ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Governors and staff at The Royal Alexandra and Albert School are committed to providing a safe and happy learning environment, promoting equality and diversity and ensuring the well-being of all members of the community. It is their clear intention to promote good behaviour and to exercise their responsibilities in ensuring the safeguarding and welfare of all students and staff within the community.

The policy applies to **all** staff

Governors' Committee Responsible: Safeguarding Committee
Governor Lead: William Gillen; Chair of Governors
Nominated Lead Member of Staff: Mark Skidmore; Deputy Head – Pastoral & Boarding
Status & Review Cycle: Statutory Annual

Approved by Governors	30.1.17

Contents

Safeguarding Statement

The Royal Alexandra & Albert School recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support and protection. We operate within a culture of openness and recognise and accept that abuse can happen in any organisation.

Key Personnel/Contacts

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: Mark Skidmore, Deputy Head of Pastoral & Boarding

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The Chair of Governors & nominated safeguarding governor is: William Gillen

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Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:
- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Child Protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

M.A.S.H. refers to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub which is now the point of contact for all children's safeguarding issues

Governing Body refers to The Governing Body and the Board of Management of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School

Staff refers to all individuals working in or for the school, including all teaching and non-teaching staff, residential and part-time staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors. All references to 'Staff' in this policy should be interpreted as relating to the aforementioned unless otherwise stated.

Child includes everyone under the age of 18.

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

1. Introduction

1.1. This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; the Education Act 2002, and in line with government publications: 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2016) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (March 2015), which refers to the non-statutory guidance Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (March 2015), 'Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families' (2000), 'What to do if You are Worried a Child is Being Abused – Advice for practitioners' (March 2015), 'Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales' (March 2015), Safeguarding Children and Young People (Charity Commission Policy Paper) (July 2014) and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (April 2015).The guidance also reflects Surrey Safeguarding Children Board SSCB Child Protection Procedures.[1]

1.2. The Governing body takes seriously its responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm.

1.3. This policy applies to Staff (as defined above) and governors in the school.

1.4. This policy is updated annually, or more frequently if required (for example following a serious incident or if there is a change in legislation). It is provided to all Staff and published on the staff intranet. Children and parents are made aware of this policy and their entitlement to have a copy via the school's website.

1.5. We will ensure that community users organising activities for children are made aware of the school's Safeguarding Policy, guidelines and procedures.

1.6 This policy links to the following policies and risk assessments:
- Staff Behaviour Policy (Code of Conduct)
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Rewards and Behaviour Management
- Anti-Bullying
- Cyber bullying
- Health & Safety
- Attendance
- Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug and Substance Abuse
- Physical Intervention
- E-safety
- Prevent Risk Assessment
- Whistleblowing
- ICT Acceptable Use
- Managing Allegations
- Educational Visits

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[1] The SSCB Child protection Procedures are available online at http://surreyscb.procedures.org.uk/

2. Principles

2.1. The welfare of the child is paramount. No child or group of children must be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access services, which meet their particular needs.

2.2. All children regardless of age, gender, culture, ethnicity, language, race, ability, sexual identity, religion, beliefs, caste or disability have equal rights to protection from abuse.

2.3. We recognise that all Staff and governors have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm and have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm;

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

2.5. Pupils and Staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support.

3. Aims

3.1. To demonstrate the school's commitment with regard to safeguarding and child protection to pupils, parents and other partners.

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

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

3.4. To raise the awareness of all teaching and non-teaching Staff of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse.

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

3.6. To emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of Staff.

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

3.8. To develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the local Police, and Children's Social Care, including Surrey Children's Services, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board and Children's Services and the Referral Assessment and Intervention Service Surrey.

4. **Support and Prevention**

4.1. **Supporting Children**

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

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

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

4.1.4. Our school will support all children by:

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

4.1.4.2. Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school.

4.1.4.3. Responding sympathetically to any requests for time out to deal with distress and anxiety.

4.1.4.4. Offering details of helplines, counselling or other avenues of external support.

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

4.1.4.6. Notifying Social Care as soon as there is a significant concern.

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

4.2. **Prevention / Protection**

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

4.2.2. The school community will therefore:

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

4.2.2.2.   Include regular consultation with children and ensure that children are and feel listened to e.g. through safety questionnaires, participation in anti-bullying week, asking children to report whether they have had happy/sad mealtimes/playtimes, talking to peer listeners.

4.2.2.3.   Ensure that all children are encouraged to talk to adults in school about any concerns, no matter how small and ensure that children feel comfortable doing so.

4.2.2.4.   Include safeguarding across the curriculum, including PSHE, opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn for help. This includes but is not limited to anti-bullying work, online-safety, road safety, pedestrian training, focussed work in Year 6 to prepare for transition to Secondary school, personal safety and independent travel.

4.2.2.5.   Ensure all Staff and governors are aware of school guidance for their use of mobile technology and have discussed safeguarding issues around the use of   mobile technologies and their associated risks.

4.2.3   Pupils In Staff Accommodation

i.   As a boarding school a good number of Staff are resident on site. To protect both pupils and Staff, pupils should not be in Staff accommodation except when: Visiting children of the member of Staff, as friends, when another adult, resident in the accommodation, is present. When this occurs the Head of House or person with parental responsibility should have given permission in advance. Members of Staff are asked to keep up to date, with the Headmaster's PA, a list of pupils that would typically do this; or

ii.   Either the Headmaster or the Deputy Head – Pastoral & Boarding in advance, has given written permission. This needs to be given for each individual occasion.

4.3   **Recruitment**

4.3.1   The school makes appropriate checks on all Staff and governors, including through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and by obtaining and following up through references. For further details please see our Recruitment and Selection Policy which complies with Part 3 of KCSIE (September 2016), the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2003 and other relevant safeguarding recruitment guidance to ensure that no-one is employed within, by or on behalf of the school who is unsuitable to work with children.

5. Training and Practice

5.1. We will ensure that:

5.1.1. the name of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies, are clearly advertised in the school with a statement explaining the school's role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected abuse;

5.1.2. All Staff receive safeguarding and child protection training which is regularly updated in accordance with Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board guidance. All Staff also receive safeguarding updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, surveys and staff meetings), as required, but at least annually. This will include training on inter-agency working, including in the context of a referral made to children's social care and/or the LADO, the statutory assessment process and the Staff member may be asked to contribute to a child protection strategy meeting;

5.1.3 All Staff and governors will be asked to sign to say they have read and understood Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016. Mechanisms to assist Staff in understanding KCSIE include regular updates in staff meetings, surveys, targeted twilight training sessions and quizzes.

5.1.4 As part of their induction all newly appointed Staff, including part-time, temporary and voluntary Staff, receive training in safeguarding issues including:
- this safeguarding policy;
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016) Part 1 and Annex A;
- the staff behaviour policy (Code of Conduct);
- 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused – advice for practitioners' (2015);
- the school's Whistleblowing policy; and
- the role and names of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies.

