
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2021- 22

Committee:	Full Governing Board
Revised and approved on	23 rd September 2021
Date of next review:	September 2022 or as appropriate
Responsible Officer	Sean Pollock

Introduction

Comberton Village College fully recognises the responsibility it has under section 175 (*Section 157 for Independent Schools and Academies*) 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 (set out below).

Staff should read the above document together with Annex A of “Keeping Children Safe in Education” Sept 2021 and “What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners” (March 2015).

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, office staff 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 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 are attached (see Appendix A)

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

PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Processes are followed to ensure that those who are unsuitable to work with children are not employed. This policy is available to parents on request and is on the school website.

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 in both the real and the virtual world 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
- include in the curriculum activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safer from abuse both in the real and the virtual world 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 to recognise this in others' relationships); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed

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 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).

PROCEDURES

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

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection is Sean Pollock (Associate SLG) spollock@combertonvc.org

Our Mental Health leader is Mr Zac Beamish zbeamish@combertonvc.org

The following members of CVC staff have also received the Designated Person training:

David Clarke	dclarke@combertonvc.org
Irayna Owen	iowen@combertonvc.org
Jennie Girling	jgilring@combertonvc.org
Susan While-Paddon	swhilepaddon@combertonvc.org
Peter Law	plaw@combertonvc.org
S Thomas	sthomas@combertonvc.org
Kirsty Learmouth	klearmouth@combertonvc.org

The nominated governor for Safeguarding and Child Protection is Sian Gardner. She may be contacted c/o The Clerk to the Governors, Mrs L Brent lbrent@combertonvc.org

The Governing body/proprietors/management committee will

- Appoint a senior member of staff, from the leadership team, to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) (See page 2). The DSL should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies (Designated personnel, DP), the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSL and cannot be delegated.
- Ensure that the DSL and DDSL is explicit in the role holder's job description
- Ensure that the DSL should have the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post. They should be 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 activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies (Designated Personnel, DP)
- The DSL and DDSLs should undergo the two-day training provided by the Education Child Protection Service and that this training is updated every two years. The Mental Health Leader should undergo annual refresher training
- Ensure that in addition to the formal training set out above the DSL and DDSLs should refresh their knowledge and skills e.g via bulletins, meetings or further reading at **least annually**

Our Governing body will also ensure 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**. Staff members are required to log a concern via the electronic system "MyConcern" and submit it to the DSL/ DDSL immediately.

Staff at CVC all receive an induction pack upon arrival at school with a leaflet on the school's safeguarding procedures. Basic Child Protection Training is held at the start of every half term for new staff.

Ensure that 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.

Staff at CVC have access to a DP at all times – there is a rota system amongst the six DPs to ensure there is coverage, particularly during unusual times such as Activities Week. Staff on trips have an emergency SLG contact; all SLG have access to the DDSL through the school trip phone.

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.

Our Governing body will ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:

- the name of the Designated Safeguarding Lead/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/DDSLS
- 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 social care
- the safeguarding response to children who go missing in education.

Our Governing body will ensure that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. The training should be regularly updated.

In addition, all staff members will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required **but at least annually**

Governors will 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 policy.

The clerk to the Governors will 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 website

Governing bodies should ensure that this policy is available publicly either via the school website www.combertonvc.org or by other means

Help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children who have or have had a social worker are experiencing with teachers and school and college leadership staff.

Where pupils are educated off site or in alternative provision, the school and the provider will have clear procedures about managing safeguarding concerns between the two agencies. Written confirmation that the alternative provider has carried out appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working at the establishment will be sought by the school.

Alternative provision will normally be accessed through those ratified by the Local Authority in the 'Alternative Provision Directory'.

If alternative arrangements are made, a safeguarding checklist will be made and our safeguarding booklet shared with the provider.

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 relevant Social Care Unit 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 said to be 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.

