



Child Protection Policy

Reviewed By	Approved By	Date of Approval	Version Approved	Next Review Date
Caroline Knight	Governors	September 2019	4	September 2020
Lisa Traynor	Governors	April 2020	5	September 2020
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All Child Protection policies should be read alongside: Hull Safeguarding Children's Partnership www.hullscp.co.uk.

- **Keeping children safe in education 2021.**
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children**
- **What to do if you are worried a child is being abused – advice for practitioners**
- **Departmental advice Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children in schools and colleges**

Whole Academy approach to safeguarding

Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure they facilitate a whole school or college approach to safeguarding. This means ensuring safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. Ultimately, all systems, processes and policies should operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

Where there is a safeguarding concern, governing bodies, proprietors and school or college leaders should ensure the child's wishes and feelings are considered when determining what action to take and what services to provide. Systems should be in place, and they should be well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously, and knowing they can safely express their views and give feedback.

Thorpepark has a responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people they come into contact with. The need for guidelines and procedures is important to ensure that this is done with understanding and clarity.

The safeguarding Team include the following staff:

Lisa Traynor	Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL)
Wendy Mortimer	Deputy DSL and Child Protection Lead (school)
Margaret Dennis	Child Protection Lead (Nursery provisions)
Vikki Eggleton	SENDCO
Aaron Marshall	Emotional, well-being, behaviour and welfare officer

All staff and volunteers should be made aware of this policy, and be able to demonstrate an understanding of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including how to respond to any child protection concerns and how to make a referral to local authority children's social care or the police if necessary. The child protection policy is part of the induction pack for all new staff and volunteers. All staff are expected to read and sign the most current Child Protection policy and Part One of (this is annually).

Governing bodies and properties should ensure that all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) at induction. All staff have attended the Level 1 safeguarding children – A shared responsibility- Awareness, Recognition and Response training approved from the Hull safeguarding children's partnership or

equivalent Level 1. It is expected that all staff complete the full 1 day training every 6 years and complete ½ day training every 3 years. The refresher training could be online training or face to face depending on the member of staff. Throughout the year, staff have regular updates, termly newsletters and training regarding safeguarding children.

The Governor responsible for safeguarding is **Sheila Wallace-Marshall**. The governing body ensures policies, procedures and training in schools is effective and complies with the law at all times. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that, as part of the requirement for staff to undergo regular updated safeguarding training, including online safety and the requirement to ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, that safeguarding training for staff, including online safety training, is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole school or college safeguarding approach and wider staff training and curriculum planning.

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1. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

Defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

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

2. Children

Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection

3. Early Help

Children and their families will experience a range of needs at different times in their lives. All children require access to high-quality universal services (such as schools, health visitors and nurseries), but some will also benefit from extra support to address additional needs. In Hull this support is called Early Help.

“Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child’s life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years” (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018).

From the perspective of a child, it is clearly best to receive help before they have any, or have only minor, adverse experiences. In Hull, Early Help hubs offer a range of support for practitioners who need advice, guidance or a short intervention when working with children and families with additional needs.

All staff and volunteers should understand the importance of intervening early, before and problems become entrenched, and know how to access additional support for children, young people and families through the Early Help Hubs. All staff are aware that all children may benefit from early help, however staff are aware that some children may potentially need early help more than others due to other circumstances, for example disabilities, young carer, etc. The consent of parents / carers should always be sought before making a request for a service to the Early Help. If at any time the concerns about the child become more serious, they should be referred to Children’s Social Care Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH).

4. Child Protection

Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the Academy – **contextual factors**. All staff should

consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.

5. Definitions of harm

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

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

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

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 as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a

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

This is not an exhaustive list and it must be recognised that it is not the role of staff / volunteers to assess whether children or young people have suffered harm. Staff / volunteers / child protection co-ordinator do have a duty to report any concerns about harm in accordance with the Hull Safeguarding Children's Partnership Procedures and Practice Guidance.

Domestic Abuse

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass but is not limited to: psychological; physical; sexual; financial; and emotional. All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Online Abuse

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones. Children and young people may experience cyberbullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or emotional abuse via the internet.

Other types of abuse:

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE): CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or nonpenetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, 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 happen without the child's immediate knowledge e.g. through others sharing videos or images of them on social media.

CSE can affect any child, who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship. Further information about CSE including definitions and indicators is included in Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021).

Child criminal exploitation (CCE): Some specific forms of CCE can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing. 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.

