Safeguarding is everyone's business** and **'it could happen here'** where safeguarding is concerned. In addition, a student support officer is attached to each year group and is easily identified by wearing a yellow lanyard.

**All staff** will go through training and induction and will learn how to recognise indicators of concern, how to respond to a disclosure from a child and how to record and report this information. We will not make promises to any child and we will not keep secrets. Every child will know what the adult will have to do with any information they have chosen to disclose and who it will be disclosed to (DSL or Deputy DSL). Staff are trained to respond accordingly and take appropriate action and to understand that concerns around physical and mental health can be indicators of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Throughout our curriculum/our RHSE programme and our tutorial programme we will provide activities and opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to identify risks and stay safe, including online safety.

At all times we will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies to safeguard children.

### 1. CORE SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

- The welfare of the child is paramount and underpins all discussions, decision making, and actions taken at the school.
- All concerns shared and reported by children will be taken seriously.
- All children have the right to have a life free from harm, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, all have equal rights to protection. This includes children's lives in digital and online environments.
- The child's wishes and feelings will always be taken into account at the school when determining what action to take and what support to provide.
- All staff including supply staff, contractors and volunteers have an equal responsibility to act immediately on any suspicion or concern shared that may suggest a child is at risk of harm or has been harmed.

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all pupils and staff involved in safeguarding and child protection issues will receive appropriate support.

These 6 core principles are embedded within the school's safeguarding arrangements; underpin the school's safeguarding policies, procedures and systems; and pervade the whole school approach to safeguarding at **Langdon Park School**.

## 2. PURPOSE OF POLICY

- To provide all staff with key information to enable them to identify safeguarding concerns and know what action to take in response.
- To ensure consistent good practice throughout the school.
- To demonstrate the school's commitment to safeguarding to the whole school community: pupils, parents/carers and other partners.

## 3. SAFEGUARDING LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

The following safeguarding legislation and government guidance have informed the content of this policy:

This policy is based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), and the Governance Handbook. There is also regard for the supplementary guidance from the DFE with regard to the guidance on Covid-19. We comply with this guidance and the arrangements agreed and published by our 3 local safeguarding partners.

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

Section 175 of the [Education Act 2002](#), which places a duty on schools and local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils.

[The School Staffing \(England\) Regulations 2009](#), which set out what must be recorded on the single central record and the requirement for at least one person conducting an interview to be trained in safer recruitment techniques.

[The Children Act 1989](#) (and [2004 amendment](#)), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children.

Section 5B(11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the [Serious Crime Act 2015](#), which places a statutory duty on teachers to report to the police where they discover that female genital mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18.

[Statutory guidance on FGM](#), which sets out responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM.

[The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974](#), which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children.

Schedule 4 of the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#), which defines what 'regulated activity' is in relation to children.

[Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty](#), which explains schools' duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism.

In addition, the following safeguarding legislation and government guidance have informed the content of this policy

- The Teacher Standards 2012
- Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 (Updated December 2020)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015
- UKCIS Sharing Nudes and Semi-Nudes: Advice for Education Settings Working with Children and Young People (December 2020)
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges: Advice for Schools and Colleges on how to prevent and respond to reports of sexual violence and harassment between children (Updated September 2023)

#### **4. TOWER HAMLETS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP SUPPLEMENTARY SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE**

The following Pan-London and THSCP safeguarding guidance has informed the content of this policy:

London Child Protection Procedures revised 7th Edition (London Safeguarding Children Board, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023)

Tower Hamlets SCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Thresholds Guidance

Tower Hamlets SCP Supplementary Guidance for Schools and Education Settings on Child Protection Procedures - September 2023

Tower Hamlets SCP LADO Procedures and Flowchart re Allegations made against staff working in the children's workforce - Information about reporting and managing allegations

Tower Hamlets SCP Supplementary Guidance for Schools and Education Settings on Managing Allegations of Abuse against Staff – September 2023

## 5. TOWER HAMLETS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

The Children Act 2004 as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 has brought about the establishment of the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP). The Partnership coordinates the work of all agencies and ensures that this work is effective in achieving the best outcomes for Tower Hamlets children. The three statutory safeguarding partners have published arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs. More information about the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership can be found on the website:

<http://www.childrenandfamiliestrust.co.uk/the-lscb/>

The school has been named as a 'relevant agency' and as such is under a statutory duty to cooperate with the THSCP arrangements.

The school will engage with the borough's Designated Safeguarding Lead Forums, co-operate with the Rapid Review process and any Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews,<sup>1</sup> participate in the THSCP multi-agency safeguarding training offer, and co-operate with the THSCP's and borough's Section 175/157 School Safeguarding Audit cycles.

## 6. KEY DEFINITIONS

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing the impairment of a child's physical and mental health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Rapid Review process, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Child Death Reviews, Working Together 2018 Chapters 4 and 5 should be consulted. Working Together 2018 paragraphs 25-27 provide more information on the expectation of school's role within the safeguarding partnership arrangements.

- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

The phrase 'child protection' refers to the processes followed to protect children who have been identified as suffering or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

Child includes everyone under the age of 18.

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

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

## 7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Body have the strategic leadership responsibility for safeguarding arrangements at the school. As a collective body it must have regard to all relevant statutory guidance issued, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, ensuring that school's safeguarding policies and procedures, including the current Child Protection Policy, are compliant with legislation and statutory guidance, reflect local safeguarding arrangements and are effective for the education setting.

In accordance with the statutory requirement for a named member of the Governing Body to take leadership responsibility for safeguarding at the school the Safeguarding Link Governor is **Paul Bargery**

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the school's Child Protection Policy and other safeguarding policies are communicated to all staff, understood by all members of staff, and followed by all members of staff.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead takes the ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding arrangements within the school on a day-to-day basis, including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place.

Role	Name	Contact details
Designated Lead Professional (DSL)	Evelyn Morrison	<a href="mailto:morrisone@langdonpark.org">morrison@langdonpark.org</a>

Deputy Designated Lead Professional	Lify Begum Ayesha Miah (DHT)	<a href="mailto:beguml@langdonpark.org">beguml@langdonpark.org</a> <a href="mailto:miaha@langdonpark.org">miaha@langdonpark.org</a>
Headteacher (Safeguarding trained)	Nicholas Langham	<a href="mailto:langhamn@langdonpark.org">langhamn@langdonpark.org</a>
Alternative Safeguarding Trained Staff by the end of academic year 2023-2024	Bryonny Warren (AHT) Ken MacKenzie (DHT) Kathrin Meinicke (SBM) Liam O'Hara Sasha Gillian (AHT) Tariq Haque Thomas Woudhuysen (AHT)	<a href="mailto:warrenb@langdonpark.org">warrenb@langdonpark.org</a> <a href="mailto:mackenziek@langdonpark.org">mackenziek@langdonpark.org</a> <a href="mailto:meinickek@langdonpark.org">meinickek@langdonpark.org</a> <a href="mailto:oharal@langdonpark.org">oharal@langdonpark.org</a> <a href="mailto:gillians@langdonpark.org">gillians@langdonpark.org</a> <a href="mailto:haquet@langdonpark.org">haquet@langdonpark.org</a> <a href="mailto:woudhuysent@langdonpark.org">woudhuysent@langdonpark.org</a>
SENDSCO	Memory Kampiyawo	<a href="mailto:kampiyawo@langdonpark.org">kampiyawo@langdonpark.org</a>
Named Safeguarding Governor	Paul Bargery	<a href="mailto:bargeryp@langdonpark.org">bargeryp@langdonpark.org</a>
Chair of Governors	Helen Whitty	<a href="mailto:whittyh@langdonpark.org">whittyh@langdonpark.org</a>

**Staff:**

All staff should recognise that as frontline workers they are in an important position to identify concerns early, provide help and support to children, promote children's welfare, and prevent concerns from escalating.

All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

All staff have a responsibility to report safeguarding concerns immediately to the DSL. All concerns must be recorded on the Safeguard software on the day that the concern is raised. The member of staff must see the DSL/the Deputy DSL or the Headteacher immediately if they feel that a child is in danger.

If in doubt about any safeguarding matter, staff should always speak to the DSL and record on the **Safeguard software**. All staff are expected to keep safeguarding values at the core of their daily conduct. The best interests of the child should determine their decision making, behaviour and any action taken.

All staff will be aware of:

- Our systems which support safeguarding: including this child protection and safeguarding policy, the staff code of conduct, the role and identity of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSL, the behaviour policy, and the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education
- The early help process and their role in it, including identifying emerging problems, liaising with the DSL, and sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment
- The process for making referrals to local authority children's social care and for statutory assessments that may follow a referral, including the role they might be expected to play
- What to do if they identify a safeguarding issue or a child tells them they are being abused or neglected, including specific issues such as FGM, and how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality while liaising with relevant professionals
- The signs of different types of abuse and neglect, as well as specific safeguarding issues, such as child criminal exploitation (CCE), child sexual exploitation (CSE), indicators of being at risk from or involved with serious violent crime, FGM and radicalisation
- The meaning of 'contextual safeguarding' and that children may be at risk of abuse in different environments eg. home/family, youth settings etc.
- The process for making referrals around Child on child Abuse and Sexual violence

Staff read the most up to date version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2023) Part 1 and Annex A, B and G at least once a year and will sign a statement to confirm this has been completed. All staff will read [Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children in schools and colleges](#) and read the weekly safeguarding updates in the staff bulletin.

Staff will also follow the Code of Conduct to ensure their behaviour is always appropriate and any concerns are reported accordingly.

### **The Governing Body:**

The Governing Body of Langdon Park School is accountable for ensuring the effectiveness of this policy and our compliance with it. Although our Governing Body takes collective responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of our

students, we also have a named governor who champions safeguarding within the school.

The Governing Body will ensure that:

- The safeguarding policy is in place and is reviewed annually, is available publicly via our school website and has been written in line with Local Authority guidance.
- The school contributes to inter-agency working in line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).
- A member of the senior leadership team is designated to take the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection and that there are alternate and appropriately trained members of staff identified to deal with any issues in the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Lead. There will always be cover for this role.
- As part of this process, governing bodies and proprietors should ensure their school or college has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness.
- All new staff receive a safeguarding induction and are provided with a copy of this policy and the staff code of conduct.
- All staff undertake appropriate child protection training that is updated regularly.
- Procedures are in place for dealing with allegations against members of staff, supply staff and volunteers in line with statutory guidance and include all low level concerns.
- Safer recruitment practices are followed in accordance with the requirements of '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)' DfE (September 2023).
- All governors will read '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)' DfE (September 2023) and sign the confirmation document in line with staff members.
- They consult with the DSL and head teacher on any weakness in regard to our safeguarding arrangements that are brought to their attention and ensure they are resolved.
- The chair of governors will act as the 'case manager' in the event that an allegation of abuse is made against the head teacher, where appropriate.

### **The Headteacher:**

At Langdon Park School the Headteacher is responsible for:

- Identifying a member of the senior leadership team to be the Designated Lead Professional for safeguarding (DSL);

- Identifying an alternate member of staff to act as the Designated Lead Professional (DSL) in his/her absence to ensure there is always cover for the role;
- Ensuring that the policies and procedures adopted by the governing body, particularly concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect, are followed by all staff;
- Ensuring that all staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and such concerns are addressed sensitively in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing procedures;
- Liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff.
- Ensure staff undertake regular and appropriate safeguarding and child protection training

#### **The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):**

- The Designated Lead Professional (DSL) is a member of the leadership team. The DSL is **Evelyn Morrison** and she will take **lead responsibility** for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety and understanding the **filtering and monitoring systems** and processes in place). This should be explicit in the role holder's job description.
- The DSL will provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. Any concern for a child's safety or welfare will be recorded using the 'safeguard' software or by secure email and given to the DSL. If a further lockdown were to occur both recording on 'safeguard' and also email contact is expected to report any concerns.
- The DSL will maintain records and child protection files ensuring that they are kept confidential and stored securely. The DSL and deputy will have full access rights to 'safeguard' information and ensure these secure online records are also kept up to date.
- The DSL is responsible for ensuring that all staff members, supply/agency staff G4S/caretaker staff and volunteers are aware of our policy and the procedure they need to follow. They will ensure that all staff, supply staff, volunteers and regular visitors have received appropriate child protection information during induction or visits.

