

GIRLS' LEARNING TRUST CHILD PROTECTION POLICY 2022-2023

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Section 1: Introduction

We are committed to safeguarding children and young people, and we expect everyone who works in our schools to share this commitment. All adults in our schools take all welfare concerns seriously and encourage children and young people to talk to us about anything that is worrying them.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. To fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, always, what is in the **best interests** of the child.

No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information, and taking prompt action. Contextual safeguarding (safeguarding incidents outside the schools in the Trust) must also be considered when looking at individual cases. All assessments should include this wider picture.

All staff must have read and understood:

- Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2022)
- Code of Conduct
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti – Bullying Policy

School leaders and staff that work directly with children must have also read https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101457/KCSIE_2022_Part_One.pdf

All staff must also be aware of:

- The safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and
- The role of the designated lead (including the identity of the designated leads and any deputies)

"THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD IS PARAMOUNT"

The safety and welfare of our pupils is of the utmost importance, ensuring that they are protected from maltreatment, impairment of their mental and physical health or development and that they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care to achieve the best outcomes. We have created a culture of vigilance where pupils' welfare is actively promoted. Pupils are listened to and feel safe. We maintain an 'it could happen here' attitude.

We know children learn best when they are healthy, safe, and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the people caring for them. We aim to have schools which are welcoming, safe, and stimulating and where children can enjoy learning and grow in confidence. All necessary steps are taken to keep children safe and well.

Because of the day-to-day contact with children, our staff are trained to identify when a pupil may be at risk of harm and abuse, and they report their concerns immediately. We have a

duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils under the Education Act 2002 and Children Act 1989/2004 through identifying any child welfare concerns and taking action to address them in partnership with families and other agencies where appropriate.

Children are taught about safeguarding, including sensitive issues and online safety, through various teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. We use the curriculum to ensure that children and young people understand how people with extreme views share these with others, especially using the internet. All children are taught to recognise when they are at risk and how to get help when they need it.

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are taught a curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. Teaching the Trust's core values alongside the fundamental British Values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

Relevant issues for Trust will be taught through Relationships Education, Sex Education and Health Education

Please refer to each school's policy available on the relevant website alongside statutory guidance for more information:

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (DfE, 2019)

Section 2: Purpose and Aims

The elements in this policy and our procedures related to this aim to:

- Ensure safe recruitment practice in checking the suitability of all our staff and volunteers to work with children including the completion of risk assessments.
- Ensure staff are appropriately trained.
- Raise awareness of safeguarding/child protection issues amongst all staff, supply, agency, and volunteers and of what to do if they have concerns. This includes raising awareness of any current issues such as: Child abduction and community safety incidents; Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE); Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE); County lines; Children and the court system: Children missing in education (CME) Children with family members in prison; Cybercrime; Domestic abuse; Homelessness; Mental Health; Modern Slavery; Preventing Radicalisation; the Prevent duty; Channel, Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children; serious violence; So-Called 'honour' based abuse; FGM; Forced Marriage. (see Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022)
- Ensure that volunteers are appropriately supervised.
- Ensure that our procedures and expectations for identifying and reporting/recording cases, or suspected cases, of abuse to relevant agencies are robust.
- Ensure that our links with relevant agencies are effective and that we co-operate and work in a partnership regarding child protection matters, including attendance at case conferences and core group meetings.
- Ensure that the environment in each of our schools is safe and is one in which children feel secure and are encouraged to talk freely about anything that concerns them.
- Ensure that children know there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried about anything.

- Ensure that students have a safe space to talk to a trusted adult, where they can raise concerns.
- Ensure that the curriculum and other provision, including opportunities in the Health and Wellbeing/PSHE curriculum, develop and equip our pupils with the skills needed to feel safe and adopt safe practices to help them recognise risks and stay safe from abuse.
- Ensure that we support pupils who have been abused or may be at risk of harm in accordance with any agreed child protection plan.
- Ensure that we respond appropriately to any concern or allegation about a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure that staff follow accepted “safe practice” principles when working with pupils.
- Ensure that pupils are protected from all forms of harm.
- Ensure the Trust creates an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer concerns and to report concerns they have appropriately, for example where they or they have witnessed a situation which could be misinterpreted, may appear compromising or where behaviour may be considered as falling below the expected professional standards.

If there are Child Protection concerns, the **London Child Protection Procedures** (*London Safeguarding Children Board, 7th edition, 2022*) must be followed. This can be found at www.londoncp.co.uk. The Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) has adopted these procedures.

In addition to our overarching Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures, the following policies should also be considered:

Induction, SEN, Pupil Premium, Equality, Health and Safety, Safer Recruitment, Attendance, Behaviour, Anti-bullying, E-Safety, Positive

handling, Intimate Care, Drug and Alcohol, Medical, Healthy Relationships, Data Protection, Whistleblowing, Educational Visits and E-Safety (including the use of mobile devices).

Section 3: Links to other guidance

Although this list is not exhaustive, this policy and procedure also accords with:

Trust and school Policies can be found on each school website

Carshalton High School for Girls

<https://www.chsg.org.uk/page/?title=CHSG+%26amp%3B+GLT+Policies&pid=26>

Wallington High School

<https://www.wallingtongirls.sutton.sch.uk/page/?title=WHSG+Policies&pid=18>

Nonsuch High school

<http://www.nonsuchschool.org/39/policies>

- Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (DFE April 2011 –Updated April 2012)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-safer-recruitment-in-education>
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018 – Updated July 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2022)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (Updated July 2022)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework>
- Advice for Schools on the Prevent Duty (DfE July 2015 – Updated April 2021)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- Disqualification under the Child Care Act 2006 (August 2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006>
- Information sharing – Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents, and carers. (DfE July 2018)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1062969/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf
- What to do if you think a child is being abused (DfE March 2015)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf
- Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/section/26/enacted>
- Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003) Section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/9/part/5/crossheading/female-genital-mutilation/enacted>
- Female Genital Mutilation: Resource Pack (Updated August 2022)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>
- Regulated activity in relation to children (2012)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739154/Regulated_Activity_with_Children_in_England.pdf
- Teacher Status Checks – information for employers (Updated June 2021)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teacher-status-checks-information-for-employers>
- Children Missing Education: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (September 2016)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education>
- Child Sexual Exploitation – Definition, Guide and Annexes (DfE February 2017)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CSE_Guidance_Core_Document_13.02.2017.pdf
- Searching, screening and confiscation (DfE July 2022)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

- The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children (DfE February 2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>
- Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked-after children (DfE February 2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>
- Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance (Home Office, Feb 2020)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>
- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (May 2018) and the latest Data Protection Act (2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/data-protection>
<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>
- Data Protection Toolkit for Schools (Sept 2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-protection-toolkit-for-schools>
- Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools (DfE November 2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>
- Governance Handbook (Updated October 2020)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>
- Teaching online safety in schools DfE June 2019
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools>
- Education for a Connected World (June 2020)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-a-connected-world>
- Reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention (June 2019)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reducing-the-need-for-restraint-and-restrictive-intervention>
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (DfE, 2019 – Updated September 2021)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>
- Positive environments where children can flourish (2018 – Updated October 2021)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/positive-environments-where-children-can-flourish>
- Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance (Updated December 2021)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

- Safeguarding and remote education (Updated March 2021)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education>
- When to call the police – Guidance for Colleges and Schools (NSPCC)
<https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/Children%20and%20Young%20people/When%20to%20call%20police%20guidance%20for%20schools%20and%20colleges.pdf>
- Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people (23rd December 2020) Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, UK Council for Internet Safety.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>
- Guidance for Safer Working Practice for professionals working in education settings (Updated April 2020)
<https://c-cluster-110.uploads.documents.cimpress.io/v1/uploads/d71d6fd8-b99e-4327-b8fd-1ac968b768a4~110/original?tenant=vbu-digital>

Section 4: Safer Recruitment

The safe recruitment of staff in our schools is the first step to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in education.

In our recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers we will always adhere to the government guidance contained within “*Working Together to Safeguard Children*” (July 2018 – Updated July 2022) and ‘*Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE 2022).

We will ensure that:

- For good practice, our interview panel includes at least one member who has completed safer recruitment training,
- that we always follow up gaps in previous employment,
- that we always require specific references from employers for the last 5 years
- that for all posts, paid and voluntary, the appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) information has been received.
- In addition to obtaining the DBS certificate, anyone who is employed to teach will undergo an additional check to ensure that they are not prohibited from teaching.
- We consider carrying out online checks for shortlisted candidates

Please refer to our Safer Recruitment Policy (Appendix G) for further information.

Section 5: Contractors and Outside Agencies

We expect all contractors providing services for the Trust whose staff have access to school premises to comply with this policy and the attached procedure, as well as the staff code of conduct. The contractor or individual must agree to this in writing.

We require any contractor or organisation delivering a service on behalf of the Trust or using our premises to provide evidence they adhere to the above requirements in terms of

recruitment, selection, training and supervision of their staff and any volunteers, in particular DBS information.

Contractors engaging in regulated activity will require an enhanced DBS certificate (including barred list information). For all other contractors who are not engaging in regulated activity, but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children, an enhanced DBS check will be required (not including barred list information).

Under no circumstances will a contractor in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity.

If a contractor working at one of our schools is self-employed, the school will consider obtaining the DBS check, as self-employed people are not able to make an application directly to the DBS on their own account.

The identity of contractors and their staff will be checked on arrival at the school.

This policy and procedure will also apply to any organisation using Trust facilities. They must agree to this in writing.

Where the governing body hires or rents out the school facilities/premises to organisations or individuals (for example to community groups, sports associations, and service providers to run community or extra-curricular activities) they will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to keep children safe. The governing body will seek assurance that the body concerned has received relevant safeguarding training and that appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place (including inspecting these as needed); and ensure that there are arrangements in place to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate. The governing body will also ensure safeguarding requirements are included in any transfer of control agreement (i.e., lease or hire agreement), as a condition of use and occupation of the premises; and that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement.

Section 6: Site Security

All people on the site must adhere to the guidelines within this policy. Laxity can cause potential safeguarding issues to arise. Therefore:

- Gates should be locked at breaktimes and lunchtimes to external visitors unless opened for specific supervised events.
- All Exit Doors should be closed to prevent intrusion.
- The Trust will not request DBS checks and barred list checks, or ask to see DBS certificates, for visitors (for example children's relatives or other visitors attending a sports day). The Headteacher will use his/her professional judgment about the need to escort or supervise visitors.
- For visitors who are attend in a professional capacity, their ID will be checked, and assurance will be sought that the visitor has had the appropriate DBS check (or that the visitor's employers have confirmed that their staff have appropriate checks).
- Children will only be allowed home with adults with parental responsibility or confirmed permission.
- Children should never be allowed to leave a school alone during school hours without explicit parental permission or collection by an adult, Students leaving the site must be signed out.

- Should a child leave the premises without permission then staff have been informed never to chase after a child, but rather to report immediately to the office. Then parents and police will be informed of the circumstances.
- All visitors are required to sign in at the main reception where they will be given a visitor's badge or sticker to use as ID for their visit. This will be returned to the main reception on departure.

Section 7: Data Protection – Information and Records

The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent or limit the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. This includes allowing practitioners to share information without consent.

All staff must maintain records and obtain and share information (with parents, carers, other professionals working with the child, police, social services, and Ofsted as appropriate) to ensure safe and efficient management of the schools within the Trust, and to help ensure the needs of all children are met. All staff must enable a regular two-way flow of information between parents and school.

