

**Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Policy
(Including Child Protection)- adopted by
Alvechurch C of E Middle School**

September 2019



This policy is reviewed at least annually by
the governing body and was;

Last reviewed on Date: July 2019
Next Review Date: July 2020

Signature..... (Chair of Governors)

Print Name: Gwen Onyons

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Alvechurch C of E Middle School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 2019
(adapted from WCC Model policy)

Governors' Committee Responsible:	Health and Safety
Governor Lead:	Louise Wilde
Designated Safeguarding Lead of Staff:	Vanessa Rancins
Prevent Lead:	Vanessa Rancins
CSE lead:	Vanessa Rancins
Status & Review Cycle:	Statutory Annual

Next Review Date:

Safeguarding Statement

Alvechurch C of E Middle School recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. Child protection forms part of the school's safeguarding responsibilities.

Key Personnel

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: Vanessa Rancins (Deputy Headteacher)

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The deputy DSL(s) is/are:

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Telephone: 0121 445 1033

Dani Shipley (Class Teacher & Joint Head of Year 8)

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The nominated safeguarding governor is: Louise Wilde

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The Headteacher is: David Snell

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Telephone: 0121 455 1033

The Chair of Governors is: Gwen Onyon

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Other named staff and contacts:

- Designated Teacher for Children in Care: Sharon Sweeney
- Online safety Co-ordinator: D Snell
- Safeguarding in Education Adviser, WCC Denise Hannibal
- Local Authority Designated Officer/Position of Trust: Jon Hancock
- Education Adviser Safeguarding Lead: SLA Sally Mills
- Family Front Door: **01905 822666** (core working hours)
Out of hours or at weekends: **01905 768020**

To submit an online Cause for Concern notification log onto: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20559/refer to childrens social care/1658/are you a professional and worried about child](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20559/refer%20to%20childrens%20social%20care/1658/are%20you%20a%20professional%20and%20worried%20about%20child)

Summary of changes at last review:

- Changes to reflect the new KCSIE 2018
- Additional information on Peer on Peer abuse
- Added <https://www.crime-statistics.co.uk>
- Additional information on how safeguarding threads through the curriculum

1. Introduction

1.1 Alvechurch C of E Middle School fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect and support pupils in School. The aim of this policy is to safeguard and promote our pupils' welfare, safety, health and well-being by creating an honest, open, caring and supportive environment. The pupils' welfare is of paramount importance.

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, which places a duty on schools and local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009, which set out what must be recorded on the single central record and the requirement for at least one person on a school interview/appointment panel to be trained in safer recruitment techniques
- Part 3 of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, which places a duty on academies and independent schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school
- The Children Act 1989 (and 2004 amendment), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children
- Section 5B(11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015, which places a statutory duty on teachers to report to the police where they discover that female genital mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18
- Statutory guidance on FGM, which sets out responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM
- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children

- Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which defines what ‘regulated activity’ is in relation to children
- Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty, which explains schools’ duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism West Mercia Consortium inter-agency procedures and the WSCB Levels of Need Guidance.

1.2 This policy applies to all staff, governors, volunteers and visitors to the school. Child protection is the responsibility of all staff. We ensure that all parents and working partners are aware of this policy by mentioning it in our school prospectus, displaying appropriate information in our reception and on the school website and by raising awareness at meetings with parents/carers.

1.3 Extended school activities

Where the Governing Body provides services or activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for child protection will apply. Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, the Governing Body will seek assurance in writing that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place to safeguard and protect children and there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

2. Safeguarding Commitment

2.1 The school adopts an open and accepting attitude towards children as part of its responsibility for pastoral care. Staff encourage children and parents/carers to feel free to talk about any concerns and to see school as a safe place when there are difficulties. Children's worries and fears will be taken seriously and children are encouraged to seek help from members of staff.

2.2 Our school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
- Ensure that children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty.
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities (specifically through PHSE/ ICT) which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse (including online) and to know where to get help.
- Ensure every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with parents/carers and colleagues from other agencies.
- Operate safer recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on new staff and volunteers who will work with children including identity, right to work, enhanced DBS criminal record and barred list (and overseas where needed), references, and prohibition from teaching or managing in schools (s. 128).
- Within our local area statistics show in July 2018 that within the Alvechurch area there were crimes 19 reported. Anti-Social Behaviour (5) and Violence and Sexual Offences (5) are the two highest crimes committed and therefore, are particular focus for our school. Data taken from <https://www.crime-statistics.co.uk> In addition, as part of the Bromsgrove Middle School Partnership DSL Network we also share ‘soft intel’ regarding safeguarding concerns within the Bromsgrove area. Currently we are aware of young people being groomed to deal drugs with a particular focus on Sanders Park area of the town.