5.2 The school will train those pupils in a position of pastoral responsibility, e.g. School Prefects and Peer Listeners, in basic safeguarding procedures. They will have clear guidance through their training that their role is to listen, not to investigate and not to 'keep secrets' but to refer the matter if they receive any allegations of abuse.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1. All members of The Governing Body understand and fulfil their responsibilities, namely to ensure that:

6.1.1. there is a safeguarding policy together with a staff behaviour policy (code of conduct) which members of the Governing Body will review annually;

6.1.2. safeguarding, recruitment and managing allegations policies and procedures, including the staff behaviour policy (code of conduct), are consistent with Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board and statutory requirements, are reviewed annually and that the Safeguarding policy is publically available on the school website or by other means;

6.1.3. all Staff and governors are provided with the school's safeguarding policy and staff behaviour policy;

6.1.4. all Staff and governors have read Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016) Part 1 and Annex A and that mechanisms are in place to assist Staff in understanding and discharging their roles and responsibilities as set out in the guidance;

6.1.5. the school operates a safer recruitment procedure that includes statutory checks on Staff suitability to work with children and disqualification by association regulations and by ensuring that there is at least one person on every recruitment panel who has completed safer recruitment training;

6.1.6. the school has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against Staff (including the Headmaster), volunteers and against other children and that a referral is made to the DBS if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns, or would have had they not resigned;

6.1.7. a member of the Governing Body, usually the Chair, is nominated to take leadership responsibility for the school, safeguarding arrangements, support the DSL when liaising with Surrey County Council, liaise with the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board on safeguarding issues and liaise with Surrey's LADO in the event of an allegation of abuse made against the Headmaster;

6.1.8. a member of the senior leadership team has been appointed as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) by the Governing Body who will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and that the role is explicit in the role holder's job description;

6.1.9. on appointment, the DSL and deputies undertake interagency training (SSCB Modules 1&2) and also undertake DSL 'New to Role' and 'Update' training every two years;

6.1.10. all other Staff have safeguarding training updated as appropriate;

6.1.11. at least one member of the governing body has completed safer recruitment training to be repeated every five years;

6.1.12. children are taught about safeguarding (including online safety) as part of a broad and balanced curriculum covering relevant issues through personal social health and economic education (PSHE) and/or for maintained schools through relationship and sex education (RSE);

6.1.13. appropriate safeguarding responses are in place for children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect including sexual abuse or exploitation and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future;

6.1.14. appropriate online filtering and monitoring systems are in place;

6.1.15. enhanced DBS checks (without barred list checks, unless the governor is also a volunteer at the school) are in place for all Governors; and

6.1.16. any weaknesses in safeguarding are remedied immediately.

6.2. **The Headmaster will ensure that:**

6.2.1. the Safeguarding Policy and procedures (including this policy, the staff behaviour policy (Code of Conduct), the Whistleblowing policy and e-safety policy and particularly concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect) are implemented and followed by all Staff;

6.2.2. sufficient time, training, support, resources, including cover arrangements where necessary, is allocated to the DSL and deputy DSL(s) to carry out their roles effectively, including the assessment of pupils and attendance at strategy discussions and other necessary meetings;

6.2.3. where there is a safeguarding concern that the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide;

6.2.4. systems are in place for children to express their views and give feedback which operate with the best interest of the child at heart;

6.2.5. all Staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and that such concerns are handled sensitively and in accordance with the whistle-blowing procedures;

6.2.6. that pupils are provided with opportunities throughout the curriculum to learn about safeguarding, including keeping themselves safe online;

6.2.7. they liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), before taking any action and on an on-going basis, where an allegation is made against a member of Staff or volunteer;

6.2.8. Anyone who has harmed or may pose a risk to a child is referred to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

6.3. The Designated Safeguarding Lead:

6.3.1. is a member of the school's senior leadership team and holds lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection in the school;

6.3.2. acts as a source of support and expertise in carrying out safeguarding duties for the whole school community;

6.3.3. encourages a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings;

6.3.4. is alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers;

6.3.5. is appropriately trained with updates every two years and will refresh their knowledge and skills at regular intervals but at least annually. This is done in a number of ways including via e-bulletins, attending safeguarding conferences, attending Surrey DSL Network meetings and liaising with other DSLs and will ensure that regular safeguarding and child protection updates are circulated to all Staff;

6.3.6. will refer a child, if there are concerns about possible abuse, to the M.A.S.H[2] and act as a focal point for Staff to discuss concerns. Referrals should be made in writing, following a telephone call using the Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF);

6.3.7. understands and supports the school with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and is able to provide advice and support to Staff on protecting children from risk of radicalisation;

6.3.8. will refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required, and will support Staff who make such referrals to the Channel programme;

6.3.9. will refer cases where a member of Staff is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required;

6.3.10. will refer cases where a crime may have been committed to the police as required;

6.3.11. will liaise with the Headmaster to inform him of issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations;

6.3.12. will keep detailed, accurate records, either written or using appropriate online software, of all concerns about a child even if there is no need to make an immediate referral;

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[2] All new referrals go to the M.A.S.H. for each area operating Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:00. DSLs may consult with an Assistant Team Manager by telephoning the Area Team. In an emergency out of hours, referrals can be made to the Emergency Duty Team on 01483 517898.

6.3.13. will ensure that all such records are kept confidential, stored securely and are separate from pupil records;

6.3.14. will ensure that an indication of the existence of the additional file in 6.3.13above is marked on the pupil records;

6.3.15. will ensure that when a pupil leaves the school, their child protection file is passed to the new school (separately from the main pupil file and ensuring secure transit) and that confirmation of receipt is obtained;

6.3.16. will ensure that a copy of the CP file is retained until such a time that the new school acknowledges receipt of the original file;

6.3.17. will liaise with the Local Authority and work with other agencies and professionals in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children

6.3.18. has a working knowledge of SSCB procedures;

6.3.19. will ensure that either they, or another Staff member, attend case onferences, core groups, or other multi-agency planning meetings, contribute to assessments, and provide a report where required which has been shared with the parents;

6.3.20. will ensure that any pupil currently with a child protection plan who is absent in the educational setting without explanation for two days is referred to their key worker's Social Care Team;

6.3.21. will ensure that all Staff sign to say they have read, understood and agree to work within the School's safeguarding policy, staff behaviour policy (code of conduct) and Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1 and annex A and ensure that the policies are used appropriately;

6.3.22. will ensure that the school's safeguarding policy is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly;

6.3.23. will ensure that the school's safeguarding policy is available publicly and that parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and how the school may be involved;

6.3.24. will organise safeguarding induction, regularly updated training and a minimum of annual updates for all school Staff, keep a record of attendance and address any absences;

6.3.25. will contribute to and provide, with the Headmaster and Chair of Governors, the "Audit of Statutory Duties and Associated Responsibilities" to be submitted annually to the Education Safeguarding Team at Surrey County Council;

6.3.26. has an understanding of locally agreed processes for providing Early Help and intervention and will support members of Staff where Early Help is appropriate; and

6.3.27. will ensure that the names of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies are clearly advertised in the school, with a statement explaining the school's role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected abuse.

6.4. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

6.4.1. Are trained to the same standard as the Designated Safeguarding Lead and, in the absence of the DSL, carry out those functions necessary to ensure the on-going safety and protection of pupils. In the event of the long-term absence of the DSL a deputy will assume all of the functions above.

6.5. All School Staff

6.5.1. Understand that it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that they have a full and active role to play in protecting children from harm. The School does this by promoting the welfare, health concerns (including mental health) and safety of our pupils, identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action;

6.5.2. Consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child and operate on the basis of a co-ordinated and child-centred response to all safeguarding concerns;

6.5.3. Know how to respond to a pupil who discloses abuse through delivery of 'Working together to Safeguard Children' (March 2015), and 'What to do if you're worried a Child is being Abused' (March 2015);

6.5.4. Will refer any safeguarding concerns about a child to the DSL who will discuss the matter with the member of Staff and will decide on an appropriate cause of action. See section 8 below for further information.

