



Safeguarding, Child Protection and Early Help Policy

Aiming High Together

If you have concerns about a child who lives in **Wigan** contact:

Monday to Sunday 24 hours: 01942 828300

[Or you can make a referral electronically.](#)

Remember, in an emergency please ring **999**

School Name:	Lowton West Primary School
Policy owner:	Mrs J. Westhead
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Key Contacts

Table of identified persons with specific lead responsibilities in relation to Safeguarding and other key agencies.

Key Safeguarding Personnel			
Role	Name	Telephone	Email
Head teacher	Mrs J. Westhead	01942 724865	enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Mrs J. Westhead (Headteacher)	01942 724865	enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Mrs N. Gould (Deputy Headteacher) Mrs A. Brooks Assistant Headteacher (KS1)	01942 724865	enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk
Nominated Governor/Trustee	Mr. B. Cunliffe	N/A	
Chair of Governors/Trustees	Mr. B. Cunliffe	N/A	
Designated Teacher for Looked After Children	Mrs N. Gould (Deputy Headteacher)	01942 724865	enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk
The key safeguarding responsibilities within each of the roles above are set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept 2020)			
Agency Contact Details			
Designated Officer (Allegations) (DO, formerly known as LADO)	Sue Wharton	01942 486042	lado@wigan.gov.uk
Children's Social Care referrals	Duty Team	01942 828300	https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Health-Social-Care/Children-and-young-people/ProfessionalReferralForm.aspx
Early Help Hub	StartWell	01942 486262	EHH@wigan.gov.uk
Wigan Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP)		01942 486025	wscbtraining@wigan.gov.uk
Link Social Worker		01942 828300	

CAMHS Link worker	Emily Penders	01942 775 400	Ashton, Lowton and Golborne Footprint Wigan CAMHS 155 - 157 Manchester Rd Ince WIGAN LANCASHIRE WN2 2JA
School Nursing / Health Visiting service	Tina Corday	01942 483 558	Lowton, Golborne and Leigh Team
SDF Huddle Manager	Angela Addis	07584 467 950	Golborne Library, Tanners Lane, WA3 3AW
Housing		01942 404 091	https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Contacts/Council-homes/index.aspx Town Hall, Leigh, WN7 1DY

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Remember in an emergency please ring **999**

If you believe a child or young person is **at immediate risk** of significant harm or injury, contact the **Police on 999**

Definitions

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

Child Protection refers to the situation where a child is suffering significant harm, or is likely to do so, and action is required to protect that child.

The Purpose of this Policy and Procedure document

The purpose of this policy is to provide absolute clarity for all staff at Lowton West Primary School on our shared responsibilities in safeguarding our pupils. This Policy and procedure document aims to help professionals understand what they need to do, and what they can expect of one another, to safeguard children. It focuses on core legal requirements, making it clear what individuals should do to keep children safe and how it is managed practically at Lowton West Primary School.

Key Principles

Everyone who works with children - including teachers, teaching assistants, midday assistants, office staff, pastoral staff, premise staff and all other roles at Lowton West Primary including volunteers and governors- have a responsibility in keeping children safe. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

Safeguarding children is a shared responsibility, and it is acknowledged that no single professional or agency can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. It is recognised that school staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide early help for children, to prevent concerns from escalating.

Academies, Schools and Colleges and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)*. Schools should work with Social Care, the Police, Health Services and other services to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

At Lowton West Primary School, **safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development in school**. School is committed to working together with all relevant agencies to ensure that children and families are able to receive the right help at the right time and that appropriate action is taken swiftly to protect children from harm.

Introduction

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by

- [The Children Act 1989 \(as amended\)](#).
- [The Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).
- [The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#).

In addition to the revised documents;

- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 \(KCSiE 2021\)](#)

Other key documents are noted, which have prompted changes to safeguarding requirements over time. This policy references these throughout where relevant:

- [GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018](#).
- [Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners 2018](#).
- [Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges \(guidance document\) 2018](#).
- [Childcare \(Early Years Provision Free of Charge\) \(Extended Entitlement\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018](#).
- [Childcare Act 2006 \(as amended in 2018\)](#).
- This policy should also be read in conjunction with [Wigan's Threshold of Need Document and Procedure](#) and [Wigan's Resolution Policy](#).

Safeguarding is defined as:

- ensuring that children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances
- preventing impairment of children's health or development and
- protecting children from maltreatment.

The term 'safeguarding children' covers a range of measures including child protection procedures. It encompasses a preventative approach to keeping children safe that incorporates pupil health and safety; school behaviour and preventing bullying; supporting pupils with medical conditions; personal, health, social economic education; providing first aid and site security. Consequently, this policy is consistent with all other policies adopted by the governors and should be read alongside the following policies relevant to the safety and welfare of our pupils:

- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Equality Statement and Policy
- Relationships and Sex education
- Intimate Care Policy
- GDPR Data Protection Policy
- Use of Mobile Phone and Camera Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Staff Handbook and safer working practice
- Online Safety Policy
- Use of Images Policy
- Use of Internet Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- SEND Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Mental Health and Well Being Policy
- Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers
- Policy for CLA pupils

The aim of this policy is to ensure:

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- All of our pupil's / students are safe and protected from harm
- Safeguarding procedures are in place to help pupils and students to feel safe and learn to stay safe
- Adults in the education setting community are aware of the expected behaviours and the legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and child protection.
- All agencies are providing appropriate support to children and young people through adoption of the early help framework

This will be achieved by:

- Supporting the child's / young person's development in ways that will foster security, confidence, and independence.
- Providing a high quality, safe and stimulating environment in which children and young people feel safe, secure, valued, and respected, feel confident, and are able to enjoy, learn and grow in confidence. Have positive relationships with the adults caring for them and know how to approach adults if they are in difficulties, believing they will be effectively listened to.
- Raising the awareness of all teaching and non-teaching staff of the need to safeguard children and young people, of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse (See Appendix 1 and 2) and preventing and intervening earlier to address support and social needs of young people through the early help framework
- Providing a systematic means of monitoring children / young people known or thought to be at risk of harm, and ensure we, Lowton West Primary School, contribute to assessments of need and support packages for those pupils/students.
- Emphasising the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff.
- Developing a structured procedure within the education setting which will be followed by all members of the education setting community in cases of suspected abuse.
- Also, that staff have had access to specific training and awareness raising concerning:
 - Staff Code of Conduct (for safer working practice)
 - D/DSL training
 - KCSiE (2021) Part 1
 - Children Looked After (CLA)
 - Online safety training for staff
 - Preventing Radicalisation
 - Staff training

- Whistleblowing

All Staff need to be aware that children with additional needs i.e. SENDs (Special educational needs & disabilities), CLA (Children looked after) or EAL (English as an additional language) may face additional challenges and vulnerabilities e.g. communication barriers and difficulty overcoming them may lead to abuse and bullying.

Wigan Council is committed to ensuring that the appropriate support is in place for CLA and has an appointed designated teacher who will liaise with the Social Worker and Virtual School Head to jointly address the needs of these children.

- Developing and promoting effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the Police, Health and Social Care.
- Ensuring that all staff working within our education setting who have substantial access to children and young people have been checked as to their suitability, including verification of their identity, qualifications, and a satisfactory DBS check and a central record is kept for audit. The Guidance regarding DBS checks was updated by the [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) and further information can be found regarding [what level of check is required for individuals which has been produced by the UK government](#).
- Curriculum – teaching about safeguarding: Our pupils access a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, and physical development, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of life. We provide opportunities for pupils to develop skills, concepts, attitudes, and knowledge that promote their safety and well-being. The PSHE and citizenship curriculum specifically includes the following objectives:
 - Developing pupil self-esteem and communication skills
 - Developing strategies for self-protection including online safety
 - Developing a sense of the boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour in adults and within peer relationships (positive relationships and consent)

Children's mental health and physical well-being is always of the highest of priority at Lowton West Primary School and is embedded in our ethos and culture.

- Staff have completed 'Attachment Awareness Training' and 'Safeguarding Training' which has enabled staff to have a good level of knowledge around children's potential long lasting effects of trauma from a range of different adverse experiences such as abuse or neglect.
- Staff at Lowton West Primary School are aware that mental health problems can in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse or neglect.
- The DSL and SENCO have a clear understanding of the processes involved in ensuring the children who are suffering with mental health issues are referred to the appropriate outside agencies such as CAMHS or our school counsellor.
- However, all staff, are well placed to observe children day to day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Scope

As outlined above, the term 'safeguarding children' covers a range of measures including child protection procedures. It encompasses a preventative approach through the early help framework to keeping children safe that incorporates pupil health and safety; school behaviour and preventing bullying; supporting pupils with medical conditions; personal, health, social economic education; providing first aid and site security.

All staff are aware of the categories of abuse, which are:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional Abuse

- Neglect
- Sexual abuse

The definitions of which can be found in the glossary, and signs and symptoms of the four categories of abuse can be found in *Appendix one and two*.

This policy assumes that any of the categories of abuse could be disclosed within the Borough of Wigan, and gives further information relating to individual types of abuse within this document in line with advice and guidance within Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2021

Expectations of staff

All staff are:

- Familiar with this safeguarding policy and have an opportunity to contribute to its review.
- Alert to signs and indicators of possible abuse.
- Able to record and report concerns as set out in this policy.
- Able to deal with a disclosure of abuse from a pupil.
- Involved in the implementation of individual education programmes, integrated support plans, child in need plans and interagency child protection plans as required.

In addition, all staff have read and understood Part 1 of the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE 2021).

We recognise that all adults, including temporary staff¹, volunteers and governors, have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils / students from harm, and that the child's / young person's welfare is our paramount concern.

All staff believe that our education setting should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child or young person.

We recognise that a child / young person who is neglected, abused, or witnessed violence may feel helpless and humiliated, may blame themselves, and find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of worth. 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.

We recognise that the education setting may provide the only stability in the lives of children and young people who have been abused or are at risk of harm. Staff members working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of '**it could happen here**' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the best interests of the child.

We recognise that the early help framework provides opportunities to intervene early and prevent safeguarding issues developing, as well providing a framework for appropriate support to be wrapped around the child / young person and their family.

Safe Setting, Safe Staff

Our 'Health, Safety and Welfare' policy, set out in a separate document, reflects the consideration we give to the protection of our children and young people both physically within the education setting environment and, for example, in relation to internet use, and when away from the education setting, undertaking off site trips and visits.

School security guidance has been compiled to support the senior management of educational settings in the discharge of their responsibilities by ensuring the development and implementation of suitable procedures. You can request a copy of the 'School Security Guidance' which has been produced by Wigan Council by emailing wscbtraining@wigan.gov.uk

¹ Wherever the word "staff" is used, it covers ALL staff on site, including ancillary supply and self-employed staff, contractors, volunteers working with children etc, and governors

Lowton West Primary School will ensure that:

1. The Governing body / trustees 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 / at risk of suffering abuse and neglect. As key strategic decision makers and vision setters for the school, the governors will make sure that our policies and procedures are in line with national and local safeguarding requirements. Governors will work with the senior leaders to make sure the key actions set out in Safe Setting, Safe Staff are in place.

We will ensure that:

All members of the governing body understand and fulfil their responsibilities, namely to ensure that:

- There is a 'Safeguarding, Child Protection and Early Help' policy together with a staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy. Our Staff Code of Conduct is contained within the Staff handbook (which is reviewed annually and circulated to all staff).
- The education setting operates safer recruitment procedures by ensuring that there is at least one person on every recruitment panel that has completed Safer Recruitment training.²
- The education setting has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers and to make a referral 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.
- Disqualification by Association is no longer allowed within school settings, although Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006, still applies to staff themselves.³
- a senior leader has Designated safeguarding lead (DSL) responsibility and a Deputy with the same level of training and knowledge (may be more than one)
- On appointment, the DSL undertakes interagency training and also undertakes DSL "new to role" training and an "update" course every 2 years
- the Senior lead DSL will have lead responsibility for matters relating to safeguarding and child protection, this will be supported by and not delegated to the deputies. This person or deputy must be available during term time to discuss any safeguarding concerns.
- all other staff have Safeguarding training updated as appropriate
- any weaknesses in Child Protection are remedied immediately
- a member of the Governing Body, usually the Chair, is nominated to liaise with the LA on Child Protection issues and in the event of an allegation of abuse made against the Headteacher
- information is shared appropriately and in a timely way to prevent delay in support and identification of risk
- Safeguarding, Child Protection and Early Help policies and procedures are reviewed annually and that the 'Safeguarding, Child Protection and Early Help' policy is available on the school website or by other means.

