

Trust Policy

Child Safeguarding



Contained within this document:

Child Safeguarding Policy for all of the trust's city schools.



Safeguarding Policy (Nottingham City Council Model)

Policy/Procedure management log

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Document history

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Files Recording and Auditing

New Please Note: It is important to acknowledge that some NOVA schools no longer keep paper files and over the coming months this will largely be the case.

Staff will need to access relevant training to be confidently and competently able to administer the system and its functions for recording and reporting cases of a 'safeguarding' and or 'child protection nature. Staff with designated safeguarding responsibilities, including governors and senior leaders will need to be conversant with the electronic system to ensure it is fully operational, maintained and suitable to support the schools 'safeguarding arrangements'.

The Head Teacher, if not the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead, as well as named governors with child protection/ safeguarding responsibilities, will also need to be conversant with whatever system is in place to be able to carry out as a minimum the annual safeguarding/ child protection audits.

Your school child protection/safeguarding policy should stipulate which system you have chosen to adopt.

Transfer of Concern/Child Protection File

When children leave a school or college through either transfer or transition to another school or education provider the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should ensure their 'concern'/'child protection' file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible, ideally at the same time as the child goes off roll. The 'concern'/'child protection' file should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit via a secure and signed for mechanism, or where possible, in person, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. It is advised, wherever possible, for the file to be hand-delivered to the receiving Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead, ensuring a discussion takes place before the child goes on roll, to ensure all necessary safeguards are in place and the child is aware of who will be available to support them.

Transferring of schools at key stages is often a difficult or anxious time for most children. For children with child protection or safeguarding concerns/ needs this can be increased through the nature of what may be happening in the child's life and within the family.

Those with designated safeguarding roles and responsibilities should ensure wherever possible the child feels able to voice any concerns or share information with a member of staff. It would be advisable wherever possible for the child to be offered a mentor or 'key person' who they can go to for support.

If there is any ongoing legal action when the child/ young person is leaving or transferring to another school this must be shared fully with the Snr DSL at the receiving school i.e.

A child being on a Child Protection Plan could also be considered as 'legal 'action'. Custody of any legal documentation and responsibility for subsequent actions then passes to the School that the child/ young person transfers to. School should not retain copies of information or legal documentation unless it complies with any retention policy of the individual school.

New Please Note: This guidance along with the child protection policy template will be extensively reviewed and revised as soon as the Government and DFE publish the next edition of DFE Keeping Children Safe in Education and HM Working Together to Safeguard Children or other statutory guidance which will inform on roles, responsibilities and practices to be brought into place and action.



Child Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

The Directors of Nova Education Trust have taken the decision to adopt the Nottingham City Council Child Safeguarding Policy for all of the trust's city schools.

*Child Safeguarding Policy for schools in Nottingham
September 2018*

Safeguarding Policy

The policy reflects current legislation, accepted best practice and complies with the government guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children August 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2018.

This policy was written and adopted on 23/10/2018. *It has been approved by the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team.*

It is due for review in twelve months on 23/10/2019.

Other policies that may need to be taken into account are:

- *Anti-bullying and discrimination*
- *PSHE*
- *Drugs*
- *confidentiality*
- *behaviour management and positive intervention*
- *attendance (including children missing from education)*
- *special needs*
- *health and safety*
- *safer recruitment*
- *physical intervention*
- *E-safety*
- *Management of Allegations*
- *Intimate Care*
- *Touching*
- *Policy for the use of Mobile Phones and Cameras in Early Years and Foundation stage*
- *Whistleblowing policy*
- *Staff Conduct policy (Code of Conduct)*
- *Visitors policy*
- *Looked After Children / Previously Looked After Children*
- *Equality*

Schools (including independent schools, non-maintained special schools, Academies and free schools) and Further Education (FE) institutions should give effect to their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils under section 175/157 the Education Act 2002 and where appropriate under the Children Act 1989 by:

- Creating and maintaining a safe learning environment for children and young people; and,
- Identifying where there are child welfare concerns and taking action to address them, in partnership with other organisations where appropriate.

Governing bodies and proprietors should consider how children may be taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. This may include covering relevant issues through personal, social health and economic education (PSHE), and/or - for maintained schools and colleges - through sex and relationship education (SRE).

