Rufforth Primary School

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Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Approval Date: September 2025

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Pathfinder
Multi Academy Trust

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SECTION A: Important contacts to address an immediate safeguarding issue

'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children.'

Keeping Children Safe in Education – September 2025

In this section you can find information on who to contact in case of a safeguarding concern. In Section B you will find the Safeguarding Policy.

Who to report Safeguarding concerns to

Anyone with any concerns about the welfare of a student MUST report it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or one of the Deputies as soon as possible.

The school's Safeguarding Lead and Deputies are:

	Jill Richards Designated Safeguarding Lead Head Teacher Email: head@rufforth.pmat.academy Phone number: 01904 806 222
	Simon Woolford-Mullen Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Assistant Head Teacher Email: swoolford@rufforth.pmat.academy Phone number: 01904 806 222
	Lucie Pollock Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead EYFS Lead Email: lpollock@rufforth.pmat.academy Phone number: 01904 806 222
	Alexa Chaplin Safeguarding Governor Email: achaplin@rufforth.pmat.academy
	Gaynor Stainsby MAT SAfeguarding Lead Email: gstainsby@pmat.academy Phone number: 01904 411341

Important Safeguarding contacts:

Local Area Team	01904 551900
Vicky Brook School Liaison Officer (York) North Yorkshire Police	Email: Victoria.Brook@northyorkshire.police.uk Work Mobile: 07741 173445
SENDCo	Kirsty Cobb kcobb@rufforth.pmat.academy
Assistant Director, Children's Specialist Services	01904 551550
Educational Psychologist – Milly Sidaway	
Safeguarding Advisor for Diocese of York	01904 699524 safeguarding@yorkdiocese.org
Emergency Duty Team	03001312131
Safeguarding Advisor	01904 555694
LADO	01904 551783
MASH - Early help / Child Protection referrals	01904 551900

Acronyms

This policy contains a number of acronyms used in the Education sector. These acronyms are listed below alongside their descriptions.

Acronym	Long form	Description
CCE	Child criminal exploitation	A form of abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, for the financial advantage or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator, and/or through violence or the threat of violence.
CSCS	Children's social care services	The branch of the Local Authority that deals with children's social care.
CSE	Child sexual exploitation	A form of sexual abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, for the financial advantage, increased status or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator, and/or through violence or the threat of violence.
DBS	Disclosure and barring service	The service that performs the statutory check of criminal records for anyone working or volunteering in a school.
DfE	Department for Education	The national government body with responsibility for children's services, policy and education, including early years, schools, higher and further education policy, apprenticeships and wider skills in England.
DPO	Data protection officer	The appointed person/organisation with responsibility for overseeing data protection strategy and implementation to ensure compliance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act.
DSL	Designated safeguarding lead	A member of the senior leadership team who has lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection throughout the school.
EEA	European Economic Area	The Member States of the European Union (EU) and three countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; excluding Switzerland).
EHC plan	Education, health and care plan	A funded intervention plan which coordinates the educational, health and care needs for pupils who have significant needs that impact on their learning and access to education. The plan identifies any additional support needs or interventions and the intended impact they will have for the pupil.

ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency	An agency sponsored by the Department for Education with accountability for funding education and skills training for children, young people and adults.
FGM	Female genital mutilation	All procedures 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 and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.
UK GDPR	UK General Data Protection Regulation	Legislative provision designed to strengthen the safety and security of all data held within an organisation and ensure that procedures relating to personal data are fair and consistent.
HBA	'Honour-based' abuse	So-called 'honour-based' abuse involves crimes that have been committed to defend the honour of the family and/or community.
HMCTS	HM Courts and Tribunals Service	HM Courts and Tribunals Service is responsible for the administration of criminal, civil and family courts and tribunals in England and Wales. HMCTS is an executive agency, sponsored by the Ministry of Justice.
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour	HSB can occur online and/or face-to-face and can also occur simultaneously between the two. HSB should be considered in a child protection context.
IICSA	Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse	The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse is analysing case files from the Disclosure and Barring Service to learn more about the behaviours of perpetrators who have sexually abused children in institutions, and to understand institutional responses to these behaviours.
KCSIE	Keeping children safe in education	Statutory guidance setting out schools and colleges' duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
LA	Local Authority	A local government agency responsible for the provision of a range of services in a specified local area, including education.
LAC	Looked-after children	Children who have been placed in Local Authority care or where children's services have looked after children for more than a period of 24 hours.
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer plus	Term relating to a community of people, protected by the Equality Act 2010, who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, or other protected sexual or gender identities.
MAT	Multi academy trust	A trust established to undertake strategic collaboration and provide education across a number of schools
NPCC	The National Police Chiefs' Council	The National Police Chiefs' Council is a national coordination body for law enforcement in the United Kingdom and the representative body for British police chief officers.

PLAC	Previously looked-after children	Children who were previously in Local Authority care or were looked after by children's services for more than a period of 24 hours. PLAC are also known as care leavers.
PSHE	Personal, social and health education	A non-statutory subject in which pupils learn about themselves, other people, rights, responsibilities and relationships.
UKHSA	UK Health Security Agency	The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is responsible for protecting every member of every community from the impact of infectious diseases, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents and other health threats.
RSHE	Relationships, sex and health education	A compulsory subject from Year 7 for all pupils. Includes the teaching of sexual health, reproduction and sexuality, as well as promoting positive relationships.
SCR	Single central record	A statutory secure record of recruitment and identity checks for all permanent and temporary staff, proprietors, contractors, external coaches and instructors, and volunteers who attend the school in a non-visitor capacity.
SENDCo	special educational needs and/or disabilities coordinator	A statutory role within all schools maintaining oversight and coordinating the implementation of the school's special educational needs and disabilities policy and provision of education to pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
SLT	Senior leadership team	Staff members who have been delegated leadership responsibilities in a school.
TRA	Teaching Regulation Agency	An executive agency of the DfE with responsibility for the regulation of the teaching profession.
VSH	Virtual school head	Virtual school heads are in charge of promoting the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the Local Authority they work for, and all children who currently have, or previously had, a social worker.

Safeguarding advice and support from the Local Authority

The school works in partnership with the Local Authority on all aspects of safeguarding.

The new contact details and referral pathway are detailed on the CYSCB website and are referred to here for your reference: https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/.

The Local Authority Safeguarding advisor is: Caroline Wood, her contact number is - 01904 555695.

The Local Authority has designated officers (LADOs) to:

- Be involved in the management and oversight of individual cases
- Provide advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations

- Liaise with the police and other agencies
- Monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as
- Possible consistent with a thorough and fair process

The York Duty LADO can be contacted by phone on 01904 551783 or by email at LADO@york.gov.uk.

The North Yorkshire Duty LADO can be contacted by phone on 01609 533080 or by email at lado@northyorks.gov.uk.

Out of hours Lado contact number 03001 312131 for both York and North Yorkshire schools.

