

# HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL

*Hard Work • High Standards • Kindness*



## Policy statement on SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Drawn up by:	AJH
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## INTRODUCTION

*Hinchingbrooke* fully recognises the responsibility it has under section 157 of the Education Act 2002 to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This responsibility is more fully explained in the statutory guidance for schools and colleges “Keeping Children Safe in Education” (September 2021). All staff must be made aware of their duties and responsibilities under part one of this document.

Staff should read the above document together with Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) and “What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners” (March 2015) if they are working directly with children. For those staff who do not work directly with children or where English is a second language, Annex A can be issued instead.

Through their day-to-day contact with pupils and direct work with families all staff in school have a responsibility to:

- Identify concerns early to prevent them from escalating
- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- Identify children who may benefit from early help
- Know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected
- Follow the referral process if they have a concern

This policy sets out how the school’s governing body discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at the school. Our policy applies to all staff, paid and unpaid, working in the school including governors. Teaching assistants, mid-day supervisors, secretaries as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child. Concerned parents/carers may also contact the school and its governors.

It is consistent with the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board procedures.

### **There are four main elements to our policy:**

**PREVENTION** through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils and the creation and maintenance of a whole school protective ethos

**PROCEDURES** for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. The definitions of the four categories of abuse can be found on page 10.

**SUPPORTING CHILDREN** particularly those who may have been abused or witnessed violence towards others

### **PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

#### **1. PREVENTION**

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to protect children.

The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel safe including in a digital context and are encouraged to talk and are listened to.

- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.

Incorporate into the curriculum, activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safer from abuse in all contexts, including:

- How to determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy, judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe and how to seek help or advice.
- The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships
- That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control
- What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable
- About online risks, including that any material someone provides has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removed potentially compromising material placed online
- What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online
- The impact of viewing harmful content
- That specifically explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners.
- That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail
- The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, control, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based abuse violence and FGM and how they can affect current and future relationships.
- How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent and how and when that can be withdrawn (in all contexts including online).

We use Safer Corridors Toolkit developed by the Cambridgeshire PHSE Service which supports schools and colleges in preventing and reducing sexual violence and harassment and responding to incidents.

## 2. PROCEDURES

We will follow the procedures set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 'Inter-Agency Procedures'. A copy of these procedures can be found on their website: <http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

***There is a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Child Protection {See Appendix A}***

***There is a team of staff who have also received the Designated Safeguarding Lead training {See Appendix A}***

***The nominated governor for Safeguarding and Child Protection is {See Appendix A}***

***The local authority designated officer for Child Protection (the 'LADO') is {See Appendix A}***

A senior member of staff, from the leadership team, has been appointed to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, DDSL), the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSL and cannot be delegated.

The role of DSL and DDSL is explicit in the role holder's job description.

The DSL has the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post. The DSL is given the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. (See 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021, Annex C'). The DSL and deputies have undertaken the two day training provided by the Education Safeguarding Team and that this training is updated **at least every two years**.

The DSL and DDSLs refresh their knowledge and skills e.g. via bulletins, meetings or further reading **at least annually**.

The governing body ensures that every member of staff, paid and unpaid, and the governing body knows who the Designated Personnel are and the procedures for passing on concerns from the point of induction. This is made possible by the publicity around the whole school site of who is in the safeguarding team (posters with photographs) and on procedures on how to report a concern ("See Something, Hear Something, Say Something"). New staff have initial face to face safeguarding training, plus all staff receive regular updates and training including summary briefings at the start of each school year, the offer of half-termly training courses and on-line training. Key pastoral leaders e.g. Heads of Year are also in regular contact with safeguarding staff in the day to day care given to all students. All staff know that they have an individual responsibility to be alert and to be able to identify the signs of abuse and neglect and are able to record and refer child protection/safeguarding concerns to DSL/ DDSL.

The governing body ensures that DSLs and DDSLs take advice from a child protection specialist when managing complex cases. The Designated Personnel have access to professional consultations with staff working in the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) is also available. Contact numbers are found in Appendix B.

The DSL or DDSL are always available (during school hours, during term-time) to discuss any safeguarding concerns and that all staff are clear upon the course of action they must take if in exceptional circumstances the DSL and DDSL are not available.

If the DSL is absent then cover arrangements are in place from the team of 7 other DDSLs and contact is made in emergencies with the DSL. *"Staff should consider speaking to a member of the senior leadership team and/or take advice from social care"* ( Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2020, paragraph 45, page 12)

Liaise with the three safeguarding partners (Local Authority, clinical commissioning group and police) as appropriate and work with other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018.