2.3 Safeguarding is embedded throughout the KS2 and KS3 curriculum at Alvechurch Middle School. In addition to the discrete curriculum content and intention through the Citizenship, Computing, Science and RE subject areas, weekly tutorial sessions and whole school and Key stage assemblies together with the use of outside providers and 'drop down' sessions; ensures that there is a clear ethos of safeguarding underpinning all learning in school– a holistic approach rather than 'one off' hits.

Whole school assemblies encourage our pupils to reflect on how they can keep themselves safe. For example, kooth.com, NSPCC assemblies, Samaritans Assembly (coping strategies) West Mercia Police –Safety, Sexting and the Law.

Assemblies and weekly tutorials cover a whole host of issues pertinent to safeguarding: International Day against Drug abuse, Self-esteem and body image, LGBT prejudice, Young Carers, Safer Internet Day, Contraception and teenage pregnancy. Gun powder plot –terrorists or freedom fighters, Honour Killings, Multi-cultural world, Road Safety Week, Alcohol Awareness Week, Anti-Bullying week, Prevent – the Mike Haines Story, Healthy relationships and Consent (KS3) CSE Awareness Day (Tell Someone Campaign), Understanding CSE tutorial, Mental Health and on-line safety and Cyber-bullying, Diversity and Challenging stereotypes.

Children are taught about safeguarding in school. The following areas are among those addressed in PSHE/SRE and in the wider curriculum.

- **Bullying/Cyber Bullying:** Peer Anti-Bullying Ambassadors play a key part in working with peers and staff to stop bullying in school by raising awareness of bullying, promoting kindness and offering a safe place to talk. Anti-Bullying is also addressed through tutorial time and assemblies, with Cyber-bullying part of the Computing curriculum.
- **Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Abuse:** The PSHE curriculum encompasses Healthy Lifestyles; dealing with Alcohol and Drug misuse.
- **Extremism and Radicalisation:** The PSHE curriculum covers British Values Education. The Citizenship curriculum makes effective use of outside providers e.g. Round Midnight 'Make it Count' focused on the importance of voting and understanding the experience of immigration within the UK; ensuring that the subject was tackled effectively and sensitively. The performance 'Cutting Ties' addresses the issue of County Lines and knife crime. The Year 7 Citizenship curriculum includes: Multi-culturalism, Diversity, Empathy, Stereotyping. The Year 8 curriculum includes: Human Rights, Immigration, Government and Law. Whole school Collective Worship focuses on British Values. Assemblies are responsive to current news e.g. acts of terrorism in order to tackle prejudice. The RE Curriculum and visits to places of worship create opportunities for cultural awareness. School council focuses on democracy. Outside Providers are actively sought to deliver key messages on diversity and acceptance. For example understanding LGBT equality.
- **Online Safety/Mobile technologies:** The Computing Curriculum addresses Online Safety. It is an age appropriate curriculum with progressively more mature content:
 - Y5 Computing: E-Safety and Cyberbullying
 - Y6 Computing: E-Safety, body image and social media
 - Y7 Computing: E-Safety Cyberbullying and digital footsteps
 - Y8 Computing: E-Safety; grooming and sexting.

Weekly assemblies also promote e-safety at dedicated times throughout the year e.g. Safer Internet Day. A Pop up every time pupils log on to a computer in school signposts how and who to report concerns to.

- **Stranger Danger:** Is an annual assembly theme – linked to fact that advice about stranger danger has changed massively given the rise of social media and online gaming. At KS2 resources from ‘Clever Never Goes’ are used in tutorials. Clever Never Goes moves the focus away from strangers and instead teaches children to recognise when someone (anyone) is asking them to go with them. We call this ‘Go Spotting’. In doing so, the programme aims to give children practical safety skills which they can use as they get older and become more independent. At KS3 PSHE and tutorials focus on online grooming.
- **Peer to Peer Abuse:** KS3 Citizenship curriculum teaches about Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships. Drop down sessions focus on Relationship Abuse and Disrespect Nobody resources from NSPCC.
- **Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment:** KS3 Citizenship curriculum teaches about Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships. Drop down sessions focus on Relationship Abuse and Disrespect Nobody resources from NSPCC.
- **Healthy relationships/Consent:** KS3 Citizenship curriculum teaches about the issue of consent in context of Healthy Relationships. As well as consent being part of the tutorial programme.
- **Domestic Abuse:** A part of the tutorial programme as well as Healthy Relationships at KS3. (Murdered by my Boyfriend resource)
- **So called Honour Based Violence Issues (HBV) e.g. Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):** Addressed in tutorial programme: Honour Killings.