Where appropriate, a referral should be sent to the LADO using the LADO Referral Form (available on the website) giving as much detail as possible. Completed forms should be emailed using secure mail (e.g. gcsx, pnn, cjsm, nhs.net, etc) to: lado@york.gov.uk.

Safeguarding advice and support from Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust

Rufforth Primary School is a part of the Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust. All staff within the Trust can contact the MAT's Safeguarding Lead, Gaynor Stainsby for advice on 01904 806000 or email gstainsby@ahs.pmat.academy.

MASH

If cannot contact anyone in school and have a concern about the welfare of a child, please contact MASH directly yourself for guidance on 01904 551900:

- if you know of a child who may become vulnerable without additional help and support
- if you are worried a child or young person is at risk of, or is being, hurt or abused
- if you want to know about services available to support children and families

Outside of office hours, contact the Emergency Duty Team: 03001312131

For more information on MASH visit: https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/

Whistle Blowing

If you are not happy with the actions of those in school responsible for Safeguarding you can refer to the Trust's Whistle Blowing Policy on the Pathfinder website at: https://pathfinder.academy/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Whistleblowing-Policy-2023-25.pdf

The School is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability. In line with that commitment it encourages employees and others with serious concerns about any aspect of the school's work to come forward and voice those concerns. It recognises that certain cases will have to proceed on a confidential basis.

The Whistle Blowing Policy makes it clear that staff can do so without fear of reprisals and is intended to encourage and enable staff to raise serious concerns within the school rather than overlooking a problem or publicly disclosing the matter.

SECTION B: Introduction, roles and types of safeguarding concerns

Introduction

'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children.'

Keeping Children Safe in Education – September 2025

Rufforth Primary School is committed to ensuring they fulfil their responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn. We promote a climate where students and adults will feel confident about sharing any concerns which they may have about their own safety or the well-being of others.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; the Education Act 2002, and in line with government publications: 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2023, Revised Safeguarding Statutory Guidance 2 'Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families' 2000, 'What to do if You are Worried a Child is Being Abused'. The guidance reflects, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' September 2025.

This policy sets out a clear and consistent framework for delivering this promise, in line with safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance. It will be achieved by:

- Ensuring that members of the Local Governing Committee, the Headteacher and staff understand their responsibilities under safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, are alert to the signs of child abuse, and know to refer concerns to the DSL.
- Teaching pupils how to keep safe and recognise behaviour that is unacceptable.
- Identifying and making provision for any pupil that has been subject to, or is at risk of, abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- Creating a culture of safer recruitment by adopting procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk to children.
- Ensuring that the Headteacher and any new staff and volunteers are only appointed when all the appropriate checks have been satisfactorily completed.

The Local Governing Committee takes seriously its responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm.

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

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

It is tempting to believe that if we have child protection procedures, undertake Criminal Record Bureau checks and make our recruitment processes more robust, that children will be safeguarded. Whilst these measures are important, it is the adults surrounding the child that afford the best protection - adults who are professional, display humanity and have a sense of clear boundaries. To ensure that all staff working within our school who have substantial and unsupervised access to children have been checked as to their suitability, including verification of their identity, qualifications, and a satisfactory DBS check (according to guidance), and a central record is kept for audit and the checks are repeated every three years.

It is in no one's interest to engage in defensive practice or to restrict children's experiences in order to avoid an allegation. However, it is in everyone's interest, children, and adults, to ensure that children are

safeguarded and, importantly, feel safe. It is also in everyone's interest that adults who work with children also feel safe, without the fear of being the subject of an allegation.

Working with children presents many challenges and can, on occasions, push tolerance to its limits. As human beings, we can feel frustration and anger, especially on those occasions when our own defences are low. However, as professionals, we have a responsibility to develop strategies to respond effectively to these challenges, and mechanisms that allow us to seek help and advice (no matter how experienced we are).

The following guidance is designed to assist. It should not be read as rules, rather as a common-sense guide to working with children.

Full details of Safeguarding at Rufforth Primary School can be found on our school website at: https://rufforthprimary.co.uk/safeguarding/key-contacts-and-information/

Definitions

Keeping Children Safe In Education 2025

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

The terms "children" and "child" refer to anyone under the age of 18.

For the purposes of this policy, **"consent"** is defined as having the freedom and capacity to choose to engage in sexual activity. Consent may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, and can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs. A person only consents to a sexual activity if they agree by choice to that activity, and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice. Children under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity. The age of consent is 16.

For the purposes of this policy, **"sexual violence"** refers to the following offences as defined under the Sexual Offences Act 2003:

- **Rape:** A person (A) commits an offence of rape if they intentionally penetrate the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with their penis, B does not consent to the penetration, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- **Assault by penetration:** A person (A) commits an offence if they intentionally penetrate the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of their body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- **Sexual assault:** A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if they intentionally touch another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- **Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent:** A person (A) commits an offence if they intentionally cause another person (B) to engage in an activity, the activity is sexual, B does not consent to engaging in the activity, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. This could include forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.
- Physical behaviour, such as deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone's clothes, and displaying images of a sexual nature.

- Online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. This includes:
    - The consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos.
    - Sharing unwanted explicit content.
    - Upskirting.
    - Sexualised online bullying.
    - Unwanted sexual comments and messages, including on social media.
    - Sexual exploitation, coercion, and threats.

For the purposes of this policy, **"upskirting"** refers to the act, as identified the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, of taking a picture or video under another person's clothing, without their knowledge or consent, with the intention of viewing that person's genitals or buttocks, with or without clothing, to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. Upskirting is a criminal offence. Anyone, including pupils and staff, of any gender can be a victim of upskirting.

For the purposes of this policy, the **"consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos"**, colloquially known as **"sexting"**, is defined as the sharing between pupils of sexually explicit content, including indecent imagery. For the purposes of this policy, **"indecent imagery"** is defined as an image which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Nude or semi-nude sexual posing
- A child touching themselves in a sexual way
- Any sexual activity involving a child
- Someone hurting a child sexually
- Sexual activity that involves animal

The term "teaching role" is defined as planning and preparing lessons and courses for pupils; delivering lessons to pupils; assessing the development, progress and attainment of pupils; and reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils. These activities are not teaching work if the person carrying out the activity does so (other than for the purposes of induction) subject to the direction and supervision of a qualified teacher or other person nominated by the Headteacher to provide such direction and supervision.