It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same, however professionals should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation. Further information about CCE including definitions and indicators is included in Annex B of Keeping Children safe in Education (2021).

6. Other safeguarding issues:

Staff / volunteers also need to be aware of other specific sources of abuse and safeguarding issues, some of these are listed below:

- Children and the court system
- Children missing from education
- Children with family members in prison
- Homelessness
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges
- Honour Based Abuse (HBA)

So-called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) encompasses 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. All forms of so called HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such.

Where staff are concerned that a child might be at risk of HBA, they must contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead as a matter of urgency.

- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

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. FGM mandatory reporting duty for teachers 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, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies. Information on when and how to make a report can be found at: Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information Teachers must personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out.¹⁰⁵ Unless the teacher has good reason not to, they should still consider and discuss any such case with the school’s or college’s designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) and involve children’s social care as appropriate. The duty 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.

- **Youth produced sexual imagery (also known as sexting)**

All incidents involving ‘sexting’ must be reported to the Designated Safeguard Lead or Deputy immediately. All staff are aware of the following procedures:

- **Never** view, download or share the imagery yourself, or ask a child to share or download – **this is illegal.**
- If imagery has been viewed by accident, report this to DSL.
- **Do not** delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete.
- **Do not** ask the child to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSL.
- Do explain to them that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSL and Deputy DSL.
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- **Peer on Peer / child on child abuse**

All staff should recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers (including online). All staff should be clear about their school’s or college’s policy and procedures with regard to peer on peer abuse. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that their child protection policy includes:

- procedures to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse
- the systems in place (and they should be well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible) for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously

- how allegations of peer on peer abuse will be recorded, investigated and dealt with
- processes as to how victims, perpetrators and any other children affected by peer on peer abuse will be supported
- a recognition that even if there are no reported cases of peer on peer abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not being reported
- a statement which makes clear there should be a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, and it should never be passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys” as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children
- recognition that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys’ perpetrators, but that all peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

The different forms of peer on peer abuse include:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse)
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- 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 nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)

All staff should be clear as to the academies and procedures with regard to peer on peer abuse and the important role they have to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it.

- **Upskirting**

The Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, which is commonly known as the Upskirting Act, came into force on 12 April 2019. ‘Upskirting’ is where someone takes a picture under a persons clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission and or knowledge, with

the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal

offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.

- **Serious Violence**

All staff should be aware of the indicators that might signal children that are at risk from or are involved with serious violent crime. These can 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 and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

All staff should be aware of the range of risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, such as being male, having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school, having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery. Advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office's '**Preventing youth violence and gang involvement**' and its '**Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines**' guidance.

- **Mental Health**

All staff should also be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

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

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

Schools and colleges can access a range of advice to help them identify children in need of extra mental health support, this includes working with external agencies. More information can be found in the '**mental health and behaviour in schools guidance**', colleges may also wish to follow this guidance as best practice. Public Health England has produced a range of resources to support secondary school teachers to promote positive health, wellbeing and resilience among children. See '**Rise Above**' for links to all materials and lesson plans.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following their child protection policy and speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy.

Keeping Children safe in education – Sept 2021 - Annex B P123 contains important additional information about specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues. All staff who work directly with children should read this annex.

- **County lines**

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.¹ Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move and store drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

For a more comprehensive list of specific sources of harm, please refer to the practice guidance in HSCB guidelines and procedures
<http://hullscb.proceduresonline.com>

- **Preventing Radicalisation**

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a schools’ or colleges’ safeguarding approach.

- **Extremism** is the vocal or active opposition to 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. 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 many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home). However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children’s behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in

need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) making a Prevent referral.

7. Recognition of harm

Everybody working with children and families must be alert to the needs of children and any risks of harm - including to unborn children, babies, older children, young carers, children who are disabled, those with special educational needs, are living away from home or are Looked After by the local authority. All staff and volunteers should be able to recognise, and know how to act upon, evidence that a child's health or development is being impaired or that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm.

The harm or potential harm to a child may come to your attention in a number of possible ways.

- Information given to you by the child, his/ her friends, a family member or close associate.
- The child's behaviour may become different from the usual, be significantly different from the behaviour of their peers, be bizarre or unusual or may involve 'acting out' a harmful situation in play.
- An injury which arouses suspicion because;
 - It does not make sense when compared with the explanation given.
 - The explanations differ depending on who is giving them (e.g., differing explanations from the parent / carer and child).
 - The child appears anxious and evasive when asked about the injury.
 - They are a pre mobile baby with bruising.
- Suspicion being raised when a number of factors occur over time, for example, the child fails to progress and thrive in contrast to his/her peers.
- A young person having contact with an individual or individuals who have been identified as presenting a risk or potential risk of harm to children.
- The parent's behaviour before the birth of a child may indicate the likelihood of significant harm to an unborn child, for example substance misuse, or previous children removed from their carers.