2.4 Support

Our school recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and view the world in a positive way. For such children school may be one of the few stable, secure and predictable components of their lives. Other children may be vulnerable because, for instance, they have a disability, are in care, or are experiencing some form of neglect. Our school seeks to remove any barriers that may exist in being able to recognize abuse or neglect in pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disability. We will seek to provide such children with the necessary support and to build their self-esteem and confidence.

2.5 Raising concerns/complaints

We respond robustly when concerns are raised or complaints made (from children, adults including parent/carers) as we recognise that this promotes a safer environment and we seek to learn from complaints and comments. The school will take action and seek to resolve the concerns in a timely way, keeping people informed as to progress wherever possible. The school's complaints procedures are available on our website and hard copies available from school reception.

3.Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 General

All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare. This includes a responsibility to be alert to possible abuse and to record and report concerns to staff identified with child protection responsibilities within the school (currently called Designated Safeguarding Leads). Staff should be aware that they may need to work with other services as needed and assist in making decisions about individual children.

The Teachers' Standards 2012 state that teachers, including head teachers, should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their decisions about individual children.

Every member of staff, including volunteers working with children at our school, is advised to maintain an attitude of '*it could happen here*' where safeguarding is concerned and '*think beyond the obvious*'. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the interests of the child and have a responsibility to take action as outlined in this policy. They take account of the '*one chance rule*' in relation to honour violence based issues, that an adult may have only one opportunity to save a potential victim.

All staff are encouraged to report any concerns that they have and not see these as insignificant. On occasions, a referral is justified by a single incident such as an injury or disclosure of abuse. More often however, concerns accumulate over a period of time and are evidenced by building up a picture of harm over time; this is particularly true in cases of emotional abuse and neglect. In these circumstances, it is crucial that staff record and pass on concerns in accordance with this policy to allow the DSL to build up a picture and access support for the child at the earliest opportunity. A reliance on memory without accurate and contemporaneous records of concern could lead to a failure to protect.

The names of the Designated Safeguarding Leads for the current year are listed on **page 3** of this document.

All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the attitude or actions of colleagues using the school's confidential reporting (whistleblowing) policy. Whistleblowing concerns about the Headteacher should be raised with the Chair of Governors. Where the Headteacher is also the sole proprietor, concerns should be reported directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Staff will be made aware that if they feel unable to raise a child protection failure internally, they can contact the [NSPCC whistleblowing helpline](#).

3.2 Governing Body

In accordance with the Statutory Guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” September 2018, the Governing Body will ensure that:

- The school has a child protection/safeguarding policy, procedures and training in place which are effective and comply with the law at all times. The policy is made available publicly.
- The policy should be reviewed at least annually or more often, for example in the event of new guidance or a significant incident.
- The school operates safer recruitment practices, including appropriate use of references and checks on new staff and volunteers. Furthermore, the Head Teacher, a nominated Governor and other staff involved in the recruitment process have undertaken Safer Recruitment Training.
- There are procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers/people in a position of trust.
- There is a senior member of the school’s leadership team who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection (the “Designated Safeguarding Lead”) and there is always cover for this role (at least one deputy) with appropriate arrangements for before/after school and out of term activities.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes effective Local authority training (in addition to basic child protection training) and this is refreshed every two years. In addition to this formal training, their knowledge and skills are updated at regular intervals (at least annually) via safeguarding e-briefings etc.
- The Head Teacher, and all other staff and volunteers who work with children (including early years practitioners within settings on the school site), undertake appropriate training which is regularly updated (at least every year); and that new staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the school’s arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities (including this policy and Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018). Training should include indicators of FGM; early signs of radicalisation and extremism; indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation.(Every 3 years)
- Any deficiencies or weaknesses in these arrangements brought to the attention of the Governing Body will be rectified without delay.
- The Chair of Governors (or, in the absence of a Chair, the Vice Chair) deals with any allegations of abuse made against the Head Teacher, with advice and guidance from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- Effective policies and procedures are in place and updated annually including a behaviour “code of conduct” for staff and volunteers -“Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those who work with children in education settings October 2015”.
- Information is provided to the Local Authority (on behalf of the WSCB) when requested, for example through the Annual Safeguarding Return (e.g section 175 audit and CSE audit).
- There is an individual member of the Governing Body who will champion issues to do with safeguarding children and child protection within the school, liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and provide information and reports to the Governing Body.
- The school contributes to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Children” 2018 including providing a co-ordinated offer of Early Help for children who require this. This Early Help may be offered directly through school provision or via referral to an external support agency. Safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practice of the local authority and the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB).
- The school complies with all legislative safeguarding duties, including the duty to report suspected or known cases of FGM and the duty to prevent young people from being drawn into terrorism. In conjunction with the Head and DSL they should assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk.