6.5.5. Will provide a safe environment in which children can learn;

6.5.6. Work to create an environment where pupils, parents and Staff feel able to raise concerns.

7. **Confidentiality and Information Sharing**

7.1. The Royal Alexandra & Albert School recognises that in order effectively to meet a child's needs, safeguard their welfare and protect them from harm the school must contribute to inter-agency working in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015) and share information between professionals and agencies where there are concerns. The danger of not sharing information is highlighted in a number of serious case reviews.[3]

7.2. All Staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children and that the Data Protection Act 1998 is not a barrier to sharing information where the failure to do so would place a child at risk of harm.

7.3. All Staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets that might compromise the child's safety or wellbeing.

7.4. However, we also recognise that all matters relating to safeguarding are personal to children and families. Therefore, in this respect they are confidential, and the Headmaster or DSLs will only disclose information about a child to other members of Staff on a need to know basis.

7.5. The Royal Alexandra & Albert School will always undertake to share our intention to refer a child to Social Care with their parents /carers unless to do so could put the child at greater risk of harm, or impede a criminal investigation. If in doubt, we will consult with the M.A.S.H. on this point.

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[3] Findings can be accessed at **https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/analysis-of-serious-case-reviews-2011-to-2014)..**

8. Safeguarding Procedures

8.1. Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in the family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

8.2. Further information about the four categories of abuse; physical, emotional, sexual and neglect, and indicators that a child may be being abused can be found in appendices 1 and 2.

8.3. Any child in any family in any school could become a victim of abuse. Staff should always maintain an attitude of "It could happen here", recognising that abuse can take place in any institution.

8.4. There are also a number of specific safeguarding concerns that we recognise our pupils may experience. These include:

8.4.1. Child missing from education (see section 19)
8.4.2. Child missing from home or care
8.4.3. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) (see section 14 and Appendix 3)
8.4.4. Bullying including cyberbullying (see section 10)
8.4.5. Domestic abuse (see section 13 and Appendix 5)
8.4.6. Drugs
8.4.7. Fabricated or induced illness
8.4.8. Faith abuse
8.4.9. Honour-based violence including Female genital mutilation (FGM) and Forced marriage (see section 15 and appendix 4)
8.4.10. Gangs and youth violence
8.4.11. Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG)
8.4.12. Mental health
8.4.13. Private fostering
8.4.14. Radicalisation (see section 12 and Appendix 6)
8.4.15. The sharing of youth produced sexual imagery ("Sexting") (see section 22)
8.4.16. Teenage relationship abuse
8.4.17. Trafficking
8.4.18. Peer on peer abuse (see section 21)

8.5. Staff are aware that behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse, truanting and sexting put children in danger and that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse.

8.6. We also recognise that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are complex and are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. Staff are aware that in most cases multiple issues will overlap one another.

8.7. If Staff are concerned about a child's welfare

8.7.1. If Staff notice any indicators of abuse/neglect or signs that a child may be experiencing a safeguarding issue they should record these concerns and pass it to the DSL. They may also discuss their concerns in person with the DSL but the details of the concern should be recorded in writing.

8.7.2. There will be occasions when Staff may suspect that a pupil may be in need of early help or at risk of harm, but have no 'real' evidence. The pupil's behaviour may have changed, their artwork could be concerning or strange, they may write stories or poetry that reveal confusion or distress, or physical or inconclusive signs may have been noticed.

8.7.3. The Royal Alexandra & Albert School recognises that the signs may be due to a variety of factors, for example, a parent has moved out, a pet has died, a grandparent is very ill or an accident has occurred. However, they may also indicate a child is being abused or is in need of early help.

8.7.4. In these circumstances Staff will try to give the child the opportunity to talk. It is fine for Staff to ask the pupil if they are OK or if they can help in any way.

8.7.5. Staff should record these early concerns and give them to the DSL.

8.7.6. Following an initial conversation with the pupil, if the member of Staff remains concerned they should discuss their concerns with the DSL and put them in writing.

8.7.7. If the pupil does begin to reveal that they are in need or at risk of harm, Staff should follow the advice below regarding a pupil making a disclosure.

8.8. If a pupil discloses to a member of Staff

8.8.1. We recognise that it takes a lot of courage for a child to disclose they are being abused. They may feel ashamed, guilty or scared, their abuser may have threatened that something will happen if they tell, they may have lost all trust in adults or believe that was has happened is their fault. Sometimes they may not be aware that what is happening is abuse.

8.8.2. A child who makes a disclosure may have to tell their story on a number of subsequent occasions to the police and/or social workers. Therefore, it is vital that their first experience of talking to a trusted adult is a positive one.

8.8.3. During their conversation with the pupil Staff will:

8.8.3.1. Not promise total confidentiality.

8.8.3.2. Listen to what the child has to say and allow them to speak freely

8.8.3.3. Remain calm and not overact or act shocked or disgusted – the pupil may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting the listener

8.8.3.4.   Reassure the child that it is not their fault and that they have done the right thing in telling someone

8.8.3.5.   Not be afraid of silences – Staff must remember how difficult it is for the pupil and allow them time to talk

8.8.3.6.   Take what the child is disclosing seriously

8.8.3.7.   Ask open questions and avoid asking leading questions

8.8.3.8.   Avoid jumping to conclusions, speculation or make accusations

8.8.3.9.   Not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort. It may be anything but comforting to a child who is being abused

8.8.3.10.   Avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing sooner

8.8.3.11.   Tell the child what will happen next.

8.8.4.   If a pupil talks to any member of Staff about any risks to their safety or wellbeing the Staff member will let the child know that they will have to pass the information on, and will reassure the child that the information will only be shared with the minimum number of people who will need to know in order to keep him/her safe, and that it is in their best interests that the matter is reported.

8.9. Notifying Parents

8.9.1   The member of Staff should write up their conversation as soon as possible in the child's own words. Staff should make this a matter of priority. The record should be signed and dated, the member of Staff's name should be printed and it should also detail where the disclosure was made and who else was present. The record should be handed to the DSL.

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

8.9.3   However, if the school believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, advice will first be sought from children's social care.

8.9.4   Where there are concerns about forced marriage or honour-based violence parents should not be informed a referral is being made as to do so may place the child at a significantly increased risk.

8.10. Taking action

8.10.1. All safeguarding concerns about a child (no matter how small) should be shared with the DSL who will discuss the matter with a member of Staff and decide on an appropriate action, which could include an early help assessment referred to Children's Social Care or other support as appropriate.

8.10.2. A child's wishes and feelings should be taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide.

8.10.3. In each case, discretion and confidence will be maintained at the appropriate level, the DSL being responsible for communicating strategies and decisions to fellow professionals. The DSL will report his response to the Headmaster; keep him apprised of any developments; and maintain the written records.

8.11. Early Help

8.11.1 The importance of Early Help and appropriate intervention before problems escalate, is emphasised to all Staff. Early Help, as outlined in Chapter 1 of Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015) means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life.