Working Together To Safeguard Children 2018 & Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018

Statutory duties that apply to schools

Schools should have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including:

- Ensuring that the school or college contributes to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*. This includes providing a coordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified and contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support to, for example, children subject to child protection plans and children looked after;
- A clear line of accountability for the commissioning and/or provision of services designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- A senior member of staff to take leadership responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements;
- A culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings and ensuring there are systems in place for children to express their views and give feedback;
- Ensuring there are procedures in place to respond robustly to allegations, including those relating to children harming, or allegedly harming other children and allegations against staff and volunteers;
- Arrangements which set out clearly the processes for sharing information, with other professionals and with the local Safeguarding Partners (previously LCSCB's);
- A designated professional lead for safeguarding. Their role is to support other members of staff, to recognise the needs of children, including recognising and responding to possible abuse or neglect. Designated leads should be a member of the school senior leadership team and their roles should always be explicitly defined in job descriptions. They should be given sufficient time, funding, supervision and support to fulfil their child welfare and safeguarding responsibilities effectively;
- Safe recruitment practices for individuals whom the organisation will permit to work regularly with children (p.28-30 Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018) including policies on when to obtain a relevant Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS) check;
- Schools and colleges must keep a single central record of DBS checks and training undertaken (p.39-41 Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018). The record must cover the following people:
 - All staff (including supply staff) who work in the school; in colleges, this means those providing education to children
 - All others who work in regular contact with children in the school or college, including volunteers
 - For independent schools, including academies and free schools, all members of the proprietary body.

- It is the school's responsibility to ensure that all the staff they employ in specified early or later years childcare have had the appropriate checks. This includes ensuring that staff working in early and later years settings are suitable to do so. The DfE issued updated guidance for schools in August 2018, entitled Disqualification Under the Childcare Act

2006 of teachers and other school staff working in early or later years provision, or those who are directly concerned with the management of such provision.

- 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”.
- Employers are responsible for ensuring that their staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and creating an environment where staff feel able to raise concerns and feel supported in their safeguarding role;
- Staff should be given a mandatory induction, which includes familiarisation with safeguarding responsibilities and procedures to be followed if anyone has any concerns about a child’s safety or welfare. Staff in schools and colleges should ensure that all staff read and understand at least part one and part five of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018. There should then be an ongoing programme of refresher training and updates to staff/volunteers about key safeguarding issues, e.g. information shared at the Designated Safeguarding Leads network meeting. Such updates should be at least annual;
- Ensure there is an effective child safeguarding policy in place together with a school behaviour policy, schools response to children who go missing from education, staff behaviour policy (code of conduct) and a whistleblowing policy. These should be provided to all staff - including temporary staff and volunteers - on induction;
- All professionals should have regular reviews of their own practice to ensure they improve over time;
- The designated lead professional for safeguarding should maintain comprehensive records, which should be used to inform a review of the support and level of concern child’s circumstances whenever new information arises;
- All schools and colleges have to be compliant with the requirements of the LSCB in Nottingham and this includes engagement in the Serious Case Review process;
- Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners require all schools to complete an annual safeguarding audit and be engaged in multi-agency processes and Serious Case Reviews (See Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (Chapter 2 p59 & chapter 3 p77), to be read in conjunction with DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018);
- Clear policies in line with those from the Safeguarding Partners for dealing with allegations against people who work with children, in either a paid or voluntary capacity. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has:
 - behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
 - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
 - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children

In addition:

The Designated Officer (previously known as the Local Authority Designated Officer) is to be involved in the management and oversight of individual cases where there are allegations made against people who work with children. The Designated Officer will provide advice and guidance to schools, liaising with the police and other agencies, and monitoring the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible, and are consistent with a thorough and fair process:

- Any allegation should be reported immediately to the Headteacher or the Principal of the school. Where the allegation relates to the Headteacher or Principal it should be reported to the Chair of Governors or equivalent. The Designated Officer should be informed within one working day of all allegations that come to an employer's attention or that are made directly to the police; and
- If an organisation removes an individual (paid worker or unpaid volunteer) from work such as looking after children (or would have, had the person not left first) because of a concern that the person may pose a risk of harm to children, the organisation must make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service. It is an offence to fail to make a referral without good reason.

In addition to these duties, which apply to schools, further safeguarding duties are also placed on them through other statutes. The key duties that fall on schools are set out below.

Schools and colleges

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a duty on local authorities (in relation to their education functions and governing bodies of maintained schools and further education institutions, which include sixth-form colleges) to exercise their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at a school, or who are students under 18 years of age attending further education institutions. The same duty applies to independent schools (which include Academies and free schools) by virtue of regulations made under section 157 of the same Act.

In order to fulfill their duty under sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002, all educational settings to whom the duty applies should have in place the arrangements as set out above. In addition schools should have regard to specific guidance given by the Secretary of State under sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002.

Introduction

At NUASt, the governors and staff fully recognise the contribution the school makes to safeguarding children. We recognise that the safety and protection of all pupils is of paramount importance and that all staff, including volunteers, have a full and active part to play in providing early help protecting pupils from harm. We believe that the school should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes all pupils' social, physical, emotional and moral development. In delivering this ambition we will adhere to the principles set out in Nottingham's Family Support Strategy and Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance.

Ultimately, effective safeguarding of children can only be achieved by putting children at the center of the system, and by every individual and agency playing their full part, working together to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children, in line with Working Together 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018.