Children with a social worker

At Thorpepark we recognise that when a child has a social worker, it is an indicator that the child is more at risk than most pupils. This may mean that they are more vulnerable to further harm, as well as facing educational barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and poor mental health. We take these needs into account when making plans to support pupils who have a social worker.

Children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities

All staff are aware that children with special educational needs and disabilities could have additional barriers that exist when recognising abuse and neglect. This could prevent them from keeping themselves safe and making disclosures. All staff are aware to be vigilant and to report any changes in behaviour or any concerns they may have to the Designated Safeguard Lead, Deputy or Child Protection Co-Ordinator.

Young carers

Children and young people under 18 who provide or intend to provide care assistance or support to another family member are called young carers. They carry out on a regular basis, significant or substantial caring tasks and assume a level of responsibility, which would usually be associated with an adult. The person receiving care is often a parent but can also be a sibling, grandparent or other relative who is disabled, has some chronic illness, mental health problem or other condition connected with a need for care support or supervision. Young carers can be particularly vulnerable and, under the Children and Families Act (2014) are entitled to an assessment of their own needs by the local authority.

Private Fostering

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

Parents and private foster carers both have a legal duty to inform the relevant local authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is due to start; not to do so is a criminal offence.

Whilst most privately fostered children are appropriately supported and looked after, they are a potentially vulnerable group who should be monitored by the local authority, particularly when the child has come from another country. In some cases, privately fostered children are affected by abuse and neglect, or be involved in trafficking, child sexual exploitation or modern-day slavery.

Schools have a mandatory duty to report to the local authority where they are aware or suspect that a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement. Although schools have a duty to inform the local authority, there is no duty for anyone, including the private foster carer or social workers to inform the school. However, it should be clear to the school who has parental responsibility.

School staff should notify the designated safeguarding lead when they become aware of private fostering arrangements. The designated safeguarding lead will speak to the family of the child involved to check that they are aware of their duty to inform the LA. The school itself has a duty to inform the local authority of the private fostering arrangements.

On admission to the school, we will take steps to verify the relationship of the adults to the child who is being registered.

8. Acting on concerns

No professional should assume that someone else will pass on information which they think may be critical to keeping a child safe. If a professional has concerns about a child's welfare and believes they are suffering or likely to suffer harm, then they have a responsibility to share the information with the Designated Safeguard Lead, Deputy or Child Protection Co-Ordinator. If not available to the local authority children's social care (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018). The NPCC document- When to call the police supports the DSL and SLT's understand of when they should consider calling the police and what to expect when they do.

Where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from harm, it is important that a referral to children's social care (and if appropriate the police) is made immediately.

For more information about actions for where there are concerns about a child, information sharing and effective communication see appendices 1,2 and 3)

Seeking Medical Attention

If a child has a physical injury, and there are concerns about abuse, medical attention should be sought immediately by telephoning for an ambulance, attending the Emergency Department or Minor Injury Unit (depending on the severity of the injury). The procedures for referring a child to Children's Social Care should then be followed. Any safeguarding concerns should be shared with the Ambulance staff/Medical and Nursing staff in order that they can appropriately assess and treat the child and share relevant information.

Contacting emergency services for urgent medical treatment must not be delayed for any reason.

Managing a disclosure

- Listen to what the child has to say with an open mind.
- Reassure the child that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.
- Do not ask probing or leading questions designed to get the child to reveal more.
- Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- Never give the impression that they are creating a problem reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- A victim should not ever be made to feel ashamed for making the report.
- Make note of the discussion, taking care to record the timing, setting and people present, as well as what was said.
- Do not ask children to write a statement.
- Never promise the child that what they have told you can be kept secret. Explain that you have responsibility to report what the child has said to someone else.
- The Designated Lead and Deputy for child protection or member of the Safeguarding Team within your organisation must be informed immediately.
- A verbal and written account needs to be completed on CPOMs to the Safeguarding Team with timings. This should be completed within 24 hours and should be a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern.
- CPOMs should always then record details of how the concern was followed up and resolved.
- CPOMs should then make a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

9. Referring concerns about a child

The Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will act on behalf of Thorpepark in referring concerns or allegations of harm to Local Authority Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH) or the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit. In the case of it being out of hours the Emergency Duty Team should be contacted.