² Safer recruitment training can be accessed through Wigan Safeguarding Children's Board

³ Disqualification by Association now only applies in domestic settings, not schools. Disqualification under the Child Care Act still applies to staff themselves who work in a child care capacity, whether paid, volunteer or are on work placements. Relevant staff are those working in child care, or in a management role because they are: working with reception age children at any time; or working with children older than reception until age eight, outside school hours. Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2018) paragraph 116 also refers to disqualification: "For staff who work in childcare provision or who are directly concerned with the management of such provision, the school needs to ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009".

- the Governing Body considers how children may be taught about safeguarding. This may be 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).
 - Other specific topics will include online safety.
 - That enhanced DBS checks are in place for Chair of Governors.
 - Governing bodies will put in place appropriate safeguarding responses to children who go missing in education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect.
 - The nominated governor for safeguarding liaises with the head teacher and the D/DSL to complete an annual Section 175 safeguarding audit to return to the local authority.
2. KCSiE (2021) is statutory guidance that education settings in England must have regard to it when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children applying to.
 - Governing bodies of maintained schools (including maintained nursery schools) and colleges.
 - Proprietors of independent schools (including academies, free schools and alternative provision academies) and non-maintained special schools. In the case of academies, free schools and alternative provision academies, the proprietor will be the academy trust; and Management committees of pupil referral units (PRUs)
 3. The lead DSL is a member of the Senior Leadership team who has; along with the deputy designated safeguarding lead(s), undertaken the relevant training, and, upon appointment will undertake DSL new to role training followed by biannual updates.
 - The DSL's who are involved in recruitment and at least one member of the governing body / trustees will also complete safer recruitment training to be renewed every 3 years (if it is felt that a refresher is required.)
 - The name of the designated members of staff for child protection (DSL's and DDSL's) will be clearly visible in the school, with a statement explaining the education settings role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected abuse.
 4. All staff are to have the appropriate level of training relevant to their role:
 - All members of staff are trained in, and receive, regular updates in e-safety and reporting concerns
 - All new members of staff will be given a copy of our safeguarding statement and safeguarding, child protection and early help (thresholds of need) policy, with the DSL's names clearly displayed, as part of their induction.
 - All other staff, volunteers, and governors / trustees, have child protection awareness training, updated by the DSL as appropriate, to maintain their understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse.
 5. Child protection and safeguarding concerns or allegations against adults working in the school are referred to the DO (previously LADO) ⁴ for advice and that any member of staff found not suitable to work with children or young people will be notified to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for consideration for barring, following resignation, dismissal, or when we cease to use their service as a result of a substantiated allegation, in the case of a volunteer.
 6. All parents/carers are made aware of the responsibilities of staff members with regard to safeguarding and child protection procedures through publication of the education settings Safeguarding, Child protection and Early Help policy, and reference to it in other relevant policies.

⁴ DO – Designated Officer (previously LADO - Local Authority Designated Officer) for allegations against staff. DO threshold document can be found here <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/WSCB/LADO-threshold.pdf>

7. The Policy is available publicly either on the education settings website or by other means. Parents / Carer's are made aware of this policy and their entitlement to have a copy of it via the website / newsletter.
 8. All visitors complete a sign in / out form, wear a school ID badge and are provided with safeguarding information including the contact details of safeguarding personnel.
 9. Visitors of a professional role are asked to provide evidence of their role and employment details (usually an identity badge) upon arrival at the education setting. Supporting letter in relation to DBS checks of visitors holding professional ID badges can be found in the guidance provided by Wigan Council and Bridgewater Community Health Care.
[Bridgewater DBS Letter .pdf](#)
[Wigan Council HR letter regarding DBS Checks .pdf](#)
 10. Community users organising activities for children are aware of the school's child protection guidelines and procedures.
 11. Our lettings policy, for community use of the premises, will seek to ensure the suitability of adults working with children on school sites at any time.
- Our procedures will be annually (as a minimum) reviewed and updated.

The role of Safeguarding Governor

The Nominated Governor for Safeguarding at Lowton West Community Primary is Mr Brian Cunliffe. The Nominated Governor is responsible for liaising with the Headteacher (DSL) over all matters related to safeguarding issues. The role is strategic rather than operational – they will not be involved in concerns about individual children. It is not the role of the link governor to supervise the DSL; the link governor should offer support and appropriate challenge. However, the nominated governor for safeguarding will want to be reassured that systems for safeguarding children are in place and embedded into practice. This will be achieved by holding a termly meeting between the DSL and the nominated governor.

Safer Recruitment

Safer recruitment practice includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic or vocational qualifications, obtaining professional and character references, checking previous employment history and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. It also includes undertaking interviews and undertaking appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and completing checks in relation to Prohibition Orders. Evidence of such robust checks can be found in the schools Single Central Record (SCR). The SCR is checked regularly by the Headteacher (in most cases this person is also the DSL) and the safeguarding governor. Lowton West Primary School ensure that there is at least one person on the interview panel who has completed the 'Safer Recruitment' training.

Recruitment checks are an essential part of safeguarding and school must adhere to the information included in the KCSiE 2021 Part Three: Safer Recruitment and the Education and Training (Welfare of Child) Act 2021.

The school's commitment to safeguarding and the welfare of children is promoted throughout the recruitment process, including the advertisement of the role, the job description and person specification. The school adopts robust recruitment procedures that deter and prevent people who are unsuitable to work with children from applying for or securing employment, or volunteering opportunities in schools and colleges and make it clear that safeguarding checks will be undertaken.

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children. Applicants will be asked to sign a declaration confirming the information they have provided is true. References will also be used to support appointment decisions, to verify a candidate's suitability for a role within school and school will adhere the guidance in the KCSiE 2021 to obtain factual information to support appointment decisions.

Induction

The welfare of all our pupils is of paramount importance. All staff including volunteers are informed of our safeguarding procedures including online safety, at induction. All members of staff and volunteers are provided with child protection awareness information so that they know who to discuss a concern with. As part of the staff induction process, staff will receive a copy of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; Positive Behaviour Policy; Anti-bullying Policy; Mobile Phone Policy; Missing Child Policy.

Our induction also includes:

- Plan of support for individuals appropriate to the role for which they have been hired
- Confirmation of the conduct expected of staff within the school – our Staff Code of Conduct which is detailed in the Staff Handbook and LA Policy. All members of staff and volunteers have read, signed and understood the school's Staff Handbook.
- Opportunities for a new member of staff to discuss any issues or concerns about their role or responsibilities
 - Confirmation of the line management / mentor process whereby any general concerns or issues about the person's ability or suitability will be addressed.

Safeguarding training

This training is for all staff and is updated every 3 years as a minimum to ensure staff understand their role in safeguarding. Any member of staff does not attend the whole school session will be expected to complete this statutory training requirement on their return to school. In addition, all staff members receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings) as necessary and at least annually. All staff also receives training in respect of online safety, and this is updated, as necessary. Online safety training is an important part of safeguarding and is integrated within the whole school approach to safeguarding training. All Staff will read and sign to confirm they have understood Part 1 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1014058/KCSIE_2021_Part_One_September.pdf

Advanced training

The D/DSL has additional training which is updated every two years as a minimum. The D/DSL also attends multi-agency courses relevant to school needs. Their knowledge and skills are refreshed at least annually e.g. via e-bulletins or safeguarding networking events with other D/DSLs.

Preventing Radicalisation

All staff undertake Prevent training.

Staff support

Due to the demanding, often distressing nature of child protection work, we support staff by providing an opportunity to talk through the challenges of this aspect of their role with a senior leader and to seek further support as appropriate. 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.

We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the DSL and to seek further support as appropriate. DSL's should make use of support available by the Local Authority and the partnerships Safeguarding Team. DSLs will have oversight of Early Help and Child Protection plans with appropriate structure in place to monitor progress and outcomes in partnership with Children's Social Care and other stakeholders (check levels)

School have external services, to support the emotional wellbeing of all staff, including support from the Employee Assistance Programme (details available on the noticeboard and from the

Headteacher), School CAMHS link worker, Wigan Family Welfare and School Educational Psychologist.

Governors

Governors undertake the school's Induction programme. They may choose to complete face to face training for governors provided by Wigan Council. In addition, governors may choose to attend whole school safeguarding and child protection training.

Safeguarding at Lowton West

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs J. Westhead (Headteacher), is a senior member of staff, who undertakes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within the school. The Deputy Designated safeguarding leads are Mrs N. Gould (Deputy Head) and Mrs A. Brooks (Assistant Head KS1). These Officers have undertaken the relevant training, and, upon appointment will undertake 'DSL new to role' training followed by biannual updates.

Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate **lead responsibility** for safeguarding child protection remains with the DSL.

The broad areas of responsibility for the DSL are:

- **Liaise** with the local authority and other agencies;
- **Managing referrals** to other agencies including: the local authority children's social care in cases of suspected abuse; Police South West Counter Terrorism Unit where there is a radicalisation concern; the Disclosure and Barring Service in cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child and the Police in cases where a crime may have been committed in relation to safeguarding. The DSL will also support and advise other staff in making referrals to other agencies;
- **Work with others** to fulfil statutory responsibilities in relation to children and young people subject to a child protection plan by attending child protection conferences and implementing the multiagency child protection plan; and liaise with the Local Area Designated Officer, (LADO) as required. DSLs should act a single point of contact for all matters of safeguarding and advice for staff, volunteers, and governors.
- **Undertake Training** to ensure the DSL (and any deputies) has the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role (updated every 2 years). Further knowledge and skills should be updated at regular intervals and shared with relevant parties as appropriate;
- **Raise Awareness** to ensure Lowton West safeguarding and child protection policies are known, understood, and used appropriately. The DSL will also provide an annual report to the governing body on safeguarding and child protection activity within the school;
- **Manage safeguarding information** through the collection, monitoring, reviewing, safe storage and transfer of safeguarding and child protection files (The [NSPCC](#) provides guidance on this). Keeping written records of concerns about a child even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.

Ensuring that all records are kept and maintained in line with the 'Record Retention' policy. Children Looked After records must be retained for 99 years, and a record is kept and witnessed of disposal of individual's records.

Making sure when a pupil / student leaves, any information regarding safeguarding (current or historic) as well as the child protection file, where applicable, is transferred to the new education setting as soon as possible. This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. Receiving schools and colleges should ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads and SENCOs or the named person with oversight for SEN in colleges, are aware as required.

- **Availability** of the DSL (or any deputies) during term time and school hours needs to be ensured for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. In the event of local or national lockdown, the DSL or deputy should at minimum be available on the telephone.

The role of the DSL is explained in more detail in:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1021914/KCSIE_2021_September_guidance.pdf

Supporting Children and Young People

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

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.

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.

Staff at Lowton West will support all children and young people by:

- Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness through the curriculum, as well as our relationships, whilst not condoning aggression or bullying.
- Teaching children about healthy relationships
- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school.
- Liaising and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of children.
- Notifying Social Care as soon as there is a significant concern.
- Providing continuing support to a child or young person, about whom there have been concerns, who leaves the school by ensuring that appropriate information is copied under confidential cover to the pupils new setting and ensuring the school medical records are forwarded as a matter of priority.

We recognise that the early help framework provides opportunities to intervene early and prevent safeguarding issues developing, as well providing a framework for appropriate support to be wrapped around the child / young person and their family.

Lowton West Primary will consider the need for an Early Help assessment when it is identified that there are low level concerns or emerging needs. Detailed information on Early Help can be found in [Chapter 1 of Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

It is the responsibility of the education setting to initiate Early Help to identify what the family's strengths and needs are. This will inform whether the setting can support the family or whether a referral to another agency is needed. This process provides a way of recording support and interventions that have been provided by the school to the child / young person and also supports a referral for additional support that may be needed from more targeted services where a single agency has been unable to meet that need. A team around the child meeting (TAC) can be arranged to ensure that a multi-agency action plan can be developed. It is important that the child and parents voice is captured as part of this assessment and that they take ownership of the plan. This plan should be regularly reviewed up to 4 to 6 weeks until outcomes are achieved.