The aims of this policy are to:

- Confirm that the pupils' development is supported in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence
- Raise the awareness of teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse
- Confirm the structured procedures to be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected harm or abuse
- Emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff and those with designated responsibility for child safeguarding, health and safety and other safeguarding responsibilities
- Emphasise the importance of maintaining and implementing appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and arrangements of those service providers who use the school's premises through extended schools or provide any other before and after school activities
- Highlight the connection between the safeguarding Policy and the school's policy for safe recruitment of staff and volunteers, and for managing allegations
- Confirm the working relationship with Children and Families Direct, Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners and other agencies and, where appropriate with similar services in neighbouring authorities.

Responsibilities

i. The governing body:

- has trained link governor(s) for:

Safeguarding, named: John Saunders

- Who will attend training/updates at least every three years and will also receive the regular safeguarding updates referred to above

Looked after children, named: John Saunders

- Will ensure a member of the governing body is nominated to liaise with the local authority and/or partner agencies on issues of child protection in relation to safeguarding and in the event of allegations of abuse made against the Headteacher, the Principal of a college or proprietor or member of governing body of an independent school.

- Will ensure that the school has a child safeguarding policy, single central record, staff conduct policy and procedures in place, operates safe recruitment procedures, makes appropriate checks on staff and volunteers and has procedures for dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers that all comply in accordance with Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners.
- will ensure that schools and colleges create a culture of safe recruitment and, as part of that, adopt recruitment procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk to children (Part three: Safer Recruitment, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018).
- Has appointed a member of staff of the school or college's leadership team to the role of designated safeguarding lead. This individual is Robert Tapp
- Will ensure the school/college keeps an up to date single central record of pre-employment checks, specifying when the check was made and when it will be renewed.
- monitors the adequacy of resources committed to child safeguarding, and the staff and governor training profile
- Recognises that neither it, nor individual governors, have a role in dealing with individual cases or a right to know details of cases (except when exercising their disciplinary functions in respect of allegations against staff)
- Ensure that the child safeguarding policy is available to parents and children on request
- Will ensure this policy and practice complements other policies e.g. anti-bullying including cyber bullying, health and safety, to ensure an integrated model of safeguarding operates across the school.

ii. The Headteacher will ensure that:

- The policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body are followed by all staff
- The policy will be updated annually, and be available publicly either via the school or college website or by other means.
- Designated staff review policy when the Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners update their policies and procedures
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the designated persons and other staff to discharge their responsibilities including taking part in strategy discussions and other multi-agency meetings, to contribute to the assessment and support of children and young people, and be appropriately trained.
- A single central database of all staff and volunteers, and their safeguarding training dates is maintained and that this list confirms that all staff and those volunteers who meet the specified criteria have had a DBS check, when this check was made and when it will be renewed.
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise their concerns about poor and unsafe practice in regard of pupils, and such concerns are addressed in a timely manner in accordance with agreed policies.
- School staff are sensitive to signs that may indicate possible safeguarding concerns. This could include, for example, poor or irregular attendance, persistent lateness, children missing from education, particularly where there are concerns regarding the potential for forced marriage or female genital mutilation.
- He/she undergoes child safeguarding training which is updated regularly, in line with advice from the Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners.
- A visitor's procedure is in place that puts the safeguarding of pupils at the center and is applied to all visitors irrespective of their status.

Visitor's procedure;

- All visitors to the school will be asked to bring formal identification with them at the time of their visit and a letter on headed paper from HR/management of the organisation they work for confirming they have been DBS checked and children's barred checked (unless they are named on the approved visitors/contractors list as set out below).
- Once on site, all visitors must report to reception first. No visitor is permitted to enter the school via any other entrance under any circumstances.
- At reception, all visitors must state the purpose of their visit and who has invited them. They should be ready to produce formal identification upon request.
- All visitors will be asked to sign the Visitors Record Book which is kept in reception at all times making note of their name, organisation, who they are visiting and car registration.
- All visitors will be required to wear an identification badge – the badge must remain visible throughout their visit.
- Visitors will then be escorted to their point of contact OR their point of contact will be asked to come to reception to receive the visitor. The contact will then be responsible for them while they are on site. The visitor must not be allowed to move about the site unaccompanied unless they are registered on the Approved Visitor List (to be on this list, the person must have a current clear DBS check and children's barred check with a copy of this registered on the schools central record. They must then follow the procedures above e.g. sign into the visitors book and enter the premises via reception).