3.3 Head Teacher

The Head Teacher of the school will ensure that:

- The Safeguarding policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body are effectively implemented, and followed by all staff.
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of children.
- Allegations of abuse or concerns that a member of staff or adult working at school may pose a risk of harm to a child or young person are notified to the Local Authority Designated Officer in a timely manner.
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner. The NSPCC whistle blowing helpline number is also available (0800 028 0285).
- All staff are made aware that they have an individual responsibility to pass on safeguarding concerns and that if all else fails to report these directly to Children's Social Care (Children's Services) or the Police.

3.4 Designated Safeguarding Lead

The responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead are found in Annex B of "Keeping Children Safe in Education" 2018 and include:

- Provision of information to the WSCB/Local Authority on safeguarding and child protection in compliance with section 14B of the Children Act 2004.
- Liaison with the Governing Body and the Local Authority on any deficiencies brought to the attention of the Governing Body and how these should be rectified without delay.
- Management and Referral of cases of suspected abuse to Family Front Door FFD (and/or Police where a crime may have been committed) and Disclosure and Barring Service (cases where a person is dismissed or left due to presenting risk / harm to a child).
- Liaise with the Head Teacher to inform him / her of issues.
- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and make use of the Levels of Need guidance when making a decision about whether or not the threshold for Early Help or Social Care intervention is met;
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise within the school.
- To attend and contribute to child protection conferences and other key partnership risk management meetings when required (Signs of Safety model).
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with educational needs and young carers.
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's child protection policy especially new or part-time staff who may work with different educational establishments;
- Ensure all staff have induction training covering child protection and staff behaviour and are able to recognise and report any concerns immediately they arise.
- Ensure that all staff have Part 1 of "Keeping children safe in education".
- Keeping detailed, accurate and secure written records of concerns and referrals;
- Ensure that there are resources and effective training for all staff.
- Keep up to date with new developments in safeguarding by accessing briefings and journals. Attend refresher training every 2 years and face to face CSE training.
- Ensure compliance with relevant procedures and policies, for example in relation to safe record keeping and transfer.
- Carrying out, in conjunction with the Head teacher and Safeguarding Governor, an annual audit of safeguarding procedures, using the County safeguarding checklist or similar.
- Ensure that the school provides appropriate support for staff who may feel distressed when dealing with safeguarding concerns.

4 Records, Monitoring and Transfer

- 4.1 Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. All staff are clear about the need to record and report concerns about a child or children within the school. The record should include the child's words as far as possible and should be timed, dated and signed. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for such records and for deciding at what point these records should be passed over to other agencies.
- 4.2 Records relating to actual or alleged abuse or neglect are stored apart from normal pupil or staff records. Normal records sometimes have markers to show that there is sensitive material stored elsewhere. This is to protect individuals from accidental access to sensitive material by those who do not need to know.
- 4.3 Child protection records are stored securely, with access confined to specific staff, e.g. Designated Safeguarding Leads and the Head Teacher.
- 4.4 Child protection records are reviewed regularly to check whether any action or updating is needed. This includes monitoring patterns of complaints or concerns about any individuals (eg child who repeatedly goes missing) and ensuring these are acted upon. Each stand - alone file should have a chronology of significant events.
- 4.5 When children transfer school their safeguarding records are also transferred. Safeguarding records will be transferred separately from other records and best practice is to pass these directly to a Designated Safeguarding Lead in the receiving education setting, with any necessary discussion or explanation and to obtain a signed and dated record of the transfer. In the event of a child moving out of area and a physical handover not being possible then the most secure method should be found to send the confidential records to a named Designated Safeguarding Lead. Files requested by other agencies e.g. Police, should be copied.
- 4.6 A record of any allegations (proven) made against staff is kept in a confidential file by the Head / Principal.