If at any point during the Early Help process, the risk increases and the education setting becomes concerned that the child or young person is, or is likely to suffer significant harm, then a referral will be made to children's social care.

In all cases the educational setting will consider the statutory guidance for schools and colleges, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1021914/KCSIE_2021_September_guidance.pdf

If at any point the education setting becomes concerned that a child or young person is at serious risk of harm they should respond appropriately. If the school is concerned that a child is at **immediate** or **imminent** risk, then they should contact Greater Manchester Police on either 111 or 999. If, however the school is concerned that a child is, or is likely to suffer serious harm but it is not imminent they should call Wigan Children's Social Care Duty Team on 01942 828300.

Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabilities

Staff at Lowton West will use the same considerations for children and young people with SEND, as detailed above. However, the setting must also take into consideration that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children and young people. These can include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's SEN or disability without further exploration (the setting must consider the child first and foremost, rather than the child's SEND).
- A higher risk of vulnerability due to factors such as a learning disability, lack of awareness, social isolation, which may contribute to risks such as online vulnerability.
- Being more prone to peer group isolation than other children; and the potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.
- Children and young people with SEN and disabilities can face a number of challenges to disclosure, which must be recognised and taken into account, including prejudice, negative responses, and low expectations.

Responding to concerns and disclosures

Reporting Concerns

All staff will be aware of their responsibility to report any safeguarding concern (no matter how small) ASAP to the DSL or DDSL using the schools prescribed practice. Incident or concern will be recorded using our school concern slip (blank copies of which can be found on the Safeguarding Board).

Responding to a disclosure

Do:

- **Create a safe environment by offering** the child a private and safe place if possible.
- **Stay calm** and reassure the child and stress that he/she is not to blame.
- **Tell** the child that you know how difficult it must have been to confide in you.
- **Listen carefully** and **tell** the child what you are going to do next.
- Use the **'tell me', 'explain', 'describe'** and/or mirroring strategy.
- **Tell only the Designated or Deputy Safeguarding Lead.**
- **Record** in detail using the Welfare Concern Record without delay, using the child's own words where possible.

Do NOT:

- Take photographs of any injuries or copy any images from a child's phone onto to your own device which could be classed as illegal content or an indecent image of a child.
- Postpone or delay the opportunity for the pupil to talk.
- Take notes while the pupil is speaking or ask the pupil to write an account.
- Try to investigate the allegation yourself.
- Promise confidentiality, e.g. Say you will keep 'the secret'.
- Approach or inform the alleged abuser.

It is the responsibility of each adult in school to ensure that the D/DSL receives the record of concern without delay. In the absence of the D/DSL, staff will seek advice direct from Children's Social Care.

[Wigan Safeguarding Partnership have produced further information on Dealing with Disclosures from a Child or young Person.](#)

School will provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process to help social care assessments consider contexts outside the home and enable a contextual approach to

harm. Additional information is available following the link in KCSiE 2021 on p.19 on Contextual Safeguarding.

Staff should recognise that children might not find it easy to talk about their abuse verbally. Staff might also overhear conversations that suggest a child has been harmed or might receive a report from a friend or child.

During term time, the DSL and / or a DDSL is always available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

In some circumstances, the D/DSL or member of staff may seek advice by ringing Children's Social Care.

The voice of the child is central to our safeguarding practice and pupils are encouraged to express and have their views given due weight in all matters affecting them.

We are committed to work in partnership with parents and carers. In most situations, we will discuss initial concerns with them. However, the D/DSL will not share information where there are concerns that if so doing would:

- Place a child at increased risk of significant harm
- Place an adult at increased risk of serious harm
- prejudice the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime
- lead to unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm to a child, or serious harm to an adult.

When responding to allegations which are found to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the DSL should consider whether the child or person who has made the allegation is in need of support or may have been abused by someone else.

Involving Parents and Carers

In general, the DSL will discuss any child protection concerns with parents/carers before approaching other agencies and will seek their consent before making a referral to another agency. However, there may be occasions when the school will contact another agency before informing parents/carers because it considers that contacting them may increase the risk of significant harm to the child.

Record keeping

Child protection records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern – recorded on the school's Safeguarding Concern sheet by the staff member reporting the concern to the DSL
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved recorded by the DSL
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome recorded by the DSL

Information Sharing

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential and information is handled in line with the school policies and procedures. Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect, and in promoting children's welfare, including their educational outcomes. School has clear powers to share, hold and use information for these purposes. As part of meeting a child's needs, it is important for school's governing body and staff to recognise the importance of information sharing between practitioners and local agencies.

The Government has issued [Information Sharing for Safeguarding Practitioners](#) Guidance that included 7 'Golden Rules' of Information Sharing in safeguarding :

The Government guidance (described by the NSPCC, 2018) is:

1. **Remember that the Data Protection Act 2018, UK GDPR and human rights law are not barriers** to justified information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately. Fears about sharing information

must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

2. **Be open and honest with the individual** (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. **Seek advice from other practitioners** if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.
4. **Share with informed consent where appropriate** and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is good reason to do so, such as where safety may be at risk.
5. **Consider safety and well-being:** Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. **Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure:** Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.
7. **Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it** – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose

All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information to safeguard children and cannot assume that someone else will pass on the information. Sharing of information will be necessary for the purpose for which it's being shared, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely. Further guidance regarding information sharing is available for staff in KCSiE 2021 p.30

The update to Working Together (2018) states that data protection legislation does not prevent the sharing of information, to keep a child safe. Consent is not required when sharing information for safeguarding and protecting the welfare of a child. Working Together (2018) recommends using the GDPR lawful bases for sharing. Further information about this is available in Appendix B Working Together (2018).

Key organisations who have a duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children are:

- The local authority.
- NHS England.
- Clinical commissioning groups.
- NHS Trusts, NHS Foundation Trusts.
- The local policing body.
- British Transport Police Authority.
- Prisons.
- National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies, Youth offending teams.
- Bodies within the education and /or voluntary sectors, and any individual to the extent that they are providing services in pursuance of section 74 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

Disagreements, Escalation and Resolution

Effective working together depends on an open approach and honest relationships between colleagues and between agencies.

Staff must be confident and able to professionally disagree and challenge decision-making as an entirely legitimate activity. A part of our professional responsibility to promote the best safeguarding practice. Staff are encouraged to press for re-consideration if they believe a decision to act / not act in response to a concern raised about a child is wrong. In such cases the [Wigan Safeguarding Partnership Case Resolution Protocol](#) (formerly escalation policy) can be used if necessary. If we, ourselves are challenged professionally, then we see this as an opportunity to reflect on our decision making.

Prevention

We recognise that our school plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our children and young people by providing them with good lines of communication with trusted adults.

If early help is appropriate, the DSL/ DDSL or member of the Pastoral Team will contact the early help hub to ensure there is no current intervention and will generally lead on liaising with other agencies, setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Any such cases should be kept under constant review and if the situation is not improving then consideration should be given to making a referral to children's social care, for assessment for statutory services.

The education settings community will;

- Work to establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to.
- Include regular consultation with children and young people e.g. through safety questionnaires, participation in anti-bullying week, asking children and young people to report whether they have had happy / sad lunchtimes / playtimes / breaks
- Ensure that all pupils and students know there is a trusted adult in the education setting whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
- Include safeguarding across the curriculum, including PSHE, opportunities to equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know whom they should turn to for help. This will include anti-bullying work, e-safety, road safety, pedestrian, and cycle training. Also focused work in year 6 to prepare for transition to secondary school and more personal safety / independent travel. KCSiE 2021 (p.32) provides additional resources and links to help teachers teach children about safeguarding, including online safety.
- Ensure all staff are aware of school guidance for their use of mobile technology and have discussed safeguarding issues around the use of mobile technologies and their associated risks. It is the responsibility of all staff to follow the School's Staff Handbook, which states that mobile phones and other personal electronic devices must not be used within the classroom environment or when working with learners within formal school time. Mobile phones must be securely held away from the classroom setting.

Allegations against staff

All Education setting and Early Years staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child.

All staff should be expected to have awareness and knowledge of Guidance on Behaviour Issues, along with the school's own Positive Behaviour Policy and this should be part of induction for all new staff or volunteers.

Guidance about conduct and safe practice, including safe use of mobile phones by staff and volunteers, will be given at induction, (see school's Staff Handbook, the LA Staff Code of Conduct

and Use of Mobile Phone and Camera policy January 2021) alongside information based on the [Guidance for Safer Working Practices \(2020\)](#).

An allegation is any information which indicates that a member of staff /volunteer may have:

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

This applies to any child the member of staff/volunteer has contact with in their personal, professional or community life. It also applies regardless of whether the alleged abuse took place in our school

If any member of staff has concerns that a colleague or volunteer might pose a risk to children, it is their duty to report these to the headteacher. Where the concerns or allegations are about the headteacher, these should be referred to the Chair of Governors.

The headteacher/Chair of Governors should report the concern to the **Designated Officer for Allegations Sue Wharton- 01942 486034** lado@wigan.gov.uk

All allegations must be managed in line with the statutory guidance in Part 4 of KCSiE 2021; the first section which covers allegations or concerns that meet the threshold or harm and a new second section which covers allegations or concerns that don't meet the threshold and also the school's whistleblowing procedure.

If such an allegation is made, or information is received which suggests that a person may be unsuitable to work with children / young people, the member of staff receiving the allegation or aware of the information, will immediately inform the Headteacher / Head of School

The Head teacher / Head of school, on all such occasions, will discuss the content of the allegation with the Designated Officer (DO).⁵

If the allegation made to a member of staff concerns the Headteacher / Head of School, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chair of Governors / Trustees who will consult DO, without notifying the Headteacher first. Suspension of the member of staff, excluding the Headteacher, against whom an allegation has been made, needs careful consideration, and the Headteacher will seek the advice of Human Resources / Legal in order to make that decision and informing the DO at the earliest opportunity.

The school will follow Wigan's procedures for managing allegations against staff. Under no circumstances will we send a child / young person home pending such an investigation, unless this advice is given exceptionally, as a result of a consultation with the DO.

In the event of an allegation against the Headteacher, the decision to suspend will be made by the Chair of Governors / Trustees with advice as outlined above.

We have a procedure for managing the suspension of a contract for a community user / volunteer in the event of an allegation arising in that context.

Whistleblowing

All staff can raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the education settings safeguarding regime. Our whistleblowing procedures, which are reflected in staff training and our Code of Conduct, are in place for such concerns to be raised with the Headteacher.

⁵ LADO process can be found on the WSCB website <http://www.wiganlscb.com/Professionals/LADO.aspx>

If a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with the Headteacher or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels are open to them:

- The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline - Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 from 08:00 to 20:00, Monday to Friday, or email help@nspcc.org.uk
- A member of the governing body: Mr B. Cunliffe (Chair of Governors)

We recognise that children and young people cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so. All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection, which may include the attitudes or actions of colleagues. If it becomes necessary to consult outside the school, they should speak in the first instance, to the Area Education Officer or the Designated Officer (for allegations) following the whistleblowing policy.

Whistleblowing regarding the Headteacher should be made to the Chair of the Governing Body (or trustees) whose contact details are readily available to staff (as pertained to setting). It's acknowledged that Whistle-blowers have the right to remain anonymous, however identifying yourself may assist with any further investigations.

Physical Intervention and the use of reasonable force

We acknowledge that staff must only ever use physical intervention as a last resort, when a child or young person is endangering him / herself or others.

The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children / young people. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means using no more force than necessary and staff should refer to the section on 'use of reasonable force' within the behaviour policy. Such events should be recorded by completing a serious incident log and signed by a witness.

Staff who are likely to need to use physical intervention or reasonable force will be appropriately trained in an accredited positive handling technique. At Lowton West Primary, staff are Team Teach trained. We understand that physical intervention of a nature which causes injury or distress to a child or young person may be considered under child protection or disciplinary procedures.

We recognise that appropriate touch is acceptable in the context of working with children and young people, and all staff are aware of [The Guidance for Safer Working Practices \(2020\)](#) to ensure they are clear about their professional boundary.