Equality statement

Some children have an increased risk of abuse, and additional barriers can exist for some children with respect to recognising or disclosing it. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children's diverse circumstances. We ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

We give special consideration to children who:

- Have special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities or health conditions
- Are young carers
- May experience discrimination due to their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identification or sexuality
- Have English as an additional language
- Are known to be living in difficult situations – for example, temporary accommodation or where there are issues such as substance abuse or domestic violence
- Are at risk of FGM, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, or radicalisation
- Are asylum seekers
- Are at risk due to either their own or a family member's mental health needs
- Are looked after or previously looked after
- Are absent from education
- Whose parent/carer has expressed an intention to remove them from school to be home educated

Legal Framework

This policy has been created with due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

Legislation

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Education (School Teachers' Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by the Serious Crime Act 2015)
- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (referred to in this policy as the "2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations") and Childcare Act 2006, which set out who is disqualified from working with children.
- This policy also meets requirements relating to safeguarding and welfare in the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Statutory guidance

- HM Government (2013) 'Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage'
- DfE (2023) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- DfE (2015) 'The Prevent duty'
- DfE (2025) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2018) 'Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006'
- HM Government (2021) 'Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism'
- HM Government (2020) 'Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation'

Non-statutory guidance

- DfE (2015) 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'
- DfE (2018) 'Information sharing'
- DfE (2017) 'Child sexual exploitation'
- DfE (2021) 'Recruit teachers from overseas'
- DfE (2020) 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people'
- DfE (2022) 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation advice for schools'

Other relevant school and trust policies include:

- MAT – Safeguarding and Child Protection Statement
- MAT – Pathfinder Safeguarding Contacts
- School's Behaviour Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- MAT Safer Recruitment Policy
- MAT Data Protection Policy
- MAT Whistleblowing Policy

- School Anti-Bullying Policy
- MAT Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy
- MAT Online Safety Policy
- Parent and pupil privacy notice
- Records Management Policy

Roles and responsibilities

Safeguarding Structure at Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust (MAT)

The safeguarding arrangements within the MAT.

The **MAT board's responsibilities** are to ensure that:

- Safeguarding and the promotion of the welfare of children within the MAT is at the forefront of all operational practice.
- All schools follow the MAT Safeguarding and Child Protection Statement.
- All schools have and implement a school specific Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy that complies with legal legislation, best practice guidance and the MAT policy.
- All schools have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (and two Deputies, including in primary schools an Early Years Safeguarding Lead), who are fully equipped and trained to complete their role.
- All staff are fully trained to safeguard all students and to complete their roles.
- All schools are supported to safeguard all students in their schools.
- Trustees are fully informed by the Chief Executive Officer/Chief Operating Officer of any material concerns about the operation of the policy.
- Safeguarding is quality assured across the MAT to ensure all students are safe.
- Policies are updated annually or as required.

The **Chief Executive Officer/Chief Operating Officer** will:

- Ensure that the MAT Safeguarding and Child Protection Statement is implemented at individual school level.
- Report to Trustees on any material concerns about the operation of the policy.

The **MAT Trustee Safeguarding Lead** will:

- Report annually to Directors on Safeguarding across the MAT.
- Quality assure Safeguarding across the MAT by:
    - Reviewing of each school's Annual Safeguarding Report.
    - Meeting with the MAT Safeguarding Lead.
    - Quality assuring the MAT Safeguarding and Child Protection Statement.

The **MAT Safeguarding Lead** will:

- Update the MAT Safeguarding and Child Protection Statement as required and advise each school of recommended changes they need to make to their own individual policies.
- Train and or facilitate training opportunities for individual school safeguarding leads (and/or deputies), safeguarding governors, ensuring they follow the MAT's and local school's safeguarding arrangements.
- Raise awareness of new documentation and new initiatives from outside agencies.
- Oversee the work of individual DSLs, encourage DSL teamwork and case review/reflection as well as quality assuring induction processes, signposting to the correct agency and creating the feel of a 'MAT Safeguarding team'.
- Develop training for other MAT staff as requested by schools to be delivered in-house by safeguarding leads (i.e. cascading training rather than having to deliver it all).

- Liaise with the LADO to ensure that schools, trustees and governors are kept up to date with local and national updates/issues.
- Quality assure Safeguarding in each school by reviewing each schools:
    - Safeguarding Policy
    - Training records
    - Annual Governors Safeguarding report
    - Single Central Record
- Complete an annual Safeguarding review including:
    - A Safeguarding audit
    - Current/recent cases of Safeguarding across the MAT
    - Safeguarding procedures within the school
    - Review of the use of CPOMs
    - Record low level concerns on Staff Safe
- Take responsibility for online safety and have an understanding of the filtering and monitoring systems and the process in place to prevent children from accessing inappropriate and harmful content online.
- Act as the Prevent Lead for the MAT.

Each school within the MAT will have:

- An individual Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy that is built on the MAT's suggested Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy template.
- A safeguarding governor (role explained below), who will report to their LGC once a year on Safeguarding in their school via the Annual Governors Safeguarding Report. They will:
    - Keep the MAT Trustee Safeguarding Lead informed of safeguarding in their schools via the Annual Safeguarding Report and of any concerns throughout the year.
    - Ensure that governors receive the correct training.
- A DSL (and two deputies) who will:
    - Work with the safeguarding governor in promoting and overseeing safeguarding systems and procedures in school.
    - Report annually to the LGC.
    - Provide annually copies of the schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, training records and Annual Governors Safeguarding report.

The MAT will ensure that for its staff, including MAT central staff and Pathfinder Teaching School Hub staff, it will follow its own Safeguarding Policy which explains that the MAT will:

- Have clear, well communicated Safeguarding procedures that all staff follow.
- Keep its own Single Central Register (Staff Safe).
- Follow Safe Recruitment procedures.
- Have a training program to ensure all staff are up to date on Safeguarding and are clear on their roles and responsibilities.

All staff will follow any local schools safeguarding procedures.

Staff who work directly with children are expected to read at least part 1 (and recommended part 5) of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025).

All staff have a responsibility to:

- Consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the pupil.
- Maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.
- Provide a safe environment in which pupils can learn.
- Be prepared to identify pupils who may benefit from early help.

- Be aware of the school's systems which support safeguarding, including any policies, procedures, information and training provided upon induction.
- Be aware of the role and identity of the DSL and deputy DSLs.
- Undertake safeguarding training, including online safety training, during their induction – this will be regularly updated.
- Receive and understand child protection and safeguarding (including online safety) updates, e.g. via email, as required, and at least annually.
- Be aware of the local early help process and understand their role in it.
- Be aware of, and understand, the process for making referrals to CSCS, as well as for making statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 and their role in these assessments.
- Make a referral to CSCS and/or the police immediately, if at any point there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child.
- Support social workers in making decisions about individual children, in collaboration with the DSL.
- Be aware of and understand the procedure to follow in the event that a child confides they are being abused, exploited or neglected.
- Maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality when dealing with individual cases.
- Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, that they will be supported, and that they will be kept safe.
- Speak to the DSL if they are unsure about how to handle safeguarding matters.
- Be aware of safeguarding issues that can put pupils at risk of harm.
- Be aware of behaviours linked to issues such as drug-taking, alcohol misuse, deliberately absent from education, and sharing indecent images, and other signs that pupils may be at risk of harm.