Nottingham City Schools Agreed Visiting Professionals Guidance September 2018

- Any professional wishing to undertake work in school with children must be expected and make a formal appointment
- The named professional must be the person who undertakes the intervention
- Professionals must show their organisation ID on arrival
- School, **on production of the organisation ID must** accept that all organisation safeguarding procedures have been followed by the external organisation and that DBS clearance has been obtained for that individual following the specific organisation safeguarding policy

Schools should not deny access to professionals if they do not have a copy of their DBS certificate with them or if their clearance period is longer than that expected for school. Schools are not permitted to request copies of any personal information relating to Professional Visitors – including DBS Certificates or numbers

Allegations against the Headteacher

Where an allegation is made against the Headteacher, Principal or equivalent, the Chair of the Governing Body, or equivalent, must be informed as well as the Designated Officer (LADO) **0115 8764747.**

iii. The trained designated leads (Headteacher/senior managers) for safeguarding:

- 1 Robert White
- 2 Robert Tapp
- 3 Andrew Edwards

will:

- Have their roles explicitly defined in their job descriptions
- Be given sufficient time, funding, supervision and support to fulfil their child welfare and safeguarding responsibilities effectively
- Undergo updated child safeguarding training every two years.
- Liaise with relevant agencies in accordance with the Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners procedures when referring a pupil where there are concerns about possible abuse or harm
- Where there are concerns about a member of staff's suitability to work with children, contact the Designated Officer (LADO)
- Be able to access the contents of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners procedures and Personnel procedures and make these accessible to all staff
- Ensure all staff, including supply staff, visiting professionals working with pupils in the school and volunteers are informed of the names and contact details of the designated leads and the school's procedures for safeguarding children
- Support staff who attend strategy meetings, looked after reviews and/or case conferences
- Support staff and volunteers who may find safeguarding issues upsetting or stressful by enabling them to talk through their anxieties and to seek further support from the school leadership group or others as appropriate
- Ensure involvement of other designated leads e.g. where there are concerns about a pupil who is 'looked after or previously looked after'
- Support staff to reflect on the information they hold about children and provide an alternative perspective on issues in order to promote a better understanding of what may or may not be concerning
- Meet at least each half term to review procedures and case load

Designated leads will ensure that:

- Written records of concerns are kept, even if there is no immediate need for referral; and monitored using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or Priority Families Assessment
- All child protection records are marked as such and kept securely locked, and if these are stored electronically, that they are differently password protected from the pupils' other files, and accessible only by the Head teacher/designated leads
- Pupil records are kept separately, and marked as appropriate to indicate other confidential records are being held elsewhere
- All absence letters are dated and clearly signed by a teacher/tutor, and that if there are concerns about attendance and a pupil's wellbeing and safety, the Education Welfare Officer is contacted
- Phone calls about absences are similarly logged and dated
- The children missing education- statutory guidance for local authorities 2016 is adhered to
- Where a pupil is subject to a Child Protection Plan, and is absent without explanation for two days, their key worker in Children's Social Care is contacted.

- Records are monitored for patterns of what, when taking in isolation would appear to be low level concerns, but when viewed together indicate a pattern which requires further action.
- Where there are existing concerns about a pupil, and they transfer to another school in this authority, a copy of information held is transferred securely and confidentially e.g. a CAF is forwarded under confidential cover and separate from the pupil's main file to the designated lead for child safeguarding in the receiving school
- Where a pupil has a **child protection plan** or there are ongoing child protection enquiries and transfers to another school;
 - The designated lead for Safeguarding is informed immediately
 - Their child protection file is copied for any new school or college as soon as possible but transferred separately from the main pupil file.

iv. The staff

All staff, teaching and non-teaching, volunteers and others working in school need to:

- Read and understand Part 1 and part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018
- Be aware that to safeguard children, they have a duty to share information with the designated leads, and through the designated lead, with other agencies
- Be aware that despite the requirement to share information with designated leads they can make their own referral to Children's Social Care, e.g. in urgent situations.
- Be alert to signs and symptoms of harm and abuse. Further information regarding potential indicators of abuse, including specific information about risks such as Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage is available on the Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners webpage
- Know how to respond to their duty when they have concerns or when a pupil discloses to them and to act
- Know how to record concerns and what additional information may be required
- Undergo child safeguarding training which is updated regularly in line with advice from the Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners, (whole staff training every three years)
- Recognise that abuse and neglect can happen in any setting and maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'
- Familiarise themselves with "What to do if you're worried that a child is being abused: advice for practitioners guidance." (2015)

Reporting concerns to the designated leads

Any concern should be discussed in the first instance with *one of the designated leads or in their absence the Headteacher*, as soon as possible. **If at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child, a referral should be made to Children's Social Care or the police immediately. Anybody can make such a referral.**

All concerns / decisions / actions / outcomes are recorded as per school procedures (including electronic records)

Immediate response to the pupil

It is vital that our actions do not harm the pupil further or prejudice further enquiries, for example:

- Listen to the pupil, if you are shocked by what is being said, try not to show it
- It is OK to observe bruises but not to ask a pupil to remove their clothing to observe them
- If a disclosure is made:-
 - Accept what the pupil says

- Stay calm, the pace should be dictated by the pupil without them being pressed for detail by asking leading questions such as “what did s/he do next?” It is your role to listen - not to investigate
- Use open questions such as “is there anything else you want to tell me?” or “yes?” or “and?”
- Be careful not to burden the pupil with guilt by asking questions like “why didn’t you tell me before?”
- Acknowledge how hard it was for the pupil to tell you
- Do not criticise the perpetrator, the pupil might have a relationship with them
- Do not promise confidentiality, reassure the pupil that they have done the right thing, explain whom you will have to tell (the designated lead) and why; and, depending on the pupil’s age, what the next stage will be. It is important that you avoid making promises that you cannot keep such as “I’ll stay with you all the time” or “it will be all right now”.