Departmental advice for schools is documented in the Use of Reasonable Force in Schools (2013). The department believes that the adoption of a 'no contact' policy at a school or college can leave staff unable to fully support and protect their pupils and students. It encourages headteachers, principals, governing bodies and proprietors to adopt sensible policies, which allow and support their staff to make appropriate physical contact. The decision on whether or not to use reasonable force to control or restrain a child is down to the professional judgement of the staff concerned and should always depend on individual circumstances.

When using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving children with SEN or disabilities or with medical conditions, schools and colleges should in considering the risks carefully recognise the additional vulnerability of these groups. They should also consider their duties under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to making reasonable adjustments, non-discrimination and their Public Sector Equality Duty. By planning positive and proactive behaviour support, for instance through drawing up individual behaviour plans for more vulnerable children, and agreeing them with parents and carers, schools and colleges can reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviour and the need to use reasonable force.

At Lowton West Primary School, Positive Handling Plans are developed, where needed, for pupils with additional needs to ensure that they are appropriately supported.

Children who abscond or are missing from school site

There should be clear procedures in school around who to notify and what to do should a child be missing from school. This includes completing a full 'sweep' of the area and checking that the child is not hiding from sight. The Headteacher should be notified of any instance of a missing child without delay.

Children who go missing are particularly vulnerable to all sorts of risk. Where a child has gone missing a report should immediately be made to the Police via 999.

There is a national definition of what constitutes a missing person (including a child):

"Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character or the context suggests the person may be subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another".

It should be stressed that most missing children are found very quickly and safely returned to school or home. However, should you suspect that a child has been taken from school (abducted) you should make this clear in your contact with the Police, including any eye witness information. Communication with the child's parent or guardian is important and should be done as soon as possible by the Safeguarding Team. The Headteacher will also follow the 'LA Critical Incidents' protocol and consider if a referral to OFSTED is appropriate (e.g. following the criteria of a serious incident).

Children Missing from Education (CME)

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. School and college staff should follow the school's or college's procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.

The school must inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between the school and the local authority.

The Local Authority requires Education Settings to follow the [Wigan Council Children Missing from Education Policy and Procedure](#). Further guidance is detailed in [Children Missing Education \(2016\)](#) and [Further guidance on this has been produced by the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Procedures](#). The school should hold at least 2 current contact numbers per child to ensure reasonable attempts can be made to locate missing children/ families.

Staff report immediately to the D/DSL, if they know of any child who may be:

- Missing – whereabouts unknown and unable to make contact (as a result of making reasonable enquiries as outlined in [Section 10 of the Children Act 2004](#))
- Missing education – (compulsory school age (5-16) with no school place and not electively home educated).

The designated teacher for CLA and care leavers is to discuss any unauthorised / unexplained absence of any children who are looked after with the Virtual School Team, when required.

Should a pupil's attendance become a cause for concern, it is advisable to intervene early to prevent entrenched non-school attendance. School should contact the Early Help Hub (EHH) to initiate an Early Help, if appropriate.

Allegations of abuse made against other pupils: Peer on Peer Abuse

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers and will ensure that procedures are in place to minimise this, and so that those children or another peer feel confident to report this in the knowledge that it will be appropriately investigated and responded to. This abuse is taken as seriously as all other forms of abuse. There is a zero-tolerance approach to peer-on-peer abuse at our school. Victims will be offered appropriate support in all cases.

All staff should reassure victims of abuse that they are being taken seriously and will be supported. Children and young people should never be made to feel ashamed or that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment.

All children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. **All** staff need to be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as peer on peer abuse and can take many forms. Staff have recognition of the gendered nature of peer on peer abuse (i.e. that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys the perpetrators), but that all peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. It is likely to include, but not limited to:

- bullying (including cyber bullying)
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- gender based violence / sexual assaults
- sexual violence and sexual harassment, sexting or
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.
- Initiation / hazing type violence and rituals.

All staff should understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviour between children and young people. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys”, as this could lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment for children and a culture that normalises abuse. Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under our school's behaviour policy, but this child protection and safeguarding policy will apply to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. This might include where the alleged behaviour:

Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence.

- Could put pupils in the school at risk.
- Is violent.
- Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol.
- Involves sexual exploitation or sexual abuse, such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos (including sexting and upskirting).

If a pupil makes an allegation of abuse against another pupil, school staff will inform the DSL and record the allegation.

The DSL will contact the local authority children's social care team and follow its advice, as well as the police if the allegation involves a potential criminal offence.

The DSL will put a risk assessment and support plan into place for all children involved – both the child(ren) who experience the abuse and the child(ren) against whom the allegation has been made – with a named person they can talk to if needed;

The DSL will contact the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), and other agencies if appropriate.

We will minimise the risk of peer-on-peer abuse by:

Challenging any form of derogatory or sexualised language or behaviour.

Being vigilant to issues that particularly affect different vulnerable groups—ensuring our curriculum helps to educate pupils about appropriate behaviour and consent.

Ensuring pupils know they can talk to staff confidentially by speaking to the staff that work in their class or a member of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure their wishes are understood. Posters are displayed on the Deputy Headteacher's office door and assemblies led throughout the year reinforce this message.

Ensuring staff are trained to understand that a pupil harming a peer could be a sign that the child is being abused themselves, and that this would fall under the scope of this policy.

All schools are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the [Equality Act 2010](#). Schools should

tackle prejudice and promote understanding between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, as set out in the Equality Act 2010. The definition that has been adopted by the government and should be used when considering prejudice related incidents 'A prejudice related incident is any incident which is perceived to be prejudice by the victim or any other person'

Further information can be found on the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719902/Sexual_violence_and_sexual_harassment_between_children_in_schools_and_colleges.pdf

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Including Peer on Peer Abuse

This is a form of peer on peer abuse, which may include sexual exploitation or sexual abuse, such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos (including sexting and upskirting).

Dealing with such cases are complex and the DSL will take a lead role in managing the situation on a case by case basis. However, all staff should ensure that:

- They never forward or copy an image from a child's phone to their own or any other device, which could be categorised as an indecent image/ unlawful content.
- All who experience abuse are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.
- Those who experience abuse should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- Nor should those who experience abuse ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- In addition, support should be made available for the perpetrator of sexual abuse to understand motivations behind the abuse and challenge attitudes. It is understood that children who abuse other children may well have been abused themselves.
- In addition to existing advice about managing a disclosure contained in this policy, staff will follow [Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice 2018](#).

All staff should act immediately upon any issues relating to sexting and/ or peer on peer abuse and immediately investigate and deal with any incidents. Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'. Incidents should be recorded and, where necessary, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead should be informed. All racial and gender based incidents should be recorded and handed to the DSL or the DDSL. Different gender issues can be prevalent when dealing with peer on peer abuse. This could, for example, include girls being sexually touched/ assaulted or boys being subject to initiation/ hazing type violence. Victims and perpetrators of peer-on-peer abuse will be supported as necessary via the school and/ or relevant external agencies.

Consequently, peer on peer abuse is dealt with as a safeguarding concern, recorded as such and not managed through the systems set out in the school behaviour policy.

Victims, perpetrators and any other children affected by peer on peer abuse will be supported through the school's pastoral system and the support will be regularly reviewed.

The DSL liaises with other professionals to develop robust risk assessments and appropriate specialist targeted work for children that are identified as posing a potential risk to other children. Our school policy on anti-bullying is set out in a separate document and acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. This includes all forms, e.g. Cyber, racist, homophobic and gender related bullying.

All staff are aware that children with SEND and / or differences / perceived differences are more susceptible to being bullied / victims of child abuse.

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

The DSL will manage any incidents in line with the guidance contained in Part 5 KCSiE 2021 and [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges 2018](#).

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) Education Group has also published sexting advice for schools and colleges. School recognises that allegations of sexual violence and sexual harassment are likely to be complex and require difficult professional decisions to be made.

Relationships Education and Health Education give schools the opportunity to discuss vital issues such as sexual violence and harassment, consent, bullying and peer on peer abuse and an opportunity for educators to challenge negative gendered attitudes not in line with the school ethos.

Schools have flexibility to decide how they discharge their duties effectively within the first year of compulsory teaching and are encouraged to take a phased approach (if needed) when introducing these subjects. The [Statutory guidance: relationships education relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education. Colleges may cover relevant issues through tutorials](#).

We minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse by providing:

- A relevant curriculum, that helps children to develop their understanding of acceptable behaviours, healthy relationships and keeping themselves safe.
- Established / publicised systems for children to raise concerns with staff, knowing they will be listened to, supported and valued, and that the issues they raise will be taken seriously.

School will establish an environment where children feel safe to talk to adults in school about any worries or concerns they may have. This will be reinforced through the school curriculum and PSHE Jigsaw Scheme of Work. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in 'Responding to Concerns or Disclosures' on page 17 as detailed earlier in the policy.

Decisions will be made on a case by case basis with the DSL taking a leading role, supported by other agencies such as Children's Social Care and the Police as required⁶.

School recognises that even if no cases of peer-on-peer abuse are reported at school, this does not mean it's not happening within the school.

If staff have any concerns about peer-on-peer abuse, they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or a deputy.

A list of further resources, information and guidance have been added to KCSiE 2021 to help school staff manage and deal with harmful sexual behaviour and support children.

Online Sexual Abuse

Online sexual abuse involved the use of technology to manipulate, exploit, coerce or intimidate a child to (but not limited to) engage in sexual activity, produce sexual material/content, force a child to look at or watch sexual activities, encourage a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or groom a child in preparation for sexual abuse (either online or offline). It can also involve directing others to, or coordinating, the abuse of children online. As with other forms of sexual abuse, online abuse can be misunderstood by the child and others as being consensual, occurring without the child's immediate recognition or understanding of abusive or exploitative conduct. In addition, fear of what might happen if they do not comply can also be a significant influencing factor. No child under the age of 18 can consent to being abused or exploited. Financial gain can be a feature of online child sexual abuse, it can involve serious organised crime and it can be carried out by either adults or peers.

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719902/Sexual_violence_and_sexual_harassment_between_children_in_schools_and_colleges.pdf

Online Safety

The topic of online safety is considerable and can be linked to issues such as child sexual exploitation, bullying and radicalisation. Issues can be categorised into three areas of risk:

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; e.g. Pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views;
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; e.g. commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults; and
- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; e.g. making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.

The school will ensure it is proactive in addressing online safety through:

- Education of pupils through the curriculum;
- Keeping parents up to date on how to support keeping their children to keep safe online; the government has released new guidance for parents to support children's online activity [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) support for parents and carers to keep children safe online](#)
- Reviewing online safety practices as part of a whole school approach to online safety;
- Filtering and monitoring to protect users but not leading to unreasonable restrictions;
- Staff training which is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the overarching safeguarding approach;
- Information sharing to enable the school community to be kept up to date.

[For further information see government guidance Teaching online safety in school](#)

Staff should also refer to the KCSEI 2021 guidance which has been updated to reflect the latest guidance on sharing nude and semi-nude images and videos published by the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS, 2020).

School adopt a whole school approach to online safety, which is reflected in all relevant policies, the curriculum, staff training, the role of the DSL and parental engagement.

Anti-Bullying

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

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical. Staff should recognise this as a potential child protection issue and follow the schools Anti Bullying Policy.

Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the school staff should report their concerns to their local authority children's social care. Even where safeguarding is not considered to be an issue, schools may need to draw on a range of external services to support the pupil who is experiencing bullying, or to tackle any underlying issue which has contributed to a child engaging in bullying.

Racist Incidents

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

Equalities Statement

We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children and families' diverse circumstances. We ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, age, gender, race, economic condition, disability, and religion. With regards to safeguarding we will consider our duties under the [Equality Act 2010](#) in relation to making reasonable adjustments, non-discrimination and our Public Sector Equality Duty.

Our safeguarding curriculum

At Lowton West Primary School, all stakeholders ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, this includes online safety and mental health and well-being. This is fully embedded across the curriculum.

Our pupils access a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. We provide opportunities for pupils to develop skills, concepts, attitudes and knowledge that promote their safety and well-being. The PSHE and citizenship curriculum and Jigsaw scheme of work specifically includes the following objectives:

- Health and Well-being
- Developing pupil self-esteem and communication skills
- Developing strategies for self-protection including online safety
- Healthy Relationships - developing a sense of the boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour in adults and within peer relationships (positive relationships and consent)

PSHE Curriculum including Relationships and Health Education

At Lowton West, our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum enables our children to become healthy, safe, independent and responsible members of society, bringing together citizenship with personal and mental well-being, whilst promoting fundamental British values. We wish to offer a cohesive whole-school approach which aims to help them understand how they are developing personally and socially, and tackles many of the moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up.