Teachers, including the Headteacher, have a responsibility to:

- Safeguard pupils' wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties, as outlined in the 'Teachers' Standards'.

The **Local Governing Committee** has a duty to:

- Take strategic leadership responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure that the school complies with its duties under the above child protection and safeguarding legislation.
- Guarantee that the policies, procedures and training opportunities in the school are effective and comply with the law at all times.
- Guarantee that the school contributes to multi-agency working in line with the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'.
- Confirm that the school's safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practices of the LA as part of the inter-agency safeguarding procedures.
- Understand the local criteria for action and the local protocol for assessment, and ensure these are reflected in the school's policies and procedures.
- Comply with its obligations under section 14B of the Children Act 2004 to supply the local safeguarding arrangements with information to fulfil its functions.
- Ensure that staff working directly with children read at least Part one of KCSIE.
- Ensure that staff who do not work directly with children read either Part one or Annex A of KCSIE. **NB:** Individual schools assess which guidance will be most effective for their staff to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Ensure that mechanisms are in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities in regard to safeguarding children.
- Ensure a member of the LGC takes leadership responsibility for safeguarding arrangements.
- Appoint a member of staff from the SLT to the role of DSL as an explicit part of the role-holder's job description.
- Appoint one or more deputy DSLs to provide support to the DSL, and ensure that they are trained to the same standard as the DSL and that the role is explicit in their job description(s).

- Facilitate a whole-school approach to safeguarding; this includes ensuring that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development.
- Where there is a safeguarding concern, ensure the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide.
- Ensure systems are in place, to enable children to confidently report abuse, knowing that their concerns will be treated seriously, and they can safely express their views and give feedback; these systems will be well-promoted, easily understood, and easily accessible.
- Ensure that staff have due regard to relevant data protection principles that allow them to share and withhold personal information.
- Ensure that a member of the LGC is nominated to liaise with the LA and/or partner agencies on issues of child protection and in the event of allegations of abuse made against the Headteacher or another governor.
- Guarantee that there are effective and appropriate policies and procedures in place.
- Ensure all relevant persons are aware of the school's local safeguarding arrangements, including the LGC itself, the SLT and DSL.
- Make sure that pupils are taught about safeguarding, including protection against dangers online (including when they are online at home), through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Adhere to statutory responsibilities by conducting pre-employment checks on staff who work with children, taking proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required.
- Ensure that staff are appropriately trained to support pupils to be themselves at school, e.g. if they are LGBTQ+.
- Ensure the school has clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible mental health problems in pupils, including clear routes to escalate concerns and clear referral and accountability systems.
- Guarantee that volunteers are appropriately supervised.
- Make sure that at least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training.
- Ensure that all staff receive safeguarding and child protection training updates, e.g. emails, as required, but at least annually.
- Certify that there are procedures in place to handle allegations against staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors.
- Confirm that there are procedures in place to make a referral to the DBS and the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), where appropriate, if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns or would have been had they not resigned.
- Guarantee that there are procedures in place to handle pupils' allegations against other pupils.
- Ensure that appropriate disciplinary procedures are in place, as well as policies pertaining to the behaviour of pupils and staff.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, including those in relation to child-on-child abuse.
- Guarantee that there are systems in place for pupils to express their views and give feedback.
- Establish an early help procedure and ensure all staff understand the procedure and their role in it.
- Appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of LAC and ensure that this person has undergone appropriate training.
- Ensure that the designated teacher works with the virtual school head (VSH) to discuss how the pupil premium funding can best be used to support LAC.
- Introduce mechanisms to assist staff in understanding and discharging their roles and responsibilities.
- Make sure that staff members have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep LAC safe, particularly with regard to the pupil's legal status, contact details and care arrangements.
- Put in place appropriate safeguarding responses for pupils who go missing from school, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify any risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation, and prevent the risk of their disappearance in future.
- Ensure that all members of the LGC have been subject to an enhanced DBS check.

- Create a culture where staff are confident to challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns.

The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy ensuring that staff (including temporary staff) and volunteers:

- Safeguard pupils' wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession.
- Ensure that the policies and procedures adopted by the LGC, particularly concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect, are followed by staff members.
- Provide staff, upon induction, with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, part one of the 'Keeping children safe in education' (KCSIE 2025) guidance, Behaviour Policy, the Children Missing from Education Policy, online safety training, and the identity of the DSL and deputies.
- Are informed of our systems which support safeguarding, including this policy, as part of their induction.
- Understand and follow the procedures included in this policy, particularly those concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect.
- Communicating this policy to parents/carers when their child joins the school and via the school website.
- Ensuring that the DSL has appropriate time, funding, training and resources, and that there is always adequate cover if the DSL is absent.
- Ensuring that all staff undertake appropriate safeguarding and child protection training, and updating the content of the training regularly.
- Acting as the 'case manager' in the event of an allegation of abuse made against another member of staff or volunteer, where appropriate (see appendix 3).
- Making decisions regarding all low-level concerns, though they may wish to collaborate with the DSL on this.
- Ensuring the relevant staffing ratios are met, where applicable.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL takes lead responsibility for child protection and wider safeguarding in the school and has a duty to:

- Understand, and keep up-to-date with, local plans for their LSCB's transition to the new multi-agency arrangement of three safeguarding partners.
- Take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, including online safety.
- Act as the main point of contact with the LSCB, and with the three safeguarding partners following completion of the transition period.
- Refer all cases of suspected abuse to children's social care services (CSCS), the LA designated officer (LADO) for child protection concerns, the DBS, and the police in cases where a crime has been committed.
- Refer cases of radicalisation to the Channel programme.
- Liaise with the Headteacher to inform them of safeguarding issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.
- Liaise with the deputy DSL(s) to ensure effective safeguarding outcomes.
- Be aware of pupils who have a social worker.
- Help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues with teachers and school leadership staff.
- Act as the focal point for staff on matters of safeguarding by liaising with relevant agencies and being a source of support, advice and expertise to staff members.
- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention.
- Support staff members in liaising with other agencies and setting up inter-agency assessment where early help is deemed appropriate.