The DSL or Deputy DSL (**Lify Begum**) at Langdon Park School will:

- represent our school at Child Protection Conferences, core group meetings, strategy meetings and Children In Need review meetings.
- Through appropriate training, knowledge and experience our DSL will liaise with Children's Services and other agencies where necessary and make referrals of suspected abuse to Children's Services. (MASH)
- The DSL will also ensure that they 'gate keep' any referrals or requests for information that contribute to assessment of a child and/or their siblings.
- Refer suspected cases, as appropriate, to the relevant body and liaise with the three safeguarding partners and work alongside other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children. [NSPCC-When to call the police](#) should be used to support the DSL and Deputy DSL in understanding when they should consider calling the police and what to expect when they do
- Ensure staff strive for the best outcomes for all children by sharing information on those who have previously experienced or are experiencing issues around their welfare or safeguarding and may have an allocated social worker
- If the DSL or deputy are not available then the alternative trained staff (see page 8) should be consulted.
- Out of school hours/term activities the DSL can be contacted via email at:
- [morrisone@langdonpark.org](mailto:morrisone@langdonpark.org)

## 8. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The school upholds the Human Rights of the child in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998.<sup>2</sup> It is unlawful for schools to act in a way that is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. Specifically, the school embeds and upholds the following Convention rights of the child across its safeguarding policies and procedures:

- Article 3: the right to freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment (an absolute right)
- Article 8: the right to respect for private and family life (a qualified right) includes a duty to protect individuals' physical and psychological integrity

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights>

- Article 14: requires that all of the rights and freedoms set out in the Act must be protected and applied without discrimination
- Protocol 1, Article 2: protects the right to education.

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the school must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, or sexual orientation (protected characteristics).

Some children have an increased risk of abuse, and additional barriers can exist for some children with respect to recognising or disclosing it. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children's diverse circumstances. We ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

The school is committed to supporting and taking positive action towards children with regard to particular protected characteristics - including disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and race- who may be at a disadvantage and be disproportionately vulnerable.

In fulfilment of the school's Public Sector Equality Duty the school has due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation (and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act), to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

As evident in the Serious Case Review Child Q, the school is aware that children from ethnically diverse groups are at risk of adultification whereby their vulnerability as a child is reduced or set aside because of racial bias and stereotypes impacting professional judgement.<sup>3</sup> All staff share in the whole school's commitment to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion remain at the centre of the school's safeguarding culture, so that all children receive the care, support, and protection they have the right to receive.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://chscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Child-Q-PUBLISHED-14-March-22.pdf>

The school shares the London Borough of Tower Hamlet's commitment to being an anti-racist borough and to tackle and eliminate race discrimination. The council's Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission (2021) concluded that racism still exists within institutions and structures in the borough and has developed an action plan to achieve race equality at pace.<sup>4</sup> The action plan recognises that schools have a powerful and significant role in changing narratives and bringing about social change through education Langdon Park school is committed to a whole school approach to addressing racism and this is exemplified in our 4Be values which are at the heart of our school

### 9. CHILDREN WHO MAY BE POTENTIALLY MORE AT RISK OF HARM

All staff should recognise that all children are vulnerable but that some children may be more vulnerable than others and at more risk of harm. Children known to a Social Worker, Looked After Children and Care Leavers are likely to have suffered abuse at some point in their childhood and may be more vulnerable to further abuse including exploitation. Staff need to be aware that other children who may be potentially more at risk of harm include

A Child who:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs;
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan);
- has a mental health need;
- is a young carer;
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines;
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- is at risk of so-called honour based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage;
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;

- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- has returned home to their family from care; and
- is a privately fostered child;
- is persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day.

Staff must be more vigilant in their day-to-day work with children when the above vulnerabilities are known and report all concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

#### **10. CHILDREN IN NEED OF A SOCIAL WORKER**

Children who have been allocated a social worker may have experienced abuse including neglect and belong to a family that has many complex circumstances. Staff should recognise that these children will have experienced adversity and trauma that can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educationally disadvantaged, and have a negative impact on their attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health.

When making decisions about safeguarding, carrying out risk analysis, making a safeguarding response to concerns such as unauthorised and persistent absence, and providing pastoral and academic support, the school will take seriously the fact that the child in need of a social worker will require enhanced pastoral and academic support alongside that provided by statutory services. School is also committed to providing further pastoral and academic support to children who have had historic contact with a Social Worker, in recognition that the abuse and trauma is likely to have an impact on the child beyond the duration of the involvement of statutory services. All students are discussed in the School Highlighting Meeting and given a mentor to support them.

#### **11. CHILDREN REQUIRING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

All staff have an important role in supporting the mental well-being of children and to identify behaviour that may suggest a child is experiencing mental health

problems.<sup>5</sup> All staff need to recognise that mental health may be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Staff should be aware of the trauma and mental health impact on a child who has had adverse childhood experiences including abuse, bereavement and separation of parents. Staff should also be aware that the pandemic has had a negative impact on the mental health of many children, some of whom have never previously experienced difficulties with their mental health. However, all staff should be clear that only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health difficulty.

When children experience adverse childhood experiences, often known as ACE's, this can have a very detrimental impact on their outcomes.

All mental health concerns must be recorded by staff on Safeguard and the appropriate referrals will be made by the Highlighting Panel and led by the DSL and deputy DSL. The DSL **Evelyn Morrison is also the Mental Health Lead** in the school.

Public Health England has produced a range of resources to support secondary school teachers to promote positive health, wellbeing and resilience among young people including its guidance [Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing](#). Its resources include social media, forming positive relationships, smoking and alcohol. See [Rise Above](#) for links to all materials and lesson plans. Our school website and Wellbeing classroom promote activities to support wellbeing. As a school we work closely with CAMHS, Tower Hamlets Education Wellbeing Service and Health Spot in Spotlight.

## 12. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND PREVIOUS LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The most common reason for children becoming looked after by the Local Authority is as a result of abuse including neglect.

Staff need to have the skills, knowledge and understanding to safeguard Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children in recognition of their heightened vulnerability.

---

<sup>5</sup> For further information staff should read relevant government guidance including [Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges \(2022\)](#) and [Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools \(2018\)](#)

The Designated Teacher will work with relevant agencies and take immediate action to safeguard and provide support to this vulnerable group of children. The designated teacher will work with the Tower Hamlets Virtual School to discuss how funding can be best used to support the progress of looked after children in the school and meet the needs identified in the child's personal education plan.

The Designated Teacher Mrs Morrison will work with the Virtual School Headteacher; to safeguard and promote the educational outcomes of Looked After Children and Care Leavers so that any issues or concerns affecting the care leaver can be explored and effective support put in place.

### **13. SEND CHILDREN**

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or physical health issues can face additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children, which can include:

- professionals and other adults making assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration
- the potential for children with SEN and disabilities or certain medical conditions being vulnerable to experiencing peer exclusion and isolation and being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying (including prejudice-based bullying), without outwardly showing any signs;
- children not understanding that what is happening to them is abuse; and
- communication barriers when reporting abuse and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

For some disabled children, their dependency on parents and carers for practical assistance in daily living, including intimate personal care, may increase their risk of exposure to abusive behaviour. Some children may also have an impaired capacity to resist or avoid abuse. Looked After Disabled Children may be particularly susceptible to possible abuse because of their additional dependency on residential and hospital staff for day to day physical care needs.

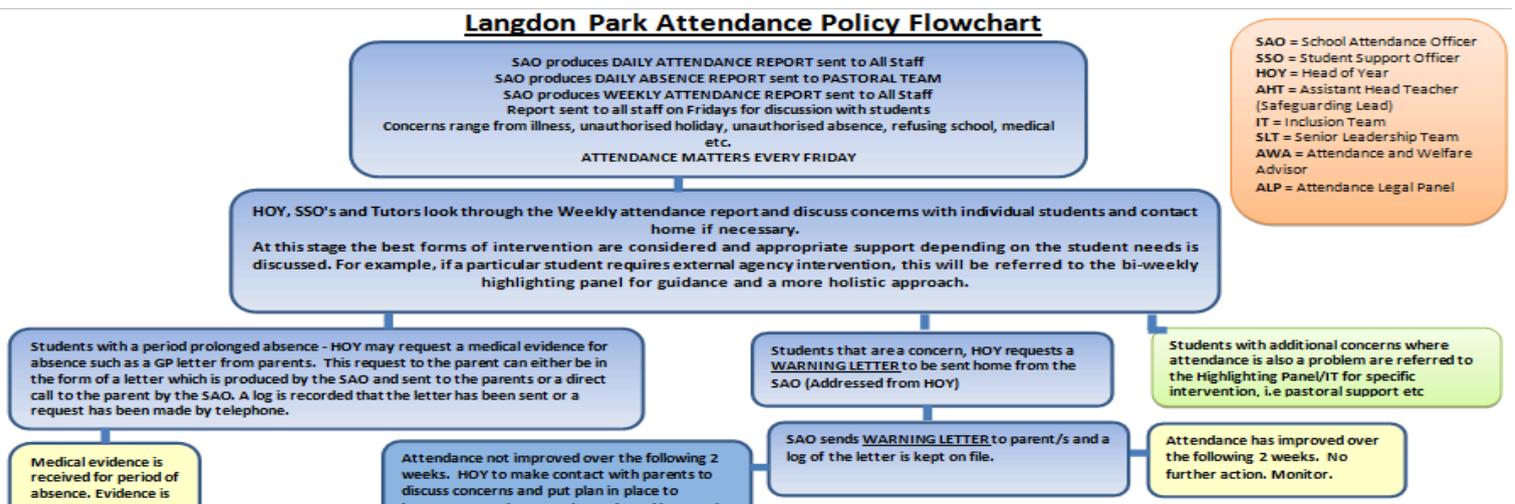
Further information on safeguarding SEND children is available in the non-statutory guidance [Safeguarding Disabled Children](#) (2009), but staff should speak with the DSL and SENDCO in the first instance.

**All staff are regularly trained to understand and be aware of the additional barriers that exist when safeguarding SEND children.** All staff are made aware through training, the SEND toolkit, the SEND Google Drive that SEND children may be more vulnerable when online and using digital platforms, and it is important that Online Safety lessons and related advice are tailored to their individual needs.

### 14. CHILDREN ABSENT FROM EDUCATION & CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION

The school closely monitors attendance, absence, suspensions, and exclusions. A child absent from education, whether prolonged or on repeat occasions, can be a vital warning sign of a wide range of safeguarding issues and is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, and child criminal exploitation (county lines).

In accordance with the DfE's *Working together to improve school attendance*, the school follows up on absences and addresses persistent absence as part of its safeguarding duty. Such an approach prevents the risk of these children becoming children missing education in the future. Staff address daily absence and persistent absence as soon as these problems emerge as part of school's early help response. Staff should be alert to children already known to be vulnerable especially Children known to a Social Worker and Looked After Children, since absence from education may increase known safeguarding risks within the family or in the community. Staff must also be alert to signs of children at risk of travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.



All schools must inform their local authority of any pupil who is going to be deleted from the admission register where they:

- have been taken out of school by their parents and are being educated outside the school system e.g. home education
- have ceased to attend school and no longer live within reasonable distance of the school at which they are registered
- have been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither he/she nor his/her parent has indicated the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age
- are in custody for a period of more than four months due to a final court order and the proprietor does not reasonably believe they will be returning to the school at the end of that period; or,
- have been permanently excluded

The local authority must be notified when a school is to delete a pupil from its register under the above circumstances. This should be done as soon as the grounds for deletion are met, but no later than deleting the pupil's name from the register. It is essential that schools comply with this duty, so that local authorities can, as part of their duty to identify (Regulation 4 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 Regulation 12(3) of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006) children of compulsory school age who

are missing education, follow up with any child who might be in danger of not receiving an education and who might be at risk of abuse or neglect.

All schools must inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between the school and the local authority (or in default of such agreement, at intervals determined by the Secretary of State)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education>

When a pupil does not return to school and the whereabouts of the child and their family are not known, the school will make reasonable enquiries and refer the child to the Attendance & Welfare Advisor to support with those enquiries to ascertain the child's whereabouts, and only after these steps have been taken refer to the Local Authority using a Missing Children referral form.

Contact: LBTH CME Officer, Tower Hamlets Education Safeguarding Service,  
[Saadia.Anwer@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Saadia.Anwer@towerhamlets.gov.uk) 020 7364 3426 / 07562 431 817

Children missing education are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. Children missing education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life.

## 15. ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

The school recognises that parents have a legal right to electively home educate their child at home; however, it is expected that the parents' decision to do this is made with their child's best education and best interests at its heart. Staff should be aware that even though most home educated children have a positive experience, this is not the case for all, and home education can mean some children are less visible to the services that are there to keep them safe and supported in line with their needs.