The governing body has a nominated governor for safeguarding and child protection who has undertaken appropriate training. (See Appendix A)

The governing body ensures every member of staff and every governor knows:

- the name of the designated safeguarding leads/deputies and their role
- how to identify the signs of abuse and neglect
- how to pass on and record concerns about a pupil
- that they have an individual responsibility to be alert to the signs and indicators of abuse and for referring safeguarding concerns to the DSL/ DDSL
- that they have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- where to find the Inter – Agency Procedures on the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board website;
- their role in the early help process
- the process for making referrals to children's social care

- the safeguarding response to children who go missing in education

The governing body ensure that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. The training is regularly updated. In addition all staff members receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required but at least annually:

- Ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies
- Ensure that parents are informed of the responsibility placed on the school and staff in relation to child protection by setting out these duties on the school's website
- Provide for parents, if requested, a copy of the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. This policy is also available on our website ([www.hinchingbrookesschool.net](http://www.hinchingbrookesschool.net))
- Promote educational outcomes by sharing information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children (including children with a social worker) are experiencing/have experienced with teachers and school and leadership staff.

Where pupils are educated off site or in alternative provision, the school and the provider have clear procedures about managing safeguarding concerns between the two agencies. These include:

- Placements are checked via the LA AP Directory of available and checked providers
- Daily attendance alerts are taken by 9.45 for all students and providers; if appropriate i.e. absence calls are made by the school and provider to the home
- All students have at least a half-termly review where all issues of attendance, progress and safety are discussed which is agreed upon and signed by all: school, student, parent/carer and provider
- Visits are made by the school to the provider both planned and at times unannounced drop ins
- All placements have a DSL and will call if any concerns or make a direct referral to social care if an immediate response is required
- An AP Register is kept and is shared with the LA; whilst the Education Inclusion Officer attend school meetings, student reviews and periodically scrutinizes the AP paperwork as part of an invited moderation and scrutiny exercise
- Written confirmation that the alternative provider has carried out appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working at the establishment will be sought by the school

### **Liaison with Other Agencies**

The school will:

- Work to develop effective links with relevant services to promote the safety and welfare of all pupils
- Co-operate as required, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children, (July 2018), with key agencies in their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance and providing written reports at Child Protection Conferences and core groups
- Notify the local Children's Social Care team immediately if:
  - it should have to exclude a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan (whether fixed term or permanently)
  - there is an unexplained absence of a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan
  - there is any change in circumstances to a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan
- When a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new school immediately. The Child Protection Chair and Social Work Unit will also be informed
- Please also refer to the Covid guidance attached as an Appendix to this policy for the actions schools should take to safeguard vulnerable children in liaison with children's social care.

## Record Keeping

The school will:

- Keep clear detailed, accurate written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Children's Social Care immediately
- These will be recorded as electronic records using the LA endorsed My Concern
- Ensure all records are stored on the purpose built, secure platform, My Concern and any additional or necessary paper records are kept securely and stored from the main pupil file and in locked locations
- Ensure all relevant child protection records are sent to the receiving school or establishment when a pupil moves schools in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 (page 148) and the Education Safeguarding Teams Guidance on Keeping and Managing Child Safeguarding Records
- The DSL will consider whether it would be appropriate to share information with the new school/college in advance of a child leaving
- make parents aware that such records exist except where to do so would place the child at risk of harm
- All actions and decisions will be led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child

## Confidentiality and information sharing

Information about children and their families is defined as 'special category data', i.e. information that identifies a living individual. Collection, storage and sharing of personal data is governed by the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

The school will:

- Ensure staff and volunteers adhere to confidentiality protocols and that information is shared appropriately
- Ensure staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children, (as set out in 'Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018)
- Ensure that if a member of staff receives a Subject Access Request (under the Data Protection Act 2018) from a pupil or parent they will refer the request to the DSL or Headteacher
- Ensure staff are clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/and deputies will:

- Disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a 'need to know' basis. Parental consent may be required
- Aim to gain consent to share information and be mindful of situations where to do so would place a child at increased risk of harm. Information may be shared without consent if a person believes that there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner
- Record when decisions are made to share or withhold information, who information has been shared with and why. (See 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' July 2018)

- In cases where the ‘serious harm test’ is met, schools must withhold providing the data in compliance with schools’ obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. Where in doubt schools should seek independent legal advice.
- Seek advice about confidentiality from outside agencies if required. (See ‘Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,’ DfE, July 2018).