Recording information

- Make some brief notes at the time or immediately afterwards; record the date, time, place and context of disclosure or concern, facts and not assumption or interpretation. **Your name and role should be included.**
- If it is observation of bruising or an injury try to record detail, e.g. “right arm above elbow”. Do not take photographs.
- Note the non-verbal behaviour and the key words in the language used by the pupil (try not to translate into ‘proper terms’).
- It is important to keep these original notes and pass them on to the designated member of staff who may ask you to write a referral.
- All verbal conversations should be promptly recorded using the schools system.

Supporting pupils

- The staff and governors recognise that a child or young person who is abused or witnesses violence may find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self-worth. We recognise that in these circumstances pupils might feel helpless and humiliated, and that they might feel self-blame.
- We recognise that this school might provide the only stability in the lives of pupils who have been abused or who are at risk of harm.
- We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a pupil in these circumstances might range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.
- Staff have an understanding that pupils with SEND can be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect. SEND pupils will receive support from the Inclusion Lead (SENCo) and relevant outside agencies e.g. Learning Support or Education and Health Care Plan (Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 chapter 2 p26)
- The school will support all pupils by:
 - Discussing child protection cases with due regard to safeguarding the pupil and his or her family;
 - Supporting individuals who are, or are thought to be, in need or at risk in line with Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners procedures;
 - Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness; challenging and not condoning aggression, bullying or discriminatory behaviour;
 - Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment.
- We recognise that the provision of the right help at the right time is a key element of our wider safeguarding responsibilities. This includes the provision of Early Help either directly through the school or by signposting to other local services, as set out in Nottingham City’s Family Support Strategy. Where a child is receiving early help support

we will continue to monitor this to make sure it is having the required impact. Where there is no evidence of this impact we will consider other alternatives, which may include seeking specialist support.

Confidentiality

- The personal information about all pupils' families is regarded by those who work in this school as confidential. All staff and volunteers need to be aware of the confidential nature of personal information and will aim to maintain this confidentiality
- Staff understand that they need know only enough to prepare them to act with sensitivity to a pupil and to refer concerns appropriately. The designated leads and Headteacher will disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis only. It is inappropriate to provide all staff with detailed information about the pupil, incidents, the family and the consequent actions.

Staff must be aware that:

- They cannot promise a pupil complete confidentiality – instead they must explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the pupil or other pupils safe
- Where there are concerns about a pupil's welfare relevant agencies need to be involved at an early stage. If a member of staff or a volunteer has concerns about a pupil's welfare, or if a pupil discloses that s/he is suffering abuse or reveals information that gives grounds for concern, the member of staff must speak to their designated lead with a view to passing on the information.

V. Pupils

Safe Environment – pupils are safe and feel safe

- All pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online, through various teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.
- School adopts an open and accepting attitude towards pupils as part of our responsibility for pastoral care.
- Pupils, parents and staff will be free to talk about any concerns and will see the school as a safe place when there are difficulties.
- Pupils' worries and fears will be taken seriously and pupils encouraged to seek help from school staff.

School will therefore ensure that:

- There is an ethos where pupils feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are listened to, taken seriously and responded to appropriately is established and maintained.
- Pupils are involved in the decision-making which affects them.
- Pupils know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or have difficulties and the school has well developed listening systems.
- Posters are displayed which detail contact numbers for appropriate support services and child protection helplines e.g. Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners and Childline.
- Curriculum activities and opportunities to equip pupils with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse are provided.
- There is a clear written statement of the standards of behaviour and the boundaries of appropriate behaviour expected of staff and pupils that is understood and endorsed by all.
- Positive and safe behaviour is encouraged among pupils and staff are alert to changes in a pupil's behaviour and recognise that challenging behaviour may be an indicator of

abuse.

- Effective working relationships are established with parents and colleagues from partner agencies.
- There is an awareness that personal and family circumstances and lifestyles of some pupils lead to an increased risk of neglect and/or abuse.

Safeguarding as part of the Curriculum

Through PSHE, ICT and other curriculum opportunities, pupils are helped to talk about their feelings, know about their rights and responsibilities, understand and respond to risks, to deal assertively with pressures and know who they can turn to for advice and help both in and out of the school and how to make a complaint.

The following areas are addressed within PHSE, ICT and in the wider curriculum:

- Bullying, including cyber-bullying
- E safety
- Road, fire and water safety
- Inter-personal relationships and domestic violence
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE), online and offline
- Honour based violence and forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Radicalisation and extremism

When children use the school's network to access the internet, they are protected from inappropriate content by our filtering and monitoring systems. However, many pupils are able to access the internet using their own data plan.