8.11.2 Staff are aware of the Early Help process and understand their role within it including identifying emerging problems for children who may benefit from an offer of Early Help, liaising with the DSL in the first instance and supporting other agencies and professionals in an Early Help assessment through information sharing. In some cases Staff may act as the Lead Professional in Early Help Cases.

8.11.3 All Staff should be alert to identifying children who may benefit from Early Help. Where a child and family would benefit from coordinated support from more than one agency (eg education, health, police) there should be an inter-agency Early Help assessment, such as the Common Assessment Framework. This should identify what help the child and family require to prevent needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed via a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989. If Early Help is appropriate and where they are not taking the lead, the DSL should support the member of Staff in liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency Early Help assessment as appropriate.

8.11.4 The Early Help assessment should be undertaken by a lead professional who should provide support to the child of the family, act as an advocate on their behalf and coordinate the delivery of support services. The lead professional role could be undertaken by the DSL or a teacher (or a GP, family support worker, health visitor and/or special educational needs coordinator). Decisions as to who performs this role should be taken on a case by case basis and should be informed by the child and their family.

8.11.5 For an Early Help assessment to be effective:

8.11.5.1 it should be undertaken with the agreement of the child and their parents or carers, and should involve the child and their family as well as all of the professionals who are working with them;

8.11.5.2 a teacher (or other relevant professional) should be able to discuss concerns they may have about a child and family with a social worker in the local authority. Children's social care in each local authority should set out the process for how this will happen; and

8.11.5.3 if parents and/or the child do not consent to an early help assessment, then the lead professional should make a judgement as to whether, without help, the needs of the child will escalate. If so, a referral to children's social care may be necessary.

8.11.6 Effective early help in a school setting involves the school (under the guidance of the DSL) providing high quality support, in cooperation with or coordinating other agencies as appropriate, to help address the assessed needs of the child and their family early, in order to significantly improve the outcomes for the child. It is hoped that in each case this should improve the welfare of the relevant child. However, each case should be kept under constant review, and consideration should be given to a referral to children's social care if the child's situation does not appear to be improving.

8.12 Making a referral

8.12.1 If at any time it is considered that a child may be a child in need, has suffered or is at risk of significant harm or is in immediate danger the DSL should make a referral to Children's Social Care immediately in the local authority where the child lives and in accordance with the threshold document published by the relevant LSCB. For Surrey, a referral should be made to the M.A.S.H immediately in accordance with the threshold document published by Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board.[4]

8.12.2 **If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm a referral should be made to the M.A.S.H and/or the police <u>immediately.</u>**

8.12.3 In exceptional circumstances a member of Staff may make a referral directly to the M.A.S.H. There is a duty on all Staff to persist with referrals if they feel appropriate action is not being taken. If a Staff member makes a referral directly s/he should notify the DSL.

8.12.4 If after a referral the child's situation does not appear to be improving the DSL (or the person that made the referral) should press for re-consideration to ensure their concerns have been addressed, and most importantly the child's situation improves.

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[4] http://www.surreyscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Levels-of-Need-.pdf

8.13   Supporting Staff

8.13.1   We recognise that Staff working in the school who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm, may find the situation stressful and upsetting.

8.13.2   We will support such Staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the DSL and to seek further support as appropriate.

9 Children who are particularly vulnerable

9.1 The Royal Alexandra & Albert School recognises that some children are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect and that additional barriers exist when recognising abuse for some children.

9.2 We understand that this increase in risk is due more to societal attitudes and assumptions or safeguarding procedures that fail to acknowledge children's diverse circumstances, rather than the individual child's personality, impairment or circumstances.

9.3 In some cases possible indicators of abuse such as a child's mood, behaviour or injury might be assumed to relate to the child's impairment or disability rather than giving a cause for concern. Or a focus may be on the child's disability, special educational needs or situation without consideration of the full picture. In other cases, such as bullying, the child may be disproportionately impacted by the behaviour without outwardly showing any signs that they are experiencing it.

9.4 Some children may also find it harder to disclose abuse due to communication barriers, lack of access to a trusted adult or not being aware that what they are experiencing is abuse.

9.5 To ensure that all of our pupils receive equal protection we will be particularly alert to children who are:

9.5.1 Disabled or have special educational needs

9.5.2 Young carers

9.5.3 Affected by parental substance misuse, domestic abuse or parental mental health needs

9.5.4 Asylum seekers

9.5.5 Living away from home (including but not limited to those who are privately fostered)

9.5.6 Looked after children

9.5.7 Vulnerable to being bullied or engaged in bullying

9.5.8 Already viewed as a 'problem'

9.5.9 Living in temporary accommodation

9.5.10 Living transient lifestyles

9.5.11 Living in chaotic and unsupportive home situations

9.5.12 Vulnerable to discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, disability or sexuality

9.5.13 At risk of sexual exploitation

9.5.14 Do not have English as a first language

9.5.15 At risk of honour based violence including female genital mutilation and/or forced marriage

9.5.16 At risk of being drawn into extremism.

10 Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying

10.2 Our school policy on anti-bullying is set out in a separate document and acknowledges that bullying may constitute a safeguarding matter and be handled accordingly. This includes all forms including (but not limited to) cyber, racist, homophobic and gender related bullying. We keep a record of known bullying incidents that is shared with and analysed by the Pupil Matters Pastoral Committee. All Staff are aware that children with SEND and / or differences/perceived differences and/or vulnerable children as set out in 9.5 are more susceptible to being bullied / victims of child abuse.

10.3 If the bullying is particularly serious such that it is considered to constitute peer on peer abuse, or the bullying reveals underlying safeguarding concerns in relation to the alleged bully and/or victim, the Headmaster and the DSL will consider implementing safeguarding procedures.

10.4 The subject of bullying is addressed at regular intervals in PSHE education.

11 Racist Incidents

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

12 Radicalisation and Extremism

12.1   The Prevent Duty for England and Wales (2015) under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on education and other children's services to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

12.2   Extremism is defined as 'vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs'. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

12.3   There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

12.4   Some children are at risk of being radicalised, adopting beliefs and engaging in activities that are harmful, criminal or dangerous.

12.5   Exploitation of vulnerable children and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and follows the Department for Education guidance for schools and childcare providers on preventing children and young people from being drawn into terrorism.[5]

12.6   The Royal Alexandra & Albert School seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

12.7   School Staff receive training to help identify early signs of radicalisation and extremism. Indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation are detailed in Appendix 6.

12.8   Opportunities are provided in the curriculum to enable pupils to discuss issues of religion, ethnicity and culture and the school follows the DfE advice Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural education) in Schools (2014).[6]

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[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty
[6] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf

12.9   The school governors, the Headmaster and the DSL will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include the use of school premises by external agencies, consideration of the anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy. The school has assessed the risk of radicalisation posed to children in the local area and to the school's pupils and it considers the risk to be low.

12.10   When any member of Staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the DSL. They should then follow normal safeguarding procedures. If the matter is urgent then Surrey Police must be contacted by dialling 999. In non-urgent cases where police advice is sought then dial 101 and liaise with the Channel Police Practitioner. The Department of Education has also set up a dedicated telephone helpline for Staff and governors to raise concerns around Prevent (020 7340 7264) and a useful website.[7]

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[7] http://educateagainsthate.com/

13 Domestic Abuse

13.1 Domestic abuse represents one quarter of all violent crime.[8] It is actual or threatened physical, emotional, psychological or sexual abuse. It involves the use of power and control by one person over another. It occurs regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, age, religion, mental or physical ability. Domestic abuse can also involve other types of abuse.