The Jigsaw PSHE curriculum will support the development of the skills, attitudes, values and behaviour, which enable pupils to:

- Have a sense of purpose
- Value self and others
- Form relationships
- Make and act on informed decisions
- Communicate effectively
- Work with others
- Respond to challenge
- Be an active partner in their own learning
- Be active citizens within the local community
- Explore issues related to living in a democratic society
- Become healthy and fulfilled individuals

The Jigsaw Units of work each term are:

- Being in my World
- Celebrating Differences
- Dreams and Goals
- Healthy Me

- Relationships
- Changing Me

Relevant issues will also be covered through Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education (formerly known as Sex and Relationship Education) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. The Government has made regulations which will make the subjects of Relationships Education (for all primary pupils) and Relationships and Sex Education (for all secondary pupils) and Health Education (for all pupils in state funded schools) this is now mandatory and compulsory.

Although PSHE is taught through discreet lessons, it also underpins all activities, assemblies, educational visits and extra-curricular clubs. Further enrichment days planned as part of our SMSC Calendar of events also provide further opportunities to support safeguarding in the curriculum, for example: NSPCC assemblies and workshops, Safer Internet Day, Bikeability, Anti-Bullying and World Mental Health Week.

Teaching Online Safety

Digital literacy and online safeguarding is explicitly taught as part of our safeguarding curriculum through our Purple Mash Computing scheme of work from Reception through to Year 6 and more widely across our school community during parent workshops and through regular parent communication. Online safety information is regularly shared with parents through newsletters, emails and the school website.

At Lowton West Primary School we ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to ensure the children are safeguarded whilst online learning. Home learning platforms used to aid home learning are reputable online education websites such as:

- TT Rockstars
- Spelling Shed
- Maths Shed
- Purple Mash

Where children are asked to learn online at home, for example because of the coronavirus pandemic, school will follow the advice from the DfE on safeguarding and remote education (DfE, 2021b).

Health & Safety Policy

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

Social Media Policy

The relevant social media policy reflects the consideration given to safe use of social media for staff. The school community will:

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

Keeping children safe online

As schools increasingly work online, it is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. As such, governing bodies and proprietors should ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place. The schools approach to keeping children safe from abuse and harm online is set out in the Online Safety Policy, which should be read in conjunction with this policy.

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation: technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm. An effective approach to online safety empowers a school to protect and educate

the whole school community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incident where appropriate.

School staff should consult the non-statutory guidance, 'Teaching online safety in school 'Guidance supporting schools to teach their pupils how to stay safe online within new and existing school subjects' (June 2019). Children also need to be supported with the skills to keep themselves safe online, as they increasingly live their lives in a digital world. Useful information can be found in 'Education for a connected world framework' (2020) and the UKCIS Online Safety Audit for Trainees and NQTs (2020). The guidance offers specific advice about the online knowledge and skills that pupils should have the opportunity to develop at different stages of their lives.

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

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material;
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; and
- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.

Schools should ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to keep children safe online in line with KCSiE (2021).

For further information, please see the school website and the schools On-line Safety Policy.

Prevention

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.

The school community will therefore:

- Work to establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to.
- Include regular consultation with children e.g. through safety questionnaires, participation in anti-bullying week, asking children to report whether they have had happy/sad lunchtimes/playtimes.
- Ensure that all children know there is an adult in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
- 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. In particular, this will include anti-bullying work, e-safety, road safety, pedestrian and cycle training. Also focused work in Year 6 to prepare for transition to Secondary school and more personal safety/independent travel.
- We will ensure that appropriate ICT filters and monitoring are in place to ensure safety online. The school will ensure that online safety is included in the curriculum.
- Ensure all staff are aware of school guidance for their use of mobile technology and have discussed safeguarding issues around the use of mobile technologies and their associated risks.

If Early Help is appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) will contact the Early Help Hub to ensure there is no current intervention and will generally lead on liaising with other agencies, setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate.

Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.

Any such cases should be kept under constant review and consideration given to a referral to children's social care for assessment for statutory services, if the child's situation does not appear to be improving or is getting worse.

The education settings community will;

- Work to establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to.
- Include regular consultation with children and young people e.g. through safety questionnaires, participation in anti-bullying week, asking children and young people to report whether they have had happy / sad lunchtimes / playtimes / breaks
- Ensure that all pupils and students know there is a trusted adult in the education setting whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
- Include safeguarding across the curriculum, including PSHE, opportunities to equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know whom they should turn to for help. In particular, this will include anti-bullying work, e-safety, road safety, pedestrian and cycle training. Also focused work in year 6 to prepare for transition to secondary school and more personal safety / independent travel
- Ensure all staff are aware of school guidance for their use of mobile technology and have discussed safeguarding issues around the use of mobile technologies and their associated risks.

Elective Home Education

Although many children have positive experiences of home education, for some children it means they are less visible to services that are there to keep them safe and supported. If a parent expresses their intention to educate a child at home, professionals should work together to coordinate a meeting with the parent or carer. This is particularly important if a child has special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), is vulnerable or has a social worker.

Staff should be familiar with guidance for the local authority on elective home education (DfE, 2019).

Private Fostering Arrangements

Where schools and colleges become aware that a pupil (a child under the age of 16 or 18 if disabled) may be in a [private fostering arrangement](#) / is provided with care and accommodation by someone who is not a close relative, for longer than 28 consecutive days in that person's home, they should raise this, in the first instance, with the DSL. The school or college should notify the local authority by contacting Wigan Children's Duty team on **01942 828300** Once notified, the local authority will check that the arrangement is suitable and safe for the child and assess the child's circumstances.

Children staying with host families

Private fostering and educational institutions

Schools and colleges quite often make arrangements for their children to have learning experiences where, for short periods, the children may be provided with care and accommodation by a host family to which they are not related. This might happen, for example, but not only, as part of a foreign exchange visit or sports tour. Such arrangements could amount to "private fostering" under the Children Act 1989 or the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, or both. The following paragraphs are not intended to be a comprehensive guide to all the circumstances in which private fostering may arise, but only to those situations which might arise for schools and colleges through the normal course of their activities in promoting learning activities for children.

DBS check request by a regulated activity provider

Where a private fostering arrangement is made by a school or college or a third party (such as a language school) and the school, college or third party has the power to terminate the arrangement, then it could be the regulated activity provider for the purposes of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. A regulated activity provider will be committing an offence if they allow a person to carry out a regulated activity whilst barred and they know or have reason to believe that the person was barred. Where the school or college is the regulated activity provider, it should request a DBS enhanced check (which will include barred list information) to help determine their suitability for the arrangement. However, where the parents make the arrangements themselves, this will be a private matter between the child's parents and the host

parents and in these circumstances the school or college will not be the regulated activity provider.

Young Carers

A young carer is someone under 18 who helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol. Our school recognises the impact that being a Young Carer can have on pupils, and the importance of identifying those young people so that appropriate support can be provided. WSP coordinates our local Young Carers Strategy and [Wigan Council have produced some useful information for young carers, families and professionals.](#)

Where a pupil / student at our school is identified as having additional support needs due to being a young carer, or where a multi-agency approach may be required, our school uses the Early Help Framework and routes into the Start Well Service.

Safeguarding Children and Young People Vulnerable to Violent Extremism

Preventing Radicalisation

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be part of schools' wider safeguarding duties. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, education settings should be alert to a change in children's and young person's behaviour that could indicate that they are in need of protection. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children and young people who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel programme.

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a schools' or colleges' safeguarding approach. Our school safeguarding policy will therefore be written to comply with the schools duty under Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 in accordance with the Department of Education advice for schools regarding The Prevent Duty. and aligns with the processes described in the Wigan's Prevent Policy and Procedure.

[Educate Against Hate](#) is a website launched by Her Majesty's Government has been developed to support and equip school and college leaders, teachers, and parents with information, tools and resources (including on the promotion of fundamental British values) to help recognise and address extremism and radicalisation in young people. The platform provides information on and access to training resources for teachers, staff and school and college leaders, some of which are free such as Prevent e-learning, via the Prevent Training catalogue.

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media) and settings (such as the internet).

However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) making a referral to the Channel Programme.

Channel Programme

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. Guidance on Channel is available at: Channel guidance, and a Channel awareness e-learning programme is available for staff at: Channel General Awareness.

Extra-familial harm/ Contextual Safeguarding

Staff should be aware of the harms that can happen to children outside of the family and should consider the contexts with which harm takes place. An understanding of a child/young person's life outside of school and the family home is vital to provide a full picture of the child's needs and their exposure to harm.

Children at risk of sexual exploitation (CSE):

Our school will ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other key staff are trained in spotting the possible signs of child sexual exploitation outlined in Appendix One (this is not an exhaustive or definitive list).

Our school safeguarding policy will align with the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation

http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_sg_ab_sexual_exploit.html#preventing

The referral pathway for children where concerns regarding Child Sexual Exploitation have been raised is via the Professional Referral Form

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/WSCB/Professionals/Report-it-as-a-professional.aspx>

Domestic Abuse and Coersive Control

We recognise the significant impact domestic abuse and coersive control can have on children and young people, therefore we operate in partnership with [Operation Encompass](#), a system which facilitates the sharing of information relating to domestic incidents where children live or frequent. Any incidents of domestic violence reported to the police will be notified to the education setting to effectively support the child(ren) / young person. Staff should be aware of the impact that domestic violence and coercive control has upon children, both as witnesses and by being forced to collude in this.

If you wish to speak to an educational/child psychologist following an Operation Encompass referral you are now able to contact the Operation Encompass Teachers' National Helpline, 8.00am to 11.00am, Monday to Friday on 0845 646 0890

Staff can also [access training on Operation Encompass](#).

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological;
- physical;
- sexual;
- financial; and
- emotional

This definition includes 'honour' based abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group. The definition does not cover violence by an under 16 years old against another family member.

Where the perpetrator is over 18 and the victim under 18, this is regarded as child abuse. If both perpetrator and victim are under 18 years, consideration of the need for a child protection investigation to be undertaken would still be required, but the national definition allows any abuse between 16 -17 year olds to be considered as domestic abuse.

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Facts and stats about domestic violence

Official statistics show the amount of domestic violence recorded by the authorities every year. But the problem is much bigger than shown in official statistics, as many victims and children don't tell anyone about the abuse, and they are not recorded as crimes. SafeLives (National Charity <http://www.safelives.org.uk>) also uses data from an Insights database – the largest national database of domestic violence cases in the UK, with more than 35,000 records from 2009 to date.

Children affected by domestic abuse

- 140,000 children live in households where there is high-risk domestic abuse.
- 64% of high and medium risk victims have children, on average two each.
- A quarter (25%) of children in high-risk domestic abuse households are under three years old. On average, high-risk abuse has been going on for 2.6 years, meaning these children are living with abuse for most of their life.
- 62% of children living in domestic abuse households are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others.

'The harm or risk of harm to the child includes any impairment to the child's health or development as a result of witnessing the ill treatment of another person'. (Adoption and Children Act 2002).

National charity, **Safelives**, states that there are 130,000 children in the UK living in homes with domestic abuse where there's a high risk of murder or serious injury. Thousands more live with less serious domestic violence every day. Seeing or hearing domestic abuse **has a serious impact on children, on their health and wellbeing.**

- Nearly 2 in 3 children (62%) exposed to domestic violence were also directly harmed.
- Children suffer multiple physical and mental health consequences because of living with domestic violence.
- Only half of the children were previously known to children's social services. But 80% were known to at least one public agency.

If you have concerns of this nature, ensure that you share this with the DSL and complete a record on a Record of Concern Sheet.

Warning Signs of Relationship Abuse might include

- Physical signs of injury / illness
- Truancy, failing grades
- Withdrawal, passivity, being compliant
- Changes in mood and personality
- Isolation from family and friends
- Frequent texts and calls from boyfriend / girlfriend
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour /language / attitudes
- Depression
- Pregnancy
- Use of drugs / alcohol (where there was no prior use)
- Self-harm
- Eating disorders or problems sleeping
- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress
- Bullying / being bullied

Signs of Relationship Abuse to look out for

- Being late for school / not attending (especially if abuser attends same school)
- Arriving early / staying late to avoid abuser
- Not focused in lessons as s/he is preoccupied and worried
- Very gendered expectations of career and achievement
- Feeling unsafe as afraid of being traced by abuser via school
- Disturbed sleep affecting concentration
- Appearing isolated and removed
- Worried that everyone at school knows what is happening

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result. Domestic abuse affecting young people can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life.