If the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy is in any doubt about making a referral, they will contact Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH) for advice. The name of the child and family should be kept confidential at this stage and will be requested if the enquiry proceeds to a referral.

It is not the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy to undertake an investigation into the concerns or allegation of harm. It is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy to collate and clarify details of the concern or allegation and to provide this information to the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH), or Assessment, Locality Safeguarding Team if Children's Social Care is already involved, whose duty it is to make enquiries in accordance with Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

Consent

Issues of consent should always be considered.

Before making a referral, parents/carers must be informed that you are contacting Children's Social Care – including the reasons for you doing this – and be asked to give consent to the referral being made. This includes protecting a child from Significant Harm. **There are circumstances when it may be appropriate to dispense with the requirement to obtain consent to share information; this includes when:**

- Discussion with the parents/ carers could place the child or other family members at risk.
- The child is in immediate danger (e.g. requires medical attention)
- Discussion with parents / carers may place you or another member of staff at risk

It should be noted that when parents, carers or child may not agree to information being shared, but this does not prevent professionals from being able to make a referral where child protection concerns persist. When sharing information without consent it is important to record why any such decision has been made.

The Hull Safeguarding Children's Partnership Contact and Referral Form

All telephone referrals made by professionals should be followed, within 48 hours by a written referral giving specific and detailed information. A template Contact and Referral Form has been developed for this purpose.

If you have secure email the form should be sent to Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH) ehashgc@hullcc.gcsx.gov.

Early Help referrals are through the online portal. [www.hull.gov.uk/early.help.family-support](http://www.hull.gov.uk/early.help.family.support)

Expectation from feedback

Children's Social Care should acknowledge **a written referral within one working day** of receiving it. If the referrer has not received an acknowledgement within **3 working days**, they should contact Children's Social Care again.

10. Allegations against staff members, supply teachers / volunteers

If any member of staff, supply teacher or volunteer has concerns about the behaviour or conduct of another individual working within the group or organisation such as:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children. This could include children within the employee's workplace or outside of it, including their own children.
- Other conduct (in their personal life) which gives rise to concerns about suitability to work with children e.g. drug dealing or violence towards adults.

The nature of the allegation or concern should be reported to the Head of School or Chair of Governors for dealing with allegations within the organisation immediately.

The member of staff who has a concern or to whom an allegation or concern is reported should not question the child or investigate the matter further.

The Designated Officer for your organisation will report the matter to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Allegations against staff in their personal lives or which occur in the community.

If an allegation or concern arises about a member of staff, outside of their work with children, and this may present a risk of harm to child/ren for whom the member of staff is responsible, the general principles outlined in this policy will still apply.

If the member of staff lives in a different authority area to that which covers their workplace, liaison should take place between the relevant agencies in both areas and a joint Strategy Meeting / Discussion or Professional's Meeting should be held.

In some cases, an allegation of abuse against someone closely associated with a member of staff (e.g. partner, member of the family or other household member) may present a risk of harm to child/ren for whom the member of staff is responsible. In these circumstances, a Strategy or Professional's Meeting / Discussion should be held to consider:

- The ability and/or willingness of the member of staff to adequately protect the child/ren.
- Whether measures need to be put in place to ensure their protection.
- Whether the employment role of the member of staff is compromised.

11. Allegations of abuse made against other children

A child can be abused by other children. This is generally referred to as peer on peer abuse and can take many forms. Below is a list of possible types:

- Bullying, including cyberbullying
- Sexual violence
- Sexual harassment
- Physical abuse or causing physical harm
- Sexting

- Initiating/hazing type violence and rituals
- Upskirting

Peer on peer abuse should never be tolerated and should never be passed as ‘banter’ or ‘part of growing up’. It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and they will be supported and kept safe. If staff have a concern regarding a child or a child makes a report to them, they should follow the same referral process as stated in this policy in section 8. If it is felt that a criminal act has been committed this needs to be reported to the police. All acts of peer on peer abuse will be investigated and dealt with through the Safeguarding team as well as the Head of School and Deputy.

The school ensures children are knowledgeable and understand risks of abuse and harm, as well as what to do if it happens. This is through the school ethos, behaviour policy, assemblies, workshops and PSHE curriculum. The children are taught to care and respect each other.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of **any** age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same school or college. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.