Working with parents/carers

- Parents and carers play an important role in protecting their children from harm.
 - In most cases, the school will discuss concerns about a pupil with the family and, where appropriate, seek their agreement to making referrals to Children and Families Direct.
 - Where there are any doubts, the designated lead should clarify with Children and Families Direct whether, and if so when and by whom, the parents should be told about the referral. Alternatively they could ring the Consultation Line in Children's Duty to discuss this case. The number for this is **07711189544**
 - The pupil's views will be considered in deciding whether to inform the family, particularly where the pupil is sufficiently mature to make informed judgments about the issues, and about consenting to that.
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- *Vigilance: to have adults notice when things are troubling them*
 - *Understanding and action: to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon*
 - *Stability: to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them*
 - *Respect: to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not*
 - *Information and engagement: to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans*
 - *Explanation: to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response*

- *Support: to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family*
 - *Advocacy: to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views*
 - *Protection: to be protected against all forms of abuse and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if a refugee (Working Together to Safeguard children 2018 p 10)*
- The school aims to help parents understand that the school, like all others, has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. The school may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a pupil's welfare.

Children in Care and Children Previously in Care

Supporting children in care and children who have been in care is a key priority for our school. We recognise that the needs of this group of children can only be effectively met when all agencies work together. To ensure we have a coordinated approach to meeting the needs of children in care who attend our school we have a designated lead, who is: Sally Fountain.

Prevention in the Curriculum

- The school recognises the importance of developing pupils' awareness of behaviour that is unacceptable towards them and others, and how they can help keep themselves and others safe.
- The PSHE programme in each key stage provides personal development opportunities for pupils to learn about keeping safe and who to ask for help if their safety is threatened. As part of developing a healthy, safer lifestyle, pupils are taught to, for example:
 - Safely explore their own and others' attitudes
 - Recognise and manage risks in different situations and how to behave responsibly
 - Judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable and unacceptable
 - Recognise when pressure from others (including people they know) threatens their:
 - personal safety and well-being and develop effective ways of resisting pressure;
 - including knowing when and where to get help
 - Use assertiveness techniques to resist unhelpful pressure.
 - How to keep safe on-line
 - The risks associated with sharing indecent images of, or information about, themselves. This is something that is often referred to as Sexting. Research indicates that this is increasingly associated with concerns such as sexual exploitation.
 - Our work in this area is based on the guidance set out in Sexting in Schools and Colleges: Responding to Incidents and Safeguarding Young People.

Particularly Vulnerable Groups

- Some children and young people may be particularly vulnerable to abuse and harm. This includes for example privately fostered children, children with a disability, children with communication needs.
- Certain forms of behavior can also increase the vulnerability of a young person such as drug or alcohol misuse.

- The designated safeguarding lead should be aware of the range of guidance that is available and vigilant to concerns being raised by staff and children which need to be reported in accordance with national (Government) and local (Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners) procedures without delay.
- The lead should also ensure staff working with children are alert to signs which may indicate possible abuse or harm.

Child Sexual Exploitation

The sexual exploitation of children and young people (CSE) under 18 is defined as that which:

- Involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money or in some cases simply affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities.
- Sexual exploitation 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.
- Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.
- In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.
- Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.' (Department for Education, 2012)
- Child sexual exploitation is a form of abuse which involves children (male and female, of different ethnic origins and of different ages) receiving something in exchange for sexual activity.
- Schools are well placed to prevent, identify and respond to children at risk of sexual exploitation.

Who is at risk?

- Child sexual exploitation can happen to any young person from any background. Although the research suggests that the females are more vulnerable to CSE, boys and young men are also victims of this type of abuse.
- The characteristics common to all victims of CSE are not those of age, ethnicity or gender, rather their powerlessness and vulnerability.
- Victims often do not recognise that they are being exploited because they will have been groomed by their abuser(s).
- As a result, victims do not make informed choices to enter into, or remain involved in, sexually exploitative situations but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or fear.
- Sexual exploitation can happen face to face and it can happen online. It can also occur between young people.
- In all its forms, CSE is child abuse and should be treated as a child safeguarding issue.

Nottingham City Children's safeguarding Board have developed the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of, involved in or thought to be experiencing child sexual exploitation. It will assist in identifying

indicators of sexual exploitation and then to determine what intervention, support services and disruption tactics are required. Copies are available from the DSLs.

Preventing Radicalisation

- Preventing violent extremism by countering the ideology of extremism and by identifying those who are being drawn into radicalism has for some time formed part of our approach to safeguarding.
- The Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015 now imposes a duty on a wide range of bodies including all schools to respond when they become concerned that a child is being, or is at risk of, becoming radicalised.
- Compliance will be monitored through various inspection regimes such as Ofsted that will be looking to see that organisations have assessed the level of risk and that staff are appropriately trained to look out for signs of radicalisation.
- Also schools will be monitored to ensure they are aware of the process for making referrals to Channel, the panel that reviews and refers individuals to programmes to challenge extremist ideology.