- Ensure that either they or the staff member attend case conferences, core groups, or other multi-agency planning meetings, contribute to assessments, and provide a report which has been shared with the parents.
- Keep cases of early help under constant review and refer them to the CSCS if the situation does not appear to be improving.
- Have a working knowledge of how LAs conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures – this will be discussed during the staff induction process.
- Be alert to the specific requirements of children in need, including those with SEND and young carers.
- Keep detailed, accurate and secure records of concerns and referrals. Ensure that all such records are kept confidentially and securely in a locked location or on CPOMS and are separate from pupil records, until the child's 25th birthday, and are transferred on to the child's next school. School records are kept and shared in line with UK GDPR regulations but with a clear understanding that safeguarding needs will exceed the restrictions of UK GDPR at a point of need. Ensuring that an indication of the existence of the additional file above is marked on the pupil records.
- Secure access to resources and attend any relevant training courses.
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings.
- Work with the LGC to ensure the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually and the procedures are updated regularly.
- Ensure the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available publicly, and parents are aware that the school may make referrals for suspected cases of abuse or neglect, as well as the role the school plays in these referrals.
- Link with local safeguarding arrangements to make sure that staff members are aware of the training opportunities available and the latest local policies on safeguarding.
- Ensure that a pupil's child protection file is transferred as soon as possible, and within five days, when transferring to a new school, and consider any additional information that should be shared.
- Be available at all times during school hours to discuss any safeguarding concerns.
  NB: The school will determine what "available" means, e.g. it may be appropriate to be accessible by electronic means such as phone or video call.
- Hold the details of the LA personal advisor and liaise with them as necessary.
- The designated teacher has a responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of LAC and previously LAC, and for children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales.
- Share information with the deputy DSLs and Headteacher.
- Investigate and provide support around allegations made against staff. We recognise the possibility that adults working in the school may harm children, including governors, volunteers, supply teachers and agency staff.
- Liaise with LADO and Safeguarding advisor.
- Understand when they should consider calling the police, in line with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) guidance.
- Undergo training, and update this training at least every two years.
- Ensure the best educational outcomes by identifying at-risk pupils to the school and its staff, so that the relevant personnel understand each pupil's educational and welfare needs.
- Support teaching staff to identify the challenges that at-risk pupils may face and the additional academic support and adjustments they can make to support these pupils.
- Contribute to the assessment of children, and/or support other staff to do so.
- During term time, be available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns.
  NB: Individual schools, working with the DSL, define what "available" means and whether, in exceptional circumstances, availability via phone, video call, or other media is an acceptable substitution for in-person availability.
- Arrange, alongside the school, adequate and appropriate cover for any activities outside of school hours or terms.

- Liaise with the senior mental health lead and, where available, the Mental Health Support Team, where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health.
- Promote supportive engagement with parents in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances.
- Work with the Headteacher and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on their attendance, engagement and achievement at school. This includes:
    - Ensuring that the school knows which pupils have or had a social worker.
    - Understanding the academic progress and attainment of these pupils.
    - Maintaining a culture of high aspirations for these pupils.
    - Supporting teachers to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help these pupils reach their potential.
    - Helping to promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues these pupils are experiencing with teachers and the SLT.
- Ensure that child protection files are kept up-to-date and only accessed by those who need to do so.
- Support and advise staff and help them feel confident on welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, specifically, to ensure that staff are supported during the referrals processes; and to support staff to consider how safeguarding, welfare and educational outcomes are linked, including to inform the provision of academic and pastoral support.
- Understand the importance of information sharing, including within school, with other schools, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners.
- Understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018.
- DSL and deputies need to be aware of the requirement for children investigated by the police to have an Appropriate Adult present. Home Office PACE Code Section C. www.safeguarding.link/pace
- The DSL will act as the Prevent Lead for their school or appoint a suitable member of staff to act as the Prevent Lead.
- The DSL, along with the Headteacher, will be responsible for recording any low-level concerns on Staff Safe (CPOMS).
- Take responsibility for online safety and have an understanding of the filtering and monitoring systems and the process in place to prevent children from accessing inappropriate and harmful content online.

Other staff members have a responsibility to:

- Safeguard pupils' wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.
- Provide a safe environment in which pupils can learn.
- Act in accordance with school procedures with the aim of eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, including those in relation to child-on-child abuse.
- Maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.
- Be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect.
- Be aware of the early help process and understand their role in it.
- Act as the lead professional in undertaking an early help assessment, where necessary.
- Be aware of, and understand, the process for making referrals to CSCS, as well as for making statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 and their role in these assessments.
- Be confident of the processing conditions under relevant data protection legislation, including information which is sensitive and personal, and information that should be treated as special category data.

- Make a referral to CSCS and/or the police immediately, if at any point there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child.
- Be aware of and understand the procedure to follow in the event that a child confides they are being abused or neglected.
- Support social workers in making decisions about individual children, in collaboration with the DSL.
- Maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality when dealing with individual cases, and always act in the best interest of the child.
- Follow the school's procedure for, and approach to, preventing radicalisation.
- Challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns, where necessary.

Inter-agency working

Rufforth Primary School contributes to inter-agency working as part of its statutory duty. The school will be fully engaged, involved, and included in local safeguarding arrangements. Once the school is named as a relevant agency by local safeguarding partners, it will follow its statutory duty to cooperate with the published arrangements in the same way as other relevant agencies. The school will act in accordance with the safeguarding arrangements.

The school will work with CSCS, the Local Authority MASH, the police, health services and other services to protect the welfare of its pupils, through the early help process and by contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support.

Where a need for early help is identified, the school will allow access for CSCS from the host Local Authority and, where appropriate, a placing LA, for that LA to conduct (or consider whether to conduct) a section 17 or 47 assessment.

Information sharing

The school recognises the importance of proactive information sharing between professionals and local agencies in order to effectively meet pupils' needs and identify any need for early help.

All staff members are aware that whilst the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 place a duty on schools to process personal information fairly and lawfully, they also allow for information to be stored and shared for safeguarding purposes – data protection regulations do not act as a barrier to sharing information where failure to do so would result in the pupil being placed at risk of harm.

Staff members will ensure that fear of sharing information does not stand in the way of their responsibility to promote the welfare and safety of pupils.

If staff members are in doubt about sharing information, they will speak to the DSL or deputy DSL.

The school also recognises the particular importance of inter-agency working in identifying and preventing child sexual exploitation (CSE).

DSLs should be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of all concerns, discussions and decisions made including the rationale for those decisions. This should include instances where referrals were or were not made to another agency such as LA children's social care or the Prevent program etc.

Early help

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Any pupil may benefit from early help, but in particular, staff will be alert to the potential need for early help for pupils who:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs

- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care plan)
- has a mental health need
- is a young carer
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines • is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care,
- has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from schools, colleges and in Alternative Provision or a Pupil Referral Unit.
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual and/or criminal exploitation
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- has a parent or carer in custody, or is affected by parental offending
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- is misusing alcohol and other drugs themselves
- is at risk of so-called 'honour'-based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage •
- is a privately fostered child.

The DSL will take the lead where early help is appropriate. This includes liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. The local early help process will be followed as required. Full details of the Early Help process can be found in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023).

Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead practitioner. Any such cases will be kept under constant review and consideration given to a referral to CSCS for assessment for statutory services if the pupil's situation is not improving or is worsening.

Examples of Safeguarding concerns

All members of staff will be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be given a specific label and multiple issues often overlap one another.

All staff members will be aware of the indicators of abuse and the appropriate action to take following a pupil being identified as at potential risk of abuse or neglect.