### **Communication with parents/carers**

The school will:

- Ensure that parents/carers are informed of the responsibility placed on the school and staff in relation to child protection by setting out its duties in the school prospectus and on the website
- Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of another agency, unless the circumstances preclude this action
- Discuss with Children’s Social Care if the school believes that notifying parents could place the child or another person at immediate risk of harm or prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. *[Further guidance on this can be found in the Inter-agency Procedures of the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board].*
- Record what discussions have taken place with parents or if a decision has been made not to discuss it with parents, the rationale must be recorded. Records may subsequently be disclosable to relevant partner agencies if child protection proceedings commence.

### **PEER ON PEER ABUSE**

We recognise that peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This can include but is not limited to: bullying, (including cyberbullying prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); abuse within intimate partner relationships; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexual violence and sexual harassment, consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos; causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party; upskirting part of the Voyeurism (Offences) Act, April 2019) and initiation/hazing type violence and rituals. Addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

**All forms of peer on peer abuse are unacceptable and will be taken seriously.**

The school will therefore:

Create a whole school protective ethos in which peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

Provide training for staff about recognising and responding to peer on peer abuse, including raising awareness of the gendered nature of peer abuse, with girls more likely to be victims and boys perpetrators.

Ensure that staff do not dismiss instances of peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment as an inevitable part of growing up.

Include within the curriculum, information and materials that support children in keeping themselves safe from abuse, including abuse from their peers and online.

Provide high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), including teaching about consent.

Ensure that staff members follow the procedures outlined in this policy when they become aware of peer on peer abuse

Staff are made aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at a greater risk

### **Dealing with Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children**

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex from primary to secondary stage and into colleges. It can also occur online. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

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

The school will:

- Be clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated
- Provide training for staff on how to manage a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment
- Make decisions on a case-by-case basis
- Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, offer appropriate support and take the wishes of the victim into account when decision making
- Implement measures to keep the victim, alleged perpetrator and if necessary other children and staff members, safe. Record any risk assessments and keep them under review
- Give consideration to the welfare of both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in these situations.
- Liaise closely with external agencies, including police and social care, when required
  
- Further guidance can be found in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education - Part Five' (September 2021), 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges,' (DfE, September 2021) for full details of procedures to be followed in such cases and 'Sexting in schools and colleges: Also see 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' (UKCIS, December 2020)

### **3. SUPPORTING CHILDREN**

The school recognises that **any** child may be subject to abuse and 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 and as such will support all children by:

- Providing curricular opportunities to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- Creating an ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and safe environment and values the whole community
- Applying the school's behaviour policy effectively. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the child but does not damage the pupil's sense of self-worth.

The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred

- Liaise with the senior mental health lead where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health in school/college for advice on case management
- Liaising with other agencies which support the pupil such as Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service or Early Help Teams.
- Developing productive and supportive relationships with parents/carers
- Promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances
- The school recognises that whilst **any** child may benefit from early help, staff are encouraged to consider the wider environmental factors present in a child's life which could pose a threat to their welfare or safety, (contextual safeguarding). Staff are required to be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for children in particular circumstances. Please see pages 8 – 9 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021 for the complete list. The list includes:

### **Children with Disabilities, Additional Needs or Special Educational Needs**

We recognise that, statistically, children with additional needs, special educational needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with complex and multiple disabilities and/or emotional and behavioural problems should be particularly sensitive to indicators of abuse.

The school has pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or challenging behaviours. The school will support staff to decide appropriate strategies that will reduce anxiety for the individual child and raise self-esteem as part of an overall behaviour support plan agreed with parents/carers.

As part of the PSHE curriculum staff will teach children personal safety skills commensurate with their age, ability and needs. Children will be taught personal safety skills such as how to recognise if they are feeling unsafe including within family relationships and friendships; how to ask for help; the difference between safe and unsafe secrets; the difference between safe and unsafe physical contact; and how recognise and manage risk including in a digital. The content of lessons will be shared with parents/carers so that these skills can be supported at home.

The school has pupils who may have communication difficulties and we are aware that they are vulnerable to abuse because they are unable to express themselves to others. Instead such children will often exhibit changes in behaviours or signs and indicators of abuse recognised by staff with a good knowledge of the child.