Statutory guidance has been published and is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

If you have any concerns about individuals who may be being drawn into support for extremist ideology, please contact the Prevent Team prevent@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk who will then contact you to discuss whether a referral should be made. Although a police team, their role is to support early intervention so that vulnerable children or adults do not end up facing criminal sanctions.

Honour-based Violence

- So-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing.
- All forms of so called HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such.
- If in any doubts staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead. 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 HBV, or already having suffered HBV.

Female Genital Mutilation

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

Risk factors for FGM include:

- Low level of integration into UK society
- Mother or a sister who has undergone FGM
- Girls who are withdrawn from PSHE
- Visiting female elder from the country of origin
- Being taken on a long holiday to the country of origin
- Talk about a 'special' procedure to become a woman

Symptoms of FGM

FGM may be likely if there is a visiting female elder, there is talk of a special procedure or celebration to become a woman, or parents wish to take their daughter out-of-school to visit an 'at-risk' country (especially before the summer holidays), or parents who wish to withdraw their children from learning about FGM.

Potential indications that FGM may have already taken place may include:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may even look uncomfortable.
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating.
- Spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems.
- Frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems.
- Prolonged or repeated absences from school or college, especially with noticeable behaviour changes (e.g. withdrawal or depression) on the girl's return
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations.
- Confiding in a professional without being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.
- Talking about pain or discomfort between her legs

The Serious Crime Act 2015 sets out a mandatory duty on professionals (including teachers) to notify police when they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. In schools, this will usually come from a disclosure.

Teachers must personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out; and discuss any such cases with the safeguarding lead and Children's Social Care. Although the duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases never the less this is still something that must be reported to social care.

Private Fostering

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

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

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

Schools have a mandatory duty to report to the local authority where they are aware or suspect that a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement. Although schools have a duty to inform the local authority, there is no duty for anyone, including the private foster carer or social

workers to inform the school. However, it should be clear to the school who has parental responsibility.

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

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

Children who Self-harm

Staff should always be mindful of the underlying factors which may lead a child or young person of any age to self-harm. This is particularly the case for children of primary school age as self-harm in this age group is uncommon. Where information comes to the attention of practitioners which suggests that a primary age child has self-harmed serious consideration must be given to whether there are other underlying factors, including abuse. All such cases should be discussed with children's social care.

Even in those unusual cases where a primary age child is thought to have self-harmed it is important to recognise that this behaviour is an indicator of emotional distress and the child will need support to address this.

Peer on Peer abuse

Staff should be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but not limited to: bullying (including cyber bullying), gender based violence/sexual assaults and sexting.

At NUASt, we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other students. We recognise that some students will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy.

Occasionally, allegations may be made against students by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Where this is the case we will follow the processes set out in the policy above. In addition we will be mindful of the fact that the pupil against whom the allegation has been made may also be vulnerable and need additional support and that their behaviour could be an indicator that they themselves are experiencing abuse, or have done so.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges (May 2018)

Sexual violence and sexual 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.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. 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 victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support.

Contextual safeguarding

This means that incidents and or behaviours are associated with factors outside the school or college and/or occur between children outside the school or college the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) should be considering contextual safeguarding. This simply means assessments of children in such cases should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. Children's social care assessments should consider such factors and so, it is important that schools and colleges provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the evidence and the full context of any abuse.

Child criminal exploitation (County Lines)

All staff should be aware that children can become involved in any aspect of criminal exploitation and should be able to recognise the indicators of this abuse. This is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity

- a) In exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or
- b) The financial or other advantage of the perpetrator and facilitator and/or
- c) Through violence or the threat of violence.

The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. Any concerns of this nature must be reported to the DSL and external agencies as appropriate.

Children missing from education

All staff should be aware that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and child criminal exploitation. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future. Staff should be aware of their school or college's unauthorised absence and children missing from education procedures.

Knowing where children are during school hours is an extremely important aspect of Safeguarding. Missing school can be an indicator of abuse and neglect and may also raise concerns about other safeguarding issues, including the criminal exploitation of children. We monitor attendance carefully and address poor or irregular attendance without delay. We will always follow up with parents/carers when pupils are not at school. This means we need to have a least two up to date contacts numbers for parents/carers and Trust 'best practice' of three. Parents should remember to update the school as soon as possible if the numbers change.

In response to the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018) the school has:

Staff who understand what to do when children do not attend regularly

Appropriate policies, procedures and responses for pupils who go missing from education (especially on repeat occasions).

Staff who know the signs and triggers for travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.

Procedures to inform the local authority when we plan to take pupils off-roll when they:

- leave school to be home educated
- move away from the school's location
- remain medically unfit beyond compulsory school age
- are in custody for four months or more (and will not return to school afterwards); or
- are permanently excluded
- We will ensure that pupils who are expected to attend the school, but fail to take up the place will be referred to the local authority.