Operation Encompass

Wigan Encompass

The purpose of Wigan Encompass is to safeguard and support children and young people who have been involved in or witness to a domestic abuse incident. Domestic abuse impacts on children in a number of ways. Children are at increased risk of physical injury during an incident, either by accident or because they attempt to intervene. Even when not directly injured, children are greatly distressed by witnessing the physical and emotional suffering of a parent.

Encompass has been created to address this situation. It is the implementation of key partnership working between the police and schools. The aim of sharing information with local schools is to allow 'Key Adults' the opportunity of engaging with the child and to provide access to support that allows them to remain in a safe but secure familiar environment.

Following the report of an incident of domestic abuse, by 9.00am on the next school day the school's Key Adult will be informed that the child or young person has been involved in a domestic incident. This knowledge, given to schools through Operation Encompass, allows the provision of immediate early intervention through silent or overt support dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.

The purpose and procedures in Operation Encompass have been shared with all parents and governors, is detailed as part of this 'Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy' and is published on our school website.

At Lowton West Primary School our Key Adult is Mrs J. Westhead.

Key Safeguarding Areas

In addition to the above there are other areas of safeguarding that the school has a responsibility to address and these include:

- Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking
- Child criminal exploitation
- All types of peer on peer abuse
- Domestic violence and abuse and intimate teenage relationship abuse
- So called Honour Based Abuse including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Forced marriage
- Gangs and youth violence
- Serious violence
- Drugs
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Child and adolescent mental health

- Faith abuse
- Radicalisation
- Private fostering
- Online sexual abuse
- Online safety
- Attendance
- Children and the court system
- Sexual violence and harassment between children
- Children with a family member in prison
- Homelessness
- Alternative provision

For further information on these key topics please see Appendix A

Serious Violent Crime and Child Exploitation

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

All staff should be aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime or child exploitation.

Children can be exploited by adult males or females, as individuals or in groups. They may also be exploited by other children, who themselves may be experiencing exploitation – where this is the case, it is important that the child perpetrator is also recognised as a victim. Whilst the age of the child may be a contributing factor for an imbalance of power, there are a range of other factors that could make a child more vulnerable to exploitation, including, sexual identity, cognitive ability, learning difficulties, communication ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. Some of the following can be indicators of both child criminal and sexual exploitation where children:

- appear with unexplained gifts, money or new possessions;
- associate with other children involved in exploitation;
- suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- misuse drugs and alcohol;
- go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

KCSiE 2021 guidance highlights that vulnerability of children involved in criminal exploitation is not always recognised by adults and professionals and that indicators of exploitation are different for boys and girls.

Indicators may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

Decisions will be made on a case by case basis with the DSL taking a leading role, supported by other agencies such as Children's Social Care and the Police as required⁷.

CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719902/Sexual_violence_and_sexual_harassment_between_children_in_schools_and_colleges.pdf

contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. It can be a one-off occurrence or might happen over time.

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment including Peer on Peer

The education setting recognises that allegations of sexual violence and sexual harassment are likely to be complex and require difficult professional decisions to be made.

Staff need to be aware of the changes to the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019 which criminalise the act of 'up skirting'. The Criminal Prosecution Service (CPS) defines 'up skirting' as a colloquial term referring to the action of placing equipment such as a camera or mobile phone beneath a person's clothing to take a voyeuristic photograph without their permission. It is not only confined to victims wearing skirts or dresses and equally applies when men or women are wearing kilts, cassocks shorts or trousers. It is often performed in crowded public places, for example on public transport or at music festivals, which can make it difficult to notice offenders.

Sexting

Sexting is when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video on their mobile phone, usually in a text message.

When people talk about sexting, they usually refer to sending and receiving:

- naked pictures or 'nudes'
- 'underwear shots'
- sexual or 'dirty pics'
- explicit 'rude' text messages or videos.

If pupils are 'sexting' indecent images of someone under the age of 18, they may be committing a criminal offence under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and Section 160 Criminal Justice Act 1988. This means, it is a crime to:

- Take an indecent photograph or allow an indecent photograph to be taken;
- To make an indecent photograph (and this includes downloading or opening an image that has been sent);
- To distribute or show such an image;
- To possess with the intention of distributing images;
- To possess such images.

Whether someone is charged is decided by the Crown Prosecution Service. Generally, children are not prosecuted. HOWEVER, children and young people need to be aware that they may be breaking the law. Although unlikely to be prosecuted, children and young people who send or possess the images may be visited by Police and on some occasions media equipment e.g. computers and mobile phones could be removed.

The key factor to highlight is that the real harm in relation to 'sexting' is that those in the photographs may become victims should the images be shown to others.

Mental Health

Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Staff work together with the DSL to ensure pupils with possible mental health problems are identified quickly, and support put in place, either internally through the school's Mental Health and Well-Being Practitioner or external agencies. The DSL is aware of routes to escalate concerns relating to mental health through the Wigan CAMHs team, school nurse and social care.

Published advice from the DfE can be accessed on p.43 of KCSiE 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

New guidance on Promoting and Supporting Mental Health and well-being in schools and colleges 2021 may also be helpful.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mental-health-and-wellbeing-support-in-schools-and-colleges>

Further information can be found in the Appendices.

This policy also links to our policies on:

Positive Behaviour,
Staff Behaviour Policy / Code of Conduct (contained within the Staff Handbook),
Whistleblowing,
Anti-bullying,
Health, Safety and Welfare,
Allegations against staff,
Complaints,
Attendance,
Curriculum,
PSHE,
Teaching and Learning,
Administration of medicines,
Drug Education,
Sex and Relationships Education,
On-line Safety,
Use of mobile phone and camera policy,
Recruitment and Selection,
Intimate Care,
Missing Child policy (linked to the LA guidance on 'Children Missing Education'),
SEND,
Code of Conduct for Parents/ Carers,

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our child protection policy and procedures will be monitored and updated by:

- Governing Body visits to the education setting
- SLT drop ins and discussions with children, young people, and staff
- Pupil / student surveys and questionnaires
- Scrutiny of exclusion and attendance data
- Scrutiny of Governing Body minutes
- Logs of bullying / racist / behaviour incidents for Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body to monitor
- Review of parental concerns and parent / carer questionnaires
- Review of the use of intervention strategies such as nurture room and isolation room.

Corona Virus (COVID-19)

If school closed for further lockdown KCSiE (2021) remains in force throughout the response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Our school is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our Children and Young people. Where the DSL and safeguarding team, has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person and their family.

Details of this plan must be recorded as should a record of contacts made. This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Our school also considers in these times, family circumstances can change quickly and therefore new families may arise as in need or vulnerable. We will keep communication with all families open which can include remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits which will be recorded. We aim to engage with every family regularly through letters, emails, newsletters, telephone calls and through the school Spider App. The school office and Senior Leaders/ Pastoral Team will communicate with families in relation to home learning concerns and pastoral needs in response to parental concerns raised. Teachers will aim to speak directly to all families at least once every

half term, although some families will be contacted more frequently and some on a weekly basis (dependent on the needs of the family). Where there is no evidence of pupils accessing the home learning provision, families will be contacted on a weekly basis. We will also ensure that families are aware of how they may contact our pastoral care/ safeguarding team for support. This will be via letters, emails and the school website. Our Mental Health and Well-Being Practitioner will keep in weekly contact with the families she is supporting and the Wigan Family Welfare Counsellors will maintain fortnightly contact with the pupils currently accessing the counselling service.

Our school will share safeguarding and pastoral support messages on its website and social media pages. We recognise that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. We will take this into consideration when providing work and updates families and students.

As a school will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and where appropriate recorded.

Corona Virus (COVID-19) returning to school

[The Department for Education has issued guidance for schools who are open during the pandemic.](#)

DSL and DDSL's will be provided with more time, especially in the first few weeks of term, to help them provide support to staff and children regarding any new safeguarding and welfare concerns and the handling of referrals to children's social care and other agencies where these are appropriate, and agencies and services should prepare to work together to actively look for signs of harm.

Our school understands that guidance from the government changes frequently and will continue to revise any Corona Virus addendums through the period of COVID-19.

Children Missing Education – Covid-19 Update

Where a pupil has not returned to school for ten days without authorisation the school and the local authority have a responsibility to jointly make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child. We anticipate that after the enforced closure of schools for most pupils, coupled with increased anxiety about a return to school during the pandemic we will see an increase in the numbers of children who do not return immediately to school.

It is school's responsibility to follow up all unexplained and unexpected absences in a timely manner and every effort should be made to establish the reason for a pupil's absence. The CME checklist (see appendix) should be completed within 10 days and if the child is not located sent to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Team (MAST).

Appendix A

Types of abuse and neglect

The following are the definition of abuse and neglect as set out in [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#) however, the ultimate responsibility to assess and define the type of abuse a child or young person may be subject to is that of the Police and Children's Services – our responsibility is to understand what each category of abuse is and how this can impact on the welfare and development of our children and where we have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of abuse and neglect (one or more categories can apply) to take appropriate action as early as possible.

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

Risk Indicators

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

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

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

In an abusive relationship the child may:

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

The parent or carer may:

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

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

Recognising Physical Abuse

The following are often regarded as indicators of concern:

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

Bruising

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

- Any bruising to a pre-crawling or pre-walking baby [follow the Bruising Protocol in non mobile children.](#)
- 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. Consideration should also be given to animal bites. A medical opinion should be sought where there is any doubt over the origin of the bite or the circumstances around it.

Burns and Scalds

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

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

Fractures

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

Non-mobile children rarely sustain fractures.

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

Scars

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

Recognising Emotional Abuse

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

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

The following may be indicators of emotional abuse:

- Developmental delay
- Abnormal attachment between a child and parent/carer e.g. anxious, indiscriminate or not attachment
- Indiscriminate attachment or failure to attach
- Aggressive behaviour towards others
- Scapegoated within the family
- Frozen watchfulness, particularly in pre-school children
- Low self esteem and lack of confidence
- Withdrawn or seen as a “loner” – difficulty relating to others

Recognising 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 unresponsive 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

Recognising Signs of Sexual Abuse

Children 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 child where the the identity of the father is not disclosed
- Physical symptoms such as injuries to the genital or anal area, bruising to buttocks, abdomen and thighs, sexually transmitted disease, presence of semen on vagina, anus, external genitalia or clothing

Sexual Abuse by Young People

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

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

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

If an act appears to have been inappropriate, there may still be a need for some form of behaviour management or intervention. For some children, educative inputs may be enough to address the behaviour. Abusive sexual activity included any behaviour involving coercion, threats, aggression together with secrecy, or where one participant relies on an unequal power base.

Assessment of exploitation

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

- Equality – consider differentials of physical, cognitive and emotional development, power and control and authority, passive and assertive tendencies
- Consent – agreement including all the following:
- Understanding that is proposed based on age, maturity, development level, functioning and experience
- Knowledge of society's standards for what is being proposed

- Awareness of potential consequences and alternatives
- Assumption that agreements or disagreements will be respected equally
- Voluntary decision
- Mental competence
- Coercion – the young perpetrator who abuses may use techniques like bribing, manipulation and emotional threats of secondary gains and losses that is loss of love, friendship, etc. Some may use physical force, brutality or the threat of these regardless of victim resistance.

In evaluating sexual behaviour of children and young people, the above information should be used only as a guide.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Trafficking

CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CSE can take many forms, ranging from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for affection or gifts, to serious organised crime by gangs and groups. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power in the relationship. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim which increases as the exploitative relationship develops. CSE involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming. However, it is also important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse.

Indicators include:

- underage sexual activity
- inappropriate sexual or sexualised behaviour
- sexually risky behaviour, 'swapping' sex
- repeat sexually transmitted infections
- repeat pregnancy, abortions, miscarriage
- receiving unexplained gifts or gifts from unknown sources
- having multiple mobile phones and worrying about losing contact via mobile
- having unaffordable new things (clothes, mobile) or expensive habits (alcohol, drugs)
- changes in the way they dress
- going to hotels or other unusual locations to meet friends
- seen at known places of concern
- moving around the country, 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.