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

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

13.4 Living in a home where domestic abuse takes place is harmful to children and can have a serious impact on their behaviour, wellbeing and understanding of healthy, positive relationships. Children who witness domestic abuse are at risk of significant harm and Staff are alert to the signs and symptoms of a child suffering or witnessing domestic abuse (See Appendix 5).

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[8] https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support-for-adults/raising-concerns-and-staying-safe/domestic-abuse/definition-of-domestic-abuse

14 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

14.1   Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. More information and the indicators of CSE are set out in appendix 3. CSE can happen online and offline and all Staff should be aware of the link between online safety and vulnerability to CSE.

14.2   Any concerns that a child is being or is at risk of being sexually exploited should be passed without delay to the DSL. The Royal Alexandra & Albert School is aware there is a clear link between regular school absence/truanting and CSE. Staff should consider a child to be at potential CSE risk in the case of regular school absence/truanting and make reasonable enquiries with the child and parents to assess this risk.

14.3   The DSL will use the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board CSE Screening Tool[9] on all occasions when there is a concern that a child is being or is at risk of being sexually exploited or where indicators have been observed that are consistent with a child who is being or who is at risk of being sexually exploited.

14.4   In all cases if the tool identified any level of concern (green, amber or red) the DSL should contact their local Referral, Intervention and Assessment team and email the completed CSE Screening Tool along with a Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF). If a child is in immediate danger the police should be called on 999.

14.5   The Royal Alexandra & Albert School is aware that a child often is not able to recognise the coercive nature of the abuse and does not see themselves as a victim. As a consequence the child may resent what they perceive as interference by Staff. However, Staff must act on their concerns as they would for any other type of abuse.

14.6   The Royal Alexandra & Albert School includes the risks of sexual exploitation in the PSHE and SRE curriculum. Pupils will be informed of the grooming process and how to protect themselves from people who may potentially be intent on causing harm. They will be supported in terms of recognising and assessing risk in relation to CSE, including online, and knowing how and where to get help.

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[9] http://www.surreyscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SSCB-CSE-Screening-Tool-May-16.pdf

15 Honour Based Violence

15.1 Honour based violence (HBV) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation, forced marriage and practices such as breast ironing.

15.2 Honour based violence might be committed against people who:

15.2.1 Become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion;

15.2.2 Want to get out of an arranged marriage;

15.2.3 Want to get out of a forced marriage;

15.2.4 Wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture.

15.3 It is a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual abuse. There is no, and cannot be any, honour or justification for abusing the human rights of others.

15.4 **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

15.4.1 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in England and Wales under the FGM Act (2003). It is a form of child abuse and violence against women.

15.4.2 Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. There is a range of potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk of FGM, which individually may not indicate risk but if there are two or more indicators present it could signal a risk to the child or young person. Victims of FGM are likely to come from a community that is known to practise FGM. Staff should note that girls at risk of FGM may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so sensitivity should always be shown when approaching the subject.

15.4.3 A mandatory reporting duty requires teachers to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s, which are identified in the course of their professional work, to the police.[10]

15.4.4 If a teacher is informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her or a teacher observes physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out on a girl under 18 and they have no reason to believe the act was necessary for the girl's physical or mental health or for purposes connected with labour or birth, the teacher should personally make a report to the police force by calling 101. The report should be made by the close of the next working day.

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[10] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information

15.4.5 The duty applies to all persons in The Royal Alexandra & Albert School who are employed or engaged to carry out 'teaching work' in the school, whether or not they have qualified teacher status. The duty applies to the individual who becomes aware of the case to make a report, not to the DSL. However the DSL should be informed. Those failing to report cases to the police will face disciplinary sanctions.

15.4.6 This duty does not apply where a teacher merely suspects that an act of FGM may have been carried out or that a girl may be at risk of FGM. In all at risk or suspected cases, and in cases relating to girls aged 18 or over, teachers should discuss concerns with the DSL immediately.

15.4.7 Any non-teaching Staff with concerns about FGM should report their concerns to the DSL immediately.

15.4.8 School Staff are trained to be aware of risk indicators of FGM which are set out in Appendix 4 and in the multi-agency practice guidelines[11] Staff should be particularly alert to suspicions or concerns expressed by female pupils about going on a long holiday during the summer vacation period. There should also be consideration of potential risk to other girls in the family and practising community.

15.4.9 Where there is a risk to life or likelihood of serious immediate harm the teacher should report the case immediately to the police, including dialling 999 if appropriate.

15.4.10 There are no circumstances in which a teacher or other member of Staff should examine a girl.

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[11]https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/512906/Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM__-_FINAL.pdf (pp. 16 – 17)

15.15 Forced Marriage

15.15.1 A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities cannot) consent to the marriage but are coerced into it. Coercion may include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. It may also involve physical or sexual violence and abuse.

15.15.2 Forced marriage is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights. Since June 2014 forcing someone to marry has become a criminal offence in England and Wales under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

15.15.3 A forced marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage, which is common in several cultures. The families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses.

15.15.4 School Staff should never attempt to intervene directly as a school or through a third party. Contact should be made with the contact centre or the Forced Marriage Unit 020 7008 0151 or email fmu@fco.gov.uk

16 One Chance Rule

16.1 All Staff are aware of the 'One Chance Rule' in relation to forced marriage, FGM and HBV. Staff recognise they may only have one chance to speak to a pupil who is a potential victim and have just one chance to save a life.

16.2 The Royal Alexandra & Albert School are aware that if the victim is not offered support following disclosure that the 'One Chance' opportunity may be lost. Therefore, all Staff are aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they become aware of potential forced marriage, FGM and HBV cases.

17 Private Fostering Arrangements

17.1 A private fostering arrangement occurs when someone other than a parent or close relative cares for a child for a period of 28 days or more, with the agreement of the child's parents. It applies to children under the age of 16, or 18 if the child is disabled. Children looked after by the local authority or who are place in residential schools, children's homes or hospitals are not considered to be privately fostered.

17.2 Private fostering occurs in all cultures, including British culture and children may be privately fostered at any age.

17.3 The Royal Alexandra & Albert School recognise that most privately fostered children remain safe and well but are aware that safeguarding concerns have been raised in some cases. Therefore, all Staff are alert to possible safeguarding issues, including the possibility that the child has been trafficked into the country.

17.4   By law, a parent, private foster carer or other persons involved in making a private fostering arrangement must notify children's services as soon as possible. However, where a member of Staff becomes aware that a pupil may be in a private fostering arrangement they will raise this will the DSL and the DSL will notify Surrey Children's Social Care of the circumstances.

18   Looked After Children

18.1   A looked after child is a child who is looked after by the local authority, subject to a care order or who is voluntarily accommodated by a local authority. The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and neglect. The Royal Alexandra & Albert School ensures that Staff have the necessary skills and understanding to keep looked after children safe. Appropriate Staff have information about a child's looked after legal status and care arrangements, including the level of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after the child and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.

18.2   The designated teacher for looked after children and the DSL have details of the child's social worker and the name and contact details of the Surrey County Council's virtual school head for children in care.

18.3   The designated teacher for looked after children works with the virtual school head to discuss how Pupil Premium Plus funding can be best used to support the progress of looked after children in the school and meet the needs in the child's personal education plan.