Confidential information and records about children are held securely and only accessible and available to those who have a right or professional need to see them. The Head teacher is aware of responsibilities under the latest Data Protection Act in England, including those imposed under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) passed by the European Union. As a Trust we believe that protecting the data we hold about our children is a fundamental part of our safeguarding process and treats this information with as much importance as protecting the child themselves.

All staff understand the need to protect the privacy of the children in their care as well as the legal requirements that exist to ensure that information relating to the child is handled in a way to ensure confidentiality. Parents and carers are given access to all records about their child provided that no relevant exemptions (information which could cause harm to the child or any other individual) apply to their disclosure under the DPA.

The GDPR imposes more stringent requirements on entities that deal with people's personal data. This applies to all personally identifiable information held on staff, children, and parents. We are fully committed to ensuring that it upholds the new rights granted to a person under the GDPR. Parents and carers should be aware that there are legal requirements that supersede data protection regulations. The Trust required to share data with certain agencies under legal obligations.

Section 8: Definition of Safeguarding and Child Protection

Safeguarding: is about every child

In relation to children and young people, safeguarding and promoting their welfare is defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2022) as:

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

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

Child Protection: relates to any child or young person (i.e., under 18 years of age) who has suffered from, or may be at risk of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, neglect.

Section 9: The four main forms of abuse

All staff should be aware that abuse, neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another.

Abuse: form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse. 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 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.

Sexual abuse: 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. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue (also known as Child-on-Child Abuse) in education and all staff should be aware of it and of the trust's policy and 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, for example, 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 caregivers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

[LSCB_NeglectPracticeToolkit_A4.pdf \(suttonlsc.org.uk\)](https://www.suttonlsc.org.uk/LSCB_NeglectPracticeToolkit_A4.pdf)

[Experiences of neglect by Howarth's classifications - A3 Poster.pdf \(suttonlsc.org.uk\)](https://www.suttonlsc.org.uk/Experiences_of_neglect_by_Howarth's_classifications_-_A3_Poster.pdf)

For more information, go to: <https://tacklechildabuse.campaign.gov.uk>

Section 10: Specific Safeguarding Issues

Safeguarding action may be needed to protect children and learners from specific safeguarding issues such as:

- Child abduction and community safety incidents;
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE);
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE);
- County lines;
- Children and the court system:
- Children missing in education (CME)
- Children with family members in prison;
- Cybercrime;
- Domestic abuse;
- Homelessness;
- Mental Health;
- Modern Slavery;
- Preventing Radicalisation;
- The Prevent duty;
- Channel,
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children;
- Serious violence;
- So-Called 'honour' based abuse;
- FGM;
- Forced Marriage.
- Breast Ironing

Please note this is not an exhaustive list – but are an indicator of some of the key issues of which staff may become aware.

See: Appendix A for further safeguarding definitions

Local Safeguarding Priorities

The schools within the Girls Learning Trust recruit students from across multiple boroughs including Sutton, Croydon and Merton. The safeguarding needs of our students vary greatly, staff are vigilant for warning signs and are provided with regular training opportunities across safeguarding themes, including CSE, County Lines, FGM, Online safety, Mental Health,

Sexual Violence and Harassment, Sexual, Physical and Emotional Abuse and Domestic Abuse. All schools work closely with the borough services and engage in regular borough updates and briefings.

Section 11: Early Help

Every family can go through difficult or challenging times at some point during their lives. If you are aware of a family that is experiencing problems, they may require support to help them to deal with difficult situations and make things better. Early Help services and support should be offered as soon as a problem or difficulty starts. This is to stop things from getting worse, and to make sure that the family gets the help that they need. The Early Help Assessment Tool (EHAT) is used to find out about the family so that we can understand the difficulties that they may be experiencing. The EHAT is used when a family would like support to help them with a difficulty; when a professional working with a family recognises that they may require extra support; when a family have lots of professionals working with them and services and information needs to be organised to help make things clearer for them, where the needs of the family are unknown or unmet. The EHAT is entirely consent based and the family can decide at any point that they no longer wish to engage with the process. An EHAT is confidential except where there is a risk of serious harm to a child or young person.

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.

All staff should be prepared to identify children who may benefit from **Early Help**. 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. In the first instance staff should discuss early help requirements with the designated safeguarding lead. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment.

Any child may benefit from early help, but all staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs.
- has special educational needs (whether 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 modern slavery, trafficking, sexual or criminal exploitation.
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited.
- has a family member in prison or is affected by parental offending.
- 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.

- is at risk of 'honour'-based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage.
- is a privately fostered child; and
- is persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day.
- Early Help for families and professionals - Sutton Council
<https://www.sutton.gov.uk/early-help-for-families-and-professionals>

Section 12: Mental Health

We aim to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for our whole community; pupils, staff, parents, and careers, and recognise how important mental health and emotional wellbeing is. We recognise that children's mental health is a crucial factor in their overall wellbeing and can affect their learning and achievement. Through a whole-school approach, we actively seek to promote emotional health and wellbeing by helping pupils to understand their feelings and the feelings of others.

Our role in the Trust is to help our students to succeed and reach their potential by supporting them to be resilient and mentally healthy. We also have a role to ensure that pupils learn about what they can do to maintain positive mental health, what affects their mental health, how they can help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues and where they can go if they need help and support.

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

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 behavior 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.

Schools have an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their pupils.

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. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure they have clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible mental health problems, including routes to escalate and clear referral and accountability systems. Schools can access a range of advice to help them identify children in need of extra mental health support, this includes working with external agencies.

If you have a concern regarding the Mental Health of a child, contact your Designated Safeguarding Lead or Head of Year immediately to enable the required support to be put in place as soon as possible.

See: Appendix B for further definitions

Section 13: Children Missing in Education (CME) and Elective Home Education (EHE)

Knowing where children are during school hours is an extremely important aspect of Safeguarding. Missing school can be an indicator of abuse and neglect and may also raise concerns about others safeguarding issues, including the criminal exploitation of children.

We monitor attendance carefully and address poor or irregular attendance without delay. We will always follow up with parents/carers when pupils are not at school. This means we need to have at least two up to date contacts numbers for parents/carers. Parents should remember to update the school as soon as possible if the numbers change.

Please note this is different to children who leave the school premises. If this happens, call the police, and follow the child where possible, do not chase.

In response to the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2022) the Trust has:

1. Staff who understand what to do when children do not attend regularly
2. Appropriate policies, procedures and responses for pupils who go missing from education (especially on repeat occasions).
3. Staff who know the signs and triggers for travelling to conflict zones as well as an awareness of breast-ironing and honour-based abuse (including FGM and forced marriage).
4. Procedures to inform the local authority when we plan to take pupils off-roll when they:
 - a. leave school to be home educated
 - b. move away from the school's location
 - c. remain medically unfit beyond compulsory school age
 - d. are in custody for four months or more (and will not return to school afterwards); or
 - e. are permanently excluded

We will ensure that pupils who are expected to attend the school but fail to take up the place will be referred to the local authority.

When children are added to the admissions register, each school must record the expected start date of the pupil. If the young person does not arrive on the start date, the appropriate school should contact the local authority at the earliest opportunity. For admissions to the school, apart from at the "start of the school's youngest year", schools are required to notify the local authority "within five days when a pupil's name is added to the admission register and provide all the information held within the admission register about the pupil".

When a pupil leaves the school, the admission register must also record:

- the name of the pupil's new school; and
- the expected start date at the new school

Each school must inform the local authority and supply the following information:

- the full name of the pupil.
- the full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil lives.

- at least two contact telephone numbers for the child.
- if applicable, the full name and address of the parent with whom the pupil is going to live, and the date the pupil is expected to start living there.
- the name of pupil's destination school and the pupil's expected start date there, if applicable; and
- the grounds under which the pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register.

If this information is not provided by the parent or carer, then a Child Missing in Education (CME) form is completed and sent to the local authority.

LBS Guidance on Children Missing Education – [Children Missing Education – Cognus](#)

Elective Home Education

When a parent/carers expresses their intention to remove a child from their current school with a view to educating at home, we will make it clear that this is not a decision we would ever recommend. We will liaise with other professionals to coordinate further discussion with parents/carers where possible. This will be particularly important where a child has SEND, is vulnerable, and/or has a social worker. Where the decision to home educate raises safeguarding concerns the DSL (or deputies) will seek further advice from Children's Social Care.

LBS Guidance on Elective Home Education [Elective Home Education – Cognus](#)

Section 14: Attendance

Please see relevant school websites for attendance and punctuality policies

Carshalton High School for Girls

<https://www.chsg.org.uk/page/?title=CHSG+%26amp%3B+GLT+Policies&pid=26>

Wallington High School

<https://www.wallingtongirls.sutton.sch.uk/page/?title=WHSG+Policies&pid=18>

Nonsuch High school

<http://www.nonsuchschool.org/39/policies>

LBS Guidance on School Attendance - [School Attendance – Cognus](#)

Section 15: Looked After Children (LAC)

The designated lead staff and governors are also responsible for Looked after Children. All looked after children have a Personal Education Plan (PEP), which is part of the child's care plan. This is reviewed termly. Advice and support are available through the virtual school and virtual head teacher.

Sutton Virtual School Guidance [Sutton Virtual School – Cognus](#)

Section 16: Previously Looked After Children (Post-LAC)

The designated lead staff and governors are also responsible for Previously Looked-After Children.

A previously looked-after child is one who is no longer looked after in England and Wales because s/he is the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or when the child is to live with any person, or has been adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales; and a child is in 'state care' outside England and Wales if s/he is in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other organisation the sole or main purpose of which is to benefit society.

Post-LAC support arrangements are distinct to those for LAC and are responsive to the needs of the child and family using the appropriate school support systems which will include PPG but not the PEP process.

We aim to help raise previously looked-after children's parents' and guardians' awareness of the PP+ and other support for previously looked-after-children – this includes encouraging parents of eligible previously looked-after-children to tell the school if their child is eligible to attract PP+ funding; and play a key part in decisions on how the PP+ is used to support previously looked after children.

As a Trust we recognise that not all Post-LAC are underachieving, while some may be underachieving and not eligible for funding. We plan to use our funding creatively to support any individual in which any area of under-performance is evident.

For further information on use of Pupil Premium funding please visit the relevant schools website

Section 17: Internet Filtering and Monitoring

Access to the internet in our schools is carefully monitored. This is made clear to all users through written statements where access is available, including on information displaying guest wireless access.

Girls Learning Trust IT policy:

<https://www.wallingtongirls.sutton.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=62&type=pdf>

Section 18: Online Safety

Online Safety Policies for each School can be found on the school website

Carshalton High School for Girls

<https://www.chsg.org.uk/page/?title=CHSG+%26amp%3B+GLT+Policies&pid=26>

Wallington High School

<https://www.wallingtongirls.sutton.sch.uk/page/?title=WHSG+Policies&pid=18>

Nonsuch High school

<http://www.nonsuchschool.org/39/policies>

Students are specifically taught about safe use of the internet. Our policy is not to block

everything and only allow children access to certain sites – they need to be taught what is acceptable and what is unacceptable, and what to do when they feel ‘uncomfortable’.

When Students use the network to access the internet, they are protected from inappropriate content by our filtering and monitoring systems. However, **some** pupils are able to access the internet on their own devices using their own data plan. To minimise inappropriate use, pupils are supervised and guided carefully when engaged in learning activities involving online technology. Online safety education is embedded within the curriculum and pupils are taught how to use online technology safely and responsibly.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, all pupils will be made aware of online risks and taught how to stay safe online.