When a pupil leaves the school, we will record the name of the pupil's new school and their expected start date.

Sexting

In cases of 'sexting' we follow guidance given to schools and colleges by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) published in 2017: 'Sexting in schools and colleges, responding to incidents, and safeguarding young people'.

Professional development

- The governors recognise that all staff and volunteers who work with pupils aged up to 18 years need to have appropriate child safeguarding training that equips them to recognise and respond to pupil welfare concerns.
- We will ensure staff are given mandatory induction, which includes familiarisation with child safeguarding policy, part 1 and 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, staff behaviour policy, the designated leads in the school, their responsibilities and procedures to be followed.
- The training, including multi-agency training, in the last 3 years undertaken by staff and governors to ensure their knowledge and skills are up to date includes:
 - **Safeguarding Children presentation**
 - **PREVENT Channel General Awareness**
 - **NSPCC Safer Recruitment**
 - **Broken Dreams CSE workshop**
 - **Sexting, Pornography & the Internet**
 - **NSPCC online training**
 - **SHARP self-harm training**
- A report of the school's training needs assessment is presented to the governors annually so that they can ensure that training is appropriately provided for all staff. This report is also shared with staff to enable them to contribute to the development of safeguarding practice in the school
- A training register is kept to indicate when staff and governors have been trained and this in turn informs the *annual* report to governors.
- Safer recruitment training has been attended by:
 - o **Robert White**..... **Date...11/04/2016**.....
 - o **Natalie Astle**..... **Date...19/02/2014**.....

Training

Regular training and discussion within the school environment is important and should be led by the Designated Leads for safeguarding.

Timelines for training:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead training: refreshed **within every two years** (statutory requirement).
- Children in Education – Safeguarding Update training: To be refreshed **within every three years** as agreed with Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners
The above training is available through the Safeguarding in Education Service safeguardingineducation@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
- Whole School Refresher Training at least annually with regular in-school updates
- Safer recruitment training: Through the DfE on-line (under review) or through local training provided by Nottingham City Council

All staff, schools and Governing bodies should be open to new learning and keep up to date with changes made to national and local safeguarding policy, procedure and guidance including that provided by our safeguarding partners.

Schools need to evaluate and demonstrate how well they fulfil their statutory responsibilities and exercise professional judgment in Keeping Children Safe as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016.

Confidentiality, sharing information and record keeping

Information will be shared in line with GDPR.

Staff should only discuss concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Headteacher or Chair of Governors (depending on who is the subject of the concern). That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

Wherever possible consent will be sought to share information however where there are safeguarding concerns about a child, information will be shared with the appropriate organisations such as Pupil's Social Care. In most cases concerns will be discussed with parents and carers prior to the referral taking place unless doing so would increase risk.

NUAST School's policy on confidentiality and information-sharing is available to parents and pupils on request.

Schools and Partnerships

Schools invest time and other resources in partnership activity and this investment should be aimed at improving outcomes for pupils. The Local Authority actively promotes the benefits to schools of partnerships and in this case to safeguard and improve the outcomes for potentially vulnerable pupils. Examples of this are:

- **Parental E-learning (free): Child Sexual Exploitation** is a high profile issue. Secondary schools and academies are asked to promote this e-learning with their parents and carers as it is an opportunity to improve their awareness in identifying and responding to child sexual exploitation from a preventative or early intervention perspective.
<http://www.paceuk.info/the-problem/keep-them-safe/>
- **Pint Size Theatre:** Secondary Schools and Academies in Nottingham can access a performance of Pintsize Theatre's 'LUVU2' production. It is an interactive play aimed at raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) with young people aged 13-14 (year 9). Contact is via email www.pintsizetheatre.co.uk or Tel: 0115 8419853.
- **NSPCC Child line Project:** (funded through the DfE) the project is free of charge to all primary schools and pupils in Years 5 & 6. Raising awareness through interactive classroom sessions with trained NSPCC staff, they come into schools, provide an assembly and workshops to raise the awareness with children about what is or is not acceptable behaviour and how and where to seek help if worried. Contact for this is through Emma Grishin NSPCC Area Child Line Coordinator email:- EGrishin@NSPCC.org.uk or Tel: 0115 9258602.

Further guidance

To support the work around child protection and safeguarding, links to statutory, national and local guidance are below:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guidance-for-practitioners
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation
- Children who may have been trafficked
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-who-may-have-been-trafficked-practice-guidance>
- Criminal Exploitation
www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines
- Behaviour and Discipline
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools>
- Attendance
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>
- Exclusions
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>
- Bullying
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>
- Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners (formerly NCSCB) Guidance Children Missing from Home and Care Joint Procedures
- Sexting in Schools and Colleges
Sexting in Schools and Colleges, responding to incidents and safeguarding young people – UKCCIS (2017)
- www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006
(updated August 2018)

Policy reviewed by :

- o *...Robert White* *Date...23/10/2018.....*