19 Children Missing from Education

19.1   The school understands its duty, as explained in KCSIE, in relation to the risks posed by children missing from education. All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have.

19.2   Attendance, absence and exclusions are closely monitored. A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

19.3   The Senior Assistant Head will monitor unauthorised absences and take appropriate action including notifying the DSL and local authority particularly where children go missing on repeat occasions and/or are missing for periods during the school day in conjunction with 'Children Missing Education: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities.[12] A written record will be made of any incident of a pupil missing from the school, the action taken, and any reasons given by the pupil for being missing. The school will ensure that any pupil currently on the Child Protection Register who is absent without explanation for two days is referred to Children's Services.

19.4   All Staff are aware of their role to prevent children from going missing from education. Staff must also be alert to signs of children at risk of travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

20 Online Safety

20.1   Our pupils increasingly use electronic equipment on a daily basis to access the internet and share content and images via social media sites.

20.2   Unfortunately, some adults and other children use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts or emails, to grooming and enticing children to engage in sexual behaviour such as webcam photography or face-to-face meetings. Pupils may also be distressed or harmed by accessing inappropriate material such as pornographic websites or those which promote extremist behaviour, criminal activity, suicide or eating disorders

20.3   The Royal Alexandra & Albert School has an e-safety policy which explains how we limit children's exposure to the above risks (e.g. appropriate filtering), how we protect and prevent harm to children by their use of technology, the internet; and how we respond to online safety incidents (See flowchart, Appendix 7).

20.4   Pupils are taught about online safety throughout the curriculum and all Staff receive online safety training which is regularly updated. The school online safety co-ordinator is Gary Bendall, Senior Assistant Head.

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[12] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education

21 Peer on Peer Abuse

21.1   In most instances, the conduct of pupils towards each other will be covered by our Rewards and Behaviour Management policy. However, some allegations may be of such a serious nature that they may raise safeguarding concerns. The Royal Alexandra & Albert School recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. It will not be passed off as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'. The forms of peer on peer abuse are outlined below.

21.1.1   Domestic abuse – an incident or pattern of actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual, financial and/or emotional abuse, perpetrated by an adolescent against a current or former dating partner regardless of gender or sexuality.

21.1.2   Child Sexual Exploitation – children under the age of 18 may be sexually abused in the context of exploitative relationships, contexts and situations by peers who are also under 18.

21.1.3   Harmful Sexual Behaviour – Children and young people presenting with sexual behaviours that are outside of developmentally 'normative' parameters and harmful to themselves and others. (For more information, please see Appendix 2).

21.1.4   Serious Youth Violence – Any offence of most serious violence or weapon enabled crime, where the victim is aged 1-19 i.e. murder, manslaughter, rape, wounding with intent and causing grievous bodily harm. 'Youth violence' is defined in the same way, but also includes assault with injury offences.

21.2   The term peer-on-peer abuse can refer to all of these definitions and a child may experience one or multiple facets of abuse at any one time. Therefore, our response will cut across these definitions and capture the complex web of their experiences.

21.3   There are also different gender issues that can be prevalent when dealing with peer on peer abuse (e.g. girls being sexually touched/assaulted or boys being subjected to initiation/hazing type violence).

21.4   It can be difficult to distinguish between abusive behaviour and behaviour which does not constitute abuse, such as low level bullying (where the school's anti-bullying policy should be followed) or age appropriate sexual experimentation.

21.5   Peer on peer abuse may indicate wider safeguarding concerns for all and any of the children involved and all children (whether perpetrator or victim) should be treated as victims. While the perpetrator may pose a significant risk of harm to other children, s/he may also have considerable unmet needs and/or be at risk of harm themselves.

21.6 Factors which may indicate that behaviour is abusive include (a) where it is repeated over time and/or where the perpetrator intended to cause harm; (b) where there is an element of coercion or pre-planning; and (c) where there is an imbalance of power, for example, as a result of age, size, social status or wealth. For more information please see Appendix 2.

21.7 Peer on peer abuse can be identified by being alert to children's wellbeing and to signs of abuse. Signs that a child may be suffering from peer on peer abuse overlap with those relating to other types of abuse (see Appendix 1):

(a) failing to attend school, disengaging from class or struggling to carry out school related tasks to the standard you would ordinarily expect;

(b) physical injuries;

(c) having difficulties with mental health and/or emotional wellbeing;

(d) becoming withdrawn, shy, experiencing headaches, stomach aches, anxiety, panic attacks, suffering from nightmares or lack of sleep or sleeping too much;

(e) drugs and/or alcohol use;

(f) changes in appearance and/or starting to act in a way that is not appropriate for the child's age.

21.8 The Royal Alexandra & Albert School aims to reduce the likelihood of peer on peer abuse through:

21.8.1 the Gatton aims including respect of others;

21.8.2 high expectations of behaviour;

21.8.3 clear consequences for unacceptable behaviour;

21.8.4 providing a developmentally appropriate PSHE curriculum which develops pupils' understanding of healthy relationships, acceptable behaviour, consent and keeping themselves safe;

21.8.5 systems for any pupil to raise concerns with Staff, knowing that they will be listened to, valued and believed;

21.8.6 robust risk assessments and providing targeted work for pupils identified as being a potential risk to other pupils and those identified as being at risk.

21.9 Research indicates that young people rarely disclose peer on peer abuse and that if they do, it is likely to be to their friends. Therefore, The Royal Alexandra & Albert School will also educate pupils in how to support their friends if they are concerned about them, that they should talk to a trusted adult in the school and what services they can contact for further advice.

21.10 Any concerns, disclosures or allegations of peer on peer abuse in any form should be referred to the DSL immediately using the procedures as set out in section 8 of this policy.

21.11 Any response should be decided in conjunction with children's social services and other relevant agencies and should:

(a) investigate the incident and the wider context and assess and mitigate the risk posed by the perpetrator(s) to the victim(s) and to other children;

(b) consider that the abuse may indicate wider safeguarding concerns for any of the children involved;

(c) take into account the complexity of peer on peer abuse and of children's experiences and consider the interplay between power, choice and consent. While children may appear to be making choices, if those choices are limited they are not consenting;

(d) take appropriate action in respect of the perpetrator – any action should address the abuse, the causes of it and attitudes underlying it. Factors to consider include: the risk the perpetrator(s) poses and will continue to pose to other children, their own unmet needs, and the severity of the abuse and the causes of it. Disciplinary action may be appropriate, including (i) to ensure that the perpetrator takes responsibility for and realises the seriousness of his or her behaviour; (ii) to demonstrate to the perpetrator and others that abuse can never be tolerated; and (iii) to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the victim and other children in the School. Permanent exclusion will only be considered as a last resort and only where necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the victim(s) and other children in the School;

(e) In the case of a concern about or an allegation being made against a boarding pupil – if a suspension from school is deemed appropriate while an investigation takes place – that pupil will be required to reside away from the boarding house with their parent or guardian.