Through training all staff members will be made aware of the following:

- Pupil attitudes and behaviours which may indicate that they are at risk of potential harm online.
- The procedure to follow when they have a concern regarding a pupil’s online activity.

As schools increasingly work online, it is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material, including when they are online at home. Appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems should be in place. Where children are being asked to learn online at home, the Department for Education has provided advice to support schools and colleges to do so safely.

Section 19: Mobile Phone and Camera Safety

Acceptable use of mobile devices is different in each of our schools, please refer to schools behaviour and online safety policies for further information

Section 20: Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) or certain health conditions

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

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child’s condition without further exploration.
- these children being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children.
- the potential for children with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges

In our Trust we identify pupils who might need more support to be kept safe or to keep themselves safe. We do this in the following ways:

- Children will have a familiar adult to support with communication through simple language.
- Extra pastoral support is considered for children with SEN and disabilities.
- Use of visual aids and sign language to support understanding where required.
- Use of a familiar Speech and Language therapist to ensure that questioning and answers are put in a manner accessible to the child.
- Children are carefully monitored and observed to provide a full picture of their behaviour and mannerism so that any changes are noted, and a comparison can be made.
- The use of body maps, visuals and sign language are used to allow children to communicate their needs or concerns.
- The use of social stories is regularly used to support appropriate and inappropriate behaviour – such as bullying and keeping safe.
- Intervention groups teach children how to communicate and explain appropriate and inappropriate behaviour.

When required to use reasonable force to calm a situation, 'reasonable' means 'using no more force than is needed'. Individual plans for vulnerable children will be drawn up to reduce the use of force.

Section 21: Recognition/Signs of Abuse

The first indication of concern about a pupil's welfare is not necessarily the presence of a serious injury. Many other signs, could be an indication of abuse, these may include:

- Children whose behaviour changes – they may become aggressive, challenging, disruptive, withdrawn, or clingy, or they might have difficulty sleeping or start wetting the bed
- Children with clothes which are ill-fitting and/or dirty
- Children with consistently poor hygiene
- Children who make strong efforts to avoid specific family members or friends, without an obvious reason
- Children who don't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities
- Children who are having problems at school, for example, a sudden lack of concentration and learning or they appear to be tired and hungry
- Children who change friendships or have relationships with older individuals or groups
- Children who have a significant decline in performance
- Children who show signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing
- Children who show signs of assault or unexplained injuries
- Children who have unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Children who talk about being left home alone, with inappropriate carers or with strangers
- Children who fail reach developmental milestones, such as learning to speak or walk, late, with no medical reason
- Children who are regularly missing from school or home

- Children who are missing from education
- Children who are reluctant to go home after school
- Children with poor school attendance and punctuality, or who are consistently late being picked up
- Parents who are dismissive and non-responsive to practitioners' concerns
- Parents who collect their children from school when drunk, or under the influence of drugs
- Children who drink alcohol regularly from an early age
- Children who are concerned for younger siblings without explaining why
- Children who talk about running away
- Children who shy away from being touched or flinch at sudden movements.

(Please note this is not an exhaustive list)

Section 22: Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

(See Appendix D for Designated Staff details)

Safeguarding is a standing item on all governing board meetings. The designated teacher and designated governor meet termly. The Trust CEO meets termly with the DSLs from all Trust schools.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has a responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection. Key responsibilities are:

Manage referrals

The designated safeguarding lead (or deputies) will refer cases:

- of suspected abuse and neglect to the local authority children's social care as required and support staff who make referrals to local authority children's social care.
- to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required and support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme.
- where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required; and
- where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required.
- [LSCP Sutton Threshold Guidance Oct 2020.pdf \(suttonlscp.org.uk\)](https://www.suttonlscp.org.uk/LSCP_Sutton_Threshold_Guidance_Oct_2020.pdf)

Working with others

The designated safeguarding lead (or deputies) will:

- act as a source of support, advice, and expertise for all staff.
- act as a point of contact with the safeguarding partners.
- liaise with the Headteacher inform him or her of issues- especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations. This includes being aware of the requirement for children to have an Appropriate Adult.

- as required, liaise with the “case manager” and the local authority designated officer(s) (LADO) for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member.
- liaise with staff (especially teachers, pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians, senior mental health leads and special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs), and Senior Mental Health Leads) on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies so that children’s needs are considered holistically.
- liaise with the senior mental health lead and, where available, the Mental Health Support Team, where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health.
- promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances.
- work with the Headteacher and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on children’s attendance, engagement, and achievement at school. This includes:
 - ensuring that the school knows who its cohort of children who have or have had a social worker are, understanding their academic progress and attainment, and maintaining a culture of high aspirations for this cohort; and,
 - supporting teaching staff to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help children who have or have had a social worker reach their potential, recognising that even when statutory social care intervention has ended, there is still a lasting impact on children’s educational outcomes.
 - From June 2021, the Virtual Headteacher has a responsibility to promote the education of children who have a social worker and regular conversations should be had to share the relevant information and to enable every opportunity for the child to reach their full potential.

Information sharing and managing the child protection file

The designated safeguarding lead in each of our schools is responsible for ensuring that child protection files are kept up to date.

Information should be kept confidential and stored securely. Concerns and referrals will be kept in a separate child protection file for each child. All concern and records regarding safeguarding and child protection should be recorded on Cpoms

Records will include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern.
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved.
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

The file will only be accessed by those who need to see it.

Where children leave the school (including in year transfers) the designated safeguarding lead will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible, and within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term. The child protection file will be transferred separately from the main student file, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.

Receiving schools and colleges should ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads and SENCOs or the named person with oversight for SEN in colleges, are aware as required.

In addition to the child protection file, the designated safeguarding lead will also consider if it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving to help them put in place the right support to safeguard this child and to help the child thrive in the school or college.

Raising Awareness

The designated safeguarding lead (or deputies) will:

- ensure each member of staff has access to, and understands, the school's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part-time staff.
- ensure the school's child protection policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies or proprietors regarding this.
- ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents and carers are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school in this.
- link with the safeguarding partner arrangements to make sure staff are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies on local safeguarding arrangements; and
- help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children who have or have had a social worker are experiencing with teachers and school leadership staff.

Training, knowledge, and skills

The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) will undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. The designated safeguarding lead will undertake Prevent awareness training. Training should provide designated safeguarding leads with a good understanding of their own role, how to identify, understand and respond to specific needs that can increase the vulnerability of children, as well as specific harms that can put children at risk, and the processes, procedures, and responsibilities of other agencies, particularly children's social care, so they:

- understand the assessment process for providing early help and statutory intervention, including local criteria for action and local authority children's social care referral arrangements.
- have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- understand the importance of the role the designated safeguarding lead has in providing information and support to children social care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- understand the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have, including on children's behaviour, mental health, and wellbeing, and what is needed in responding to this in promoting educational outcomes.
- are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), those with relevant health conditions and young carers.

- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations, and practitioners.
- understand and support the school with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and are able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- are able to understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at school or college.
- can recognise the additional risks that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support children with SEND to stay safe online.
- obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses; and,
- encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school may put in place to protect them.

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

Providing support to staff

Training will support the designated safeguarding lead in developing expertise, so they can support and advise staff and help them feel confident on welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters. This includes specifically to:

- ensure that staff are supported during the referrals processes; and
- support staff to consider how safeguarding, welfare and educational outcomes are linked, including to inform the provision of academic and pastoral support.

Understanding the views of children

It is important that children feel heard and understood. Therefore, designated safeguarding leads should be supported in developing knowledge and skills to:

- encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, and in any measures the school or college may put in place to protect them; and
- understand the difficulties that children may have in approaching staff about their circumstances and consider how to build trusted relationships which facilitate communication.

Holding and sharing information

The designated safeguarding lead will be equipped to:

- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school, and with other schools and colleges on transfer including in-year and between primary and secondary education, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations, and practitioners.

- understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR); and
- be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals and understand the purpose of this record-keeping.
- The most important consideration is whether sharing information is likely to safeguard and protect a child. The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. This includes allowing practitioners to share information without consent Where there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner.
- **The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.**

If the DSL is not available, staff should speak to a member of the SLT/take advice from local children's social care and/or contact a member of the Education Safeguarding Team.

Section 23: The Role of Individual Staff/ The Role of Trustees and Governors

Individual Staff

The Teachers' Standards 2012 state that teachers (which includes Headteachers) should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn. All staff should be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help.

All members of staff should be aware of systems within the schools which support safeguarding, and these will be explained to them as part of staff induction. This includes: the school's child protection policy (including the policy and procedures to deal with Child-on-Child Abuse); the behaviour policy (including measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); staff behaviour policy (sometimes called a code of conduct); safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and the role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies).

All members of staff will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) at induction. The training should be regularly updated. In addition, all staff will receive safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, and staff meetings), as required, and at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

All relevant members of staff should be aware of their local early help process and understand their role in it.

All staff should be aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, especially section 17 (children in need) and section 47 (a child suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm) that may follow a referral, along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments.

All staff should know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused, exploited, or neglected. Staff should know how to manage the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality. This means only involving those who need to be involved, such as the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) and children's social care. Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of any form of abuse, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.

All staff should be able to 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.

Trustees and Governors

The Trust Board has strategic leadership accountability for the school's safeguarding arrangements and must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must ensure that policies, procedures, and training in schools is effective and always complies with the law. The Trust HR Committee is responsible for determining Trust procedures for safer recruitment of staff and undertaking an annual

safeguarding audit of safer recruitment procedures across the Trust. This committee is also Responsible for maintaining the Single Central Register for the schools in the Trust.

In accordance with the GLT Scheme of Delegation, the Local Governing Body is responsible for determining any local procedures for safeguarding in line with the Trust policy. The Governing Body is also responsible for undertaking an annual safeguarding audit of the school.

The Governing Body will appoint a Safeguarding Lead and Deputy to take leadership responsibility for their school's or college's safeguarding arrangements.

The Governing Body will ensure that all governors and trustees receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in the school are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole school approach to safeguarding. Their training should be regularly updated.

Whilst considering their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provide them with a safe environment in which to learn, the Governing Body will do all that they reasonably can to limit children's exposure to the above risks from the school's IT system. As part of this process, the Governing Body should ensure the school has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness. They should ensure that the leadership team and relevant staff have an awareness and understanding of the provisions in place and manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns when identified. The Governing Body should consider the age range of the children, the number of children, how often they access the IT system and the proportionality of costs versus safeguarding risks.

Section 24: Training

Induction training is mandatory and must also include:

- the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and procedures.
- the Behaviour Policy.
- the Staff Code of Conduct.
- the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and
- the role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies).

All staff will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. All staff also receive training in data protection matters to ensure that they are kept up to date with their duties and obligations to protect information about the children in the school.

Safer Recruitment training is available to all relevant staff and governors who are involved in the recruitment process.

A record is kept of staff safeguarding training – type of training and dates which is recorded alongside the single central record(SCR)

The SCR should be checked regularly by a member of the DSL and Head Teacher. Governors must also have assurance that these checks are regularly being carried out and can choose to assist in this process.

Section 25: Confidentiality of Records

Our pupils and their parents/carers have the right to expect that all staff will deal sensitively and sympathetically with their situation. It is important that information is only available to those who need to know it. Parents/carers and where appropriate pupils should be told their right to confidentiality may be breached if information comes to light suggesting possible harm to a child. Safeguarding/Child Protection issues relating to individual cases **must not** be subject to open discussion in the staff room or elsewhere in the school.