5. Procedures for Managing Concerns

- 5.1 Our school adheres to child protection procedures that have been agreed locally through the Safeguarding Worcestershire <https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/>
- 5.2 Where we identify children and families in need of support, we will carry out our responsibilities in accordance with the [West Mercia Consortium inter-agency procedures](#) and the [WSCB Levels of Need Guidance](#).
- 5.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be used as a first point of contact for concerns and queries regarding any safeguarding concern in our school. Any member of staff or visitor to the school who receives a disclosure of abuse or suspects that a child is at risk of harm must report it immediately to the DSL or, if unavailable, to the deputy designated lead. In the absence of either of the above, the matter should be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff.
- 5.4 All concerns about a child or young person should be reported without delay and recorded in writing using the agreed template (see Appendix 1 for pro-forma or *insert your own form here*).
- 5.5 The DSL will consider what action to take and have appropriate discussions with parents/carers prior to referral to children's social care or another agency unless, to do so would place the child at risk of harm or compromise an investigation
- 5.6 All referrals will be made in line with [local procedures](#) as detailed on the [Worcestershire website](#).
- 5.7 If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to Children's Services immediately. Anybody can make a referral. If the child's situation does not appear to be improving the staff member with concerns should press for re-consideration by raising concerns again with the DSL and/or the Head teacher. Concerns should always lead to help for the child at some point.
- 5.8 Staff should always follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy in the first instance. However, they may also share information directly with Children's Services, or the police if:
- the situation is an emergency and the designated senior person, their deputy and the Head teacher are all unavailable;
 - they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the pupil's safety.
- 5.9 Any member of staff who does not feel that concerns about a child have been responded to appropriately and in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy should raise their concerns with the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors. If any member of staff does not feel the situation has been addressed appropriately at this point they should contact Children's Services directly with their concerns.

5.9 Peer on peer abuse (including sexual violence and sexual harassment)

We recognise that children are also vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional abuse by their peers or siblings. This is most likely to include, but not limited to: bullying (including cyber bullying), physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexual violence and sexual harassment; sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and initiation/hazing type violence and rituals. Abuse perpetrated by children can be just as harmful as that perpetrated by an adult, so it is important to remember the impact on the victim of the abuse as well as to focus on the support for the child or young person exhibiting the harmful behaviour. Such abuse will always be taken as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult and the same safeguarding children procedures will apply in respect of any child who is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Staff must never tolerate or dismiss concerns relating to peer on peer abuse, must not pass it off as ‘banter’, ‘just having a laugh’ or ‘part of growing up’.

We will ensure, through training, that staff, volunteers and governors will have an understanding of the range of peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment, and will be made aware of how to recognise and manage such issues. Staff will be given the skills to identify and manage harmful sexual behaviour using resources such as the Brook Traffic Light Tool. Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk, for example girls, children with SEND and LGBT children.

Staff should be aware that such incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and can occur between children outside the school. Staff, and particularly the DSL, should always consider the context in which such incidents and/or behaviours occur.

Where the abuse is physical, verbal, bullying or cyber-bullying, recording of such incidents and sanctions will be applied in line with our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies. Where a child discloses safeguarding allegations of a sexual nature against another pupil in the same setting, the DSL should refer to the West Midlands Safeguarding Children procedures website (section 3.3) and seek advice from the Family Front Door or Community Social Worker before commencing its own investigation or contacting parents. This may mean, on occasions, that the school is unable to conduct its own investigation into such incidents. All such incidents will be recorded using our child protection recording forms.

Reports of incidents of sexual violence or sexual harassment will be responded to in line with Part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 and the DfE guidance ‘Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges’.

5.10 Upskirting

‘Upskirting’ typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is now a criminal offence.

Support for the victims of abuse will be in line with support outlined in the school’s Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies. For victims of sexual abuse, the school should follow advice given by Children’s Social Care and consider using external agencies, such as Early Help or West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre to support any strategies that they may be able to provide within school.

Depending on the nature of abuse, the school may need to consider providing measures to protect and support the victim, the alleged perpetrator and other pupils and/or staff in the school by means of a risk assessment. The risk assessment should be recorded and kept under review.

5.11 Children with additional vulnerabilities

There are many children who have additional needs or whose living arrangements may mean that they are more vulnerable to harm, for example children with special educational needs, disabled children, children in public care or privately fostered children. It is essential that the school knows who shares parental responsibility for children and has effective relationships with partner agencies in relation to these children (for example, Virtual School for Children in Care).

The school will ensure that staff have sufficient knowledge and guidance so that they are aware of the additional challenges faced by these children and the impact of their additional vulnerabilities. These can include: assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to a child's disability without further exploration; no single point of contact for the school as a child has a number of care-givers and involved professionals; assumptions that state approved care-givers are providing safe care for the child; communication needs of a child which can lead to over reliance on parental accounts and interpretations.

5.12 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

All staff are made aware of the indicators of sexual exploitation. It is sexual abuse involving criminal behaviours against children and young people which can have a long-lasting adverse impact on a child's physical and emotional health. Sexual exploitation involves an individual or group of adults taking advantage of the vulnerability of an individual or groups of children or young people. Victims can be boys or girls. Children and young people are often unwittingly drawn into sexual exploitation through the offer of friendship and care, gifts, drugs and alcohol, and sometimes accommodation. It may also be linked to child trafficking. A common feature of sexual exploitation is that the child often does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim. The child may initially resent what they perceive as interference by staff, but staff must act on their concerns, as they would for any other type of abuse.