Where necessary, the school will provide additional training to staff in the use of Makaton, PECS or other communication systems. Supervision by senior managers will be vigilant to create a protective ethos around the child.

We promote high standards of practice, including ensuring that disabled children know how to raise concerns, and have access to a range of adults with whom they can communicate.

### **Young Carers**

The school recognises that children who are living in a home environment which requires them to act as a young carer for a family member or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol can increase their vulnerability and that they may need additional support and protection.

School will: seek to identify young carers; offer additional support internally; signpost to external agencies; be particularly vigilant to the welfare of young carers and follow the procedures outlined in this policy, referring to Early Help or Social Care as required if concerns arise.

### **Children at Risk of Criminal Exploitation**

Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity. Drug networks or gangs exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas. Exploitation can occur even if activity appears to be consensual.

All staff will consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. School will address indicators of child criminal exploitation with staff through training. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of criminal exploitation arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation (CSE / Criminal/Gangs) Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

The school recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of child criminal exploitation, modern slavery and/or trafficking and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.

### **Children Frequently Missing Education**

School recognises that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities including abuse, neglect, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, and risk of FGM or forced marriage.

The school monitors attendance of individual pupils closely, as outlined in the Attendance Policy, and analyses patterns of absence to aid early identification of concerning patterns of absence.

The school endeavors to hold more than one emergency contact for each pupil to provide additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child missing education is identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.

When a child is missing from education, the school follows the procedure as set out in Cambridgeshire's Children Missing Education guidance. The school will inform the Education Welfare Officer and Social Care if a missing child is subject to a Child Protection Plan or there have been ongoing concerns.

### **Children Misusing Drugs or Alcohol**

The discovery that a young person is misusing legal or illegal substances or reported evidence of their substance misuse is not necessarily sufficient in itself to initiate child protection proceedings but the school will consider such action in the following situations:

When there is evidence or reasonable cause:

- To believe the young person's substance misuse may cause him or her to be vulnerable to other abuse such as sexual abuse;

- To believe the pupil's substance related behaviour is a result of abuse or because of pressure or incentives from others, particularly adults;
- Where the misuse is suspected of being linked to parent/carer substance misuse.
- Where the misuse indicates an urgent health or safeguarding concern
- Where the child is perceived to be at risk of harm through any substance associated criminality

### **Children at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation (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 (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.

CSE can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

Potential indicators of sexual exploitation will be addressed within staff training, including raising awareness with staff that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of abuse and may not recognise it as abuse. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of child sexual exploitation arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation (CSE / Criminal/Gangs) Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of CSE.

The school recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions (see 3.6.4).

### **Children Living with Substance Misusing Parents/Carers**

Misuse of drugs and/or alcohol is strongly associated with Significant Harm to children, especially when combined with other features such as domestic violence.

When the school receives information about drug and alcohol abuse by a child's parents/carers they will follow appropriate procedures.

This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

- Use of the family resources to finance the parent's dependency, characterised by inadequate food, heat and clothing for the children
- Children exposed to unsuitable caregivers or visitors, e.g. customers or dealers
- The effects of alcohol leading to an inappropriate display of sexual and/or aggressive behaviour
- Chaotic drug and alcohol use leading to emotional unavailability, irrational behaviour and reduced parental vigilance
- Disturbed moods as a result of withdrawal symptoms or dependency
- Unsafe storage of drugs and/or alcohol or injecting equipment

- Drugs and/or alcohol having an adverse impact on the growth and development of the unborn child

### **Children Living with Domestic Abuse**

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing 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.

Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of peer on peer abuse is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of 'domestic abuse' (if one or both parties are under 16).

Domestic Abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are 'personally connected' regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour.

The school recognises that where there is Domestic Abuse in a family, the children/young people will always be affected; the longer the violence continues, the greater the risk of significant and enduring harm, which they may carry with them into their adult life and relationships. Domestic Abuse can also affect children in their personal relationships as well as in the context of home life.

Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of Domestic Abuse arise. The school will vigilantly monitor the welfare of children living in domestic abuse households, offer support to them and contribute to any Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) safety plan as required.

At Hinchingsbrooke we are working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire County Council to identify and provide appropriate support to students who have experienced domestic abuse in their home; this scheme is called Operation Encompass.

In order to achieve this, Cambridgeshire's Education Safeguarding Team will share police information of all domestic incidents, where one of our students has been present, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) (DSL)/Domestic Abuse (DA) Lead.