It is essential that all victims are reassured 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 sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBT 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”
- challenging physical behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

12. Recruitment and selection

When recruiting paid staff and volunteers it is important to always follow the processes set out in the organisation's safer recruitment policy and the guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 document, Part three: Safer Recruitment P47. This will ensure potential staff and volunteers are screened for their suitability to work with children and young people.

Thorpepark recruitment policy

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) helps employers make safer recruitment decisions and prevents unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service/about>

A person who is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer or try to work or volunteer with those groups. If Thorpepark knowingly employs someone who is barred to work with those groups they will also be breaking the law. If there is an incident where a member of staff or volunteer has to be dismissed because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult, or would have been if they had not left, Thorpepark will notify the DBS.

Section 128

All management staff within the academy are checked against the Section 128 barring list held on the NCTL website.

13. Opportunities to teach safeguarding

The Thorpepark curriculum ensures that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, and we recognise that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all children.

Online safety

It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. Thorpepark Academy has an effective whole school approach to online safety which empowers the Academy to protect and educate children and staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.

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

- **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, 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 and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit 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 and 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.

Our Online Safety Policy reflects and considers the 4Cs (above) and provides the basis of the policy. For further information regarding online safety, please see the Online Safety Policy.

14. Contacts

Hull

Children's Social Care (Local Authority)

Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH) (01482) 448879

Emergency Duty Team (out of office hours) (01482) 300304

Local Authority Designated Officer (01482) 606112/790933

Protecting Vulnerable People Unit 101

Hull Safeguarding Children's Partnership (01482) 379090

www.hullsafeguardingchildren.co.uk

East Riding of Yorkshire

Children's Social Care (Local Authority)

Referrals (01482) 395500

For Help and Advice (01482) 393339

Emergency Duty Team (out of office hours) (01377) 241273

Local Authority Designated Officer (01482) 396999

Police Public Protection Team 101

East Riding Safeguarding Children Board (01482) 396998/9

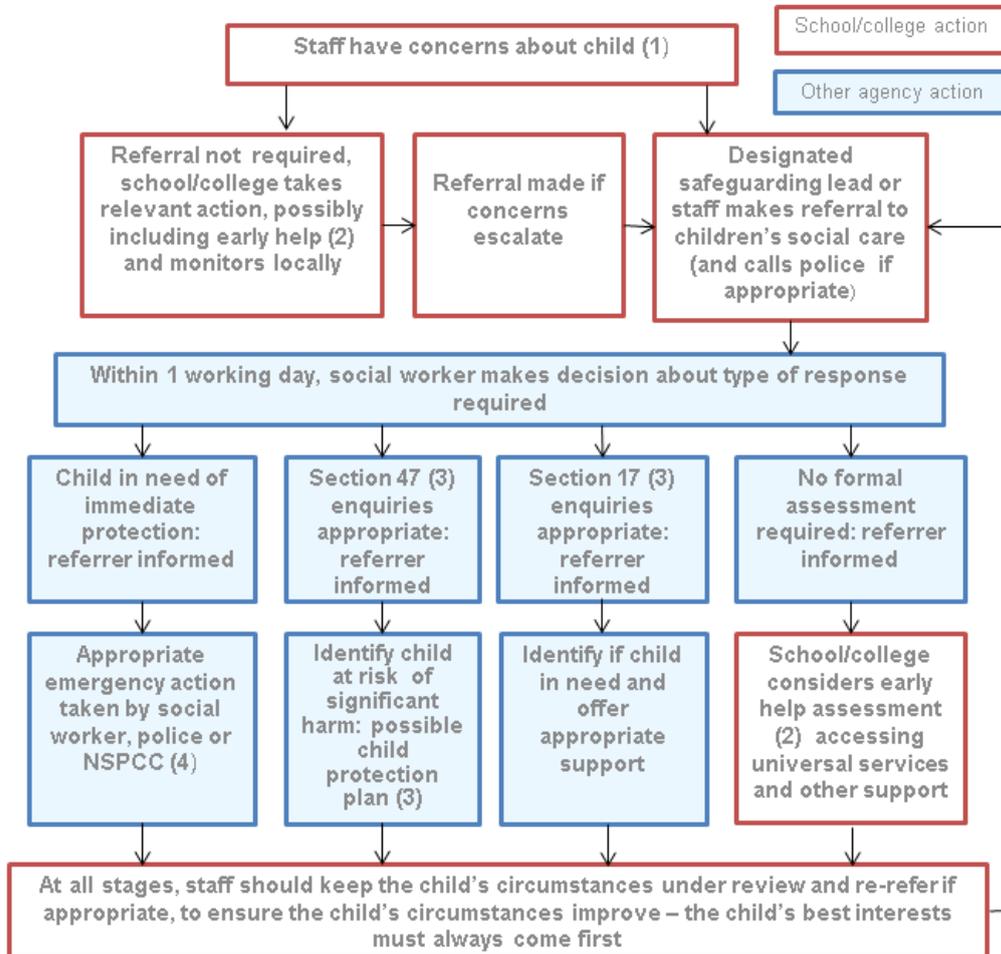
Appendix 1 – Actions where there are concerns about a child