When a parent informs the headteacher of their intention to electively home educate their child, the school will convene and coordinate a meeting between the LA, relevant school staff, parents and all key professionals currently working

with the child and family. In accordance with LBTH Policy this meeting has to occur before any final decision is made by the parents, to ensure that the best interests of the child have been taken fully into account and carefully considered. The occurrence of this meeting is especially important when the children have known vulnerabilities including Children known to a Social Worker and SEND children.

## **16. WHISTLEBLOWING**

Whistleblowing takes place when a member of staff discloses information regarding a wrongdoing in the workplace that is in the public interest. This could involve an individual or group of individuals involved in breaking the law in the workplace or an individual attempting to cover up an unlawful act.

In the first instance staff members should raise their concerns with the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, line manager or Trade Union Representative. There must be reasonable grounds for any suspicions, and as much detail as possible provided.

All staff members have a responsibility to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in any aspect of the school's safeguarding arrangements and staff should feel confident that such concerns will be taken seriously by the senior leadership team

The school will aim to keep the 'whistleblower' informed of the progress of the investigation and its likely timescale, unless the report is made anonymously.

Staff should feel confident in raising any concerns under the whistleblowing policy, as long as there is a reasonable belief they are acting in the public interest. However, in cases where allegations are found to be malicious, made in bad faith or for personal gain (for example made due to an employee holding a grudge against another employee), the employee may be subject to disciplinary action under the school's Disciplinary Policy.

There may be a case where it is not appropriate for a member of staff to raise concerns with their Headteacher/Manager, for example where the staff member suspects their Headteacher/Manager may be involved. In those cases, staff members should report their concerns orally or in writing to the chair of the Governing Body. Alternatively, the NSPCC offer a confidential whistleblowing

helpline: 0800 0280285 which is free & anonymous, more information can be found at [nspcc.org.uk/whistleblowing](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/whistleblowing).

### **17. REPORTING OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF & CONCERNS THAT DO NOT MEET THE HARM THRESHOLD**

Allegations of harm may indicate that a person who works with children might pose a risk of harm to children if they continue in that role. When an allegation is made against a member of staff including supply staff and volunteers, the school's Managing Allegations Procedures should be followed, and all action taken needs to be in line with KCSIE 2023 Part 4 and the THSCP Supplementary Guidance- Managing Allegations of Abuse against Staff – September 2023.

An allegation is made against a member of staff including supply staff, volunteers, contractors and governors, when an individual has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

All staff must report all allegations, irrespective of the source, directly to the headteacher and ensure that it is put in writing, signed and dated. If the subject of the allegation is the headteacher, then the allegation should be directly reported to the Chair of Governors.

On receipt of a report of an allegation, the headteacher will make immediate contact with the Local Authority Designated Officer for an initial discussion. If the allegation concerns the headteacher, then the Chair of Governors shall make contact with the LADO.

When an allegation is made against a supply member of staff, the headteacher will be the case manager and take the lead in contacting the LADO.

When schools receive a report of an allegation relating to an incident that happened when an individual or external organisation was making use of the

school premises for activities involving children, the headteacher should seek the advice of the LADO.

Allegations concerning staff who no longer work at the school, or historical allegations will be reported to the police.

**LBTH Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):** Melanie Benzie

**Email:** [Melanie.Benzie@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Melanie.Benzie@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or [LADO@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 0207364 0677

In accordance with the Early Years Framework registered Early Years settings must notify Ofsted of serious allegations of harms and the actions taken by the setting as soon as is reasonably practicable but no longer than 14 days. A registered provider who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with this requirement, commits an offence.

Concerns about staff that do not initially seem to fulfil the allegation criteria set out above are known as Concerns that do not meet the Harm Threshold, sometimes called low-level concerns, not because they are insignificant but because they do not initially seem to meet the harm threshold. Staff should report and self-report such concerns in accordance with the school's procedures which are found in the school's Staff Code of Conduct. Contact will be made with the LADO for advice and guidance when appropriate as part of the Headteacher's or Chair of Governor's response to the report.

All staff should understand their responsibility to report *all concerns* about staff conduct which has taken place at the school or outside of the school including online environments, no matter how small or insignificant they might be perceived to be.

## **18. STAFF SAFEGUARDING TRAINING INCLUDING TRAINING FOR GOVERNORS**

In addition to School Staff, Governors and Trustees are required to have compulsory safeguarding training as part of their induction and to maintain their

knowledge through regular safeguarding training and updates. The safeguarding training at induction and indeed as part of continuous professional development should include Online Safety covering among other things an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles, and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring systems in place at the school. Through regular safeguarding training and updates staff are given the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively and governors/trustees will be empowered and equipped to provide strategic challenge and gain assurance that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place.

All staff receive termly safeguarding training, including at the start of the new academic year in September receiving a copy of the new Safeguarding Policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education. A declaration is signed and returned by all staff to say they have read these key documents. Governors receive updates on this training and additionally access training via LBTH governor services. Attendance to safeguarding training is recorded and any absences followed up to ensure that all staff access training. Staff are also reminded as part of their professional duty to be proactive in keeping up to date with safeguarding procedures and best practice.

When new staff, volunteers or regular visitors join our school they will be informed of the safeguarding arrangements in place. They will be given a copy of our school's safeguarding policy, a copy of KCSIE (2023) Part one and Annex A and G, along with the **staff code of conduct** and informed who our DSL and Deputy DSL are for safeguarding purposes.

Every new member of staff or volunteer will have an induction period that will include essential safeguarding information. This programme will include basic safeguarding information relating to signs and symptoms of abuse, how to manage a disclosure from a child, how to record any issues of confidentiality. The induction will also remind staff and volunteers of their responsibility to safeguard all children at our school and the remit of the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). This will also apply to mid to long term supply staff.

In addition to the safeguarding induction, all members of staff will undertake appropriate safeguarding training on a regular basis in accordance with advice

from the 3 safeguarding partners and any internal training based on individual needs. Copies of the Safeguarding policy, Behaviour policy and Staff Code of Conduct are held in an e-file on the Langdon Park School shared Google Drive, named "Behaviour and Safeguarding", along with additional information to support staff.

The DSL, Deputy DSL and any other designated member of staff who may be in a position of making referrals or attending child protection conferences or core groups will attend one of the multi-agency training courses at least once every two years. In addition to this, the DSL and Deputy DSL will attend any specific Designated Safeguarding Lead training provided by the 3 safeguarding partners.

All staff must complete the online 'safeguard' training at a minimum of once a year. The DSL will also provide regular safeguarding updates for staff both through the mediums of email, staff training days and weekly briefings. All staff must complete online Prevent Training once a year and must sign a disclosure form. In addition, external providers provide training on Safeguarding Statutory guidance, FGM, CSE, CME and online safety.

## 19. VISITORS

In conjunction with the visitors policy, no visitors are left unsupervised unless they have an enhanced DBS. The member of staff meeting the visitor is responsible for supervising them during their time on the school site. Safeguarding information is available at reception explaining the school child protection and safeguarding procedures.

The school's [safeguarding leaflet](#) is provided to all visitors at reception.

When a Social Worker, Police Officer or another professional visits the school to meet with a child as part of statutory investigations or other work, the ultimate safeguarding responsibility remains with the school. The school is aware of the need for the child to have an appropriate adult when interviewed by the Police in accordance with the [PACE Code C statutory guidance](#).

## 20. EXTENDED SCHOOL AND OFF-SITE ARRANGEMENTS

Extended school and off-site activities are subject to Langdon park's Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures. A risk assessment will take place for all such activities in line with trip / visit procedures by the lead member of staff. All risk assessments will need to be approved by the relevant Assistant Head and Headteacher.

Where services or activities are provided separately by another organisation outside of normal school hours, the school will seek assurance that the organisation has effective safeguarding policies and procedures in place. This applies regardless of whether or not the children who attend any of these services or activities are pupils on the school register. The safeguarding standards expected of these external organisations, when they are not currently regulated, are set out in the Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe during community activities, after school-clubs and tuition: non-statutory guidance for providers running out-of-school activities (April 2022). The school will ensure that all safeguarding requirements are set out clearly in the lease or hire agreement with the organisation, as a condition of use and occupation of the school premises; and that failure to comply would lead to the termination of the agreement.

## 21. IDENTIFYING ABUSE

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Abuse may be carried out by adults and other children.

The school is aware that children can be at risk of abuse, harm and exploitation outside of the family home. Such extra familial harms include sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, serious youth violence, and abuse that occurs on digital and online platforms. All staff especially the DSL and Deputy DSLs must consider whether children are at risk of harm and exploitation in environments outside the family home. All staff should therefore apply a Contextual Safeguarding approach when safeguarding children in the setting.

## 22. INDICATORS OF ABUSE

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

may also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Sexual** - involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving 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. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Emotional** - the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and 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 from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing 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.

**Neglect** - 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, for example, as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or

danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

The DSL is aware of the borough's [LBTH Neglect Guidance toolkit](#) and all school staff understand their important frontline role in identifying children who may be suffering from Neglect.

### **23. VOICE OF THE CHILD**

All those with a responsibility to safeguard children need to recognise that it takes great courage for a child to share a concern and speak up about any form of abuse especially child sexual abuse.

There are many reasons why children are not able to articulate what they are experiencing. Children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or are currently being threatened by the perpetrator of abuse. Also, children may not feel ready or know how to tell a trusted adult that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected. They may not even realise that their experiences are harmful.

The barriers preventing a child communicating their concerns may be connected to their vulnerability, disability, sexual orientation, or language. The child's behaviour including misbehaviour may be the first sign that a child has experienced harm. Staff will therefore exhibit professional curiosity and understand that a child may be communicating a concern through their actions and behaviours and take a safeguarding approach when responding to behaviours.

Staff need to be aware of and promote the systems in place at the school which enable children to share their concerns and report abuse confidently. Children need to be assured that their concerns will be taken seriously by staff and action will be taken to safeguard and protect them. It is also important that staff determine how best to build safe and trusted relationships with children and young people which facilitates communication and the sharing of concerns.

Staff need to be aware of and promote the systems in place at the school which enable children to share their concerns and report abuse confidently, because they know that their concerns will be taken seriously by staff and action will be taken to safeguard and protect them.

KCSIE 2023 Part 2 requires schools to have a Child Protection Policy that refers to the systems in place to facilitate children voicing their concerns and reporting abuse. According to KCSIE these systems need to be accessible, understood by all children and promoted throughout the school. Students are aware that that they can report any concerns to any member of staff and they will be listened to. A member of the Inclusion team is attached to each year group and is identified by their yellow lanyards and students are also aware that they can report any concerns privately in the **Wellbeing Classroom** and in addition in **The Box** at the reception. Safeguarding procedures and posters are displayed around the school and in the student planner.

## **SAFEGUARDING ISSUES**

### **24. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. CSE occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Apart from age other factors that could make a child more vulnerable to exploitation, include gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, learning difficulties, communication ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

CSE can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse including via the internet. CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence and may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media).

CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children may not realise they are being exploited, as they may believe they are in

a genuine romantic relationship. Children may also be exploited by other children, who themselves may be experiencing exploitation – where this is the case, it is important that the child perpetrator is also recognised as a victim.

Staff should be vigilant and be aware of the following indicators of CSE, which is by no means an exhaustive list, and report all concerns immediately to the DSL:

- Children who are in possession of multiple phones and overly anxious to check their phones
- Children who experience sudden changes in behaviour e.g. looking agitated, children who want to leave the school premises at lunchtime
- children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant.
- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

The school has appointed two RSHE Co-ordinators and through Drop Down days, tutorials, assemblies and RSHE/ Citizenship curriculum, communication of CSE risks are delivered to all students.

For further information staff can read the [Home Office Statutory Guidance](#) on Child Sexual Exploitation as well as speaking to the DSL.

## **25. CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION INCLUDING COUNTY LINES**

Child Criminal Exploitation is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country through County Lines, forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others.

Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence, or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to.

All Staff should be aware that girls as well as boys can be risk of CCE. It is important for staff to note that boys or girls being criminally exploited are at higher risk of being sexually exploited.

Staff need to be aware of some of the indicators of CCE:

- Children who are in possession of multiple phones and overly anxious to check their phones
- Children who experience sudden changes in behaviour e.g. looking agitated
- Children who want to leave the school premises at lunchtime
- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- Children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. This activity can happen locally as well as across the UK - no specified distance of travel is required. Children and vulnerable adults are exploited to move, store and sell drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims.

Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools (mainstream and special), further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, children’s homes and care homes.

Children are also increasingly being targeted and recruited online using social media. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs can manufacture drug debts which need to be worked off or threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

Many of the indicators of children involved in County Lines are as described above under CCE. However, in addition they can include children who:

- go missing from education and/or home and subsequently found in areas away from their home;
- have been the victim or perpetrator of serious violence (e.g. knife crime);
- are involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs;
- are exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging’, where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection;
- are found in accommodation that they have no connection with, often called a ‘traphouse or cuckooing’ or hotel room where there is drug activity;
- owe a ‘debt bond’ to their exploiters;
- have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing

Further information on the signs of a child’s involvement in county lines is available in guidance published by the Home Office and The Children’s Society [County Lines Toolkit For Professionals](#).

[N.B. Primary schools should be alert to the increase vulnerability of children under 10 years old being exploited because they are under the age of criminal responsibility]

## **26. SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE**

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

## **27. ONLINE HARMS**

Children should have the right to explore the digital environment but also the right to be safe when on it. However, technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm, and the use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Examples of which include child sexual exploitation; child criminal exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation/grooming; and forms of child-on-child abuse such as cyberbullying and nudes and semi-nudes.

In many cases abuse will take place concurrently via online channels and in daily life. Children can also abuse other children online, which can take the form of abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who do not want to receive such content. In accordance with Behaviour in Schools. Advice for headteachers and school staff (September 2022), the school promotes as part of its culture of excellent standards of behaviour that the same standards of behaviour are expected online as apply offline, and that every pupil should be treated with kindness, respect and dignity.

An effective approach to online safety empowers a school or college to protect and educate the whole school or college community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any incident where appropriate.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk that should form the framework for school's approach to Online Safety:

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example, pornography, fake news, racism, prejudice-based content, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism;
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example, peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults with the intention of grooming or exploiting them for sexual, criminal; financial or other purposes;
- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual or non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes), and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying.
- Commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams. When pupils are at risk of phishing, school can report concerns to the Anti-Phishing Working Group (<https://apwg.org/>).

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

When there are concerns about a child in this area, staff should notify the DSL, who will consider referring the child into the Cyber Choices programme ([cyberchoices.uk](http://cyberchoices.uk)), which provides early intervention where children are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests.

In accordance with the Prevent Duty the school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place when children access the internet via school devices and when using the school network. The school meets the Department for Education's Filtering and Monitoring Standards through:

- identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems.
- reviewing filtering and monitoring provision at least annually.

- blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.

Electronic devices attached to the school's networks are filtered and monitored using the **LGFL webscreen** and Impero. This ensures students can only access appropriate content using machines connected to the school network. This is in fulfilment of the school's Prevent Duty requirements.

All staff and students have been issued guidance on the school procedures relating to on online safety and remote teaching – see appendix E. Consideration will also be given to the DfE's guidance document on remote learning should remote learning be required again: [safeguarding-and-remote-education](#)

School is committed to ensuring that Online Safety is a running and interrelated theme throughout its safeguarding arrangements including policy and procedure, the curriculum, staff training and induction, the role of the DSL, and parental engagement. This includes promoting an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring systems in place when children access the internet via school devices and the school network.

Online safety is an integral part of our pastoral curriculum including tutorials, assemblies, The Wellbeing Classroom, day to day lessons. An external provider delivers assemblies and training to staff and students. Further details can be found on the Online Safety Policy.

Mobile phones are not allowed to be use on the school site and if phones are seen or heard they are confiscated and put in the school safe for parent collection.

As a school we are regularly completing a risk assessment and reviewing of Online Safety. There is also information for parents on the school website around online safety and we have delivered workshops on Online Safety to parents.

Staff should report Online Safety concerns about pupils to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as with all other safeguarding concerns. When it comes to the safety and well-being of the child, the response to the risks and harms that children may experience in the online or digital environment should be no different than the offline, face to face world. For most children there is little distinction between the online and face to face interactions as the two environments often intersect with one another in their daily lives. Staff should recognise that children's experience of abuse in the digital environment may be even more pronounced, where the identity of the abuser is unknown and the abuse can continue 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Staff should be aware that children with known vulnerabilities such as SEND, LAC and PLAC children and Children known to a Social Worker, may be more vulnerable to harm and exploitation in the online and digital environments.

## **28. DOMESTIC ABUSE**

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. The statutory definition of domestic abuse recognises that domestic abuse may occur in different types of relationships, including ex-partners and family members and is not restricted to the family home. According to the definition the person perpetrating the abuse and the person to whom the abusive behaviour is directed towards must be aged 16 or over and be "personally connected". Domestic Abuse may involve a range of abusive behaviours, which may be a single incident or a pattern of abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional and economic abuse, and coercive and controlling behaviour.

Staff should be aware that all children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children and have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home because of the abuse. Children can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate

relationships. This form of child-on-child abuse is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'.

In response to safeguarding reports received about children involving Domestic Abuse, the school will contact Children's Social Care for advice and guidance. Where appropriate school will complete a DASH Risk Assessment with the individual reporting as a victim of Domestic Abuse.

The school has signed up to the Metropolitan Police's Operation Encompass project. Operation Encompass ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, and where there are children in the household, the police will notify the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead before the child arrives at school the following day, so that the school can provide 'silent support' to the child and follow up with Children's Social Care where appropriate.

#### **29. SO-CALLED HONOUR-BASED ABUSE**

So-called 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving 'honour' often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. All forms of so-called Honour Based Abuse are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of Honoured Based Abuse, or already having suffered Honour Based Abuse.

If staff have a concern regarding a child who might be at risk of Honour Based Abuse or who has suffered from Honour Based Abuse, they should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will follow local safeguarding procedures.

#### **FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, FGM is a criminal offence under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon **teachers**, along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases may face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should **not** be examining pupils or students. Teachers **must** personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. However, teachers should notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead of this action as well as reporting the disclosure of FGM in line with school's safeguarding procedures.

The duty on teachers to report to the police does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers should follow local safeguarding procedures and report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. If in doubt, staff should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### **Further information on Female Genital Mutilation:**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM.

Possible indicators that a pupil has already been subjected to FGM, and factors that suggest a pupil may be at risk, are set out in [this DFE leaflet](#) and further guidance is available in the [DFE resource pack](#).

### **FORCED MARRIAGE**

In England and Wales, the practice of Forced Marriage is a criminal offence under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Since February 2023 it has

also been a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday, even if violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used. As with the existing forced marriage law, this applies to non-binding, unofficial 'marriages' as well as legal marriages. Schools and colleges play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

School and college staff should contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email [fmufcdo.gov.uk](mailto:fmufcdo.gov.uk).

### **VIRGINITY TESTING AND HYMENOPLASTY**

The government has made it illegal to carry out, offer or aid and abet virginity testing or hymenoplasty in any part of the UK, as part of the Health and Care Act 2022.

It is also illegal for UK nationals and residents to do these things outside the UK.

In response to any reports of a child/young person being subject to or at risk of virginity testing or hymenoplasty, the DSL will take action in accordance with the government's non-statutory guidance [Virginity testing and hymenoplasty: multi-agency guidance](#) (July 2022).

### **30. RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM**

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk is part of the school's safeguarding approach.

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

In order for our school to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of our wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

If a student or member of staff has a concern about another student in this area it should be reported as any other safeguarding concern to the DSL or Deputy DSL. [Tower Hamlets guidance](#) is always followed.

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly radicalisation can occur through different method (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home). (Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty, which explains schools' duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism. (Paragraphs 57-76 pertain to schools)

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. School staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel programme.

As a school we complete and review a Prevent Risk Assessment and Prevent Checklists as part of our Prevent Duty.

We recognise the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. All staff and Governors undertake yearly online DFE Prevent awareness training and bi-annual LBTH training. Our RSHE and pastoral curriculum enable pupils to discuss issues of religion, ethnicity and culture and how the school promotes fundamental British Values as part of SMCS (spiritual, moral, social and cultural education).

The school ensures that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools and that suitable filtering is in place. We understand that it is also important that schools teach pupils about online safety more generally. This is a regular part of our pastoral curriculum.

The Department for Education has also published revised advice for schools on the Prevent duty (2019). The advice is intended to complement the Prevent guidance and signposts other sources of advice and support.

In the event of a concern to be referred the school will refer via MASH and seek the advice and support of the local authority's Prevent Education officer. The details of the designated Prevent Education officer are:

Eleanor Knight

[Eleanor.Knight@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Eleanor.Knight@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

In LBTH all Prevent referrals related to children should be made through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. **See appendix 3.**

### 31. CHILD-ON-CHILD ABUSE

Staff must be aware that children may be harmed by other children.

Child-on-child abuse can happen both inside and outside of school including online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of child-on-child abuse.

Staff should treat all reports of child-on-child abuse very seriously and make it clear that all forms are unacceptable. As with all forms of abuse the occurrence of child-on-child abuse is an infringement of a child's human rights. Abuse is abuse and will never be dismissed as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'. The school adopts a Zero Tolerance Approach to child-on-child abuse.

All staff should recognise that even though there are no reported cases of child-on-child abuse among pupils, such abuse may still be taking place and that it is simply not being reported.

Staff should be aware that it is more likely that boys will be perpetrators of child-on-child abuse and girls will be victims of child-on-child abuse. However, all forms of child-on-child abuse are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at the school.

Staff should recognise that child-on-child abuse can take many forms and may be facilitated by technology, including:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- physical abuse such as biting, hitting, kicking or hair pulling
- sexually harmful behaviour and sexual abuse including inappropriate sexual language, touching, sexual assault or rape
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos
- teenage relationship abuse – where there is a pattern of actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual or emotional abuse, perpetrated against a current or former partner
- upskirting – taking a picture under a person's clothing without their knowledge and/or permission with the intention of viewing their buttocks or genitals (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification. It is a criminal offence.
- initiation/hazing - used to introduce newcomers into an organisation or group by subjecting them to a series of trials and challenges, which are potentially humiliating, embarrassing or abusive.
- prejudice and discrimination - behaviours which cause a person to feel powerless, worthless or excluded originating from prejudices around belonging, identity and equality, for example, prejudices linked to disabilities, special educational needs, ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, gender and sexual identity.

Different gender issues can be prevalent when dealing with child-on-child abuse, for example girls being sexually touched/assaulted or boys being subject to initiation/hazing type violence.

Although a child identifying as LGBTQ+ is not in itself a safeguarding concern, such children may be more vulnerable to forms of child-on-child abuse. This includes children who are perceived to be LGBTQ+ even though they do not identify as such. The school is committed to providing a safe space for LGBTQ+ children to share any concerns they may have and in ensuring an inclusive culture is maintained.

To minimise child on child abuse in school it is vital that all staff identify peer abuse early to prevent it from escalating. Staff are regularly provided with regular updated and appropriate safeguarding training that enables them to understand their role in preventing and identifying child on child abuse. All staff are aware that they must report any forms of child on child abuse on Safeguard to the DSL. See

#### **Appendix 4**

### **32. CHILD-ON-CHILD SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

All staff must be aware that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex and it can happen in any environment including schools, the family home as part of intra-familial abuse and via online platforms. It can also occur when a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or a group of children. The abuse may be perpetrated by a younger child towards an older child because of an imbalance of power caused by factors such as height difference or cognitive ability.

As part of school's wider safeguarding culture, staff should maintain an '**it could happen here**' approach in regard to child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment and understand that children in the school and the local community may be experiencing such forms of child-on-child abuse, including that facilitated by technology, regardless of the number of reports the DSL receives.

In response to reports of child-on-child abuse school will reassure all victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor will a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report. As part of the reassurance to children, it will be made clear to children that the law is in place to protect them from abuse rather than to criminalise them.

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

Staff should be aware of the importance of:

- challenging inappropriate behaviours;
- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and
- challenging physical behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting upskirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours will help to normalise them.

Sexual violence offences are defined under the Sexual Offences Act 2003

**Rape:** A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

**Assault by Penetration:** A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

**Sexual Assault:** A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (Schools should be aware that sexual assault covers a very wide range of behaviour so a single act of kissing someone without consent, or touching someone's bottom/breasts/genitalia without consent, can still constitute sexual assault.)

**Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent:** A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally causes another person (B) to engage in an activity, the activity is sexual, B does not consent to engaging in the activity,

and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (This could include forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.)

Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g. to vaginal but not anal sex or penetration with conditions, such as wearing a condom. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs.

All Staff need to be aware of the following:

- children under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity;
- the age of consent is 16
- sexual intercourse without consent is rape.

Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, this will be referred to the police. Whilst the age of criminal responsibility is ten, if the alleged perpetrator is under ten, the starting principle of referring to the police remains. In parallel to this the school will make a referral to Children's Social Care via the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

## **SEXUAL HARRASMENT**

Sexual Harassment is 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline and both inside and outside of school. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

Sexual Harassment may include the following:

- sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names sexual "jokes" or taunting;
- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone's clothes (schools and colleges should be considering when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence - it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim) and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature; and online sexual

harassment. This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence such as:

- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos.
- sharing of unwanted explicit content;
- upskirting
- sexualised online bullying
- unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media
- sexual exploitation, coercion and threats

On a case-by-case basis the school will liaise with Children's Social Care and the Police as well as specialist services as part of the immediate response to child-on-child sexual harassment and the ongoing support for all the children involved.

### **Serious Violence:**

The impact of serious youth violence has on individuals and the community is significant. Serious violence is now a recognised specific safeguarding issue in KCSIE 2019. All staff in schools and colleges should be aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. Any known cases or concerns should be reported to the DSL who will if necessary, take further appropriate action to support both victims and perpetrators. Appropriate action will be taken to prevent and address any subsequent issues, including the use of outside agencies to educate and support students in making the right choices.

### **HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS**

Children's sexual behaviour exists on a wide continuum, ranging from normal and developmentally expected to inappropriate, problematic, abusive and violent. School recognises that Harmful Sexual Behaviours can, in some cases, progress on a continuum. It is therefore important for all staff to address inappropriate behaviours to help prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. Children displaying harmful sexual behaviours have often experienced their own abuse and trauma.

School takes seriously its duty to respond appropriately to all reports and concerns about children's sexual behaviours both online and offline, in and outside of the

school, including reports of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment. The DSL has completed relevant training in responding to and managing harmful sexual behaviours and will draw upon appropriate resources such as the AIM Checklists and Assessment Tools. The DSL will liaise where appropriate with Children's Services, the Police and other specialist services.

In most instances, the conduct of pupils towards each other will be covered by our behaviour policy. However, some allegations may be of such a serious nature that they may raise safeguarding concerns. Langdon Park School School recognises that children can abuse their peers. It will not be passed off as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'. The forms of child on child abuse are outlined below:

Langdon Park School aims to reduce the likelihood of child on child abuse through;

- embedding a culture of fellowship whereby all members of the school community behave in a kind and compassionate way
- the established code of conduct
- high expectations of behaviour
- an effective Inclusion Charter
- clear consequences for unacceptable behaviour
- developing a curriculum which supports pupils' understanding of healthy relationships, acceptable behaviour, consent and keeping themselves safe, along with pastoral support
- systems for any pupil to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, valued and believed
- robust risk assessments and targeted support for pupils identified as being a potential risk to other pupils and those identified as being at risk
- A member of the inclusion team is attached to each year group
- Students can report concerns through the Wellbeing classroom and The Box located at reception.
- Student voice and a Changing of Cultures staff and student group
- For all members of the school community to articulate the importance of consent
- To proactively and consistently respond to reports of sexual violence and harassment in line with the school behaviour policy and government legislation

- To provide appropriate support to any student affected by peer-on-peer sexual violence or harassment

Research indicates that young people rarely disclose child on child abuse and that if they do, it is likely to be to their friends. Therefore, Langdon Park School aims to educate pupils in how to support their friends if they are concerned about them, that they should talk to a trusted adult in the school and what services they can contact for further advice.

Any concerns, disclosures or allegations of child on child abuse in any form should be referred to the DSL using the school's child protection procedures as set out in this policy. Where a concern regarding child on child abuse has been disclosed to the DSL, advice and guidance will be sought from Children Social Care and where it is clear a crime has been committed or there is a risk of crime being committed the Police will be contacted.

Working with external agencies the school will respond to the unacceptable behaviour. If a pupil's behaviour negatively impacts on the safety and welfare of other pupils then safeguarding measures, including a risk assessment will be put in place to promote the well-being of the pupils affected and the victim and perpetrator will be provided with support.

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT:**

When there has been a report of sexual violence, the DSL (or a deputy) should make an immediate risk and needs assessment. Where there has been a report of sexual harassment, the need for a risk assessment should be considered on a case-by-case basis. The risk and needs assessment should consider:

- the victim, especially their protection and support
- the alleged perpetrator; and all the other children, especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them (and, if appropriate, adult students and staff) at the school
- The DSL will record the risk assessment and update when necessary. They will also liaise with social care or the police if required with any updates

#### **School Response:**

There are four options available to the DSL:

- Managing the allegation internally;
- Referral to Early Help
- Referral to Social Care
- Report to the Police

A new helpline to support potential victims of sexual harassment and abuse in education settings has been established.

The dedicated number, run by the NSPCC, provides both children and adults who are victims of sexual abuse in schools with the appropriate support and advice. This includes how to contact the police and report crimes if they wish. The helpline will also provide support to parents and professionals too.

The dedicated NSPCC helpline number is 0800 136 663

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

When reports of child on child abuse, child on child abuse and sexual violence and harassment are brought to the attention of the DSL we assure that all procedures are in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 part 5. The school deals with all alleged cases fairly and systematically. The school procedure seen in appendix F is followed. It covers the immediate response, risk assessments, the ongoing response and support for victim and perpetrator – see Appendix F

### **33. YOUTH PRODUCED SEXUAL IMAGERY**

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery is one of the terms professionals use to describe the sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams by children and young people under the age of 18 online. The term 'nudes' is used by children and covers all types of image sharing incidents. Alternative terms used by children include 'dick pics' or 'pics'.

The sharing of nudes and semi-nudes can happen publicly online, in 1:1 messaging or via group chats and closed social media accounts. It could also involve sharing between devices via services like Apple's AirDrop which works offline. Nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams may include more than one child or young person.

Incidents may also occur where:

- children and young people find nudes and semi-nudes online and share them claiming to be from a peer
- children and young people digitally manipulate an image of a young person into an existing nude online
- images created or shared are used to abuse peers e.g. by selling images online or obtaining images to share more widely without consent to publicly shame. Such images can be shared via web pages and social media accounts called 'Bait Out' pages/accounts.

Creating and sharing nudes and semi-nudes of under-18s (including those created and shared with consent) is illegal.

When handling reports of Youth Produced Sexual Imagery, **staff must be aware that it is illegal for staff to view or share such imagery**. Staff should immediately inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will act in accordance with non-statutory guidance, [Sharing Nudes and Semi-Nudes. Advice for Education Settings working with Children and Young People 2020](#)

Staff are aware of the following guidance:

- **Never** view, copy, print, share, store or save the imagery yourself, or ask a child to share or download – **this is illegal**.
- If they have already viewed the imagery by accident (e.g. if a young person has showed it to you before you could ask them not to), report this to the DSL (or equivalent) and seek support.
- **Do not** delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete it.
- **Do not** ask the child/children or young person(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSL (or equivalent).
- **Do not** share information about the incident with other members of staff, the young person(s) it involves or their, or other, parents and/or carers.
- **Do not** say or do anything to blame or shame any young people involved.
- **Do** explain to them that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSL immediately
- **Record all information on Safeguard**

If a member of staff becomes aware of an incident involving youth produced sexual imagery they should follow the child protection procedures and refer to the DSL as soon as possible. The member of staff should confiscate the device involved and set it to flight mode or, if this is not possible, turn it off. Staff should not view, copy or print the youth produced sexual imagery.

The DSL should hold an initial review meeting with appropriate school staff and subsequent interviews with the children involved (if appropriate). Parents should be informed at an early stage and involved in the process unless there is reason to believe that involving parents would put the child at risk of harm. At any point in the process if there is concern a young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm a referral should be made to Children's Social Care or the Police as appropriate.

Immediate referral at the initial review stage should be made to Children's Social Care/Police if:

- The incident involves an adult
- There is good reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example, owing to special education needs)
- What you know about the imagery suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the child's development stage or are violent
- The imagery involves sexual acts
- The imagery involves anyone aged 12 or under
- There is reason to believe a child is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of the imagery, for example the child is presenting as suicidal or self-harming

If none of the above apply then the DSL will use their professional judgement to assess the risk to pupils involved and may decide, with input from the Headteacher, to respond to the incident without escalation to Children's Social Care or the police.

In applying judgement, the DSL will consider if;

- there is a significant age difference between the sender/receiver
- there is any coercion or encouragement beyond the sender/receiver

- the imagery was shared and received with the knowledge of the child in the imagery
- the child is more vulnerable than usual i.e. at risk
- there is a significant impact on the children involved
- the child involved understands consent
- the situation is isolated or if the image been more widely distributed
- there other circumstances relating to either the sender or recipient that may add cause for concern i.e. difficult home circumstances
- the children have been involved in incidents relating to youth produced imagery before

If any of these circumstances are present the situation will be escalated according to our child protection procedures, including reporting to the police or children's social care. Otherwise, the situation will be managed within the school.

The DSL will record all incidents of youth produced sexual imagery, including both the actions taken, actions not taken, reasons for doing so and the resolution in line with safeguarding recording procedures. This will be recorded on 'safeguard'.

#### **34. BULLYING (INCLUDING CYBERBULLYING)**

Bullying is a very serious issue that can cause anxiety and distress. All incidences of bullying, including cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying should be reported and will be managed through the school's Anti-Bullying Policy/Pupil Behaviour Policy/Child-on-child abuse Policy, in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 and Behaviour in Schools. Advice for Head teacher and School Staff (September 2022).

Further information can be found in the Anti-Bullying policy.

#### **35. HOMELESSNESS**

Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a new legal duty on English councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to meaningful help including an assessment of their

needs and circumstances, the development of a personalised housing plan, and work to help them retain their accommodation or find a new place to live.

The DSL will raise concerns at the earliest opportunity about a family at risk of homelessness through the [Tower Hamlets Homeless and Housing Options service](#).

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. However, it is also recognised in some cases 16 and 17 year olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Local authority children's social care will be the lead agency for these children and should be contacted in the first instance. For general enquiries about support for young people who might be at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the borough, please contact Tower Hamlets Housing Options: [Host@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Host@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

### **36. CHILDREN AND THE COURT SYSTEM**

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed.

The DSL will ensure that the children concerned are supported and where appropriate make use of the guides provided by the HM Courts & Tribunals Service for [children 5-11-year olds](#) and [12-17 year olds](#).

Making child arrangements via the family courts following parental separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children too. Where appropriate parents can be signposted to the Department of Justice's [information toolkit](#) for families on making child arrangements which sets out each party's responsibility including the importance of putting the needs of the children first in the process.

### **37. CHILDREN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN PRISON**

An estimated 310,000 children every year have a parent in prison in England and Wales and 10,000 visits are made by children to our public prisons every week. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health.

The DSL will draw upon the resources and guidance offered through [The National Information Centre on Children of Offenders](#) (NICCO) to support the children involved and mitigate negative consequences for those children.

### 38. PRIVATE FOSTERING

Private fostering occurs when a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or a relative in their own home. A child is not privately fostered if the person caring for and accommodating them has done so for less than 28 days and does not intend to do so for longer.

Staff should be vigilant about children who are in private fostering arrangements and report concerns to the DSL, who will notify the Local Authority through a MASH referral, as set out in the THSCP Multi-Agency Private Fostering Guidance (January 2022). The Local Authority will check the arrangement is suitable and safe for the child in accordance with the [Private Fostering statutory guidance](#).

### 39. YOUNG CARERS

A young carer is a person aged 18 or under who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member. This can include, but is not limited to a person with:

- a long-term illness or condition
- a physical or learning disability
- a substance misuse problem
- a mental health problem

The support provided by a child can vary based on the condition of the person they are caring for, but typically young carers provide a combination of personal (such as helping to dress or bath them), practical (such as cooking, cleaning and shopping) and emotional care (such as talking through their concerns with them).

It is estimated by the Children's Society that 1 in 5 children are young carers and many are hidden and unidentified. School recognises that young carers have the right to an assessment by the Local Authority to identify needs and support and the person they are caring for can have a reassessment of their needs.