All personally identifiable information will be kept securely, following the school's obligations under the latest Data Protection Act in England and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) set down by the European Union.

Members of staff should also remember not to promise to pupils to keep “secrets” (see *procedure below*).

Section 26: Working with Children

We recognise that children, who are abused, neglected, or who witness either of these things, may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation, and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure, and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will support pupils and enable them to feel safe through:

- the content of the curriculum.
- each schools ethos which promotes a positive, supportive, and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- each schools behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school - the school will ensure the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable, but they are valued and not blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social services, the child and adolescent mental health service, the borough school attendance service, and the educational psychology service; and
- ensuring that, where a pupil with a child protection plan leaves the school, their information is transferred to any new school immediately and that the social worker is informed.

Section 27: Allegations involving Staff including Supply/Agency/Volunteers

- Allegations or concerns about a member of staff, worker or volunteer must immediately be notified to the appropriate Headteacher of the school concerned (or the CEO if the concern is about the Headteacher). This guidance should be followed where it is alleged that anyone working within the Trust including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors has:
 - behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child and/or;
 - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
 - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
 - behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.
- The Headteacher (or Chair of Governors) will always consult the Designated Officers (in Sutton, this person is still known as the Local Authority Designated Officer or LADO) within one working day. The LADO will conduct any investigation, convene an Allegations Against Staff/Volunteers Meeting (ASV) and involve other agencies as appropriate
- Following consultation, the Headteacher (or CEO) will decide on appropriate action, which may include consideration of disciplinary proceedings
- It is important to bear in mind that although the concern may relate to an individual student, other students may also be at risk
- The Trust will promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the Trust (including supply teachers, volunteers, and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately. This should encourage an open and transparent culture; enable each school to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of the school are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of all of our schools.

Allegations or concerns about an adult working in one of our schools whether as a teacher, supply teacher, other staff, volunteers, or contractors

We recognise the possibility that adults working in the one of our schools may harm children, including governors, volunteers, supply teachers and agency staff. Any concerns about the conduct of other adults should be taken to the headteacher without delay; any concerns about the headteacher should go to the CEO, who can be contacted by email.

Any concerns about the conduct of a member of staff, supply teachers, volunteers or contractors should be reported to the headteacher.

Concerns may come from various sources, for example, a suspicion; complaint; or disclosure made by a child, parent, or other adult within or outside of the organisation; or as a result of vetting checks undertaken.

The headteacher must decide whether the concern is an allegation or low-level concern. The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the threshold for referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) (see below).

Allegations

It is an allegation if the person* has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child and/or;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children (also includes behaviour outside the school).

(*Person could be anyone working in the Trust that provides education for children under 18 years of age, including supply teachers, volunteers, and contractors.)

Allegations should be reported to the LADO 'without delay'.

Before contacting the LADO, Headteachers should conduct basic enquiries in line with local procedures to establish the facts to help them determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation, being careful not to jeopardise any future police investigation.

The LADO's role is not to investigate the allegation, but to ensure that an appropriate investigation is carried out, whether that is by the police, children's social care, the school or the Trust, or a combination of these.

Low-level Concerns

Concerns may be graded Low-level if the concern does not meet the criteria for an allegation; and the person* has acted in a way that is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work.

If the Headteacher in any doubt as to whether the information which has been shared about a member of staff as a low-level concern in fact meets the harm threshold, they should consult with their LADO.

If the concern has been raised via a third party, the headteacher should collect as much evidence as possible by speaking:

- directly to the person who raised the concern unless it has been raised anonymously.
- to the individual involved and any witnesses.

Reports about supply staff and contractors should be notified to their employers, so any potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

Staff should be encouraged and feel confident to self-refer, where, for example, they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising

to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.

Low-level concerns should be recorded in writing, including:

- name* of individual sharing their concerns
- details of the concern
- context in which the concern arose
- action taken

(* if the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible)

Records must be kept confidential, held securely, and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 by the Headteacher. Schools and colleges should decide how long they retain such information, but it is recommended that it is kept at least until the individual leaves their employment.

Records should be reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

If a concerning pattern of behaviour is identified and now meets the criteria for an allegation, then the matter should be referred to the LADO.

The records' review might identify that there are wider cultural issues within the school or college that enabled the behaviour to occur. This might mean that policies or processes could be revised, or extra training delivered to minimise the risk of it happening again.

<https://www.farrer.co.uk/globalassets/clients-and-sectors/safeguarding/low-level-concerns-guidance-2020.pdf>

- The procedures in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (*DfE, September 2022*), 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (*HM Government, July 2018 – amended 2022*) and the Sutton Local Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures will be followed in all such cases
- When appropriate (*see guidance above*), consideration will be given to referral of a member of staff to the DBS for consideration of the case
- If a member of staff believes a reported allegation or concern is not being dealt with appropriately, they should report the matter to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to give support and direction on how to proceed
- [LADO Protocol 2021.pdf \(suttonlscp.org.uk\)](#)

Section 28: Allegations against other children

- If an allegation of abuse is made against other children by children, then this must be reported immediately, in accordance with this policy.
- This will then be reported to the Children's First Contact Service (CFCS) if threshold is met or if the Child is not a Sutton resident the relevant Local Authority equivalent service, by a designated person or deputy designated person.
- Abuse or concerns about a risk of abuse or harm by other children/young people is subject to the same safeguarding procedures as in respect of children or young people being abused by an adult.
- Professionals responding should be alert to the risk a child/young person may pose to

- children/young people other than any 'current' victim; and
- Children or young people who harm others are likely to have considerable needs themselves (e.g., they may have been subjected to abuse, witnessed domestic violence, or committed criminal offences).

Section 29: Whistleblowing

All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime and know that such concerns will be taken seriously by the Senior Leadership Team.

Where there are concerns about the way that safeguarding is carried out within our schools, staff should refer to the Whistle-blowing Policy.

A whistleblowing disclosure must be about something that affects the general public such as:

- a criminal offence has been committed, is being committed or is likely to be committed
- a legal obligation has been breached
- there has been a miscarriage of justice
- the health or safety of any individual has been endangered
- the environment has been damaged
- information about any of the above has been concealed.

Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer, or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels may be open to them:

The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available as an alternative route for staff that do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally or have concerns about the way a concern is being handled by their school.

Staff can call 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00am to 8:00pm, Monday to Friday or email: help@nspcc.org.uk.

Section 30: Foreign Exchange Visits (if applicable)

We will seek the consent of our host families to carry out checks with the appropriate Local Authority to ensure suitability.

If a host family has been subject of concern, unless there is satisfactory resolution, the family will be regarded as unsuitable to receive or continue to host a student from overseas. We will take responsible steps to ensure that a comparable approach is taken with our or by our comparison schools abroad.

KCSIE 2022, Annex D explains in full the requirements for schools to follow their statutory duties regarding hosting and exchange visits.

Section 31: Hosting Exchange Visits

When the school is arranging for a visiting child/young person to be provided with care and accommodation in the UK in a home of a family to which the child/young person is not related,

the responsible adults are in regulated activity for the period of the stay.

In such cases the school is the regulated activity provider; therefore, the school will obtain the necessary information required including a DBS with barred list information to inform its assessment of the suitability of responsible adults.

(Please refer to KCSIE, 2022 for further information)

Section 32: 'Home-stays' in UK

If the school arranges the homestay, they should obtain an enhanced DBS for everyone in the home over 18 years old.

(Please refer to KCSIE, 2022 for further information)

Section 33: Alternative Provision

The school will remain responsible for a pupil's welfare during their time at an alternative provider.

When placing a pupil with an alternative provider, the school will obtain written confirmation that the provider has conducted all relevant safeguarding checks on staff.

Section 34: Work Experience

When a pupil is sent on work experience, the school will ensure that the provider has appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

Section 35: Role of the Responsible Adult

Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984) – Code C

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) are aware of the requirement for children to have an appropriate adult when in contact with Police officers who suspect them of an offence.

PACE states that anyone who appears to be under 18, shall, in the absence of clear evidence that they are older, be treated as a child for the purposes of this Code and any other Code.

The DSL or Deputy should challenge any action such as searches that they feel are not appropriate.

PACE also states that If at any time an officer has any reason to suspect that a person of any age may be vulnerable, then that person is entitled to be accompanied by an appropriate adult at any point.

The Designated Safeguarding (or deputy) will communicate any known vulnerabilities to any police officer who wishes to speak to a pupil about an offence they may suspect. This communication will be recorded on CPOMS.

If having been informed of the vulnerabilities, the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) does not feel that the officer is acting in accordance with PACE, they should ask to speak with a supervisor or contact 101 to escalate their concerns.

A person whom there are grounds to suspect of an offence must be cautioned¹ before questioned about an offence², or asked further questions if the answers they provide the grounds for suspicion, or when put to them the suspect's answers or silence, (i.e., failure or refusal to answer or answer satisfactorily) may be given in evidence to a court in a prosecution.

A Police Officer must not caution a juvenile or a vulnerable person unless the appropriate adult is present. If a child or a vulnerable person is cautioned in the absence of the appropriate adult, the caution must be repeated in the appropriate adult's presence.

The 'appropriate adult' means, in the case of a child:

1. the parent, guardian or, if the juvenile is in the care of a local authority or voluntary organisation, a person representing that authority or organisation.
2. a social worker of a local authority
3. failing these, some other responsible adult aged 18 or over who is not:
 - a. a police officer;
 - b. employed by the police;
 - c. under the direction or control of the chief officer of a police force; or
 - d. a person who provides services under contractual arrangements (but without being employed by the chief officer of a police force), to assist that force in relation to the discharge of its chief officer's functions,

Further information can be found in the Statutory guidance - [PACE Code C 2019](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pace-code-c-2019/pace-code-c-2019-accessible>

¹ The police caution is: *"You do not have to say anything. But it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in Court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence."*

² A person need not be cautioned if questions are for other necessary purposes, e.g.: (a) solely to establish their identity or ownership of any vehicle; to obtain information in accordance with any relevant statutory requirement; in furtherance of the proper and effective conduct of a search, e.g. to determine the need to search in the exercise of powers of stop and search or to seek co-operation while carrying out a search; or to seek verification of a written record.

Section 36: Child Protection Procedures

When a child discloses, or you are aware there is a safeguarding issue

DO NOT DELAY

- Tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as you can – it may be necessary to interrupt a lesson to do this – do not leave notes in the Designated Safeguarding Lead's pigeonhole or rely on email as they may not get back to check their post until the end of the day once the pupil has gone home.
- Early referral gives more time to offer help to the pupil and family before the situation becomes more serious.
- When the matter is already severe or serious, early referral gives more time for others to protect the pupil.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead may consult the Children's First Contact Service (CFCS) or other relevant Local authority
- You will also be asked to document the disclosure on CPOMS.

MAKE WRITTEN NOTES

In Summary

Receive – listen to what the student wants to tell you

Reassure – that they are believed, and their concern will be followed up

React – ask open questions and then speak to the DSL

Record – make a written record of the conversation and pass it to the DSL

Refer – via the DSL and using the local referral process

It is important to remember that students may not find it easy to tell staff about their abuse verbally. Children can show signs or act in ways that they hope adults will notice and react to. In some cases, the victim may not make a direct report. For example, a friend may make a report, or a member of staff may overhear a conversation that suggests a child has been harmed or a child's own behaviour might indicate that something is wrong. **If staff have any concerns about a child's welfare, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told.**

Referral Process

Any member of staff can make a referral to the Children's First Contact Service (CFCS) or other relevant Local Authority Service Hub or the Police, but they should always consult the Designated Safeguarding Lead wherever possible.