On receipt of any information, the DSL/DA Lead will decide on the appropriate support the child may require. The Operation Encompass information is stored in line with all other confidential safeguarding and child protection information. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough *Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools, Colleges and Early Years settings*'.

### **Children at risk of 'Honour- Based' Abuse including Female Genital Mutilation**

So called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including breast ironing, female

genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. The school takes these concerns seriously and staff are made aware of the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of HBA through training. Staff are required to treat all forms of HBA as abuse and follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

FGM is a procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. FGM is illegal in the UK. Any indication that a child is at risk of FGM, where FGM is suspected, or where the woman is over 18, will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy. Staff will report concerns to the DSL, who will make appropriate and timely referrals to social care. In these cases, parents will not be informed before seeking advice and the case will still be referred to social care even if it is against the pupil's wishes.

In accordance with the Female Genital Mutilation Act, it is a statutory duty for teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' cases of FGM in under-18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. Teachers should still consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve social care as appropriate, but the teacher will personally report to the police that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out.

### **Children who have returned home to their family from care**

The school recognises that a previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable. School will vigilantly monitor the welfare of previously looked after children, keep records and notify Social Care as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern in accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 'Inter - Agency Procedures

### **Children showing signs of Abuse and/or Neglect**

School recognise that experiencing abuse or neglect may have an adverse impact on those children which may last into adulthood without appropriate intervention and support. School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Children who have experienced abuse or neglect may display this through their own behaviour, which may be challenging and defiant or passive and withdrawn. We recognise that children may develop abusive behaviours and that these children may need to be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.

All staff will be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school or college and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) will consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence

School will provide training for staff to ensure that they have the skills to identify and report cases, or suspected cases, of abuse in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix A).

### **Children at Risk of Radicalisation**

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

The governing body will ensure that the DSL has undertaken Prevent awareness training and that all staff receive training about the Prevent duty.

Staff are required to be alert to changes in children's behavior which could indicate they need help or protection. Concerns that a child is at risk of radicalisation are referred to the DSL in the usual way. If appropriate the DSL and DDSLs will make a Prevent referral.

See also 'The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers', DfE (June 2015), and 'Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales,' HM Government, (July 2015).

### **Privately Fostered Children**

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16, (under 18 if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or relative in their own home for 28 days or more.

The school will follow the mandatory duty to inform the local authority of any 'Private Fostering' arrangements and refer to the Specialist Fostering Team.

### **Children who have Family Members in Prison**

The school is committed to supporting children and young people who have a parent or close relative in prison and will work with the family to find the best ways of supporting the child.

The school recognises that children with family members in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including: poverty, stigma, isolation, poor mental health and poor attendance.

The school will treat information shared by the family in confidence and it will be shared on a 'need to know' basis.

The school will work with the family and the child to minimise the risk of the child not achieving their full potential.

## **4. PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

The school will operate safer recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to part three of the government guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2021). This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Safer Recruitment Policy.

Staff who have completed the Safer Recruitment Training are contained in Appendix A.

### **Allegations that may meet the harms threshold (Part Four, Section One)**

Any allegation of abuse made against a member of staff (including supply staff and volunteers) that meets the harms threshold as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021, Part Four, Section One, will be reported straight away to the Head Teacher or Principal.

In cases where the Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors. The school will follow the procedures set out in Part Four of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021.

The school will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, volunteer or agency/supply staff and adhere to the relevant procedures set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021 *and the school's HR Policies, and seek advice from their HR provider.*

The Principal or Chair of Governors will ensure that all allegations are reported to the LADO within one working day. The LADO will advise on all further action to be taken.

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

Where the school identify a child has been harmed we will contact children's social care and as appropriate the police immediately.

School will consider:

- **Looking after the welfare of the child** - the designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that the child is not at risk and referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care.
- **Investigating and supporting the person subject to the allegation** - the case manager should discuss with the LADO, the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action.

The school will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff or volunteers relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff or volunteer is no longer employed at the school and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities and professional bodies and included in references where applicable.

Staff (including supply staff and volunteers) who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly, and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension should not be an automatic response when an allegation is reported. However, ~~is not mandatory, nor is it automatic but~~, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected.

### **Concerns that do not meet the harms threshold (Part Four, Section Two)**

Low level concerns that do not meet the harms threshold should be reported to the Principal. NB: The term low level does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the harms test.