All staff, especially the DSL and their deputies, will be aware that pupils can be at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families (extra-familial harms).

When identifying pupils at risk of potential harm, staff members will look out for a number of indicators including, but not limited to, the following:

- Injuries in unusual places, such as bite marks on the neck, that are also inconsistent with their age
- Lack of concentration and acting withdrawn
- Knowledge ahead of their age, e.g. sexual knowledge.
- Use of explicit language
- Fear of abandonment
- Depression and low self-esteem

All members of staff will be aware of the indicators of child-on-child abuse, such as those in relation to bullying, gender-based violence, sexual assaults and sexting.

All staff will be aware of the necessary procedures to follow to prevent child-on-child abuse, as outlined in the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

All staff will be aware of the behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse, truancy and sexting, and will understand that these put pupils in danger.

Staff members will be aware of the effects of a pupil witnessing an incident of abuse, such as witnessing domestic violence at home.

Abuse, neglect and exploitation

All staff should be aware of the indicators of abuse, neglect and exploitation (see below), understanding that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of the school/college, inside and outside of home, and online. Exercising professional curiosity and knowing what to look for is vital for the early identification of abuse and neglect so that staff are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection.

To ensure that our pupils are protected from harm, we need to understand what types of behaviour constitute abuse and neglect.

Indicators of abuse and neglect:

Abuse

For the purposes of this policy, **"abuse"** is defined as a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse, including where they see, hear or experience its effects. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

Physical abuse

For the purposes of this policy, **"physical abuse"** is defined as a form of abuse which may involve actions such as hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical abuse can also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse

For the purposes of this policy, **"emotional abuse"** is defined as the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. This may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child the opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children, such as interactions that are beyond their developmental capability, overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, including cyberbullying, causing the child to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, but it may also occur alone.

Sexual abuse

For the purposes of this policy, **"sexual abuse"** is defined as abuse that involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, and regardless of whether the child is

aware of what is happening. This may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration, or non-penetrative acts, such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. It may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can be perpetrated by people of any gender and age.

Neglect

For the purposes of this policy, **"neglect"** is defined as the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of a child's health or development. This may involve a parent or carer failing to provide a child with adequate food, clothing or shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); failing to protect a child from physical or emotional harm or danger; failing to ensure adequate supervision (including through the use of inappropriate caregivers); or failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Indicators of abuse, neglect and exploitation (KCSIE 2025)

All staff will be aware of the indicators of abuse, neglect and exploitation. All staff will be aware that abuse, neglect, exploitation and other safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be given a specific label, and multiple issues often overlap one another; therefore, staff will be vigilant and always raise concerns with the DSL. All staff, especially the DSL and deputy DSLs, will be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside of these environments; this includes being aware that pupils can be at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families (extra-familial harms). All staff will be aware of the appropriate action to take following a pupil being identified as at potential risk of abuse and, in all cases, will speak to the DSL if they are unsure.

All staff will be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, including online abuse, cyberbullying, and the sharing of indecent images. A child who is being abused or neglected may have bruises, bleeding, burns, fractures or other injuries:

- show signs of pain or discomfort
- keep arms and legs covered, even in warm weather
- be concerned about changing for PE or swimming
- look unkempt and uncared for
- change their eating habits
- have difficulty in making or sustaining friendships
- appear fearful
- be reckless with regard to their own or other's safety
- self-harm
- frequently miss school or arrive late
- show signs of not wanting to go home
- display a change in behaviour – from quiet to aggressive, or happy-go-lucky to withdrawn
- challenge authority
- become disinterested in their school work
- be constantly tired or preoccupied
- be wary of physical contact
- be involved in, or particularly knowledgeable about drugs or alcohol
- display sexual knowledge or behaviour beyond that normally expected for their age
- acquire gifts such as money or a mobile phone from new 'friends'

Further advice on child protection is available from:

- NSPCC: http://www.nspcc.org.uk/

- Childline: http://www.childline.org.uk/pages/home.aspx
- CEOPSThinkuknow: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/
- Anti-Bullying Alliance: http://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/
- DFE - Working together to safeguard Children 2023
- DFE – Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2025
- DFE – Prevent Duty June 2015
- DFE – What to Do if You're worried a Child is being abused March 2015

Child abduction and community safety incidents

For the purposes of this policy, **"child abduction"** is defined as the unauthorised removal or retention of a child from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents and other relatives, other people known to the victim, and strangers.

All staff will be alert to community safety incidents taking place in the vicinity of the school that may raise concerns regarding child abduction, e.g. people loitering nearby or unknown adults conversing with pupils. Pupils will be provided with practical advice and lessons to ensure they can keep themselves safe outdoors.

Radicalisation

For the purposes of this policy, **"extremism"** refers to the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Extremism also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

For the purposes of this policy, **"radicalisation"** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

For the purposes of this policy, **"terrorism"** refers to an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people, serious damage to property, or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat of these actions must be designed to influence the government or intimidate the public, and be made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

Protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation is part of the school's wider safeguarding duties. The school will actively assess the risk of pupils being radicalised and drawn into extremism and/or terrorism. Staff will be alert to changes in pupils' behaviour which could indicate that they may need help or protection. Staff will use their professional judgement to identify pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation and act appropriately, which may include contacting the DSL or making a Prevent referral. The school will work with local safeguarding arrangements as appropriate.

The school will ensure that they engage with parents and families, as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. In doing so, the school will assist and advise family members who raise concerns and provide information for support mechanisms. Any concerns over radicalisation will be discussed with the pupil's parents, unless the school has reason to believe that the child would be placed at risk as a result.

The DSL will undertake Prevent awareness training to be able to provide advice and support to other staff on how to protect pupils against the risk of radicalisation. The DSL will hold formal training sessions with all members of staff to ensure they are aware of the risk indicators and their duties regarding preventing radicalisation.

The Prevent duty

Under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, all schools are subject to a duty to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism", known as **"the Prevent duty"**. The Prevent duty will form part of the school's wider safeguarding obligations.

Channel programme

Safeguarding children is a key role for both the school and the LA, which is implemented through the use of the Channel programme. This service will be used where a vulnerable pupil is at risk of being involved in terrorist activities.

In cases where the school believes a pupil is potentially at serious risk of being radicalised, the Headteacher or DSL will contact the Channel programme.

The DSL will also support any staff making referrals to the Channel programme.

The Channel programme ensures that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background, receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist-related activity.

The programme identifies individuals at risk, assesses the extent of that risk, and develops the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned, with multi-agency cooperation and support from the school.

The delivery of the Channel programme may often overlap with the implementation of the LA's or school's wider safeguarding duty, especially where vulnerabilities have been identified that require intervention from CSCS, or where the individual is already known to CSCS.

The school will keep in mind that an individual's engagement with the Channel programme is voluntary at all stages.