Appendix 2 – Seven golden rules of information sharing

Appendix 3 – Consideration when contacting another agency

Appendix 1

Actions where there are concerns about a child



Appendix 2

Seven Golden rules of information sharing

Information sharing- Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (Department for Education, March 2015) has been produced to support practitioners in the decisions they take when sharing information to reduce the risk of harm to children and young people.

Below are the 7 golden rules of information sharing that this guidance recommends.

1. Remember that the Data Protection Act 1998 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.
2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. Seek advice from other practitioners if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.
4. Share with informed consent where appropriate and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is good reason to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be certain of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.
5. Consider safety and well-being: Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (see principles).
7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose

Appendix 3 - Considerations when Contacting another Agency/Service

1) Effective Communication between Agencies

Effective communication requires a culture of listening to and engaging in, dialogue within and across agencies. It is essential that all communication is as accurate and complete as possible and clearly recorded.

Accuracy is key; without it an effective decision cannot be made. Equally, inaccurate accounts can lead to children remaining unsafe, or to the possibility of wrongful actions being taken that affect children and adults

Before contacting another agency, think about why you are doing it, is it to:

- **Share Information**

To share information is the term used to describe the situation where practitioners use their professional judgement and experience on a case by case basis to decide whether and what personal information to share with other practitioners in order to meet the needs of a child or young person.

Decisions to request and share information must be considered in terms of whether they are necessary and proportionate.

- **Signpost to Another Service**

The definition to signpost is to indicate direction towards. It is an informal process whereby a professional or a family is shown in the direction of a service.

If someone is signposted to a service it is because accessing the service may enhance the family's quality of life, but there would be no increased risk to the child or young person should the service not be accessed.

No agency is responsible for the monitoring or recording of signposting.

- **Seek Advice and Guidance**

Seeking advice and guidance at any time, making a general query or perhaps consulting with a specialist colleague within your own organisation (or from another agency) may enhance the work that you are doing with a child, young person or family at any stage. It could be that you want further information about services available or that you want some specialist advice or perhaps need to consult about a particular issue or query for instance to ask if making a referral is appropriate.

The name of the child and family should be anonymised at this stage unless agreement to share the information has already been obtained.

It is vital that you record that you have sought information and advice in your own records. The agency you are contacting may not record this information, particularly if the case is not open or active with them. It should be agreed between agencies in this situation as to who records what information.

At the end of the conversation both parties must be clear about the next course of action.

- **Facilitate Access to a Service**

If you think that a family may benefit from a service then directing, signposting or facilitating is appropriate. For example, a family approaches your service and asks for some advice about leisure activities in the local area. You give them the information and directions to the nearest open access leisure centre.

- **Refer a Child or Family**

If you think that by not accessing a particular service, a child's situation could deteriorate then a referral is appropriate. However, a referral is only the start of the process. You as the referrer have a responsibility to monitor that the service has been taken up and the child's situation has improved.

Sometimes you may need to draw on other support services, for example when an intervention has not achieved the desired outcomes and the child/young person requires more specialist or sustained support.

A specific gap in services to meet a need or any level of concern warrants follow up and monitoring to ensure there is no risk to children.

At the end of the conversation both parties must be clear about the outcome and the next course of action.

2) Professional Differences

Where there are any professional differences about a particular decision, course of action or lack of action you should consult with a Senior Manager within your own organisation about next steps. [Resolving Interagency Disagreements Guidance](#)

3) Recording

Well-kept records about work with a child and his or her family provide an essential underpinning to good professional practice. Records should be clear, accessible and comprehensive, with judgements made and decisions and interventions carefully recorded. Where decisions have been taken jointly across agencies, or endorsed by a manager, this should be made clear.

You should record your decision and the reasons for it, whether or not you decide to share information. If the decision is to share, you should record what information was shared and with whom.

You should work within your agency's arrangements for recording information and within any local information sharing procedures in place. These arrangements and procedures must be in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998