The DSL will use the Worcester Safeguarding Children's Board CSE Screening Tool¹ on all occasions when there is a concern that a child is being or is at risk of being sexually exploited or where indicators have been observed that are consistent with a child who is being or who is at risk of being sexually exploited.

In all cases if the tool identifies any level of concern the DSL should contact their local Missing and Child Sexual Exploitation Forum and email the completed CSE Screening Tool along with a **Family Front Door (FFD)** Cause for Concern form. If a child is in immediate danger the police should be called on 999.

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20054/safeguarding_children/273/child_sexual_exploitation_pathway

5.13 Child Criminal Exploitation –County Lines

This is where children and young people are being exploited and drawn into drug related activity by criminal gangs, groups or individuals. Typically, the gang exploits young or vulnerable people to store and /or supply drugs, move cash and to secure the use of homes belonging to vulnerable adults. There is a cross over between CSE and County Lines and concerns about young people being possibly involved should be passed to the DSL who will refer to Police and the FFD.

5.14 Radicalisation and Extremism

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

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

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

Alvechurch Middle School is clear that exploitation of vulnerable children and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and follows the Department for Education guidance for schools and childcare providers on preventing children and young people from being drawn into terrorism².

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

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

5.15 Honour-based Violence

Honour based violence (HBV) can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. It is a violation of human rights and may constitute domestic and/or sexual abuse.

Honour based violence might be committed against people who

- become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion;
- want to get out of an arranged marriage;
- want to get out of a forced marriage;
- wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture

5.16 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in England and Wales under the FGM Act (2003). It is a form of child abuse and violence against women. A mandatory reporting duty requires teachers to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s, which are identified in the course of their professional work, to the police³.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information>

The duty applies to all persons in XXXX School who is employed or engaged to carry out 'teaching work' in the school, whether or not they have qualified teacher status. The duty applies to the individual who becomes aware of the case to make a report. It should not be transferred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, however the DSL should be informed.

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

Concerns about FGM outside of the mandatory reporting duty should be reported as per XXX School's child protection procedures. Staff should be particularly alert to suspicions or concerns expressed by female pupils about going on a long holiday during the summer vacation period. There should also be consideration of potential risk to other girls in the family and practicing community.

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

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

5.17 Forced Marriage

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

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

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

School staff should never attempt to intervene directly as a school or through a third party. Contact should be made with Family Front Door.

For further guidance, read ['Forced Marriage'](#) and [Worcestershire's Forced Marriage, Honour-Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation Protocol – January 2016](#)

5.18 Children Missing Education

Attendance, absence and exclusions are closely monitored. A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and sexual exploitation or could be linked to trafficking.

The DSL will monitor unauthorised absences and take appropriate action including notifying the local authority particularly where children go missing on repeat occasions and/or are missing for periods

during the school day in conjunction with 'Children Missing Education: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities'⁴. Staff are made aware of these procedures at induction and through our Attendance policy (insert relevant school policy here).

Staff must be alert to signs of children at risk of travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage and the particular vulnerabilities of looked after children who go missing.

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20595/behaviour_and_attendance/293/children_missing_education

5.19 Domestic Abuse

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

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is to highlight that a Domestic Abuse Incident has taken place and the police have been called or visited the family home. It is about keeping an eye on changed behaviour and logging anything out of the ordinary. Our school receives Operation Encompass notifications via WCC Children's Portal daily from West Mercia Police. The letter informing parents and carers on how we use Operation Encompass notifications is available on our website under parents section 'Keeping Children safe'.

We will ensure that our pupils are educated to ensure they understand what a healthy relationship looks like, for example by using the:

WSCB Healthy Relationships- a whole school approach and resources from WCC Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence website-see links below:

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/7222/wscb_healthy_relationships_a_whole_school_approach

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/domesticabuse>

5.20 Online Safety/Sexting

There is a separate policy in relation to online safety and the school have a robust approach to promoting safety through the curriculum. (*Policy title here*) The practice of children sharing images and videos via text message, email, social media or mobile messaging apps has become commonplace. However, this online technology has also given children the opportunity to produce and distribute sexual imagery in the form of photos and videos. (sexting) Such imagery involving anyone under the age of 18 is illegal.

Youth produced sexual imagery refers to both images and videos where

- A person under the age of 18 creates and shares sexual imagery of themselves with a peer under the age of 18.
- A person under the age of 18 shares sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18 with a peer under the age of 18 or an adult.
- A person under the age if 18 is in possession of sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18.