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 Social Care immediately
- ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in a locked location. The safeguarding files will be monitored annually as part of the safeguarding audit to ensure the quality.
- All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate safeguarding file for each child.
- Records should include:
 - a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
 - details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
 - a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

Ensure all relevant safeguarding records are sent to the receiving school or establishment when a pupil moves schools, within five days, in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021, (page 148) and the Education Safeguarding Team's 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

Single Central Record

The school HR manager is responsible for maintaining the single central record of staff recruitment in line with the expectations outlined in the Trust's Safer Recruitment Policy. It is the Principal's responsibility to ensure that the single central record in their school is regularly subject to scrutiny. The HR manager will maintain a log recording each occasion it is reviewed. The single central record should be reviewed on a termly basis by the DSL and a senior member of staff. It should also be reviewed at least on an annual basis by the Director of Education, the Principal, the Trust HR Manager and the safeguarding representative of the local governing body. The compliance of the single central record will be one element of the annual safeguarding report presented to the local governing body and the Trust board.

Confidentiality and information sharing

The Data protection Act 2018 does not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child.

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 confidentiality protocols are adhered to by staff and volunteers and information is shared appropriately. If in any doubt about confidentiality, personnel staff will seek advice from a senior manager or Social Care as required. (See "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 and parent they will refer the request to the DSL or Headteacher.
- 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).
- Make all staff aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children
- ensure staff are clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies will:

- disclose any 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 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 (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 the schools obligations under 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 (Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young children, 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/website.
- undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of another agency unless the circumstances preclude this action. If the school believes that notifying parents could increase the risk of harm to the child, advice will be sought from Social Care. *(Further guidance on this can be found in the Inter-agency Procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board)*
- Discuss with Children's Social Care if the school/college believes that notifying parents could place the child or another person at immediate risk of harm or prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.
- particular circumstances where parents **may not** be informed include any disclosure of sexual abuse or physical abuse where the child has an injury
- 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) and/or enrichment programmes 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 should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBT children are at 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.
- Refer to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education - Part Five', 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. Also see 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' (UKCIS, December 2020)

SUPPORTING CHILDREN

The school recognises that **any** child may be the 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
- Providing liaison 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
- 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 telling and who to tell, good and bad touches and how to manage risk. 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 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

The school identifies young carers to offer additional support internally; to 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. The school offers support through a Young Carers Project called Centre 33. A project worker visits the school once a fortnight and provides 1-2-1 support to Young Carers at the school, as well as running a lunchtime club where all Young Carers can come together in one place to chat/play games. Through this project Young Carers are also invited on trips and activities outside of school.

Children at risk of criminal exploitation

Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that is a typical feature of county line 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. The 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 personnel will complete the LSCB Child Exploitation checklist and refer to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 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 children and young people who go missing, (see next paragraph below).

Children frequently missing in education

The 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 and child criminal 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 endeavours 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 will follow the procedure as set out in Cambridgeshire's Children Missing Education guidance and inform the Education Welfare Officer and Social Care if a child is subject to a Child Protection Plan or there have been ongoing concerns

Children misusing drugs and 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
- the pupil's substance related behavior 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 is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group take 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

Sexual exploitation can take many different forms from the seemingly consensual relationship to serious organized crime involving gangs and groups. 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 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 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

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 Comberton Village College we are working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire County Council to identify and provide appropriate support to pupils 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 pupils 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

Children at risk of 'Honour-Based' Abuse including Female genital mutilation (FGM)

So called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) violence encompasses incidents which have been committed to protect or defend the honor of the family and/or the community, including breast ironing, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. The school takes these concerns seriously and staff are made aware for the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of HBA through training. Staff are required to treat all forms of HBV as abuse and follow the procedures outline 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 to their family home from care.

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

Children showing signs of abuse and/or neglect

The School recognises 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 should 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) should 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 the policy. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached – Appendix A. See also Appendix D.

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 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. The school's/college's designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral.

See also "The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers", June 2015, Department for Education and "Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales", July 2015, HM Government

Privately fostered children

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is provided 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

Children who have family members in prison

The school is committed to supporting the 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 'need to know' basis.