The DSL will follow the LBTH guidance for schools, 'Young Carers in School: A guide for education practitioners to identify and support young carers in schools' (January 2023) and refer to the Young Carers program accordingly: [Young.Carers@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Young.Carers@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

#### 40. CHILD ABDUCTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY INCIDENTS

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a child from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers.

All incidents of Child Abduction should be reported immediately to the Police and Children's Social Care.

Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst staff, children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation. All incidents that occur during the school day should be immediately reported to the DSL, and steps taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the children involved.

#### 41. MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including: sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs.

Further information on the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery, the support available to victims and how to refer to the National Referral Mechanism is available in the [Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance](#).

The DSL will refer all potential child victims of modern slavery to the Local Authority via MASH.

#### 43.FORCED MARRIAGES

There has been a change in the law from **February 2023** around forced marriage:

- It's now a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, even if violence, threats or

coercion are not used. This applies to non-binding, unofficial 'marriages', as well as legal marriages.

#### **42. TAKING SAFEGUARDING ACTION**

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". Key points for staff to remember are:

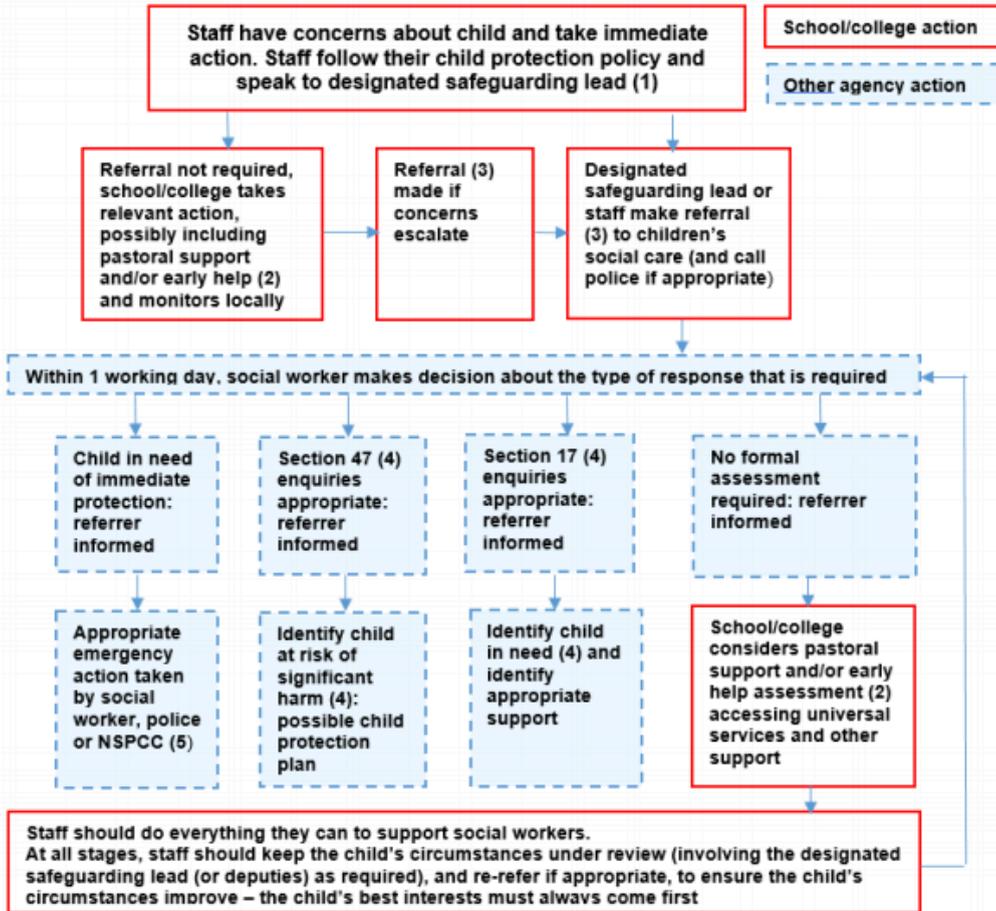
- in an emergency take the action necessary to help the child (including calling 999)
- report your concern as soon as possible to the DSL, no later than the end of the day
- do not start your own investigation
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends or family
- complete a record of concern
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed.
- Once concerns are identified and shared with DSLs, DSLs and involved staff will decide together how best to proceed to support the child and to mitigate the risk. DSLs can consult with MASH at any point.

Options for action are:

<b>Pastoral Care</b>	<a href="#">Keeping Children Safe in Education</a> 2023 acknowledges the casework that schools undertake on a pastoral level. This includes managing any support for the child internally via the school's own pastoral support processes. If pastoral staff are engaged, they must work alongside safeguarding staff, and DSLs would take the lead on decisions about progressing a case.
<b>Early Help (MASH)</b>	Schools can refer children and families for early help assessment and support, with the informed consent of parents.
<b>Referral to statutory services (MASH)</b>	<p>A referral must be made to MASH/children's social care (and if appropriate the police) immediately if the child is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A child in need; defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled</li> <li>• Suffering, or likely suffering, harm.</li> </ul>
<b>Allegation of harm to a child by a practitioner</b>	If the alleged harm to a child is caused by a practitioner or a volunteer, the headteacher should be notified immediately and LADO should be consulted.

Following a number of cases nationally where senior leaders in schools failed to act upon concerns raised by staff, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) 2023 emphasises that any member of staff must contact and/or make a referral to Children's Social Care if they are concerned about a child, if their DSL does not share their views.

## Actions where there are concerns about a child



1. In cases which also involve a concern or an allegation of abuse against a staff member.
2. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. Where a child would benefit from co-ordinated early help, an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children provides detailed guidance on the early help process.
3. Referrals should follow the process set out in the local threshold document and local protocol for assessment. Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children.

4. Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, it has a duty to make enquiries to decide whether to take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare. Full details are in Chapter one of Working

### 43. EARLY HELP

#### **Early Help Hub:**

In the event of a MASH referral not meeting the threshold for CSC intervention the case may be referred to the Early Help hub. If early help is appropriate, the DSL will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead practitioner.

The DSL will keep the case under constant review and the school will consider a referral to local authority children's social care if the situation does not seem to be improving. Timelines of interventions will be monitored and reviewed.

Tower Hamlets Early Help Hub can be contacted on [0207 3645006](tel:02073645006).

Staff should always follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy in the first instance. However, they may also share information directly with Children's Services, or the police if:

- the situation is an emergency and the DSL, Deputy DSL and other designated staff and the Headteacher are all unavailable
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the student's safety

Any member of staff who does not feel that concerns about a child have been responded to appropriately and in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy should raise their concerns with the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors. If any member of staff does not feel the situation has been addressed

appropriately at this point they should contact Children's Services directly with their concerns.

All staff are trained and prepared to identify children who may benefit from Early Help, which is providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. This can be support provided through school's internal pastoral system and resources and/or Local Authority services and other external agencies.

The Tower Hamlets Early Help Strategy recognises the important role schools have in identifying children and families who are at risk of poor outcomes without early intervention.

All staff need to recognise that all children may benefit from Early Help at any point in their childhood, but some children may benefit from Early Help more than others. These are children with known vulnerabilities, which are listed on page 15 of this policy.

Early help can take many forms and the agreed strategy is agreed in weekly Highlighting meetings, such as:

- home visiting programmes
- school-based programmes
- mentoring schemes – internal and external
- Counselling/Therapy sessions
- SWISS team intervention
- Early help social worker intervention
- EHA reviews
- Team around the child meetings

The DSL will contact the LBTH Early Help Hub for support and advice if required:

**LBTH Early Help Hub:**

0207 364 5006 (option 2)

Alternatively, the DSL will complete an Early Help Enquiry form which can be accessed via <https://bit.ly/2AA2WNY>

The DSL will apply the LBTH Thresholds Guidance to decide what level of safeguarding response is required as part of the Early Help response. If in doubt about the level of need the DSL will telephone the LBTH Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for a discussion.

**MASH:**

020 7364 5006 (Option 3) 020 7364 5601/5606

**Child Protection Advice Line**

020 7364 3444

If a child has been receiving Early Help support from the school and other agencies and there is no improvement in the child's outcomes, then the DSL must refer the child to Children's Social Care.

**44. HANDLING THE REPORTING OR SHARING OF CONCERNS**

When a child discloses that they have been or are being abused including exploitation and neglect, they may feel ashamed, especially if the abuse is sexual, and feel frightened lest their abuser finds out they have made a disclosure. The child may have been threatened, they may have lost all trust in adults; or may believe that they are to blame for the abuse. Sometimes the child may not understand that what is happening is abusive.

All staff should reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child. During their conversations with the pupils, staff will:

- allow the child to speak freely
- remain calm
- allow silences
- do not ask leading questions

- tell the pupil what will happen next
- inform the DSL as soon as possible
- seek support if they feel distressed.

The school will notify parents if the child is not put at any additional risk or harm

Alternatively, the DSL will complete an Early Help Enquiry form which can be accessed via <https://bit.ly/2AA2WNy>

### **Social Inclusion Panel**

When an EHA has been completed and a Team Around the Family is in process, the school can refer to the borough's Social Inclusion Panel in support of a co-ordinated and targeted plan to bring about improvement in the child's outcomes.

### **46. Confidentiality and sharing information:**

Staff should not assume a colleague or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe. They should be mindful that early information sharing is vital for effective identification, assessment and allocation of appropriate service provision. Serious Case Reviews have highlighted failures in safeguarding systems in which people did not share information at the earliest opportunity or did not share at all. If in any doubt about sharing information, staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

All staff should understand that safeguarding requires a high level of confidentiality. Staff should only discuss concerns with the DSL, Deputy DSL or the headteacher.

Any member of staff can contact children's social care if they are concerned about a child but should inform the DSL as soon as possible that they have done so.

The DSL will have due regard to the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to ensure that personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and they will adhere to the seven golden rules for sharing

information. Information sharing will take place in a timely and secure manner. The GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, as safeguarding and protecting children provide a legal basis for sharing information.

The school will gain consent from parents when the child is not at risk of further harm.

Information sharing decisions will be recorded, whether or not the decision to share has been taken. Child protection information will be stored securely separate from the pupil's school file. Child protection information is stored and handled in line with the school's Retention and Destruction Policy.

**Referring to children's social care:**

The DSL will make a referral to children's social care applying the LBTH Threshold Guidance if it is believed that a pupil is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm, or the child is considered to be in need, that is a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of services.

**LBTH Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub:**

020 7364 5006 (Option 3) 020 7364 5601/5606

**Child Protection Advice Line:**

020 7364 3444

When the DSL completes a MASH referral form and sends it securely to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, the referral form will be accurate and sufficiently detailed to enable the MASH Assessment and Intervention Team to make a decision on the level of statutory response required.

If the child is already known to Children's Social Care, then the DSL will communicate safeguarding concerns with the allocated Social Worker.

**Escalation procedures:**

If, after a referral to Children's Social Care, the child's situation does not appear to be improving, the DSL will consider following local escalation procedures to ensure their concerns have been addressed and that the child's situation improves.

In accordance with the Tower Hamlets Threshold Guidance Appendix D the DSL will first make contact with the team manager followed by the service manager followed by the divisional director. At every level of escalation there should be discussion and concerted effort to resolve any professional difference.

Langdon Park School is committed to working in partnership with parents/carers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to support them to understand our statutory responsibilities in this area.

When new students join our school, parents and carers will be informed that we have a safeguarding policy. A copy will be provided to parents on request and is available on the school website. Parents and carers will be informed of our legal duty to assist our colleagues in other agencies with child protection enquiries and what happens should we have cause to make a referral to Children's Services.

We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission, or it is necessary to do so in order to safeguard a child from harm.

We will seek to share with parents any concerns we may have about their child **unless** to do so may place a child at increased risk of harm. A lack of parental engagement or agreement regarding the concerns the school has about a child will not prevent the DSL making a referral to Children's Services in those circumstances where it is appropriate to do so.

In order to keep children safe and provide appropriate care for them, the school requires parents to provide accurate and up to date information regarding:

- Full names and up to date contact details of all adults with whom the child normally lives
- Full names and up to date contact details of all persons with parental responsibility (if different from above)

- At least two contact details (if different from above)
- Full details of any other adult authorised by the parent to collect the child from school (if different from the above)
- Legal documentation that confirms any molestation orders or injunctions against adults regarding contact with students

The School will retain this information on the student file and management system. The school will only share information about students with adults who have parental responsibility for a student or where a parent has given permission and the school has been supplied with the adult's full details in writing and relationship with the child.