The designated staff may contact the Children's First Contact Service (CFCS) or other relevant Local Authority Service Hub to make a referral or take advice or contact the child's social worker (if allocated.)

If staff are concerned that the child or family involved have been exposed to radicalisation or extremist behaviour, then when making a referral, they will request a referral to the national PREVENT strategy (Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015).

(Additional information is also available in the London Child Protection Procedures).

Remember

- If in doubt, consult.
- Do not ignore concerns, even if these are vague.

- The first responsibility of staff is to the pupil.
- If you need help or support to manage your own feelings, this can usually be provided.

Contact with the family

Contact with the family **should always** be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who may consult the Children's First Contact Service (CFCS) or other relevant Local Authority Service Hub or the Education Safeguarding Team.

In cases where a minor physical injury causes concern, then the policy for dealing with accidents should be followed. If the explanation suggests a non-accidental cause for the injury (or a failure to protect the pupil from harm), advice must be taken immediately from the Children's First Contact Service (CFCS) or other relevant Local Authority Service Hub.

In cases of possible neglect or emotional abuse, the concern may have built up over a period of time. There may have been discussion previously between staff and the family about sources of help, but if concerns persist, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will need to refer to the Children's First Contact Service or other relevant Local Authority Service Hub and will normally advise the family of this unless specifically told otherwise.

In cases where there are suspicions of sexual abuse, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will seek immediate advice from the Children's First Contact Service or other relevant Local Authority Service Hub before discussing this with the family.

[Sutton LSCP CSA protocol 2020.pdf \(suttonlscp.org.uk\)](https://www.suttonlscp.org.uk/suttonlscp/CSA_protocol_2020.pdf)

Recording

- Where there are concerns about a pupil, our electronic files have an appropriate flag to indicate concern.
- All records relating to child welfare concerns will be kept on the pupil 's child protection file and the file will be kept secure - a chronology of concern will be kept by the designated teacher.
- Written records of any concerns about pupils are kept, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Information from records will only be accessed on a "need to know" basis; access is strictly controlled by the designated teacher.
- Key staff will need to know when a pupil is subject to a Child Protection Plan, so they can monitor the pupil's welfare.
- Records relating to the pupil's welfare will remain on the pupil's file as long as the pupil is a pupil at the school.
- When the pupil leaves the school, the new school will be informed that the school's records contain information about child protection concerns even where these are no longer current. Records should be sent to the new school in a way that is lawful in terms of data protection requirements.
- Records will be kept until the child is 18 years old by primary schools and 25 years old for secondary schools.

Working with other agencies

- All staff have a legal duty to assist local authority Children 's Social Care or the Police when they are making enquiries about the welfare of pupils.

- Information about a pupil must therefore be shared on a "need to know" basis with other agencies.
- When telephone requests for information are received, **always** maintain security by checking the telephone number listing for the caller and calling back to a switchboard number **before** giving information or confirming the pupil is on roll.
- Always advise the designated teacher about such requests for information.
- Requests for attendance at meetings about individual pupils (e.g., child protection conferences) should be notified to the designated teacher, who will arrange preparation of a report and attendance at the meeting.
- Reports should contain information about the child's:
 - academic progress
 - attendance
 - behaviour
 - relationships with children and adults
 - family
 - any other relevant matter.
- Reports should be objective, distinguishing between fact, observation, allegation, and opinion.
- Unless you specify otherwise, reports will normally be made available to the pupil's family.

Pupils subject to a Child Protection Plan

- The DSL will be told by the relevant local authority when a pupil is subject to a Child Protection Plan.
- The name of the key social worker must be clearly recorded on the pupil's record.
- Our schools will participate fully in the work of Core Groups for these pupils, to assist with the objectives of the Child Protection Plan for the pupil.
- When a pupil is subject to a Child Protection Plan, the school will report all unexplained absences even if only of a day.
- When a pupil is subject to a Child Protection Plan, the school will report all behavioural changes or other concerns to the key social worker; and
- When a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan leaves the school, all the child protection information will be transferred to any new school.

Child's need for a social worker

Local authorities should share the fact a child has a social worker, and the designated safeguarding lead should hold and use this information so that decisions can be made in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare, and educational outcomes. This should be considered as a matter of routine. There are clear powers to share this information under existing duties on both local authorities and schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Where children need a social worker, this should inform decisions about safeguarding (for example, responding to unauthorised absence or missing education where there are known safeguarding risks) and about promoting welfare (for example, considering the provision of pastoral and/or academic support, alongside action by statutory services).

All staff must always observe the above policy and procedure. They will be reviewed annually and as required in line with changes in local (LSCP) or national guidance.

Section 37: Definitions of Specific Safeguarding Issues**DEFINITIONS OF SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES****Bullying**

Bullying may be defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. It can take many forms, but the four main types of bullying are: physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name calling), social (e.g. isolating an individual from the activities, lying and spreading rumours, damaging someone's reputation and carrying out acts behind a person's back to cause humiliation) and cyber (e.g. sending abusive or hurtful texts, emails, posts, images or videos, deliberately excluding others online, spreading gossip or rumours and imitating others online or using their log-in details).

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

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors, including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage (such as increased status). Of the perpetrator or facilitator. The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

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. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. 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. It can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity 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).

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into 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 (county lines), forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

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'.

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 be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools, further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units special educational needs schools, children's homes, and care homes. Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK. FGM typically takes place between birth and around 15 years old; however, it is believed that most cases happen between the ages of 5 and 8.

The Serious Crime Act 2015 sets out a duty on professionals (including teachers) to notify police when they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases.

[Sutton FGM Booklet.pdf \(suttonlscp.org.uk\)](https://www.suttonlscp.org.uk/Sutton_FGM_Booklet.pdf)

So-called 'honour-based' abuse (including FGM and forced marriage)

So-called honour-based abuse 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 honour-based violence 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 honour-based abuse, they must contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead as a matter of urgency.

Radicalisation and Extremism

Radicalisation and extremism Under section of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, schools have a duty to 'prevent people being drawn into terrorism'. This has become known as the 'Prevent Duty'. Where staff are concerned that children and young people are developing extremist views or show signs of becoming radicalised, they should discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Children and young people 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 part of a Trusts' safeguarding approach.

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.

All staff will undertake Prevent awareness training.

[LSCB GUIDANCE PREVENT DUTY 2016.pdf \(suttonlsc.org.uk\)](https://www.suttonlsc.org.uk/LSCB_GUIDANCE_PREVENT_DUTY_2016.pdf)

Child-on-Child Abuse/Harms

Staff should be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via Child-on-Child Abuse/harm. This is most likely to include, but not limited to:

- 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 nudes and semi nudes' images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery).
- up skirting, 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; and
- 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).

Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter” or “part of growing up” as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children.

Child-on-Child Abuse/harm can be a one-off serious incident or an accumulation of incidents. It can involve physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. Child-on-Child Abuse/harm involves someone who abuses a ‘vulnerability’ or power imbalance to harm another and have the opportunity or be in an environment where this is possible. While perpetrators of Child-on-Child Abuse/harm pose a risk to others, they are often victims of abuse themselves.

We recognise that even if there are no reported cases of Child-on-Child Abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not being reported.

We recognise that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys perpetrators, but that all Child-on-Child Abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

(KCSIE 2022, Part 5 sets out how schools and colleges should respond to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment).

There must be procedures in place to minimise the risk of Child-on-Child Abuse.

The systems in place for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously. These systems should be promoted to the students regularly.

It should be clear in each school how allegations of Child-on-Child Abuse will be recorded, investigated, and dealt with.

The process must identify how victims, perpetrators and any other children affected by Child-on-Child Abuse, will be supported.

Up skirting Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019

The Voyeurism (Offences) Act, which is commonly known as the Up-skirting Act, came into force on 12th April 2019. Up skirting typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission 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.

Private Fostering

The phrase 'private fostering' is often misunderstood. There is local authority fostering and fostering by private agencies. However, in law 'Private Fostering' is quite different.

From a safeguarding perspective, many private fostering arrangements are 'hidden' and, it appears, are rarely brought to the attention of local authorities, even though it is an offence not to inform them. The penalty for non-reporting is a maximum £5,000 fine, but it seems that convictions are extremely rare.

What is Private Fostering?

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

The local authority should be notified of the arrangement at least six weeks before it starts

and not to do so is a criminal offence.

Once the local authority has been notified, children's services have a duty to visit and speak to the child, the parent and the foster carer; and everyone in the foster carers household. Children's services will then undertake a range of suitability checks including DBS checks on everyone in the household over the age of 16.

[Sutton Local Safeguarding Children Partnership - Private Fostering \(suttonlscp.org.uk\)](http://suttonlscp.org.uk)

Overseas Students

If an overseas student under the age of 16 (or under 18 if disabled) stays with a host for 28 days or more, there is a legal requirement for the host, guardianship agency, language school, agent, or other person or company involved in placing the student, to inform their local authority.

Breast Ironing

Breast Ironing is practiced in some African countries, notably Cameroon. Girls aged between 9 and 15 have hot pestles, stones or other implements rubbed on their developing breasts to stop them growing further. Breast Ironing is usually carried out by mothers or other women to protect girls from men. It is believed that the reason they carry out this procedure is to reduce the risk of sexual harassment, rape, kidnap and forced marriage. Indicators that Breast Ironing has been carried out are chest pains or other discomfort, changes in behaviour and fear of undressing.

Disguised Compliance

Parents who appear to cooperate to avoid professionals getting too close or asking too many questions. There is a tendency by professionals to confuse participation with cooperation. Indicators include parents that put little effort into making changes, limited improvement despite significant input, conflicting views of child and parent, parents align with certain professionals and only engage with part of the plan. The risks of disguised compliance are that cases may drift and lack focus, significant issues may be missed, risks may increase, cases may be closed too early, and the child remains at risk of harm. It is important to keep an open mind, use an investigative approach and effective questioning. As professionals we must look beyond the obvious.

Hidden Children

Children who do not attend school can become hidden, which means that we are less able to help and protect them. Some of these children may experience risks within their family, such as abuse and neglect. There may also be risks outside their family, such as radicalisation or exploitation. Protecting children from these external risks is known as contextual safeguarding. Children who do not attend school may be at further risk of not achieving their educational potential. They may not be able to access formal education or employment in the future if they have not gained recognised qualifications. They will also not benefit from the role that schools play in developing children's skills to participate fully and constructively in society.

So which children are we talking about?

1. Children not attending school nor on a school roll, including children who have been excluded both on a permanent or an informal basis and for whom no suitable alternative provision is arranged.
2. Children who fall under the heading 'educated at home', but may not be receiving effective, efficient, and suitable education or any education. This includes some children who may not be known to their local authority (LA) or any agencies.
3. Children attending unregistered schools, sometimes under the guise of being electively home educated.
4. Children in alternative provision that is of insufficient quality or is not provided for the required hours.
5. Children without a school place in LAs in which the protocols are not working well enough for hard-to-place children.

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. This may have an impact on them in a number of different ways and they may need emotional support.