All incidents of this nature should be treated as a safeguarding concern and in line with the UKCCIS guidance 'Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people'⁵. Cases where sexual imagery of people under 18 has been shared by adults and where sexual imagery of a person of any age has been shared by an adult to a child is child sexual abuse and should be responded to accordingly.

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

The DSL should hold an initial review meeting with appropriate school staff and subsequent interviews with the children involved (if appropriate). Parents should be informed at an early stage and involved in the process unless there is reason to believe that involving parents would put the child at risk of harm.

Immediate referral at the initial review stage should be made to Family Front Door/Police if

- the incident involves an adult;
- There is good reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example, owing to special education needs);
- What you know about the imagery suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the child's development stage or are violent;
- The imagery involves sexual acts;
- The imagery involves anyone aged 12 or under;
- There is reason to believe a child is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of the imagery, for example the child is presenting as suicidal or self-harming.

If these factors are not present, then the DSL will use their professional judgement to assess the risk to pupils involved and may decide, with input from the Headteacher, to respond to the incident without escalation to Family Front Door or the police.

In applying judgement as to management within school or referral in line with child protection procedures, the following factors may be relevant.

- there is a significant age difference between the sender/receiver;
- there is any coercion or encouragement beyond the sender/receiver;
- the imagery was shared and received with the knowledge of the child in the imagery;
- the child is more vulnerable than usual i.e. at risk;
- there is a significant impact on the children involved;
- the image is of a severe or extreme nature;
- capacity of child and understanding of consent;
- the situation is isolated or if the image been more widely distributed;
- there other circumstances relating to either the sender or recipient that may add cause for concern i.e. difficult home circumstances;
- there are previous similar incidents.

⁵https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/545997/Sexting_in_schools_and_colleges_UKC_CIS__4_.pdf

5.21 Allegations against staff

All staff should be mindful of the position of trust that they are in when working within an education setting. They need to comply with guidance about conduct and safe practice, including safe use of mobile phones.

Pupils' allegations or concerns about staff conduct will be taken seriously and followed up in a transparent and timely way.

If an allegation is made which meets the criteria as identified in Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, the member of staff receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Headteacher, unless the allegation concerns the Headteacher, in which case the Chair of Governors will be informed immediately. Where the Headteacher is the sole proprietor, the allegation will be reported directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

The Headteacher (or Chair of Governors) on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with LADO, prior to undertaking any investigation.

The school will follow the DfE and West Mercia procedures LA procedures for managing allegations against staff, a copy of which is available in school.

The Head teacher (or Chair of Governors) will be guided by the LADO and an HR consultant when considering suspension or other neutral protective steps.

Publication of material that may lead to the identification of a teacher who is the subject of an allegation is prohibited by law; this includes verbal conversations or written material including content placed on social media sites.

5.22 Managing Professional Disagreements

On occasions there will be disagreements between professionals as to how concerns are handled and these can impact on effective working relationships. The school will support staff to promote positive partnerships within school and with other agencies and will ensure that **staff** are aware of how to escalate concerns and disagreements if appropriate and use the WSCB escalation procedures⁷ if necessary.

<http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/4gjN/escalation-policy-resolution-of-professional-disagreements>

5.23 The use of 'reasonable force' in schools and colleges

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff in schools and colleges to use reasonable force to safeguard children and young people. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a young person needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'. The use of force may involve either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of the classroom.

- Departmental advice for schools is available <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>

- Advice for colleges is available on the AOC website. <https://www.aoc.co.uk/>

5.24 Modern Slavery

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 places a new statutory duty on public authorities, including schools, to notify the National Crime Agency (NCA) (section 52 of the Act) on observing signs or receiving intelligence relating to modern slavery. The public authority (including schools) bears this obligation where it has 'reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of modern slavery or human trafficking'. Staff need to be aware of this duty and inform the DSL should they suspect or receive information that either parents or their children may be victims of modern slavery. The DSL will then contact the NCA.

5.25 Private Fostering

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

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

Most privately fostered children remain safe and well but safeguarding concerns have been raised in some cases so it is important that schools are alert to possible safeguarding issues, including the possibility that a child has been trafficked into the country.

By law, a parent, private foster carer or other persons involved in making a private fostering arrangement must notify Children's Services as soon as possible. If we become aware of a privately fostering arrangement, we will check that Children's Services have been informed.