#### **45. CONFIDENTIALITY AND SHARING INFORMATION**

Staff should never assume a colleague or another professional will take safeguarding action through the sharing of information that might be critical in keeping children safe. Staff should be mindful that early information sharing is vital for effective identification, assessment and allocation of appropriate service provision. Serious Case Reviews have highlighted failures in safeguarding systems in which people did not share information at the earliest opportunity or did not share at all. If in any doubt about sharing information, staff should speak to their Designated Safeguarding Lead or a deputy.

Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

All staff should understand that safeguarding requires a high level of confidentiality. Staff should only discuss concerns with the DSL, Deputy DSL or the headteacher.

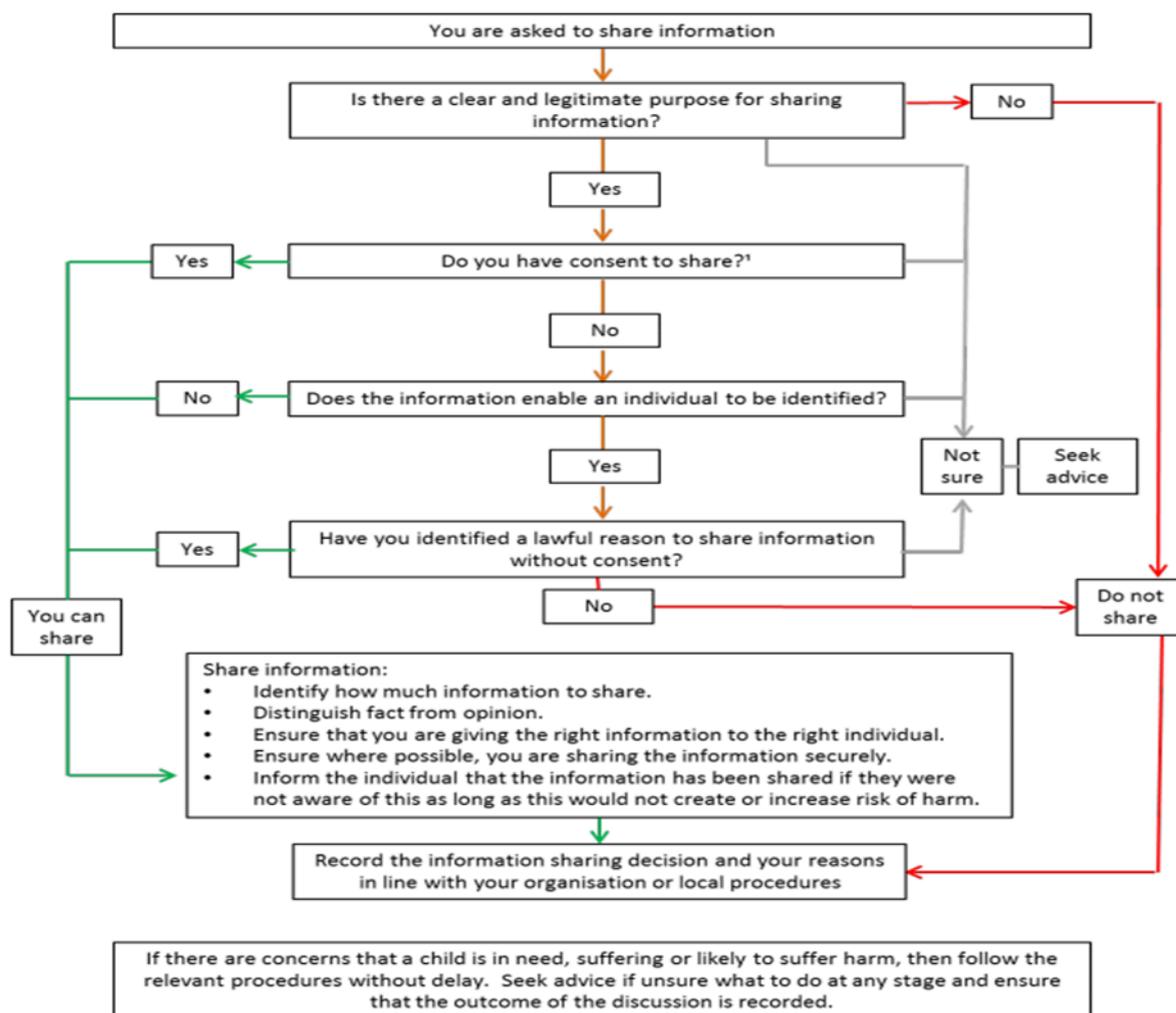
Any member of staff can contact children's social care if they are concerned about a child but should inform the DSL as soon as possible that they have done so.

The DSL will have due regard to the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to ensure that personal information is processed

fairly and lawfully and they will adhere to the seven golden rules for sharing information. Information sharing will take place in a timely and secure manner.

The GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, as safeguarding and protecting children provide a legal basis for sharing information.

### Flowchart of when and how to share information



Information sharing decisions will be recorded, whether or not the decision to share has been taken. Child protection information will be stored securely separate from the pupil's school file. Child protection information is stored and handled in line with the school's Retention and Destruction Policy. Where safeguarding information is stored electronically and online, the school has

cybersecurity measures in place, which meets the Department for Education's Cybersecurity Standards, to ensure the data is safe and not vulnerable to evolving cyber-crime.

#### 46. REFERRING TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

The DSL will make a referral to children's social care applying the LBTH Threshold Guidance if it is believed that a pupil is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm, or the child is considered to be in need, that is a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of services.

#### **LBTH Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub:**

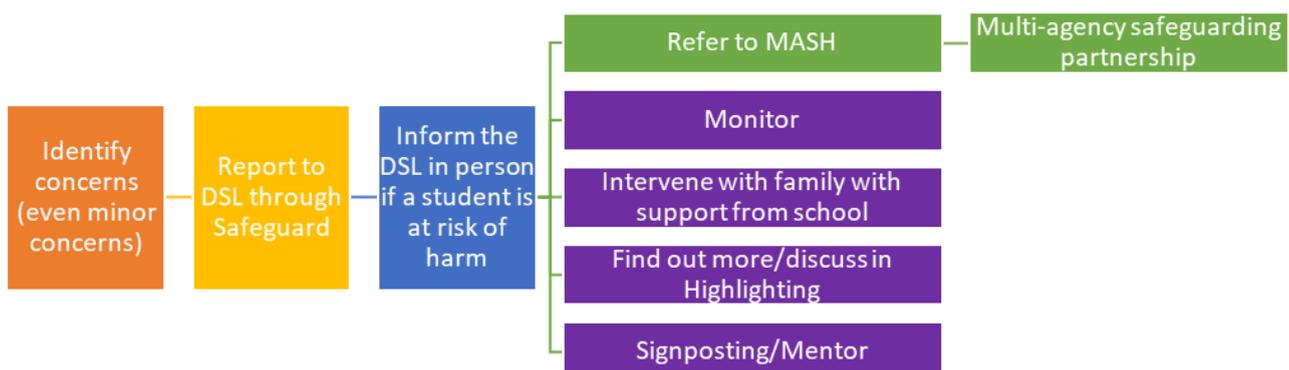
020 7364 5006 (Option 3) 020 7364 5601/5606

#### **Child Protection Advice Line:**

020 7364 3444

The DSL will contact CPAL/MASH in the first instance to seek advice and guidance. When the DSL completes a MASH referral form and sends it securely to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, the referral form will be accurate and sufficiently detailed to enable the MASH Assessment and Intervention Team to make a decision on the level of statutory response required in accordance with the LBTH Thresholds Guidance.

If the child is already known to Children's Social Care, then the DSL will communicate safeguarding concerns to the allocated Social Worker.



#### 47. ESCALATION PROCEDURES

If, after a referral to Children's Social Care, the child's situation does not appear to be improving, the DSL will consider following local escalation procedures to ensure their concerns have been addressed and that the child's situation improves.

In accordance with the Tower Hamlets Threshold Guidance (Appendix D) the DSL will first make contact with the team manager followed by the service manager followed by the divisional director. At every level of escalation there should be discussion and concerted effort to resolve any professional difference. It is important that the DSL at each point of escalation puts the concerns in writing.

#### 48. SAFER RECRUITMENT AND SAFER WORKING PRACTICE

We will ensure that members of the leadership team and at least one member of the Governing Body have completed appropriate safer recruitment training. At all times the Headteacher and Governing Body will ensure that safer recruitment practices are followed and adopted in accordance with the requirements and guidance of '*Keeping Children Safe in Education*', DfE (2023).

At Langdon Park School we will use the recruitment and selection process to deter and reject unsuitable candidates. We require evidence of original academic certificates. We do not accept testimonials and insist on taking up references prior to interview. We will question the contents of application forms if we are unclear about them, we will undertake Disclosure and Barring Service checks and use any other means of ensuring we are recruiting and selecting the most suitable people to work with our children. In addition, as part of the shortlisting process schools and colleges should consider carrying out an **online search** as part of their due diligence on the shortlisted candidates.

This may help identify any incidents or issues that have happened, and are publicly available online, which the school or college might want to explore with the applicant at interview. Schools and colleges should inform shortlisted candidates that online searches may be done as part of due diligence checks. See Part two - Legislation and the Law for information on data protection and UK GDPR

We will maintain a comprehensive Single Central Register of all safer recruitment checks carried out in line with statutory requirements. The School Business Manager is responsible for the Single Central Register with regular monitoring checks by the DSL and the Safeguarding Governor/Chair of Governors.

### **Safer Working Practice:**

All adults who come into contact with our children have a duty of care to safeguard and promote their welfare. There is a legal duty placed upon us to ensure that all adults who work with or on behalf of our children are competent, confident and safe to do so.

If staff, visitors, volunteers or parent helpers with DBS checks are working with children alone they will, wherever possible, be visible to other members of staff. They will be expected to inform another member of staff of their whereabouts in school, who they are with and for how long. Doors, ideally, should be left open. Staff, visitors, volunteers or parent helpers without DBS checks will not be allowed to work with students unsupervised.

Guidance about acceptable conduct and safe practice will be given to all staff and volunteers during induction. These are sensible steps that every adult should take in their daily professional conduct with children. This advice can be found in **'Guidance for Safer Working Practices for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings', DCSF, May 2019 and will take into account the addendum issued by the government during Covid-19 with regard to staff working from home.** See addendum March 2023. All staff and volunteers are expected to carry out their work in accordance with this guidance and will be made aware that failure to do so could lead to disciplinary action.

**49. Appendix 1: MASH Poster**



## Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

**020 7364 3444 / 5601 / 5606**

If there is a concern about the welfare of a child or young person and you would like to talk it through, then you should contact the Tower Hamlets Children and Culture Directorate's Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The Duty Officer will be able to discuss the concern, assist in deciding whether a formal child protection referral is appropriate and facilitate the reporting of a formal child protection referral in accordance with Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP) Procedures and to offer advice.

When there is a specific concern of a child protection nature whereby it is thought that a child has been harmed or at risk of being harmed then the LBTH Inter-Agency Referral Form should be completed in the first instance. The MASH should then be contacted on 0207 364 3444 / 5601 / 5606 to discuss the matter and the completed Inter-Agency Referral Form then emailed/faxed through.

The MASH operates between 9.00am and 5.00pm except at weekends and on public holidays. If the concern arises outside of the hours operated by the MASH and it is believed the child may be at immediate risk the Children's Social Care Emergency Out of Hours Duty Team or the Police should be contacted without delay.

### Important Contact Information

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) email  
**Note – information should only be emailed following prior discussion with the Duty Officer.**

MASH@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Children's Social Care Emergency Out of Hours Duty Team (5.00pm onwards)	020 7364 5006 – choose Option 3
Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT)	020- 8217 6484 (or use 999 if not available)

**50. Appendix 2: MASH Interagency Referral Form**

## INTER-AGENCY REFERRAL FORM

This form is to be used by all agencies referring child/children to London Borough of Tower Hamlets CSC for assessment as a child in need, including in need of protection.

All urgent referrals should be initiated by phone/fax and with completion of as much of this form as possible or an updated CAF or a Signs of Safety Mapping tool. If information is incomplete, a MASH worker will work through the form to ensure the information is accurate and good quality. If you are a service provider in Tower Hamlets, as part of the Family Wellbeing Model, you may be asked to provide a CAF as well as this form. You should get feedback within 24 hours on this referral and we will proactively work with you and other services to ensure a service is provided to the child, even if it does not meet the thresholds for a statutory response as outlined in the Family Wellbeing Model.