(f) provide on-going support to victim(s) including by (i) ensuring their immediate safety; (ii) responding promptly and appropriately to the abuse; (iii) assessing and addressing any unmet needs; (iv) following the procedures set out in the safeguarding policy (including where the child is in need of early help or statutory intervention); (v) monitoring the child's wellbeing closely and ensuring that s/he receives on-going support from all relevant Staff members (including house staff and the School Counsellor) within the school; (vi) engaging with the child's parents and any external agencies to ensure that the child's needs are met in the long-term;

(g) consider the lessons that can be learnt from the abuse and put in place measures to reduce the risk of such abuse recurring. This may include, for example: gender and equalities work, work around school safety, security and supervision, awareness raising for Staff, students and parents about a particular form of abuse, training for Staff on handling certain types of incidents or abuse.

22   The sharing of youth produced sexual imagery ("Sexting")

22.1   The practice of children sharing images and videos via text message, email, social media or mobile messaging apps has become commonplace. However, this online technology has also given children the opportunity to produce and distribute sexual imagery in the form of photos and videos. Such imagery involving anyone under the age of 18 is illegal.

22.2   Sexting refers to both images and videos where;

22.2.1   A person under the age of 18 creates and shares sexual imagery of themselves with a peer under the age of 18.

22.2.2   A person under the age of 18 shares sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18 with a peer under the age of 18 or an adult.

22.2.3   A person under the age of 18 is in possession of sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18.

22.3   All incidents of this nature should be treated as a safeguarding concern and in line with the UKCCIS guidance 'Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people'.[13]

22.4   Cases where sexual imagery of people under 18 has been shared by adults and where sexual imagery of a person of any age has been shared by an adult to a child is child sexual abuse and should be responded to accordingly.

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

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

22.7   Immediate referral at the initial review stage should be made to the M.A.S.H/Police if:

22.7.1   The incident involves an adult;

22.7.2   There is good reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example, owing to special education needs);

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[13]https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/551575/6.2439_KG_ NCA_Sexting_in_Schools_WEB__1_.PDF

22.7.3 What is known about the imagery suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the child's development stage or is violent;

22.7.4 The imagery involves sexual acts;

22.7.5 The imagery involves anyone aged 12 or under;

22.7.6 There is reason to believe a child is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of the imagery, for example the child is presenting as suicidal or self-harming.

22.8 If none of the above applies then the DSL will use their professional judgement to assess the risk to pupils involved and may decide, with input from the Headmaster, to respond to the incident without escalation to the M.A.S.H, or the police.

22.9 In applying judgement the DSL will consider if:

22.9.1 there is a significant age difference between the sender/receiver;

22.9.2 there is any coercion or encouragement beyond the sender/receiver;

22.9.3 the imagery was shared and received with the knowledge of the child in the imagery;

22.9.4 the child is more vulnerable than usual i.e. at risk;

22.9.5 there is a significant impact on the children involved;

22.9.6 the image is of a severe or extreme nature;

22.9.7 the child involved understands consent;

22.9.8 the situation is isolated or if the image been more widely distributed;

22.9.9 there other circumstances relating to either the sender or recipient that may add cause for concern i.e. difficult home circumstances;

22.9.10 the children have been involved in incidents relating to youth produced imagery before.

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

22.11 The DSL will record all incidents of sexting, including both the actions taken, actions not taken, reasons for doing so and the resolution in line with safeguarding recording procedures.

23   Allegations against any adult (including Staff)

23.1   The safety and wellbeing of our pupils depends on the vigilance of our Staff and their prompt communication to the DSL or Headmaster of any concerns, no matter how small, about any adult's suitability to work with or have access to children.

23.2   The notification and prompt handling of all concerns about adults is fundamental to safeguarding children. It helps to identify and prevent abuse and to protect adults against misunderstandings or misinterpretations. Those raising concerns or reporting allegations in good faith will always be supported, and adults in respect of whom concerns or allegations have been raised will not suffer any detriment unless the concern or allegation is found to be substantiated.

23.3   We understand that a pupil may make an allegation against a member of Staff or Staff may have concerns about another Staff member.

23.4   When handling allegations, the School will always follow Part Four of KCSIE. Responsibility for appropriate action rests with the Headmaster. The procedure would be used in all cases in which it is alleged that a teacher or other member of Staff or volunteer has:

   a)   behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;

   b)   possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or

   c)   behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he would pose a risk of harm to children.

23.5   All school Staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.

23.6   All Staff should be aware of and follow the School's Code of Conduct, Surrey's Guidance on Behaviour Issues, and the school's own Rewards and Behaviour Management policy.

23.7   Guidance about conduct and safe practice, including safe use of mobile phones by Staff and volunteers will be given at induction.[14]

23.8   If such an allegation is made, or information is received which suggests that a person may be unsuitable to work with children, the member of Staff receiving or becoming aware of the information will immediately inform the Headmaster.[15] The adult to whom the concern or allegation relates should not be informed.

23.9   The Headmaster, or DSL if tasked to do so, on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)[16] at the earliest opportunity and in any event within 24 hours of the school becoming

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[14] Refer to "Guidance for Safe Working Practice for the Protection of Children and Staff in Education Settings" available on the DfE website, also the SCC E-safety toolkit
[15] or Chair of Governors in the event of an allegation against the Headmaster
[16] Duty LADO 0300 123 1650

aware of the allegation and before taking any further action. The Headmaster will normally discuss all allegations with the DSL unless it relates to the DSL.

23.10   If the allegation made to a member of Staff concerns the Headmaster, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chair of Governors who will consult the LADO as in 23.9 above, without notifying the Headmaster first.

23.11   The school will follow the Surrey procedures for managing allegations against Staff, procedures set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education and the school's Managing Allegations policy and procedures.

24 Whistle-blowing

24.1 We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where Staff fail to do so.

24.2 All Staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of safeguarding, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues, poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding arrangements. If it becomes necessary to consult outside the school, they should speak in the first instance, to the Area Education Officer/LADO following the Whistleblowing Policy.[17]

24.3 The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for Staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email:help@nspcc.org.uk

24.4 Whistle-blowing re the Headmaster should be made to the Chair of the Governing Body.

24.5 No member of Staff will suffer a detriment or be disciplined for raising a genuine concern about unsafe practice, provided that they do so in good faith and follow the whistleblowing procedures.

25 Physical Intervention

25.1 We acknowledge that Staff must only ever use physical intervention as a last resort, to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or each other, from damaging property or from causing disorder, and that at all times it must be the minimal force necessary to prevent injury to another person[18]

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

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

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

25.5 We recognise that touch is appropriate in the context of working with children, and all Staff have been given 'Safe Practice' guidance to ensure they are clear about their professional boundary.[19]

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[17] General guidance on whistleblowing can be found in the Whistleblowing for Employees guidance.
[18]https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use_of_reasonable_force_advice_Reviewed_July_2015.pdf
[19] 'Guidance on Safer Working Practices is available on the DfE website

Appendix 1- Recognising signs of child abuse

Categories of Abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse (including Domestic Abuse)
- Sexual Abuse (including child sexual exploitation)
- Neglect

Signs of Abuse in Children:

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

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

Risk Indicators

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

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

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

In an abusive relationship the child may:

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

The parent or carer may:

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

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

Recognising Physical Abuse

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

Bruising

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

Bite Marks

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

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

Burns and Scalds

It can be difficult to distinguish between accidental and non-accidental burns and scalds, and will always require experienced medical opinion. Any burn with a clear outline may be suspicious e.g.:
- Circular burns from cigarettes (but may be friction burns if along the bony protuberance of the spine)
- Linear burns from hot metal rods or electrical fire elements
- Burns of uniform depth over a large area
- Scalds that have a line indicating immersion or poured liquid (a child getting into hot water is his/her own accord will struggle to get out and cause splash marks)
- Old scars indicating previous burns/scalds which did not have appropriate treatment or adequate explanation

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

Fractures

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

Non-mobile children rarely sustain fractures.