Children with family members in prison

Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation, and poor mental health. This may have an impact on them in a number of different ways and they may need emotional support.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional. Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn.

Advice on identifying children who are affected by domestic abuse and how they can be helped is available at:

Transform Sutton - 020 8092 7569 / transformsutton@cranstoun.org.uk

[Not Alone in Sutton](#)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline:

Refuge runs the National Domestic Abuse Helpline, which can be called free of charge and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247. Its website provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. It also has a form through which a safe time from the team for a call can be booked.

Operation Encompass:

Operation Encompass operates in the majority of police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the police will inform the key adult (usually the designated safeguarding lead) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can enable support to be given to the child according to their needs. Police forces not signed up to operation encompass will have their own arrangements in place.

Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. 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.

Fabricated or Induced Illness

Fabricated or induced illness (FII) is a rare form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent or carer, usually the child's biological mother, exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

1 in 3 diagnosed mental health conditions in adulthood are directly related to adverse childhood experiences. ACEs can include maltreatment, violence and coercion, adjustment, prejudice, family adversity, inhumane treatment, adult responsibilities and bereavement and survivorship. If you have witnessed or experienced any of the following before the age of 18 you have suffered an adverse childhood experience: domestic violence, sexual abuse, alcohol abuse, physical abuse, parental separation, drug abuse, verbal abuse, mental ill-health, or imprisonment.

Protective factors:

1. Positive and supportive family
2. Safe relationships with peers
3. Access to a supportive community
4. Ability to regulate emotions
5. Acquisition of problem-solving skills
6. Compassionate, professional response
7. Early intervention from services
8. Trauma-informed systems

When talking to someone who has suffered an ACE, don't ask, what is wrong with you? But, what has happened to you?

Trauma and Attachment

A significant number of children are exposed to traumatic life events. A traumatic event is one that threatens injury, death, or the physical integrity of self or others and also causes fear, terror, or helplessness at the time it occurs. Traumatic events include sexual abuse, physical abuse, domestic violence, community and school violence, medical trauma, car accidents, acts of terrorism, war experiences, natural and human-made disasters, suicides, and other traumatic losses.

If a child has experienced trauma, they are likely to develop other related behaviours. These include:

1. the development of new fears
2. separation anxiety (particularly in young children)
3. sleep disturbance, nightmares
4. sadness
5. loss of interest in normal activities
6. reduced concentration
7. decline in academic engagement
8. anger
9. somatic complaints
10. Irritability

Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods in schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Therefore, children's social care practitioners, child protection systems and wider safeguarding partnerships need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse beyond their front doors.

All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff but especially the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside of 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.

[LSCP Protocol Safeguarding Adolescents.pdf \(suttonlscp.org.uk\)](https://www.suttonlscp.org.uk/LSCP_Protocol_Safeguarding_Adolescents.pdf)

[9b. Contextual Safeguarding Briefing.pdf \(suttonlscp.org.uk\)](https://www.suttonlscp.org.uk/9b.Contextual_Safeguarding_Briefing.pdf)

Serious Violent Crime

All staff should be aware of the indicators, which may signal 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 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 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.

Child abduction and community safety incidents

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor 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. Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation. As children get older and are granted more independence (for example, as they start walking to school on their own) it is important they are given practical advice on how to keep themselves safe. Many schools provide outdoor-safety lessons run by teachers or by local police staff. It is important that lessons focus on building children's confidence and abilities rather than simply warning them about all strangers. Further information is available at: www.actionagainstabduction.org and www.clevernevergoes.org.

Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism 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 them to the NRM is available in the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance. Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Cyber Crime

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).

Cyber-dependent crimes include

- unauthorised access to computers (illegal 'hacking'), for example accessing a school's computer network to look for test paper answers or change grades awarded;

- denial of Service (Dos or DDoS) attacks or 'booting'. These are attempts to make a computer, network, or website unavailable by overwhelming it with internet traffic from multiple sources; and
- making, supplying, or obtaining malware (malicious software) such as viruses, spyware, ransomware, botnets, and Remote Access Trojans with the intent to commit further offence, including those above.

Children with skill and interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime. If there are concerns about a child in this area, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy), should consider referring into the Cyber Choices programme. This is a nationwide police programme supported by the Home Office and led by the National Crime Agency, working with regional and local policing. It aims to intervene where young people 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. Note that Cyber Choices does not currently cover 'cyber-enabled' crime such as fraud, purchasing of illegal drugs on-line and child sexual abuse and exploitation, nor other areas of concern such as on-line bullying or general on-line safety. Additional advice can be found at: Cyber Choices, 'NPCC- When to call the Police' and National Cyber Security Centre - NCSC.GOV.UK.
(Please refer to Annex B of KCSIE, 2022 for further information)

Section 38: Mental Health Definitions

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.

Anxiety

Anxiety problems can significantly affect a child's ability to develop, to learn or to maintain and sustain friendships.

Children and young people may feel anxious for several reasons – for example because of worries about things that are happening at home or at school, or because of a traumatic event. Symptoms of anxiety include feeling fearful or panicky, breathless, tense, fidgety, sick, irritable, tearful, or having difficulty sleeping. If they become persistent or exaggerated, then specialist help, and support will be required.

Clinical professionals refer to several diagnostic categories:

- Generalised anxiety disorder (GAD) – a long-term condition which causes people to feel anxious about a wide range of situations and issues, rather than one specific event.
- Panic disorder – a condition in which people have recurring and regular panic attacks, often for no obvious reason.
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) – a mental health condition where a person has obsessive thoughts (unwanted, unpleasant thoughts, images or urges that repeatedly enter their mind, causing them anxiety) and compulsions (repetitive behaviour or mental acts that they feel they must carry out to try to prevent an obsession coming true).
- Specific phobias – the excessive fear of an object or a situation, to the extent that it causes an anxious response, such as panic attack.
- Separation Anxiety Disorder (SAD) – worry about being away from home or about being far away from parents/carers, at a level that is much more than normal for the child's age.
- Social Phobia – intense fear of social or performance situations.
- Agoraphobia – a fear of being in situations where escape might be difficult, or help wouldn't be available if things go wrong.

Depression

Feeling low or sad is a common feeling for children and adults, and a normal reaction to experiences that are stressful or upsetting. When these feelings dominate and interfere with a person's life, it can become an illness.

Depression can significantly affect a child's ability to develop, to learn or to maintain and sustain friendships.

Clinicians making a diagnosis of depression will generally use the categories major depressive disorder (MDD – where the person will show a number of depressive symptoms to the extent that they impair work, social or personal functioning) or dysthymic disorder (DD – less severe than MDD but characterised by a daily depressed mood for at least two years).

Hyperkinetic Disorders

(e.g., disturbance of activity and attention)

Although many children are inattentive, easily distracted, or impulsive, in some children these behaviours are exaggerated and persistent, compared with other children of a similar age and stage of development. When these behaviours interfere with a child's family and social functioning and with progress at school, they become a matter for professional concern.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a diagnosis used by clinicians. It involves three characteristic types of behaviour – inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. Whereas some children show signs of all three types of behaviour (this is called 'combined type' ADHD), other children diagnosed show signs only of inattention or hyperactivity/impulsiveness.

Hyperkinetic disorder is another diagnosis used by clinicians. It is a more restrictive diagnosis but is broadly like severe combined type ADHD, in that signs of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsiveness must all be present. These core symptoms must also have been present before the age of seven and must be evident in two or more settings.

Attachment disorders

Attachment is the affectionate bond children have with special people in their lives that lead them to feel pleasure when they interact with them and be comforted by their nearness during times of stress. Researchers generally agree that there are four main factors that influence attachment security: opportunity to establish a close relationship with a primary caregiver; the quality of caregiving; the child's characteristics; and the family context. Secure attachment is an important protective factor for mental health later in childhood, while attachment insecurity is widely recognised as a risk factor for the development of behaviour problems.

Eating disorders

The most common eating disorders are anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa. Eating disorders can emerge when worries about weight begin to dominate a person's life. Someone with anorexia nervosa worries persistently about being fat and eats very little. They lose a lot of weight and if female, their periods may stop. Someone with bulimia nervosa also worries persistently about weight. They alternate between eating very little, and then bingeing. They vomit or take laxatives to control their weight. Both eating disorders affect girls and boys but are more common in girls.

Deliberate self-harm

Self-harm is a serious public health problem and is the reason behind many admissions to accident and emergency departments every year. Self-harm and suicidal threats by a child/young person put them at risk of significant harm and should always be taken seriously and responded to without delay.

Common examples of deliberate self-harm include 'overdosing' (self-poisoning), hitting, cutting, or burning oneself, pulling hair or picking skin, or self-strangulation. The clinical definition includes attempted suicide, though some argue that self-harm only includes actions which are not intended to be fatal. It can be a coping mechanism, a way of inflicting punishment on oneself and a way of validating the self or influencing others.

Self-harming is NOT attention seeking behaviour, it is attention NEEDING behaviour.

The schools in the Trust will follow the Sutton Self-Harm protocol in responding to concerns about self-harm [LSCP MANAGEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO SELF-HARM OR HAVE SUICIDAL IDEATION \(suttonlscp.org.uk\)](https://www.suttonlscp.org.uk/LSCP-MANAGEMENT-OF-YOUNG-PEOPLE-WHO-SELF-HARM-OR-HAVE-SUICIDAL-IDEATION)

Post-traumatic stress

If a child experiences or witnesses something deeply shocking or disturbing, they may have a traumatic stress reaction. This is a normal way of dealing with shocking events and it may affect the way the child thinks, feels and behaves. If these symptoms and behaviours persist, and the child is unable to come to terms with what has happened, then clinicians may make a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Section 39: Sexual violence and sexual harassment

The school within the Trust will follow the guidance in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (DfE, September 2022): Responding to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment (paragraphs 459 – 557)

- All staff should be aware that students may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, they may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or being threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. This should not prevent staff from having a professional curiosity and speaking to the DSL if they have concerns about a child. It is also important that staff determine how best to build trusted relationships with children and young people which facilitate communication.
- All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) 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 abuse (including harassment and exploitation), domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse), criminal exploitation, serious youth violence, county lines, and radicalisation.