In cases where the Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors. The school will follow the procedures set out in Part Four of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021.

The school will deal with any such concern, no matter how small, where an adult working in or on behalf of the school may have acted in a way that:

- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and

- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

All low-level concerns should be recorded in writing. The record should include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, and action taken. The name of the individual sharing their concerns should also be noted, if the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible.

These records are kept confidential, held securely and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

The school will promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the school (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately. This will enable the school to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of the school/college are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of the institution.

School will ensure that **all** staff, paid and unpaid, are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with pupils and parents/carers as advised within the Local Authority's Code of Conduct: 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (May 2019). As part of the Induction process, all staff, paid and unpaid, will receive guidance about how to create appropriate professional boundaries (in both the real and virtual world) with all children, especially those with a disability or who are vulnerable.

All staff have signed to confirm that they have read a Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings (May 2019).

The school will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with pupils aged under 18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of Position of Trust).

The school will ensure that communication between pupils and adults, by whatever method, are transparent and take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries and are open to scrutiny.

## 5. OTHER RELATED POLICIES

This policy links to our:

- Anti-bullying policy
- Attendance policy
- Behaviour policy
- Complaints procedure
- Critical Incident plan
- Equality policy
- First Aid policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Intimate Care policy
- Lone Working policy
- Online Safety and Acceptable Use policy
- Physical Intervention and/or Use of Reasonable Force policy
- Protocol for children not collected from school at the end of the school day/activity
- Safer Recruitment policy

- Staff Code of Conduct/Safer Working Practice
- Staff Discipline and Grievance procedures
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy
- Whistleblowing policy

### **Physical Intervention**

Our policy on physical intervention by staff is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually by the governing body. “All school staff members have a legal power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline. Whether the force used is reasonable will always depend on the particular circumstances of the case and the test is whether the force used is proportionate to the consequences it is intended to prevent. This means the degree of force used should be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.”\*

\* *DCSF, now DfE Guidance, The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils 2010 is available from [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)*

### **Anti-Bullying**

Our policy on anti-bullying is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually by the governing body. We expect staff to acknowledge that to allow or condone bullying, in the real or virtual world, constitutes a lack of duty of care may lead to consideration under child protection procedures.

### **Racist, Homophobic/Biphobic/Transphobic (HBT) and Disability Incidents**

Our policy on racist, homophobic/Biphobic/Transphobic and disability incidents is set out in our Equality Policy and is reviewed annually by the governing body. The school records all incidents using “My Concern” and are also reported to the LA using the on-line PRIDE system. We acknowledge that repeated racist incidents or a single serious incident may lead to consideration under child protection/safeguarding procedures.

### **Health and Safety**

Our Health and Safety policy, set out in a separate document, is reviewed annually by the governing body. It reflects the consideration we give to the protection of our children both within the school environment and when away from the school when undertaking school trips and visits

Alcohol should not be consumed by adults or young people on school site, on school trips or school social events where students are present. School social events involving children should take place at an appropriate venue, ideally school and never at the home of a member of staff.

### **E-Safety and Acceptable Use**

Our policies on e-safety and acceptable use, set out in a separate document, are reviewed annually by the governing body. They reflect the balance needed between the exciting opportunities offered by the internet and other technologies and the need for pupils and staff to keep themselves safe and deal sensibly with risk.

Communication between pupils and adults, by whatever method, should take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries. This includes the wider use of technology such as mobile phones text messaging, e-mails, digital cameras, videos, web-cams, websites and blogs. **Adults should not share any personal information with a child or young person. They should not request, or respond to, any personal information from the child/young person, other than that which might be appropriate as part of their professional role. Adults should ensure that all communications are transparent and open to scrutiny. Staff should never have students as friends on social networking sites such as Facebook.**

### **Intimate Care Policy**

Our policy on the use of intimate care is set out in a separate document. All children requiring intimate care will have an intimate care plan in place which is reviewed regularly.

### **Whistleblowing Policy and Complaints Procedures**

Our policy on whistleblowing and our Complaints Procedures are set out in separate documents.

## **6. GOVERNING BODY CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

The governing body fully recognises its responsibilities with regard to child protection and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It aims to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in school are effective and comply with the law and government guidance at all times.