5.25 Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes in to the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Whilst referrals and/or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, and in accordance with local procedures, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

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

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

6 Other Relevant Policies

The Governing Body's statutory responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of children goes beyond compliance with child protection procedures. The safeguarding duty is relevant for the discharge of all functions and activities. This policy needs to be considered in conjunction with the following policies. All are available to adults in school on the 'Staff Shared' area of network in the section on Policies, and on the school website:

- Behaviour Management
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Racist Incidents
- Anti-Bullying (including Cyber Bullying)
- Physical Handling Policy
- Special Educational Needs
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy
- Trips and Visits
- First Aid and the Administration of Medicines
- Health and Safety
- Healthy Relationships
- Drugs Policy
- Education
- *Site Security*
- Complaints Procedure
- Safe and Appropriate Use of Images
- Equality Policy
- Accessibility Policy
- Online Safety
- Looked After Children
- Private Fostering
- Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation
- Whistleblowing

APPENDIX 1

Logging a Concern about a Child’s Safety and Welfare – all staff and visitors

e: d.o.b. Yr. gp.	
Date:	Time:
Name: Print Signature
Position:	
Note the reason(s) for recording the incident.	
Details of concern/incident - record the who/what/where/when factually (use reverse or continuation sheet if necessary):	
Any other relevant information (witnesses, immediate action taken)	
Action taken	
Reporting staff signature Date	
DSL – Response/Outcome	
DSL signature Date	

Check to make sure your report is clear now - and will also be clear to a stranger reading it next

Appendix 2: Safer Recruitment and DBS checks – policy and procedures

We will record all information on the checks carried out in the school's single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals' personnel files. We follow requirements and best practice in retaining copies of these checks, as set out below.

The SCR will be monitored and checked by the DSL/HT/Safeguarding Governor on a regular basis, throughout the academic year: Example half termly

Appointing new staff

When appointing new staff, we will:

- Verify their identity
- Obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate, including barred list information for those who will be engaging in regulated activity (see definition below). We will not keep a copy of this for longer than 6 months
- Obtain a separate barred list check if they will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available
- Verify their mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities
- Verify their right to work in the UK. We will keep a copy of this verification for the duration of the member of staff's employment and for 2 years afterwards
- Verify their professional qualifications, as appropriate
- Ensure they are not subject to a prohibition order if they are employed to be a teacher
- Carry out further additional checks, as appropriate, on candidates who have lived or worked outside of the UK, including (where relevant) any teacher sanctions or restrictions imposed by a European Economic Area professional regulating authority, and criminal records checks or their equivalent
- Check that candidates taking up a management position are not subject to a prohibition from management (**section 128**) direction made by the secretary of state
- Ask for written information about previous employment history and check that information is not contradictory or incomplete.

We will seek references on all short-listed candidates, including internal candidates, before interview. We will scrutinise these and resolve any concerns before confirming appointments.

Regulated activity means a person who will be:

- Responsible, on a regular basis in a school or college, for teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children
- Carrying out paid, or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school or college where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children
- Engaging in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once and regardless of whether they are supervised or not

Existing staff

If we have concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with children, we will carry out all the relevant checks as if the individual was a new member of staff. We will also do this if an individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is.

We will refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult:

- Where the 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e. that no action or inaction occurred but the present risk that it could was significant)
- Where the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence
- If there is reason to believe that the individual has committed a listed relevant offence, under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009
- If the individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left

Agency and third-party staff

We will obtain written notification from any agency or third-party organisation that it has carried out the necessary safer recruitment checks that we would otherwise perform. We will also check that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

Contractors

We will ensure that any contractor, or any employee of the contractor, who is to work at the school has had the appropriate level of DBS check. This will be:

- An enhanced DBS check with barred list information for contractors engaging in regulated activity
- An enhanced DBS check, not including barred list information, for all other contractors who are not in regulated activity but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children

We will obtain the DBS check for self-employed contractors.

We will not keep copies of such checks for longer than 6 months.

Contractors who have not had any checks will not be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity under any circumstances.

We will check the identity of all contractors and their staff on arrival at the school.

Trainee/student teachers

Where applicants for initial teacher training are salaried by us, we will ensure that all necessary checks are carried out.

Where trainee teachers are fee-funded, we will obtain written confirmation from the training provider that necessary checks have been carried out and that the trainee has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children.

Volunteers

We will:

- Never leave an unchecked volunteer unsupervised or allow them to work in regulated activity
- Obtain an enhanced DBS check with barred list information for all volunteers who are new to working in regulated activity
- Obtain an enhanced DBS check without barred list information for all volunteers who are not in regulated activity, but who have an opportunity to come into contact with children on a regular basis, for example, supervised volunteers
- Carry out a risk assessment when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check for any volunteers not engaging in regulated activity

Governance

- All members of the governance will have an enhanced DBS check without barred list information and section 128 check. They will have an enhanced DBS check with barred list information if working in regulated activity