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

2. 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). The Governing Body will ensure that at least one interviewing member of an interview panel has current safer recruitment training

The following members of staff have undertaken Safer Recruitment training

NAME	TITLE
Peter Allcock	Head of Cabin Provision
Louisa Atherton	HR Manager
Janet Banks	Chair of Governors
Lisa Brent	Administration Manager
Jo Burton	Cover Manager
Nigel Carrick	Assistant Principal
Vijju Churchman	Governor
David Clarke	Head of Sixth Form & Assistant Principal
Jane Clarke	Assistant Principal
Mandy Draper	Adult Education Manager
Sean Pollock	SENDCo
Jamie Freeman	Assistant Principal
Mike Human	Governor
Peter Law	Principal
Regina Lawrence	Deputy Principal
Stephen Munday	Executive Principal
Irayna Owen	Deputy Head of Sixth Form
Elecia Page	Teaching Assistant
Sean Pollock	Assistant Principal & Designated Lead
Elizabeth Reid	Exams Officer
Suzanne Smith	Head of Science
Alasdair Stewart	CSA General Manager
Sean Sycamore	Deputy Principal

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 Head Teacher or 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 Headteacher 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, schools and colleges should 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 or college identify a child has been harmed they should contact children's social care and as appropriate the police immediately.

School/college 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, supply staff or volunteers relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff, supply 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, 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 Headteacher/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 Head Teacher or 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/college will deal with any such concern, no matter how small, where an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college 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.

Schools and colleges can decide where these records are kept, but they must be 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 or college (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately. This will enable the school/college 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/College should 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 '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, supply 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).

Other related CVC policies

Anti-Bullying Policy
Attendance Policy
Health and Safety Policy
Online Safety and Acceptable Use Policy
Whistleblowing Policy
Complaints procedure Policy
Positive Behaviour Policy
Physical intervention with Pupils policy

Use of mobile phones policy

Our policy on use of mobile phones, cameras and sharing of images is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually. It is recognised that personal mobile phones have the potential to be used inappropriately and therefore the school has developed a policy to outline the required protocol for all staff, students, volunteers and parents/carers

Governing body child protection responsibilities

Our governing body will ensure they facilitate a whole school/college 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.

Our 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:

- Ensure that the annual safeguarding audit is submitted 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 made available on the school website.
- Ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in a locked location. The safeguarding files will be monitored annually as part of the internal safeguarding audit to ensure the quality.

- The single central record should be reviewed on a termly basis by the DSL and a senior member of staff. It should also be reviewed at least on an annual basis by the Director of Education, the Principal, the Trust HR Manager and the safeguarding representative of the local governing body.
- ensure that children's exposure to potential risks while using the internet is limited by having in place age appropriate filtering and monitoring systems.

Use of school/college premises for non-school/college 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 safeguarding as written in this policy shall apply.

Where services or activities are provided separately by another organisation or individual, either on or off school 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 links to our:

Anti-bullying policy
Attendance policy (including Children Missing Education)
Behaviour policy
Complaints policy
Equality policy
Health and Safety policy
Acceptable Use policy
Staff Discipline and Grievance procedures
Whistleblowing policy

Four categories of abuse

Physical Abuse - may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

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 or 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
 - or 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.

Useful Contacts - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

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

Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit Tel: 101

Useful Contacts - Cambridgeshire

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 Tel: 01223 727967

Named Senior Officer for allegations
Senior Education Adviser – Diane Stygal
Tel: 01223 507115

Useful Contacts - Peterborough

Early Help Tel: 01733 863649

Customer Service Centre – social care referrals Tel: 01733 864180

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

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
Gisela Jarman Tel: 01733 864038
Jane BellamyTel: 01733 864790

Relevant Documents

“Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges” (September 2020)

Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19) (May 2020)

“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)

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

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

“Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people” published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) – (September 2016)

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

“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)