Exploitation – CSE, Criminal, Human Trafficking, Modern Day Slavery, County Lines

Our education setting will ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other key staff are trained in spotting the possible signs of exploitation outlined in Appendix one and two (this is not an exhaustive or definitive list)

Our school will ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other key staff are trained in spotting the possible signs of child sexual exploitation outlined in Appendix One (this is not an exhaustive or definitive list).

Our school safeguarding policy will align with the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation

http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_sg_ab_sexual_exploit.html#preventing

The referral pathway for children where concerns regarding Child Sexual Exploitation have been raised is via the Professional Referral Form

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/WSCB/Professionals/Report-it-as-a-professional.aspx>

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. Traffickers and slave drivers coerce, deceive and force individuals against their will into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. A large number of active organised crime groups are involved in modern slavery. But it is also committed by individual opportunistic perpetrators.

Modern slavery is the term used within the UK and is defined within the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Act categorises offences of:

- Slavery
- Servitude and Forced or Compulsory labour
- Servitude
- Human Trafficking

Slavery is: 'the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised'. (*Convention to Suppress the Slave Trade and Slavery 1926*)

Forced or Compulsory Labour is: 'all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily' (*Convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (No.29)*)
Labour is the provision of any service, not just manual labour.

Servitude is: 'an obligation to provide a service that is imposed by the use of coercion'.

Human Trafficking is: Although many people think of human trafficking as only affecting adults it affects children as well. Child trafficking is child abuse. Children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold. They are often subject to multiple forms of exploitation.

It is also not just about trafficking adults and children across national borders, human trafficking can take place anywhere.

The trafficking of human beings involves the movement of a person from one place to another for the purpose of exploiting them using deception, coercion, the abuse of power or the abuse of someone's vulnerability. People can be trafficked in order to exploit them for sexual purposes, forced labour, domestic servitude or organ harvesting.

Although many people think of human trafficking as only affecting adults it affects children as well. Child trafficking is child abuse. Children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold. They are often subject to multiple forms of exploitation. It is also not just about trafficking adults and children across national borders, human trafficking can take place anywhere.

Practice Reminder: The action that ALL staff and volunteers should take, if there are concerns about a child is to follow the procedure written in this policy, which is to pass the concerns to the DSL and complete a written record an Initial Concern Form.

Types of Human Trafficking

There are several broad categories of exploitation linked to human trafficking, including:

- Sexual exploitation
- Forced labour
- Domestic servitude
- Organ harvesting
- Child related crimes such as child sexual exploitation, forced begging, illegal drug cultivation, organised theft, related benefit frauds etc.
- Forced marriage and illegal adoption (if other constituent elements are present)

There are several broad categories of exploitation linked to modern slavery:

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation involves any non-consensual or abusive sexual acts performed without a victim's permission. This includes prostitution, escort work and pornography. Women, men and children of both sexes can be victims. Many will have been deceived with promises of a better life and then controlled through violence and abuse. It is also possible to exploit a person who consensually engages in providing sexual services.

Forced Labour

Forced/ compulsory labour involves victims being compelled to work very long hours, often in hard conditions without relevant training and equipment, and to hand over the majority if not all of their wages to their traffickers. The types of work and working environment can often be described as 'dirty, demeaning or dangerous'. Forced labour crucially implies the use of coercion and lack of freedom of choice for the victim. In many cases victims are subjected to verbal threats or violence to achieve compliance.

Manufacturing, entertainment, travel, farming and construction industries have been found to use forced labour by victims of human trafficking in various extents. There has been a marked increase in reported numbers in recent years. Often large numbers of people are housed in single dwellings and there is evidence of 'hot bunking', where a returning shift takes up the sleeping accommodation of those starting the next shift.

The International Labour Organisation [ILO] has identified six elements which individually or collectively can indicate forced labour. These are:

- Threats or actual physical harm
- Restriction of movement and confinement to the workplace or to a limited area
- Debt-bondage
- Withholding of wages or excessive wage reductions that violate previously made agreements
- Retention of passports and identity documents (the workers can neither leave nor prove their identity status)

- Threat of denunciation to the authorities regardless of whether the worker holds legal status in the UK or not.

Domestic Servitude

Domestic servitude involves the victim being forced to work in private households. Their movement will often be restricted and they will be forced to perform household tasks such as child care and house-keeping over long hours and for little if any pay. Victims will lead very isolated lives and have little or no unsupervised freedom. Their own privacy and comfort will be minimal, often sleeping on a mattress on the floor in an open part of the house. In rare circumstances where victims receive a wage it will be heavily reduced, as they are charged for food and accommodation.

Organ Harvesting

Organ harvesting involves trafficking people in order to use their internal organs for transplant. The illegal trade is dominated by demand for kidneys. These are the only major organs that can be wholly transplanted with relatively few risks to the life of the donor.

Child Criminal Exploitation/ County Lines

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Consideration should be given to the trafficking element of this area of safeguarding and if appropriate a referral is made to the National Referral Mechanism. [Staff should be aware of the Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance.](#)

Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered. Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
 - can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
 - can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
 - can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
 - can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
 - is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation.
- Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

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 Criminal Exploitation / County Lines.

Indicators Include:

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing
- Being found in areas away from home
- Increasing drug use, or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going
- Unexplained absences from school, college, training or work
- Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour
- Using sexual, drug-related, or violent language you would not expect them to know
- Coming home with injuries or looking particularly disheveled

- Having hotel cards or keys to unknown places.

Gangs and youth violence

Teachers and designated staff have a range of powers in relation to discipline to tackle problems, including violence, in the school environment. Such powers cover disciplinary actions, the power to restrain violent pupils, and the power to search pupils for prohibited items.

Serious Violence

All staff should be aware of the signs that indicate a child is at risk of, or involved with serious violence, this includes: absence from school, change of friendship group, unexplained injuries, self-harm, unexplained gifts or possessions.

Staff should be aware of the risk factors that might increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence. Risk factors may include:

- Being male
- Having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school
- Having experienced child maltreatment
- Having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery.

[Staff should also be aware of relevant guidance: Preventing youth violence and gang involvement](#)

Drugs

As part of school's duty to promote pupils' wellbeing, we have a role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of our pastoral responsibilities (health and wellbeing/Healthy Schools) and to support the [Government's drug strategy \(2017\)](#). Our school will support students by providing information, advice and support via the curriculum and give students the confidence, resilience and risk management skills to resist risky behaviours and recover. The Department of Education and Association of Chief Police Officers have provided [Drug Advice for Schools to support this aim](#). Schools also have the power to search pupils for drugs where there is a belief this student is in possession of criminal property.

Substance Misuse

Pupils affected by their own or other's drug misuse should have early access to support through the school's 'early help' offer and through referral to local drug and alcohol services.

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. Schools can have a key role in identifying pupils at risk of drug or alcohol misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between pupils who require general information and education, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more intensive support.

- Schools should provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the FRANK service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.
- To include this support for children as part of the 'early help' offer from the school.

Faith Abuse

Faith abuse is where certain kinds of child abuse are linked to faith or belief. This includes: belief in concepts of witchcraft and spirit possession, demons or the devil acting through children or leading them astray (traditionally seen in some Christian beliefs), the evil eye or djinns (traditionally known in some Islamic faith contexts) and dakini (in the Hindu context); ritual or muti murders where the killing of children is believed to bring supernatural benefits or the use of their body parts is believed to produce potent magical remedies; and use of belief in magic or witchcraft to create fear in children to make them more compliant when they are being trafficked for domestic slavery or sexual exploitation.

Child abuse can also occur in culture or faith contexts in general, this can include female genital mutilation, forced marriage, excessive physical punishment or abuse relating to gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, disability or other differences recognised within social or cultural beliefs. Abuse in any culture or faith context is not acceptable and is child abuse. School staff should follow the procedures and share any concerns with DSL and complete and Initial Concern Form, if it is suspected that a child is at risk of this type of abuse.

The National Action Plan to Tackle Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief is intended to help raise awareness of the issue of child abuse linked to faith or belief and to encourage practical steps to be taken to prevent such abuse. Schools should promote equality and awareness around cultural and religious practices.

Honour Based Abuse

So-called 'honour-based' Abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBA (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA.

If you have concerns about an individual, the following helplines will be able to support you
Honour Network (Karma Nirvana): 0800 5999 247 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)
Government Forced Marriage Unit 0207 008 0151 or 0207 008 1500 (out of hours)
In emergencies, dial 999. [The Home Office have produced further information on forced marriage.](#)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences. Professionals in all agencies, individuals and groups from the wider communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. There are a range of potential risk indicators which may indicate that a child may be subjected to FGM or may have suffered FGM. These are detailed in the [Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation issued by the home office.](#)

Whilst all staff should speak to the DSL/ DDSL with regard to any concerns about FGM, there is a specific legal duty on teachers. If a teacher, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a child under the age of 18, the teacher must report this to the police (KCSIE 2021). This should be completed in consultation with the DSL but the responsibility of reporting lies with the staff member who identified the concern.

Why is it carried out?

Belief that:

- FGM brings status/respect to the child – social acceptance for marriage
- Preserves a child's virginity
- Part of being a woman / rite of passage
- Upholds family honour
- Cleanses and purifies the child
- Gives a sense of belonging to the community
- Fulfils a religious requirement
- Perpetuates a custom/tradition

- Helps the child be clean / hygienic
- Is cosmetically desirable
- Mistakenly believed to make childbirth easier

Circumstances and occurrences that may point to FGM happening

- 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**.

The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 was amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015 where the law was extended to:

- A non-UK national who is 'habitually resident' in the UK and commits such an offence abroad can now face a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment. It is also an offence to assist a non-UK resident to carry out FGM overseas on a girl who is habitually, rather than only permanently, resident in the UK. This follows a number of cases where victims were unable to get justice as FGM was committed by those not permanently residing in the UK;
- A new offence is created of failing to protect a girl from the risk of FGM. Anyone convicted can face imprisonment for up to seven years and/or an unlimited fine;
- Anonymity for victims of FGM. Anyone identifying a victim can be subject to an unlimited fine.

Our school Designated Safeguarding Lead will maintain up to date knowledge of and work in line with the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership Protocol to Female Genital Mutilation http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_fgm.html#local_terms

**The school recognises and adheres to its mandatory duty to report any suspected or known cases of FGM about a female under 18 years old to the police.
If someone is at imminent risk of FGM, you should contact the police immediately.**

Forced marriage

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be

physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some communities use religion and culture as a way to coerce a person into marriage. Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

The Forced Marriage Unit has published statutory guidance. School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fmf@fco.gov.uk.

Key Principles

Forced marriage is a CRIME. It is a form of violence against women and men, and a serious abuse of human rights, and where a minor is involved, child abuse.

While it is important to have an understanding of the motives that drive parents to force their children to marry, these motives should not be accepted as justification for denying them the right to choose a marriage partner and enter freely into marriage.

A person's capacity to consent can change. With the right support and knowledge, a person with a learning disability may move from a position of lacking capacity to consent to marriage, to having capacity. However, some children and adults with learning disabilities are given no choice and/or do not have the capacity to give informed consent to marriage and all it entails.

Actions

If staff have a concern regarding a child that might be at risk of Forced Marriage, they should activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children's social care. Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 that requires a different approach (see following section).

Peer on Peer Abuse

Peer or Peer Abuse includes:

- Bullying, including cyber bullying
- Physical Abuse including intimate partner abuse
- Sexual Violence including CSE, Sexual Harassment, Sexting and Upskirting
- Initiation and Hazing type violence including rituals, challenges, and other activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation as a way of initiating a person into a group
- Gang violence, threats or coercion

All schools are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the [Equality Act 2010](#). Schools should tackle prejudice and promote understanding between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, as set out in the Equality Act 2010. The definition that has been adopted by the government and should be used when considering prejudice related incidents 'A prejudice related incident is any incident which is perceived to be prejudice by the victim or any other person'

Domestic violence, coercive control and abuse, Gender-based violence and teenage relationship abuse

Domestic abuse (over 16 years) and teenage relationship abuse (under 16 years) involves any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those who are, or have been in relationships or family members regardless of gender or sexuality and is applicable to teenagers as teenage relationship abuse or intimate partner abuse. The curriculum should enable children and adolescents to understand what constitutes a healthy relationship, consent and tackle gendered stereotypes.