Section 40: Designated Staff Information

School	CHSG	NHSG	WHSG
DSL	Miss Helen Holmes hholmes@carshaltongirls.org.uk 0208 6478294 07391909736	Mrs Nicky Holmes holmes-n@nonsuchschool.org 0208 394 3400 07872 501777	Miss Melissa Gough mgough@wallingtongirls.org.uk 0208 647 2380
Deputy DSL	Mrs Stacey Warren swarren@carshaltongirls.org.uk Mrs Wendy Newman wnewman@carshaltongirls.org.uk	Miss Hannah Johns johns-h@nonsuchschool.org Mrs Nicola Bond bond-n@nonsuchschool.org Mrs Alexis WilliamsonJones Williamson-jones-a@nonsuchschool.org Ms Amy Cavilla cavilla-a@nonsuchschool.org	Mrs Hayley Emkes (Director of Sixth Form) hemkes@wallingtongirls.org.uk Mrs Sian McCormack (SSO KS5) SMcCormack@wallingtongirls.org.uk Miss Sally Wallis (SSO KS3 and KS4) swilson@wallingtongirls.org.uk
Relevant Governors	Safeguarding Governor Mrs Karen Cameron kcameron@carshaltongirls.org.uk Mental Health and Wellbeing Governor Ms Claire Rodin crodin@carshaltongirls.org.uk	Safeguarding Governor Mrs Andrea Cooke Cooke-a@nonsuchschool.org	Safeguarding Governor Hamza Aumeer haumeer@wallingtongirls.org.uk
GLT Trustee with oversight of Safeguarding	Mr Alex Clark aclark@girlslearningtrust.org		
Local Authority (referrals should be to the child's local authority)	Sutton Children's First Contact Service 020 8770 6001 CFCS@Sutton.gov.uk https://www.sutton.gov.uk/-/what-to-do-if-you-are-worried-about-a-child-children-s-first-contact-service-cfcs	Merton Children and Families Hub 020 8545 4226 candfhub@merton.gov.uk https://www.mertonscp.org.uk/what-you-can-do/ Croydon Children and Families Single Point of contact 0208 255 2888 https://ehmportal.croydon.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home	Surrey Childrens Single Point of Access 0300 470 9100 cspa@surreycc.gov.uk Report a concern about a child or young person - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk) Kingston 0208 547 5008 Children, families and young people – www.kingston.gov.uk Make a referral to the Single Point of Access - London

			Borough of Richmond upon Thames
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Section 41: Key Contacts

Sutton

Children's First Contact Service (CFCS) – 020 8770 6001
childrensfirstcontactservice@sutton.gov.uk

Social Care - Out of Hours – Emergency Duty Team – 0208 770 5000 x9

Sutton Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership: 020 8770 4879
suttonlscp@sutton.gov.uk

Website: www.suttonlscp.org.uk

Sutton LA LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer – complaints against staff) –
0208 770 4776 (LADO@sutton.gov.uk)

LBS Prevent and Hate Crime Manager – 0208 649 0672

Education Safeguarding Manager – 07736 338 180

Escalation procedures - [Sutton LSCB Escalation Policy September 2015.pdf](#)
(suttonlscp.org.uk)

[Child Death Review – Operating Protocol and Guidance](#)

General Contacts:

- Ofsted 0300 123 1231
- Ofsted whistle blowing line – 0300 123 3155
- Police 999
- NSPCC 0808 8005000
- NSPCC whistle blowing helpline number – 0800 028 0285
- ChildLine 0800 11 11

Section 42: In the event of an extended school closure due to exceptional circumstances

In the event of an extended school closure due to exceptional circumstances

The way in which the school can operate in response to an extended school closure due to exceptional circumstances is fundamentally different to 'business as usual'. However, a number of important safeguarding principles will remain the same:

- the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

This means that the school will continue to implement these Child Protection Policy and Procedures as we have always done.

We will also be mindful that an extended school closure will impact on our interaction with students.

As when the school is open, safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately - verbally in the first instance and then followed up with an e-mail. Do not assume that sending an e-mail means it has been read. All information should be recorded on Cpoms.

Staff will only use agreed platforms and work e-mail addresses to communicate with students (in line with the Trust's Remote Learning Policy Appendix H). Any communications must be professional. Staff will continue to follow the school's Staff ICT Acceptable Use Policy. In practice, this means:

- If you are on camera, you must be appropriately dressed, and in an appropriate area against a neutral background (no personal information should be seen). Staff should not be seen on camera from a bedroom. There should be no confidential items on display. Please note use of cameras for live lessons should be kept to a minimum.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any of your family members in the background.
- Be mindful of who else may be in the background or listening to the lesson in the student's home.
- Lessons must be set in line with the school timetable – and any contact with students should be during school hours unless this has been otherwise agreed with SLT.
- If students are not fully dressed, they should be removed from the lesson.
- There should be no 1:1 remote meetings with students – without prior agreement of the Headteacher or DSL.
- When presenting to the class, take care to ensure you only share information appropriate to the lesson – particularly if you have other screens open simultaneously.
- Any breaches should be reported to the Headteacher or DSL immediately.

This also has implications for students accessing the learning as well. In particular:

- Only use Microsoft Teams and work e-mail addresses to communicate with staff.
- If you are on camera, you must be appropriately dressed. If not, you will be removed from the lesson.
- Language must be appropriate, including any of your family members in the background.
- Live lessons should **not** be recorded or shared in any way.

In the event of an extended school closure due to exceptional circumstances, the school will:

- Follow any national and local statutory guidance and advice
- Communicate with parents and carers on a regular basis ensure that they are signposted to appropriate support and advice
- Communicate with students and ensure that they are signposted to appropriate support and advice.

Section 41: Safer Recruitment Procedures

1. RATIONALE

Girls' Learning Trust (GLT) is committed to safeguarding the welfare of students. It is important that every effort is made during recruitment to deter unsuitable individuals from applying for jobs or from being appointed. Similarly, where appointing people or contractors to undertake activities during the school day, we must be equally vigilant. In order to ensure this, this procedure must be adhered to for all appointments regardless of the nature of the job. By following this procedure the Trust will be emphasising its commitment to safeguarding students and should serve as a deterrent to would-be abusers.

2. STAFF EMPLOYED BY THE TRUST

The GLT Safer Recruitment Procedure will follow the process outlined in GLT HR Procedures.

2.1 The Job Advertisement

In addition to specifying the usual details of the post, all job advertisements will include a statement about our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The following statement must always be included.

“In line with our recruitment procedure and for the protection of our students, the successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure. This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment....”

Adverts are signed off by a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) prior to advertising (final proof may be approved by HR Manager).

2.2 The Applicant's Information Pack

The application pack must contain:

- An application form which **must** be completed in full.
- Details that a CV alone will not be acceptable.
- A more detailed statement regarding the school's

commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students by referring to the Trust's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the Guidance for Safe Working Practice for the Protection of Students and Staff procedure.

- A Person Specification split into essential and desirable criteria where appropriate.
- Information that the essential criteria of the person specification should ideally be met in full.
- Criteria used on the person specification will include qualifications, experience and any other requirements needed to perform the role in relation to working with children and young people.
- A description explaining how the candidate's fulfilment of the requirements will be tested and assessed during the selection process will be included in the person specification.
- Information that reference requests will ask for comment on the candidate's performance history and conduct, including performance management issues, disciplinary investigations and any proven disciplinary offences, whether time expired or not. Also about any specific concerns that the referee might have or be aware of in regard to the person's suitability to work with children. In addition referees will be asked to comment about the candidate's suitability to the post and for details of behaviour management expertise.
- Advice that providing false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal if the applicant has been selected. There could be possible referral to the Teachers' Misconduct team or the Police, if appropriate.

In addition the application pack should contain:

- Information about the school.
- A detailed job description.
- Any additional information pertinent to the nature of the job.

2.3 The Application Form

The Application Form and associated papers must request:

- Full identifying details of the applicant including current and former names and current address.
- Teacher reference number (for teaching posts only).
- A statement of any academic and / or vocational qualification the applicant has obtained with details of the awarding body and date of award.
- A full history in chronological order (including post-

secondary education, part-time and voluntary work, as well as full time employment) with commencement and end dates, explanations for periods not in employment and reasons for leaving employment.

- More detailed information regarding teaching experience e.g. age range, subjects, posts held etc.
- Details of interests / hobbies, details of special areas of teaching interest (teaching posts only).
- Details of relevant training undertaken recently e.g. First Aid, IT skills etc.
- A statement as to why the applicant is applying for the post and what attributes they would contribute.
- Advice that all shortlisted candidates will be required to declare any past criminal convictions.
- A declaration of any family or close relationship to existing employees or employers (including Trustees, members and Governors).
- Details of two referees. One should be the current or most recent employer and if not presently working with children the employer by whom the person was most recently employed in work with children.
- Advice that friends or relatives should not be given as referees.
- Ethnicity details for monitoring purposes should be provided on a separate sheet.

The candidate should sign the form to confirm if they have lived or worked abroad in the last five years, any criminal convictions and confirmation that information contained on the form is accurate.

If the candidate is unable to confirm that they have no criminal convictions, they should provide details, which should be returned with the application form. In this instance, the HR Officer will advise the CEO.

2.4 Shortlisting

The shortlisting panel is usually those involved in the interview and should include the line manager and a member of the SLT. At least one member of the panel must be Safer Recruitment-trained.

Consideration should be given to carrying out an online search as part of due diligence on the shortlisted candidates. This may help identify any incidents or issues that have happened, and are publicly available online,

which will need to be explored with the applicant at interview.

2.5 Invitation to Interview

The letter or email can be sent in the name of the CEO or delegated person. The invitation to interview must contain:

- The position for which the candidate is applying.
- Details of the time and location of the interview.
- The membership of the interview panel.
- A timetable of the interview structure. – (this may be given on the day).
- If the candidate is required to teach a lesson or make a presentation, sufficient information of what is required.
- The name and telephone number of a contact to confirm attendance.
- Details of what information to bring along e.g. original certificates, photographic id and confirmation of eligibility to work in the UK.
- Advice that any previous criminal convictions need to be disclosed at this stage.

2.6 The Interview

Good Practice prior to interview:

- Check the application forms to ensure they are fully and properly completed.
- That information provided is consistent and does not contain any discrepancies.
- Identify any gaps in employment.
- Identify any details regarding motivation and attitudes that need clarification at interview.
- Approach referees for all short-listed candidates, including internal applicants.
- Always seek and obtain references directly from the referee in writing.

Questions must be clear and relevant. The following are examples of bad practice:

- Making assumptions.
- Asking convoluted questions.

- Using complex or jargon words, unless relevant to the post.
- Leading the candidate in a particular direction.
- The interviewer talking too much.
- Letting the individual sidetrack the process.
- Accepting a short and un-detailed answer – probe and ask further question(s) if required.

2.7 Requesting a Reference

References will normally be obtained prior to interview for a leadership or teaching post, and after interview for all other posts.

It is important that the letter or email requesting a reference should contain the following:

- A comment on the candidate's performance history and conduct, including performance management issues, disciplinary investigations and any proven disciplinary offences, whether time expired or not.
- A question about any specific concerns that the referee might have or be aware of in regard to the person's suitability to work with children.
- A question about suitability to the post.
- A comment about the referee's legal liability for references and that the reference should contain no material misstatement or omission.
- That the content of the reference may be discussed with the applicant at the end of the interview process.
- That the referee may be contacted subsequently for clarification of any part of the reference.
- Include the job description and person specification for the post.

2.8 Making an Offer

The Headteacher / CEO or SLT member will inform both the successful and unsuccessful candidates. The CEO will confirm salary details before any formal offer letter / contract is issued.

At this stage, any offer of employment is subject to the satisfactory completion of all pre-employment checks.

2.9 Pre-Employment Checks

The HR Manager will arrange a convenient time for the successful candidate(s) to come into school to provide any

additional information required and complete the online DBS check.

For all new staff, the Trust will require the following information and checks to be completed prior to the commencement of employment:

- Full Name, DOB and NI number – to be supplied.
- Employer Access / IFL registration (for teachers) – confirm registration number.
- Teacher number – confirm number.
- Enhanced Disclosure (DBS) – to be completed (or transferred if appropriate). In addition to obtaining the DBS certificate, anyone who is appointed to carry out teaching work will require an additional check to ensure they are not prohibited from teaching. For those engaged in management roles (in independent schools - including academies and free schools) an additional check is required to ensure they are not prohibited under section 128 provisions.
- Overseas Police Check – if relevant (time living abroad), complete checks.
- Prohibition Order Checks – all new teachers must undergo a Prohibition Order Check via the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) Employer Access Service & the record kept on the SCR
- Safeguarding Training – confirm that completed and date (or to be completed within first 3 days of employment).
- Photographic ID Checks – normally involves taking a copy of the employee's passport.
- Qualification Checks – copy of qualification certificates.
- Permission to work in the UK – confirm eligibility to work in UK. These further checks should include a check for information about any teacher sanction or restriction that an EEA professional regulating authority has imposed, using the NCTL Teacher Services' system. Although restrictions imposed by another EEA regulating authority do not prevent a person from taking up teaching positions in England, schools and colleges should consider the circumstances that led to the restriction or sanction being imposed when considering a candidate's suitability for employment.
- Health Questionnaire – completed by candidate.
- NCTL Hearings – When requesting a reference, the school will ask whether a prospective employee has ever been subject to a hearing by the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) – irrespective of the

outcome. If a prospective member of staff has been subject to a hearing, further information will be requested.