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

Scars

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

<u>Recognising Emotional Abuse</u>

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

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

The following may be indicators of emotional abuse:
- Developmental delay
- Abnormal attachment between a child and parent/carer e.g. anxious, indiscriminate or not attachment
- Indiscriminate attachment or failure to attach
- Aggressive behaviour towards others
- Scape-goated within the family
- Frozen watchfulness, particularly in pre-school children
- Low self-esteem and lack of confidence
- Withdrawn or seen as a "loner" – difficulty relating to others

Recognising Signs of Sexual Abuse

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

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

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

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

Recognising Neglect

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

- Failure by parents or carers to meet the basic essential needs e.g. adequate food, clothes, warmth, hygiene and medical care
- A child seen to be listless, apathetic and irresponsive with no apparent medical cause
  Failure of child to grow within normal expected pattern, with accompanying weight loss
- Child thrives away from home environment
- Child frequently absent from school
- Child left with adults who are intoxicated or violent
- Child abandoned or left alone for excessive periods

Appendix 2 - Sexual Abuse by Young People

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

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

Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour can be inappropriate socially, in appropriate to development, or both. In considering whether behaviour fits into this category, it is important to consider what negative effects it has on any of the parties involved and what concerns it raises about a child or young person. It should be recognised that some actions may be motivated by information seeking, but still cause significant upset, confusion, worry, physical damage, etc. It may also be that the behaviour is "acting out" which may derive from other sexual situations to which the child or young person has been exposed. If an act appears to have been inappropriate, there may still be a need for some form of behaviour management or intervention. For some children, educative inputs may be enough to address the behaviour.

Abusive sexual activity included any behaviour involving coercion, threats, aggression together with secrecy, or where one participant relies on an unequal power base. In order to more fully determine the nature of the incident the following factors should be given consideration. The presence of exploitation in terms of:
- ❖ **Equality** – consider differentials of physical, cognitive and emotional development, power and control and authority, passive and assertive tendencies
- ❖ **Consent** – agreement including all the following:
  - o Understanding that is proposed based on age, maturity, development level, functioning and experience
  - o Knowledge of society's standards for what is being proposed
  - o Awareness of potential consequences and alternatives
  - o Assumption that agreements or disagreements will be respected equally
  - o Voluntary decision
  - o Mental competence
- ❖ **Coercion** – the young perpetrator who abuses may use techniques like bribing, manipulation and emotional threats of secondary gains and losses that is loss of love, friendship, etc. Some may use physical force, brutality or the threat of these regardless of victim resistance.

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

Appendix 3 - Child Sexual Exploitation

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

Signs include:

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

Appendix 4 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

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

What is FGM?

It involves procedures that intentionally alter/injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

4 types of procedure:

Type 1 Clitoridectomy – partial/total removal of clitoris

Type 2 Excision – partial/total removal of clitoris and labia minora

Type 3 Infibulation entrance to vagina is narrowed by repositioning the inner/outer labia

Type 4 all other procedures that may include: pricking, piercing, incising, cauterising and scraping the genital area.

Why is it carried out?

Belief that:

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

Is FGM legal?

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

Circumstances and occurrences that may point to FGM happening are:

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

Signs that may indicate a child has undergone FGM:

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

The 'One Chance' rule

As with Forced Marriage there is the 'One Chance' rule. It is essential that settings /schools/colleges take action **without delay** and make a referral to children's services.

Appendix 5 - Domestic Abuse

How does it affect children?

Children can be traumatised by seeing and hearing violence and abuse. They may also be directly targeted by the abuser or take on a protective role and get caught in the middle. In the long term this can lead to mental health issues such as depression, self-harm and anxiety.

What are the signs to look out for?

Children affected by domestic abuse reflect their distress in a variety of ways. They may change their usual behaviour and become withdrawn, tired, start to wet the bed and have behavioural difficulties. They may not want to leave their house or may become reluctant to return. Others will excel, using their time in your care as a way to escape from their home life. None of these signs are exclusive to domestic abuse so when you are considering changes in behaviours and concerns about a child, think about whether domestic abuse may be a factor.

What should I do if I suspect a family is affected by domestic abuse?

To talk through your concerns call the Surrey Domestic Abuse Helpline on 01483 776822 or talk to your local outreach service.

East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services - Covering Reigate & Banstead, Mole Valley and Tandridge - 01737 771350

Your Sanctuary Outreach Service Covering Woking, Runnymede and Surrey Heath - 01483 776822

North Surrey Outreach Service - Covering Epsom & Ewell, Elmbridge and Spelthorne - 01932 260690

South West Surrey Outreach Service - Covering Guildford and Waverley - 01483 577392

Appendix 6 – Indicators of Vulnerability to Radicalisation

1.   Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

2.   Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:
      Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

3.   Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:
      The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
      • Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
      • Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
      • Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
      • Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

4.   There is no such thing as a "typical extremist": those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

5.   Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school Staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

6.   Indicators of vulnerability include:
      • Identity Crisis – the student / pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
      • Personal Crisis – the student / pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
      • Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the student / pupil's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
      • Unmet Aspirations – the student / pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
      • Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
      • Special Educational Need – students / pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

7.   However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

8.   More critical risk factors could include:
      • Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
      • Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
      • Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
      • Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
      • Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;

- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

The Department of Education guidance <u>The Prevent Duty</u> can be accessed via this link.

A concern is raised

Appendix 7

What to do if you have an online safety concern:

Refer to the DSL if concerns are about a child
Refer to Headmaster if concerns are about staff
Refer to Chair of Governors if concerns are about the Headmaster

If concerns are about staff or Headmaster refer to LADO before taking any further action

What type of activity is involved? (Use screening tool/e-safety legal framework)

Incident closed
(Is counselling or advice required?)

Who is involved?

Child as instigator

Child as victim

Staff as victim

Staff as instigator

Establish level of concern. (Screening tool)

Establish level of concern. (Screening tool)

Establish level of concern. (Screening tool)

Establish level of concern. (Screening tool)

DSL to consider need for CP referral

Potential illegal or child protection issues?

Other children involved?

Yes

No

If appropriate, disconnect computer, seal and store.

In-school action:
DSL,
Head of ICT, senior manager.

Yes

SSCB Child Protection Procedures refer to LADO

Counselling
Risk assessment

School disciplinary and child protection procedures (possible parental involvement)

Possible legal action

Possible legal action

Appendix 8 – Useful websites

Further advice on safeguarding is available from:

NSPCC: http://www.nspcc.org.uk/

Childline: http://www.childline.org.uk/pages/home.aspx

CEOPSThinkuknow: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Anti-Bullying Alliance: http://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/

Beat Bullying: http://www.beatbullying.org/

Childnet International –making the internet a great and safe place for children. Includes resources for professionals and parents http://www.childnet.com/

Thinkuknow (includes resources for professionals and parents) https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Safer Internet Centre: http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

Educate against hate: http://educateagainsthate.com

Educate and celebrate: http://www.educateandcelebrate.org

Croydon Safeguarding website: https://www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/families/childproctsafe/cscb/

Sutton Safeguarding website: http://www.suttonlscb.org.uk/