Building children's resilience

The school will:

- Provide a safe environment for debating controversial issues.
- Promote fundamental British values, alongside pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Allow pupils time to explore sensitive and controversial issues.
- Provide pupils with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage potentially difficult situations, recognise risk, make safe choices and recognise where pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing.
- Equip pupils to explore political and social issues critically, weigh evidence, debate, and make reasoned arguments.
- Teach pupils about how democracy, government and law making/enforcement occur.
- Teach pupils about mutual respect and understanding for the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities of the UK.

Resources

The school will utilise the following resources when preventing radicalisation:

- Local safeguarding arrangements
- Local police (contacted via 101 for non-emergencies)
- The DfE's dedicated helpline (020 7340 7264)
- The Channel awareness programme
- The Educate Against Hate website

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

For the purpose of this policy, FGM is defined as the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or any other injury to the female genital organs.

FGM is considered a form of abuse in the UK and is illegal.

All staff will be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. If staff members are worried about someone who is at risk of FGM or who has been a victim of FGM, they are required to share this information with social care and/or the police.

Teaching staff are legally required to report to the police any discovery, whether through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence, of FGM on a girl under the age of 18. Teachers failing to report such cases will face disciplinary action.

NB. The above does not apply to any suspected or at-risk cases, nor if the individual is over the age of 18. In such cases, local safeguarding procedures will be followed.

There are a range of potential indicators that a pupil may be at risk of FGM. While individually they may not indicate risk, if two or more indicators are present, this could signal a risk to the pupil.

Victims of FGM are most likely to come from communities that are known to adopt this practice. It is important to note that the pupil may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so staff will be sensitive when broaching the subject.

Indicators that may show a heightened risk of FGM include the following:

- The socio-economic position of the family and their level of integration into UK society
- Any girl with a mother or sister who has been subjected to FGM
- Any girl withdrawn from PSHE

Indicators that may show FGM could take place soon include the following:

- When a female family elder is visiting from a country of origin
- A girl may confide that she is to have a ‘special procedure’ or a ceremony to ‘become a woman’
- A girl may request help from a teacher if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk
- A girl, or her family member, may talk about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent

Staff will be vigilant to the signs that FGM has already taken place so that help can be offered, enquiries can be made to protect others, and criminal investigations can begin.

Indicators that FGM may have already taken place include the following:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet
- Spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems
- Prolonged or repeated absences from school followed by withdrawal or depression
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations

Teachers will not examine pupils, and so it is rare that they will see any visual evidence, but they will report to the police where an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should also consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve CSCS as appropriate.

FGM is also included in the definition of 'honour-based' violence (HBV), which involves crimes that have been committed to defend the honour of the family and/or community, alongside forced marriage and breast ironing.

All forms of HBV are forms of abuse and will be treated and escalated as such.

Staff will be alert to the signs of HBV, including concerns that a child is at risk of HBV, or has already suffered from HBV, and will consult with the DSL who will activate local safeguarding procedures if concerns arise.

Sexting and the sharing of indecent images

The school will ensure that staff are aware to treat the sharing of indecent images, including through sexting, as a safeguarding concern.

Staff will receive appropriate training regarding child sexual development and will understand the difference between sexual behaviour that is considered normal and expected for the age of the pupil, and sexual behaviour that is inappropriate and harmful. Staff will receive appropriate training around how to deal with instances of sexting in the school community, including understanding motivations, assessing risks posed to pupils depicted in the images, and how and when to report instances of sexting.

Staff will be aware that creating, possessing, and distributing indecent imagery of children is a criminal offence, regardless of whether the imagery is created, possessed, and distributed by the individual depicted; however, staff will ensure that pupils are not unnecessarily criminalised.

Where a member of staff becomes aware of an incidence of sexting that involves indecent images of a pupil, they will refer this to the DSL as soon as possible. Where a pupil confides in a staff member about the circulation of indecent imagery, depicting them or someone else, the staff member will:

- Refrain from viewing, copy, printing, sharing, storing or saving the imagery.
- Tell the DSL immediately if they accidentally view an indecent image and seek support.
- Explain to the pupil that the incident will need to be reported.
- Respond positively to the pupil without blaming or shaming anyone involved, and reassuring them that they can receive support from the DSL.
- Report the incident to the DSL.

The DSL will attempt to understand what the image contains **without viewing it** and the context surrounding its creation and distribution – they will categorise the incident into one of two categories:

- **Aggravated:** incidents which involve additional or abusive elements beyond the creation and distribution of indecent images of pupils, including where there is an adult involved, where there is an intent to harm the pupil depicted, or where the images are used recklessly.
- **Experimental:** incidents involving the creation and distribution of indecent images of pupils where there is no adult involvement or apparent intent to cause harm or embarrassment to the pupil.

Where it is necessary to view the imagery, e.g. if this is the only way to make a decision about whether to inform other agencies, the DSL should:

- Discuss this decision with the Headteacher or member of the SLT.
- Ensure the image is, where possible, viewed by someone of the same sex as the individual depicted.
- Ensure viewing takes place on school premises and with another member of staff present in the room – this staff member does not need to view the imagery.
- Record how and why the decision was made to view the imagery in accordance with the Records Management Policy.

Where the incident is categorised as 'aggravated', the situation will be managed in line with the school's Child-on-Child Abuse Policy. Where the incident is categorised as 'experimental', the pupils involved are supported to understand the implications of sharing indecent imagery and to move forward from the incident.

Where there is reason to believe that indecent imagery being circulated will cause harm to a pupil, the DSL escalates the incident to CSCS. Where indecent imagery of a pupil has been shared publicly, the DSL will work with the pupil to report imagery to sites on which it has been shared and will reassure them of the support available.

Mental health

At Rufforth Primary School all staff will be made aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a pupil has suffered, or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Staff will not attempt to make a diagnosis of mental health problems – the school will ensure this is done by a trained mental health professional.

Staff will be encouraged to identify pupils whose behaviour suggests they may be experiencing a mental health problem or may be at risk of developing one.

Staff who have a mental health concern about a pupil that is also a safeguarding concern will act in line with this policy and speak to the DSL or a deputy.

The school will access a range of advice to help them identify pupils in need of additional mental health support, including working with external agencies.

Child criminal exploitation (CCE)

For the purposes of this policy, **"child criminal exploitation"** is defined as a form of abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in criminal activity, for any of the following reasons:

- In exchange for something the victim needs or wants
- For the financial advantage or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator
- Through violence or the threat of violence

Specific forms of CCE can include:

- Being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines
- Working in cannabis factories
- Shoplifting or pickpocketing
- Committing vehicle crime
- Committing, or threatening to commit, serious violence to others

The school will recognise that pupils involved in CCE are victims themselves, regardless of whether they have committed crimes, and even if the criminal activity appears consensual. The school will also recognise that pupils of any gender are at risk of CCE.