It will:

- Nominate a governor for safeguarding and child protection who will take leadership responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements and practice and champion child protection issues. The nominated child protection and safeguarding governor is detailed in See Appendix A
- Ensure an annual report is made to the full governing body and copied to the Education Child Protection Service. Any weaknesses will be rectified without delay
- Ensure that this Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is annually reviewed and updated and shared with staff.
- It will be published and on the school's website.
- Ensure that children's exposure to potential risks while using the internet is limited by having in place age appropriate filtering and monitoring systems
- Ensure children's wishes and feelings are taken into account where there are safeguarding concerns

### **Use of school premises for non-school activities**

If the governing body provides extended school facilities or before or after school activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for ~~child protection~~ safeguarding as written in this policy shall apply.

Where services or activities are provided separately by another organisation or individual either on or off site, the governing body will seek assurance that they have appropriate policies and procedures in place to keep children safe and there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

This policy was ratified by the Development and Welfare Committee of the school governors on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and will be reviewed in September 2020

Signed by the Headteacher .....

Chair of Governors .....

Designated Safeguarding Lead (if appropriate)

#### Four categories of abuse

**Physical Abuse** - includes 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.

**Neglect** - 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.

- It may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.
- It may involve the neglect of or lack of responsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.
- It also includes parents/carers failing to:
  - provide adequate food, clothing and shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment;
  - protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
  - ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-givers;
  - ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
  -

**Emotional Abuse** - Is the persistent emotional maltreatment so as to cause severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

- It may involve conveying to a child that they are:
  - worthless;
  - unloved;
  - inadequate;
  - valued only insofar as they meet another person's needs.
- It may include:
  - not giving the child opportunities to express their views;
  - deliberately silencing them;
  - 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.
- It may also feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children including:
  - interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability;
  - overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning;
  - preventing participation in normal social interaction.
- It may involve
  - seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another;

- serious bullying (including cyberbullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger;
- the exploitation or corruption of children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment although it may occur alone.

**Sexual Abuse** - involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

This may involve:

- physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex)
- non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing
- non-contact activities involving:
  - children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images
  - children in watching sexual activities
  - encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
  - 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.

## APPENDIX A

### Names of Staff:

**Tony Heath, Assistant Principal** (Student Services) is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

**Alison Setchfield, Francis Barrett, Brad Panther, Alie Winter, Julie Connor, Jo Edwards, Caroline Pittock and Rebecca Bierton**—make up the team of staff who have also received the Designated Person training. They are Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs). Alison Setchfield is the senior of these DDSLs and the first to deputise for the DSL where necessary and appropriate.

Andrew Goulding (CEO), Anna Nightingale and Simon Cooke (Vice Principals) and Tony Heath (Assistant Principal) have all completed the Safer Recruitment Training.

Vicky McGregor is the nominated child protection and safeguarding governor.

### Useful Contacts and Further Information:

DSL Tony Heath (Assistant Principal Inclusion)	01480 375700
Welfare Manager and senior DDSL: Alison Setchfield	01480 375700
Hinchingbrooke School First Aid, Health Centre School Hours (8:40 – 3:30)	01480 375700

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board – Safeguarding Inter-Agency Procedures <http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

Education Safeguarding Team      [ECPSGeneral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ECPSGeneral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit      Tel: 101

### Useful Contacts - Cambridgeshire

Education Safeguarding Manager- Sara Rogers      [sara.rogers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:sara.rogers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Early Help Hub (EHH)      Tel: 01480 376666

Customer Service Centre – social care referrals      Tel: 0345 045 5203

Emergency Duty Team (out of hours)      Tel: 01733 234724

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)  
[LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)      Tel: 01223 727967

Senior Education Adviser – Phil Nash      Tel: 01223 699448

## **Relevant Documents**

Hinchingbrooke School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (available on the school's web site)

"Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings" (May 2019)

"Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers" (July 2018)

"Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges" (Sept. 2021)

COVID-19: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers (May 2020)

"The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers" (June 2015)