Only once these checks are complete, will the contract of employment be confirmed, and then the new starter will be issued with the usual ID badges, access to the IT network & SIMS (if appropriate).

2.10 Induction training

Induction training is usually arranged before a new starter joins. They may be able to join a new staff Induction Session, which normally occurs at the end of June, and is run by a member of SLT for new teaching staff due to start in September. If this timing is not suitable (as will frequently be the case for support staff) a separate induction session will be organised by the HR Manager.

The Induction Training Session will include general information about the Trust and the school, and will include key policies and procedures, notably:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (training may be completed online or during the induction session).
- Keeping Children Safe In Education (Sept 2020)
- Health and Safety Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Acceptable Use of IT Policy
- Behaviour Policy

All new starters will receive an e-mail on their first day at work outlining all the key policies and where they are stored. It is the responsibility of all new starters to read and familiarise themselves with the said policies.

The new starter's understanding of these will be checked verbally. An effective

induction process is valuable because it:

- Supports new members of staff.
- Gives every opportunity for new staff to understand the ethos and expectations of the Trust and school.

- Identifies potential concerns at the earliest time in order to offer training and advice.
- Ensures new staff fully understand the expectation of the post and of the school as well as their own responsibilities.
- Clarifies what is considered bad practice.
- Highlights appropriate conduct.
- Provides plenty of opportunity to discuss child safeguarding issues.

Support staff also have a six month probationary period, where they meet with their line manager at regular intervals in order for queries to be addressed and any issues identified.

2.11 Single Central Record and Setting Up a Personnel file

Information on all new staff will be recorded on the Single Central Record as soon as possible after the contract has been agreed. Amendments will be made as necessary from time-to-time – e.g. change of address, change of name.

The following information will be retained on the Personnel File:

- Application form.
- Job description.
- Interview notes and any interview exercise.
- References.
- Health Clearance form.
- DBS information issued by the London Borough of Sutton (LBS) will only be kept on the SCR.
- Copy of passport – signed to say original seen. If no passport, birth certificate and current address details and other photographic ID.
- Details of any visas.
- Copies of qualifications – signed to say originals seen.
- For teaching staff, confirmation of qualifications and that there are no sanctions in place is obtained from the Employer Access online site and this information is printed and retained on file.
- Any other relevant correspondence received.
- Signed form confirming induction pack received and policies understood.

3. OTHER PEOPLE HAVING ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL SITE AND STUDENTS

3.1 Overview

At any given time, there will be a wide range of people requiring unsupervised access to the school sites during the school day. In some cases, the most appropriate approach may be to provide supervision by a member of staff. The categories of people involved include, but are not limited to:

People, not employed by companies (although may be self-employed), having unsupervised access to the school and students (see Section 3.2):

- Peripatetic music instructors.
- Volunteers (such as Parents & Friends Association, Trustees and Governors).
- Combined Cadet Force Volunteers.
- Sports coaches (such as trampolining, gym, cheerleading) – *could be employed by companies.*
- Arts Award coaches.
- Careers Advisor – *could be employed by a company; currently self-employed.*
- Sign Language Interpreters – *usually supervised, could be employed by companies,*
- Work Experience students – *usually supervised,*

People, employed by companies / organisations, having unsupervised access to the school and students (see Section 3.3):

- Agency workers / supply teachers.
- PGCE / Schools Direct Students.
- Companies / people running enrichment events for students and / or training events for staff (including Oxbridge events, other enrichment activities) – *often supervised, review case-by-case circumstances.*
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme / Activ Adventures.
- Drama / LAMDA coaches.
- School Nursing Service.
- Contractors providing services, such as cleaning & catering.

Under this procedure, we will be equally vigilant in ensuring that safer recruitment procedures are followed in relation to these categories of people / companies, where they have unsupervised access to the school site during the school day (7am-4pm) and / or 1:1 access to our students (on/off site).

The default position is that Reception will issue visitor badges (i.e. identification badges from other organisations will not be accepted) and all visitors will be required to sign in for emergency evacuation purposes. The exception to this is in the case of colleagues from any school in the Trust and from borough services, as having a valid identification badge will be adequate, provided colleagues sign in.

Where information cannot be obtained prior to the individual being in school, such as in the case of a Foreign Language Assistant newly arrived in the country, the school will ensure that all available information has been obtained. The HR Officer will prepare a risk assessment based on the information available, arrangements for access to children, and any other pertinent information. The risk assessment will document the controls put in place to manage and/or mitigate the risk. This will be approved by the Headteacher. The risk assessment will be monitored on a monthly basis by the HR Officer, in the updating and checking of the Single Central Register, and will be closed once the full information has been obtained.

The arrangements are set out below.

3.2 People not employed by companies having unsupervised access to the school & students

Where individual people (including self-employed people and Governors) have unsupervised access to the school and students during the school day, they will be subject to the same rigorous checks as we would normally undertake when recruiting a new member of staff / employee.

The Trust will require the following information and checks to be completed prior to a person being given unsupervised access to the school and students:

- Full Name and DOB – to be supplied.
- Application Form - detailing address, previous names, employment history etc.
- Enhanced Disclosure (DBS) – to be completed (or transferred if appropriate).
- Overseas Police Check – if relevant (time living abroad), complete checks.
- Safeguarding Training – completed and date (or to be completed within first 3 days).

- Photographic ID Checks – normally involves taking a copy of the person's passport.
- References and CV Checks – all received, and confirm that no gaps in employment and all employers over the last 5 years have been checked.
- Qualification Checks – copy of qualification certificates, if applicable.
- Permission to work in the UK – confirm eligibility to work in UK, if applicable.

3.3 People employed by companies having unsupervised access to the school & students

Where people with access to the school and students are employed by a company, the Academy will require for every individual:

- Either, full information (as in section 3.2 above)
- Or, partial information (see list below) together with written confirmation and assurances from the company that it undertakes safer recruitment procedures (a good example is the letter provided by the School Nursing Service confirming that safer recruitment checks are completed by them).

Partial information would involve the following **key information** being disclosed to the academy:

- Full Name, DOB – to be supplied.
- Employer Access / IFL registration (for teachers) – confirm registration number.
- Teacher number – confirm number.
- Enhanced Disclosure (DBS) – confirm that clear, date and number.
- Safeguarding Training – confirm that completed and date.

In addition, the company would be required to confirm in writing that it has undertaken (in relation to the person being allowed access to the school and students):

- Photographic ID Checks.
- Overseas Police Checks – if relevant.
- Permission to work in the UK Checks.

This may be set out in a contract (as in the case of the cleaning contract) or letter to the school, and should be renewed periodically.

On arrival at the school it must be confirmed that the person arriving is the person for whom the agency has provided the checks listed above.

4. MONITORING OF SAFER RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES

In the interests of maintaining a safe school culture, the CEO and the Trust Board will review the safeguarding procedures annually (normally through the Trust HR Committee).

SECTION 44

**GLT Remote Learning Protocols (March 2020)**

These protocols should be followed alongside advice and directions from Heads in schools.

Aims:

- to ensure fair and equal access to the learning experience for all students and staff
- to ensure that the workload of all students and staff is fair, reasonable and sustainable over the long term
- to ensure that all students and staff are fully safeguarded throughout the period of school closure.

Following discussion with the Executive Team and the Head of IT, and taking account of advice from the joint teaching unions, the following protocols for remote learning across the Trust have been agreed.

They have been formulated on the basis of the significant differences in home learning resources available to students and staff; with many people now having to work from, or study at, home it will not always be possible for everyone to have access to all the technologies required. In particular, where it is known that students do not have IT access, we are aiming to arrange for printed materials to be posted to their homes.

There is also a clear feeling among students and staff that attempts to fully recreate the school day and homework timetable online are exhausting and increasing anxiety. Furthermore, while it is acknowledged that some staff would like to develop more interactive ways of engaging with students, there needs to be an understanding of the impact this can have on placing extra demands upon, and extra expectations of, colleagues.

The protocols are:

1. **Contact between students and teachers should only be through the school's designated virtual learning platform (TEAMS, FROG or Show My Homework) or school email account.** Interactive contact must not be through personalised accounts open to public viewing, comments or sharing (e.g. Google Classroom), although pre-recorded content may be posted on YouTube – please check with your Head if you are unsure.
2. **Staff should not engage in any video-calling with students in KS3 and KS4.** In some situations at KS5, where all students in a subject and year group (e.g. Year 12 French) are known to have IT access, video-calling may be used by agreement with the Head and subject to the proviso that there is access for all students in the subject and year group. 1-to-1 video-calling with students is not permitted and the whole class must be present.

3. **Pre-recorded lessons may be used in some situations, but there is no expectation that staff use them.** If pre-recorded lessons are used, they must be available to all students of the subject in a given year group (to ensure consistency of provision) and must be distributable by current means (email and agreed virtual learning platforms for your school – check with your Head if you are unsure). If you are uploading pre-recorded lessons remember to stay safe and make sure to film in a neutral area where nothing personal or inappropriate can be seen or heard in the background. Also, please note that, we have taken the decision that no video-editing support can be provided by the IT Team due to the operational requirements of maintaining all 3 IT networks for the benefit of all staff and students.
4. While it may be appropriate for staff to make telephone calls to a student (e.g. form staff checking on their tutees or vulnerable students), staff must make sure that parents are aware and **always block a personal home/mobile telephone number** (check how to do this with your phone provider). Do not use or exchange personal email addresses or phone numbers with pupils. If a member of staff has to use a personal phone for making contact, any additional costs incurred will be reimbursed through the normal Expenses Policy.
5. **Staff must follow the instructions of the Head and Designated Safeguarding Leads** (DSLs) in each school. In exceptional cases, and by prior agreement with the Head, video-calling may be used by named school counsellors and ELSAs.
6. **Adopt a common sense approach to school work and engagement with students** and make sure that neither students and their parents, nor you or your colleagues, become overwhelmed by unrealistic expectations and workload. Two to three hours work per day across all subjects is plenty for students.
7. **Microsoft Teams is now available to all staff.** All staff will receive a copy of the user guide and an email invitation from Teams asking them to login as their groups are populated.
8. The Microsoft Teams platform can be used currently **for staff interaction only** – for example, department and team meetings with colleagues - but **must not be used with students**. Please do not invite any student to a Microsoft Teams meeting. No other video-conferencing platforms (such as Zoom, Google Classroom) will be supported at this time. We will be exploring the limited use of Teams - for Sixth Form lessons only - after the Easter break.
9. Be mindful of the responsibilities of the IT team; our IT systems support almost 5,000 users – staff and students - across 3 schools. During this time, it will not be possible to meet individual demands for bespoke IT solutions, and IT staff will prioritise helping teachers and support staff who are having difficulties accessing and using the approved processes and IT systems in each school.