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Sexual Violence and harassment can occur between two children of any sex. They can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable. It is important that all children involved are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. The law says anyone under the age of 13 can never legally give consent. This means that anyone who engages in any sexual activity with a child who is 12 or younger is breaking the law. Sexual activity with a child who is under 13 should always result in a child protection referral.

Sexually harmful incidents should be viewed by professionals as a safeguarding concern and both victim and perpetrator should be supported. The school should have systems in place to support both students in the school setting to feel safe and heard should an incident occur. School staff should be alert to negative sexualised or gendered language and behaviours and should be robust in tackling these, not brushing them off as 'part of growing up', 'boys will be boys' or 'banter'.

Online Sexual Abuse

Online sexual abuse involved the use of technology to manipulate, exploit, coerce or intimidate a child to (but not limited to) engage in sexual activity, produce sexual material/content, force a child to look at or watch sexual activities, encourage a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or groom a child in preparation for sexual abuse (either online or offline). It can also involve directing others to, or coordinating, the abuse of children online. As with other forms of sexual abuse, online abuse can be misunderstood by the child and others as being consensual, occurring without the child's immediate recognition or understanding of abusive or exploitative conduct. In addition, fear of what might happen if they do not comply can also be a significant influencing factor. No child under the age of 18 can consent to being abused or exploited. Financial gain can be a feature of online child sexual abuse, it can involve serious organised crime and it can be carried out by either adults or peers.

Online Safety

The topic of online safety is considerable and can be linked to issues such as child sexual exploitation, bullying and radicalisation. Issues can be categorised into three areas of risk:

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; e.g. Pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views;
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; e.g. commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults; and
- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; e.g. making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.

The school will ensure it is proactive in addressing online safety through:

- Education of pupils through the curriculum;
- Keeping parents up to date on how to support keeping their children to keep safe online; the government has released new guidance for parents to support children's online activity [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) support for parents and carers to keep children safe online](#)
- Reviewing online safety practices as part of a whole school approach to online safety;
- Filtering and monitoring to protect users but not leading to unreasonable restrictions;
- Staff training which is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the overarching safeguarding approach;
- Information sharing to enable the school community to be kept up to date.

[For further information see government guidance Teaching online safety in school](#)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

All staff should also be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Staff however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

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

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following their child protection policy and speaking to the DSL/DDSL. Good mental health and resilience are fundamental to our children's physical health, relationships, education and to achieving their potential. The school should promote positive self-esteem and tackling behaviours such as bullying that can impact a young person's self-esteem. Pastoral care should be available to those with mental health concerns as well as staff being aware of pathways for young people to Early Help and CAHMS.

Fabricated or induced illness

[This supplementary guidance, Safeguarding Children in whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced \(2008\)](#), sets out a national framework within which agencies and professionals at local level – individually and jointly – draw up and agree upon their own more detailed ways of working together where illness may be being fabricated or induced in a child by a carer who has parenting responsibilities for them.

Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes in to the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity.

Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Whilst referrals and or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, and in accordance with local procedures, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a new legal duty on English councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to meaningful help including an assessment of their needs and circumstances, the development of a personalised housing plan, and work to help them retain their accommodation or find a new place to live. The following factsheets usefully summarise the new duties: Homeless Reduction Act Factsheets. The new duties shift focus to early intervention and encourage those at risk to seek support as soon as possible, before they are facing a homelessness crisis.

In most cases school and college staff will be considering homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it should also be recognised in some cases 16 and 17 year olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Children's services will be the lead agency for these young people and the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child's circumstances. The department and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have published joint statutory guidance on the provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless and/ or require accommodation.

Alternative Provision

Where a school places a pupil with an alternative provision provider, the school continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil, and should be satisfied that the provider meets the needs of the pupil. Schools should obtain written confirmation from the alternative provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at the establishment, i.e. those checks that the school would otherwise perform in respect of its own staff.

Children and the Court System

A child may at some point experience the court system for a number of different reasons this may include being a witness to a crime or it could be as a result of child care arrangement being made in the Family Court. Whatever the reasons it is important the child is supported through this process.

Children with family members in prison

Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. NICCO provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children. Staff at Lowton West Primary School will follow the relevant guidance in order to support pupils who have a parent in prison.

[The National Information Centre on Children of Offenders \(NICCO\)](#) provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

Additional information about key safeguarding areas can also be found in KCSiE 2021 - Annex A.

Appendix B

Key Documentation, procedures and guidance

- [Advice to schools and colleges on gang and youth violence \(2013\)](#)
- [Alternative provision \(2016\)](#)
- [Behaviour and discipline in schools \(2016\)](#)
- [Children Missing Education \(2016\)](#)
- [Corona Virus support for parents and carers to keep children safe online \(2020\)](#)
- [Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines \(2017\)](#)
- [Designated teacher for looked after children \(2018\)](#)
- [DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools \(2012\)](#)
- [**Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 \(2018\)**](#)
- [**Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school \(2013\)**](#)
- [Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England \(2017\)](#)
- [Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Covid Addendum \(2020\)](#)
- [Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers \(2018\).](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2021\)](#)
- [Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation – procedural information \(2015\)](#)
- [**Multi-Agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation \(2016\)**](#)
- [Preventing and tackling bullying \(2017\)](#)
- [Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales \(2015\).](#)
- [Promoting the education of looked-after children \(2018\)](#)
- [Protocol for injuries on non mobile children \(2017\)](#)
- [Safeguarding Children with fabricated or induced illness \(2008\)](#)
- [Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice \(2018\)](#)
- [**SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years \(2015\)**](#)
- [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges \(2018\)](#)
- [School behaviour and attendance: parental responsibility measures \(2013\)](#)
- [**Supervision of activity with children \(2012\)**](#)
- [**Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions \(2015\)**](#)
- [**Teaching online safety in schools**](#)
- [**The Equality Act \(2010\)**](#)
- [The Teachers' Standards \(2013\)](#)
- [Use of Reasonable Force in Schools \(2013\)](#)
- [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: advice for practitioners \(2015\)](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#)

Glossary

A Child	A person who has not yet reached their 18 th birthday.
Abuse	A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those who know them or, more rarely by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.
Bullying & Cyberbullying	Behaviour that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repeated • intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally • often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation
Child Protection	Activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.
Child sexual exploitation (CSE)	Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.
Children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities	SEN - a child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. Disability - a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
County Lines	Criminal exploitation is also known as 'county lines' and is when gangs and organised crime networks exploit children to sell drugs. Often these children are made to travel across counties, and they use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply drugs
Contextual Safeguarding	Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse.
Criminal Exploitation	Involves young people under the age of 18 in exploitative situations, relationships or contexts, where they may be manipulated or coerced into committing crime on behalf of an individual or gang in return for gifts, these may include: friendship or peer acceptance, but also cigarettes, drugs, alcohol or even food and accommodation.
Domestic Abuse	any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or

	<p>over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • psychological • physical • sexual • financial • emotional
Early Help	<p>Intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and families with a population most at risk of developing problems. Effective intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person's life.</p>
Emotional Abuse	<p>The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.</p> <p>It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.</p>
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	<p>Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed, but where there's no medical reason for this to be done.</p>
Gangs & Youth Violence	<p>Defining a gang is difficult. They tend to fall into three categories; peer groups, street gangs and organised crime groups. It can be common for groups of children and young people to gather together in public pCLAs to socialise, and although some peer group gatherings can lead to increased antisocial behaviour and low level youth offending, these activities should not be confused with the serious violence of a Street Gang.</p> <p>A Street Gang can be described as a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of children who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the group's identity.</p>

	An organised criminal group is a group of individuals normally led by adults for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain (financial or otherwise).
Hate	Hostility or prejudice based on one of the following things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disability • race • religion • transgender identity • sexual orientation.
Honour-based violence	Honour based violence is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community.
Neglect	Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger. • Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers). • Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. • It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.
Peer on Peer Abuse	Peer on peer abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and / or harmed by their peers who are the same or similar age; everyone directly involved in peer on peer abuse is under the age of 18.
Physical Abuse	A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
Private Fostering	A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. (Close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.)
Radicalisation & Extremism	Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. Extremism is 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.
Relationship Abuse	Teen relationship abuse consists of the same patterns of coercive and controlling behaviour as domestic abuse. These patterns might include some or all of the following: sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, emotional abuse and psychological abuse.
Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Sexting	<p>Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others, or sends sexually explicit messages.</p> <p>They can be sent using mobiles, tablets, smartphones, and laptops - any device that allows you to share media and messages.</p>
Sexual Abuse	<p>Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.</p> <p>They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children</p>
Trafficking	Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control of another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or removal of organs.

CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION REFERRAL & CHECKLIST
August 2020 v 5

As outlined in the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Children Missing from Education' are children of compulsory school age who are not a registered pupil at a school or are not receiving suitable education other if they are not registered at a school.

Where a pupil has not returned to school for ten days without authorisation the school and the local authority have a responsibility to jointly make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child. The appropriate completion of this checklist ensures that the Local Authority and school have fulfilled this responsibility.

It is school's responsibility to follow up all unexplained and unexpected absences in a timely manner and every effort should be made to establish the reason for a pupil's absence. If you require advice and guidance please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team on 01942 828300.

It is important that one checklist is completed for each child within the family, please do not include all children on one.

During the first 10 days of absence (reason unknown), school must complete this referral form and checklist. Once completed if the child's whereabouts remains unknown, please make a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team CINdutyteam@wigan.gov.uk

At any point if you feel a child is at risk of significant harm, FGM, human trafficking or sexual exploitation refer immediately to social care please contact 01942 82830

Please note that if the child is residing or located in the Wigan Borough, they are not a CME and should not be removed from school roll. Policies in relation to school attendance should be followed in these cases.

CHILD'S INFORMATION:

Child's Name:		DOB:
Child's Address:		
Previous Address: (if known)		
School:		
Parent/carer's names:		
Parent/carer's address:		
Contact names & numbers: (include emergency)		
Any known siblings & school:		
Reason for CME checks:		
Any other agencies involved:		
Known vulnerability/risk factors Do you feel this child is at risk of harm or neglect Y/N please provide detail:		
Is this child Gypsy Roma Traveller? Y/N		
Is this child an Asylum Seeker?		
Is this child known to Operation Encompass? Y/N Please provide detail		
Is this child parents service personnel? Y/N		
Has this child had any Missing from home episodes? Y/N Please circle Current or historic		
Is this child known to the Youth Justice System? Y/N Please circle current or historic		
Does this child have any SEN/learning needs? Y/N		
Are there any other vulnerabilities you are aware of? Please provide detail including whether the child is at risk of criminal exploitation or Child Sexual Exploitation		
Date:		

All boxes must be completed, of not relevant please enter N/A

CHECKLIST:

<u>School checklist</u>	<u>Dates/ Times</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Name</u>
<p>School to attempt to contact parent on first day of absence.</p> <p>This includes Truancy Call, First Day calling, Text, Email, all emergency contacts. Please detail all contact methods - whether a message was left, if the phone is working, is there an international dialling tone.</p>			
<p>School to check possible whereabouts with staff and pupils?</p> <p>This should include checking with family friends, all staff members, the child's friends, social media Contact all emergency contact numbers you hold in school.</p>			
<p>Visit to address(es) by school.</p> <p>Leave card if no answer Does the property look empty? Is someone at home but not answering the door? NB if school policy does not permit home visit a police welfare check to be requested</p>			
<p>Contact made with involved agencies within 5 working days (Social Care, EMAS team, School Nurse etc)</p>			
<p>Contact made with agencies to understand when they last had contact/saw the child (no consent needed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social care - school nurse (when did health have any contact with the child) 			
<p>School to contact the new school or Local Authority the child is believed to have moved to? What were the outcomes? https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council</p>			
<p>NB – Has the child been seen? State when & by whom If not seen, what further action has been taken? (Refer to CME Policy Doc for advice)</p>			

ALL BOXES MUST BE COMPLETED, IF NOT RELEVANT PLEASE ENTER N/A

Please submit this referral to CINdutyteam@wigan.gov.uk
Contact the MAST team on 01942 828300 for any further advice.