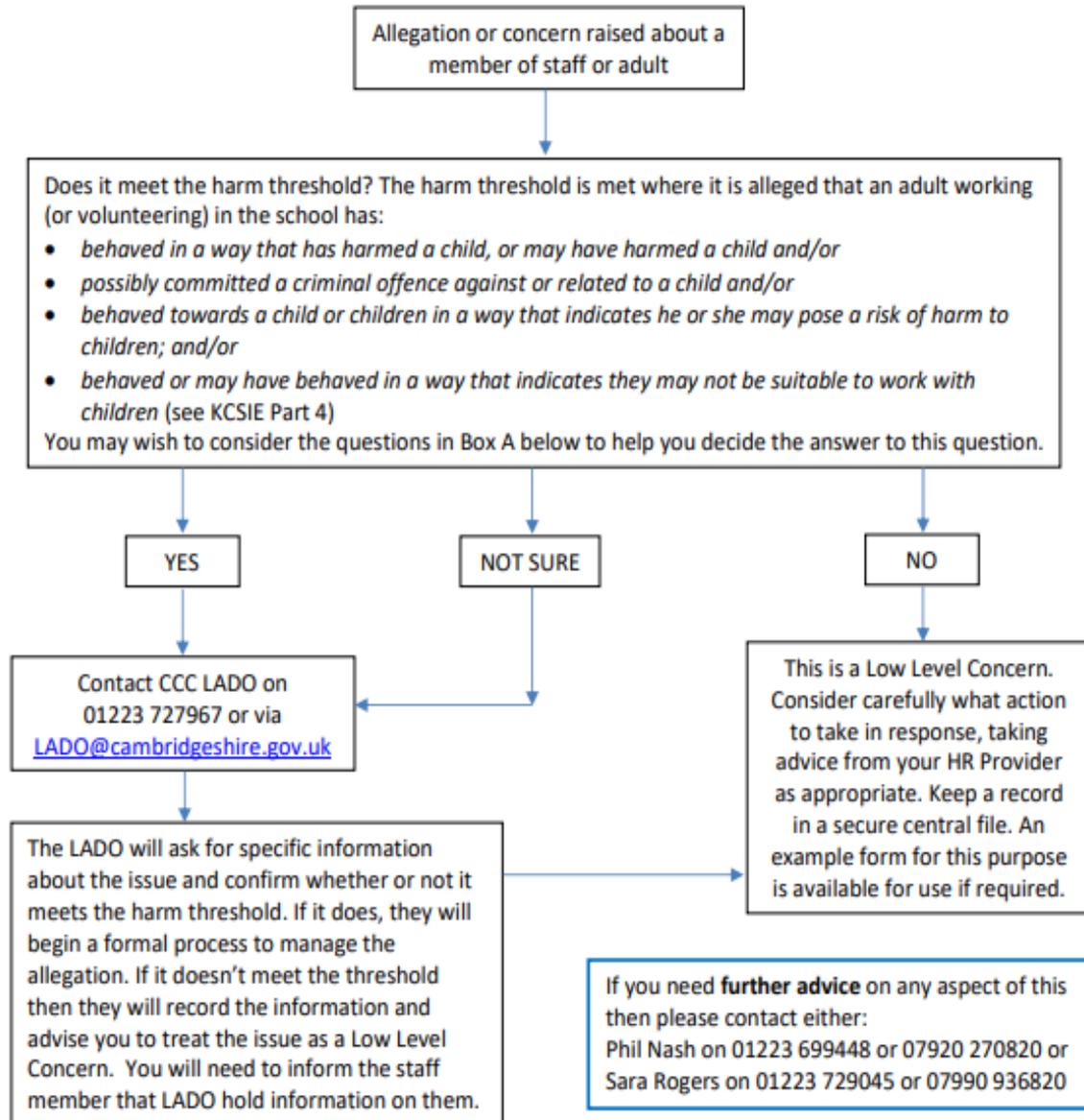
"Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales" (July 2015)

"Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges" (Sept 2021)

"What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners" (March 2015)

"Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children" (July 2018)

Appendix B  
Dealing with Allegations or Concerns about an Adult Working with Children



**Box A:**

- How long has the adult or member of staff worked for you?
- Have there been any previous concerns raised?
- Is this a one-off or part of a pattern of behaviour?
- Has the member of staff previously been given advice in this area?
- Would an associated pattern of behaviour (if it exists) be seen by others? (How closely do they work with other colleagues?)
- Might this have been a planned action or event?
- Could this behaviour be inadvertent? What is the likelihood of this?
- Could this be the precursor to more concerning behaviour?
- Did it occur in a 'public' or 'private' place? Was this in school or out of school?
- If electronic devices are involved, have any relevant files been deleted and is there any evidence of this?
- If this relates to inappropriate language, what is the precise nature of the language used? How inappropriate is it? What was the context – where was this, and who were the listeners? Could this be seen as 'banter' or might it have more serious undertones?