SECTION A: CHILD/YOUNG PERSON										
Family Name					Forename/s					
DOB/EDD		M		F		*Ethnicity code		Religion		
Child's first language						Is an interpreter or signer required?				
Address										
Postcode						Tel.				
Current address if different from above										
Postcode						Tel.:				
<i>*ONS Ethnicity Codes: White British 1a; White Irish 1b; White other 1c; White &amp; Black Caribbean 2a; White &amp; Black African 2b; White &amp; Asian 2c; Other Mixed 2d; Indian 3a; Pakistani 3b; Bangladeshi 3c; Other Asian 3d; Caribbean 4a; African 4b; Other Black 4c; Chinese 5a; Other ethnic group 5b</i>										

SECTION B: CHILD/YOUNG PERSON'S PRINCIPAL CARERS				
FULLNAME	DOB If known	Relationship to child	Ethnicity code	Parental responsibility
First language of carers: Is an interpreter or signer required: Y / N				

### SECTION C: OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

FULL NAME	DOB If known	Relationship to child/ young person	Ethnicity code	Tick if also referred

### SECTION D: OTHER SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE IN THE CHILD/YOUNG PERSON'S LIFE, INCLUDING OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

FULL NAME	Relationship to child/young person	Address	Tel No

**Referrals will be shared with the family and should not be made without their knowledge/agreement unless this would jeopardise the child/young person's safety**

	Y / N	If no, state reason
The child/young person knows about the referral		
The parent/carer knows about the referral		
The parent/carer has given consent to the referral.		

### SECTION F: INFORMATION ON STATUTORY STATUS

	Y / N	Please give details of name of child/young person, dates, category (if known)
Any child in family is/has been on the disability register?		
Any child in family is/has been on the child protection register (CPR)?		
Any child or other family member has been looked after by a local authority?		

**SECTION G: KEY AGENCIES INVOLVED**

<b>Insert name of professional if involved</b>		<b>Tel</b>	<b>Insert Name of professional if involved</b>		<b>Tel</b>
<b>H.V.</b>			<b>G.P.</b>		
<b>Nursery</b>			<b>EWO</b>		
<b>School</b>			<b>Police</b>		
<b>YOT</b>			<b>Dentist</b>		
<b>Community mental health</b>			<b>Community Paediatrician</b>		
<b>School Nurse</b>			<b>Midwife</b>		
<b>Hospital Consultant</b>			<b>Other</b>		

## SECTION H: INFORMATION SUPPORTING THIS REFERRAL

The purpose of this section is to assist the inter-agency assessment. Where you have no information about a particular area, please write N/K (not known). Please record strengths as well as areas of need or risk so that resources can be directed appropriately.

### REASON FOR REFERRAL/REQUEST FOR SERVICES

***What are your concerns? (If an allegation of possible physical abuse, please give specific details of any injury including dates and explanations given)***

**Scale how safe you think the child is:**

***With 0 being I am certain the abuse will happen again if something is n't done immediately and 10 being the case needs action but I don't think the child is in immediate danger, what rating would you give?***

**Comments on Score: Please tell us how you reached this score.**

***What existing safety is there for the child(ren) – are there safe people around the child?***

***What are you most worried will happen to the child(ren) if the situation doesn't change?***

***What convinced you to take action now and contact us?***

*Have you done anything to address this problem (apart from making this referral)? For example has your agency used a CAF or a TAC to focus professional efforts on addressing the concerns? Has the Social Inclusion Panel been consulted for support?*

*What do you see as the cause of the problem?*

*What do you expect to happen as a result of this notification?*

**SECTION I: DETAILS OF REFERRER  
AND SOCIAL WORKER TAKING REFERRAL**

<b>Name of worker completing this referral (please print)</b>			
<b>Agency</b>			
<b>Address</b>			
<b>Ward/Consultant</b>			
<b>Telephone number</b>			
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	

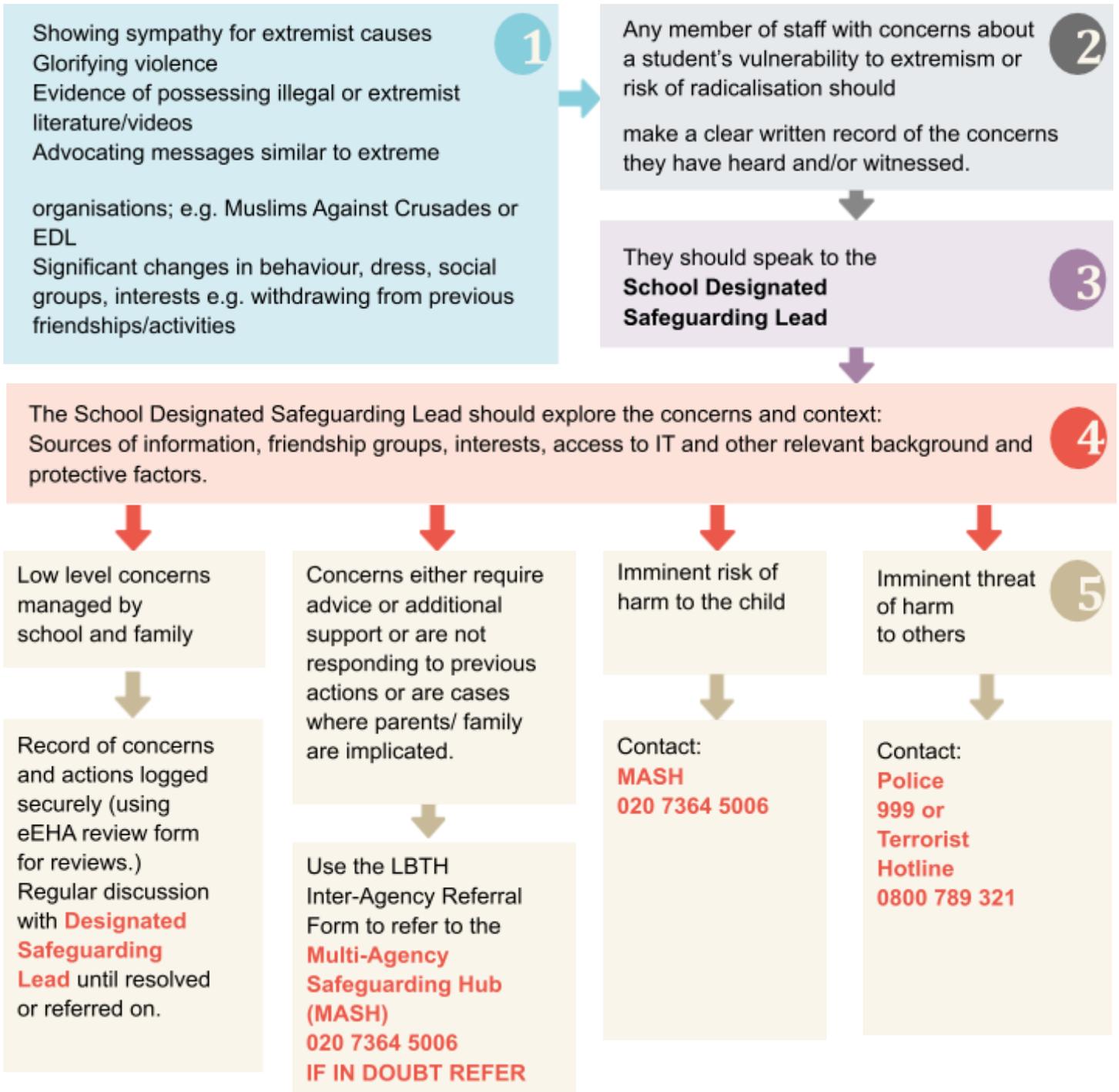
<b>Name of social worker taking referral</b>			
<b>Team</b>		<b>Date</b>	

**Social work context scale (for social worker to complete):**

*On a scale of 0 to 10 with 0 being this is the worst case that the agency has ever worked with and 10 indicates that this is a case the agency would take no further action with, where would you rate yourself?*

**51. Appendix 3: Referral route for safeguarding concerns related to Radicalisation or Extremism**

# Referral route for safeguarding concerns related to Radicalisation or



## Extremism

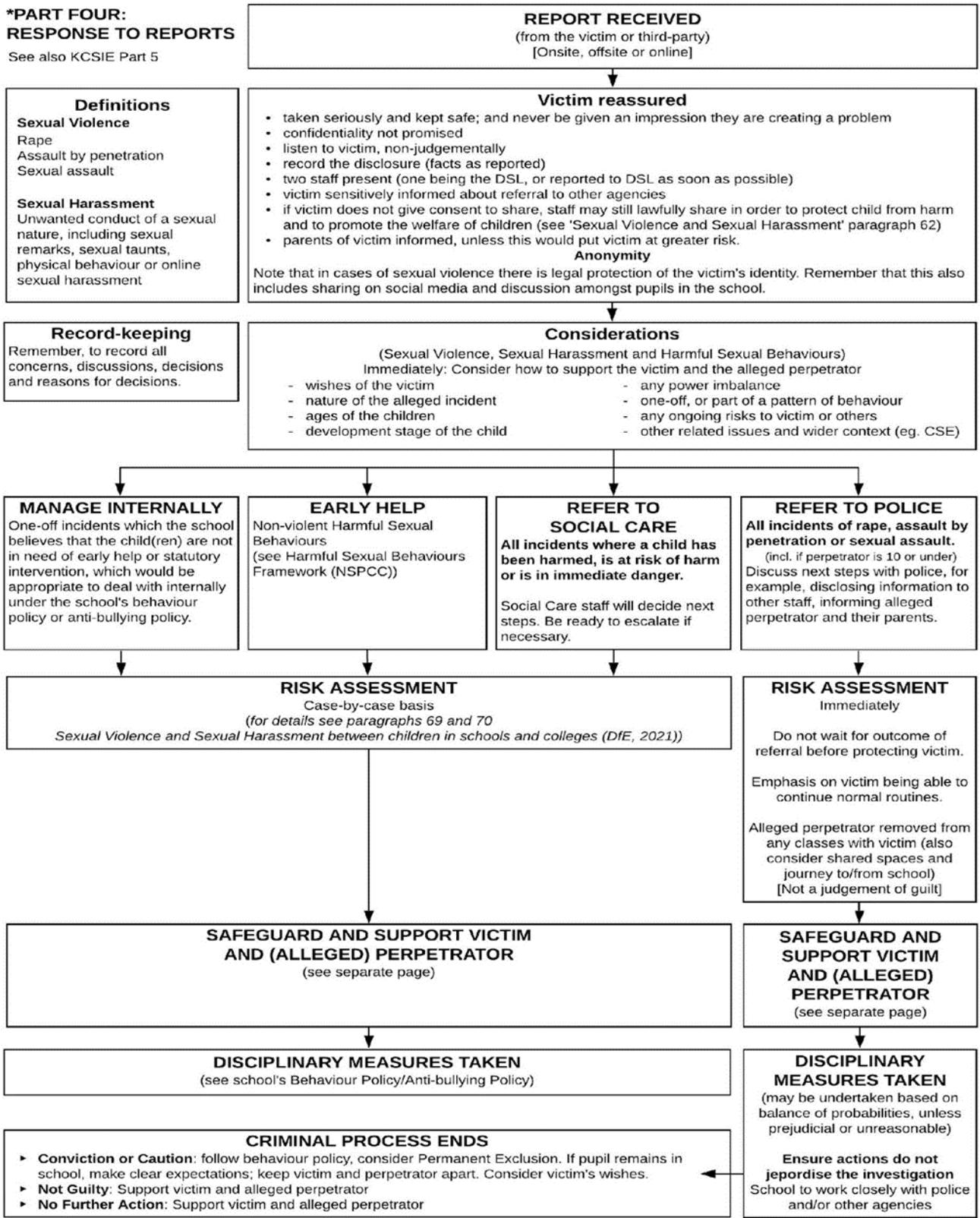
Although involving the family is best practice, you may complete an assessment and share information (using the Inter-Agency Referral Form) with the MASH without consent and, if necessary, without the family's participation under the Crime and Disorder legislation which allows for information sharing to prevent crime. **If in doubt SHARE and REFER to MASH.** The MASH will advise on next steps and provide interventions.

PREVENT interventions are voluntary so the family will be consulted and involved prior to further action

## **52. Appendix 4: SVSH flow chart**

**\*PART FOUR:  
RESPONSE TO REPORTS**

See also KCSIE Part 5



Source:

\*Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children in schools and colleges (DfE, 2021)

SVSH Flow Chart for Schools 2021 v.1.0