School staff will be aware of the indicators that a pupil is the victim of CCE, including:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts, money or new possessions.
- Associating with other children involved in exploitation.
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing.
- Misusing drugs or alcohol.
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late.
- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

For the purposes of this policy, **"child sexual exploitation"** is defined as a form of sexual abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity, for any of the following reasons:

- In exchange for something the victim needs or wants
- For the financial advantage, increased status or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator
- Through violence or the threat of violence

The school will recognise that CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence, and may happen without the pupil's immediate knowledge, e.g. through others sharing videos or images of them on social media. The school will recognise that CSE can affect any pupil who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities, even if the activity appears consensual; this includes pupils aged 16 and above who can legally consent to sexual activity. The school will also recognise that pupils may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.

School staff will be aware of the key indicators that a pupil is the victim of CSE, including:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts, money or new possessions
- Associating with other children involved in exploitation
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs or alcohol
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late
- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections
- Displaying sexual behaviours beyond expected sexual development
- Becoming pregnant

Where CSE, or the risk of it, is suspected, staff will discuss the case with the DSL. If after discussion a concern remains, local safeguarding procedures will be triggered, including referral to the LA. The LA and all other necessary authorities will then handle the matter to conclusion. The school will cooperate as needed.

Cyber-crime

For the purposes of this policy, **"cyber-crime"** is defined as criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. This includes 'cyber-enabled' crimes, i.e. crimes that can happen offline but are enabled at scale and at speed online, and 'cyber-dependent' crimes, i.e. crimes that can be committed only by using a computer. Crimes include:

- Unauthorised access to computers, known as 'hacking'.
- Denial of Service attacks, known as 'booting'.
- Making, supplying or obtaining malicious software, or 'malware', e.g. viruses, spyware, ransomware, botnets and Remote Access Trojans with the intent to commit further offence.

All staff will be aware of the signs of cyber-crime and follow the appropriate safeguarding procedures where concerns arise. This may include the DSL referring pupils to the National Crime Agency's Cyber Choices programme.

Forced Marriage (FM)

For the purpose of this policy, a "forced marriage" is defined as a marriage that is entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties, and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into the marriage. Forced marriage is classed as a crime in the UK.

As part of HBV, all Rufforth Primary School staff will be alert to the signs of forced marriage including, but not limited to, the following:

- Becoming anxious, depressed and emotionally withdrawn with low self-esteem
- Showing signs of mental health disorders and behaviours such as self-harm or anorexia
- Displaying a sudden decline in their educational performance, aspirations or motivation
- Regularly being absent from school
- Displaying a decline in punctuality
- An obvious family history of older siblings leaving education early and marrying early

If staff members have any concerns regarding a child who may have undergone, is currently undergoing, or is at risk of, forced marriage, they will speak to the DSL and local safeguarding procedures will be followed – this could include referral to CSCS, the police or the Forced Marriage Unit.

The DSL will:

- Speak to the pupil about the concerns in a secure and private place;
- Activate the local safeguarding procedures and refer the case to the Local Authority's designated officer;
- Seek advice from the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151 or fmu@fco.gov.uk

Domestic abuse

The definition of Domestic Abuse is defined as abusive behaviour of a person towards another person (including conduct directed at someone else, e.g. the person's child) where both are aged 16 or over and are personally connected. **"Abusive behaviour"** includes physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, or another form of abuse. **"Personally connected"** includes people who:

- Are, have been, or have agreed to be married to each other
- Are, have been, or have agreed to be in a civil partnership with each other
- Are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other
- Each have, or had, a parental relationship towards the same child
- Are relatives

The school will recognise the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse. All staff will be aware of the signs of domestic abuse and follow the appropriate safeguarding procedures where concerns arise.

At Rufforth Primary School all our pupils have the right to be safe at school and also in their own homes. We are aware that some children may be living in situations where they are directly or indirectly affected by incidents of domestic abuse or violence. As an Operation Encompass school we are alert to the indicators of abuse and we have a planned approach to supporting children in a proactive way.

Child-on-Child abuse

For the purposes of this policy, **"Child-on-Child abuse"** is defined as abuse between children.

Rufforth Primary School has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, including child-on-child abuse.

All staff will be aware that child-on-child abuse can occur between pupils of any age and gender, both inside and outside of school, as well as online. All staff will be aware of the indicators of child-on-child abuse, how to identify it, and how to respond to reports. All staff will also recognise that even if no cases have been reported, this is not an indicator that child-on-child abuse is not occurring. All staff will speak to the DSL if they have any concerns about child-on-child abuse.

All staff will understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviour between children, and will not tolerate abuse as “banter” or “part of growing up”.

child-on-child abuse can be manifested in many different ways, including:

- Bullying, including cyberbullying and prejudice-based or discriminatory bullying.
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers.
- Physical abuse – this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse.
- Sexual violence – this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence.
- Sexual harassment, including online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse.
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent.
- The consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos.
- Upskirting.
- Initiation and hazing-type violence and rituals, which can include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group, and may also include an online element.

All staff will be clear as to the school’s policy and procedures regarding child-on-child abuse and the role they have to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it.

All staff will be made aware of the heightened vulnerability of pupils with SEND, who evidence suggests are more likely to be abused than their peers. Staff will not assume that possible indicators of abuse relate to the pupil’s SEND and will always explore indicators further.

All staff will be made aware of the heightened vulnerability of LGBTQ+ pupils, who evidence suggests are also more likely to be targeted by their peers. In some cases, pupils who are perceived to be LGBTQ+, regardless of whether they are LGBTQ+, can be just as vulnerable to abuse as LGBTQ+ pupils. The school’s response to sexual violence and sexual harassment between pupils of the same sex will be equally as robust as it is for incidents between children of the opposite sex.

Pupils will be made aware of how to raise concerns or make a report and how any reports will be handled. This includes the process for reporting concerns about friends or peers. Pupils will also be reassured that they will be taken seriously, be supported, and kept safe.

The school’s procedures for managing allegations of child-on-child abuse are outlined in the Child-on-Child Abuse Policy. Staff will follow these procedures, as well as the procedures outlined in the school’s Anti-Bullying Policy, where relevant.

Cared for children (Looked after children)

In Rufforth Primary School we ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep cared for children safe as we aware that children often become looked after as a result of abuse and/or neglect and for children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales.

We have identified a designated teacher for our cared for children; this person works closely with the Virtual school.

Pupils who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or gender questioning

We recognise that pupils who are (or who are perceived to be) lesbian, gay, bisexual or gender questioning (LGBTQ+) can be targeted by other children. See our behaviour policy for more detail on how we prevent bullying based on gender or sexuality. We also recognise that LGBTQ+ children are more likely to

experience poor mental health. Any concerns should be reported to the DSL. When families/carers are making decisions about support for gender questioning pupils, they should be encouraged to seek clinical help and advice. This should be done as early as possible when supporting pre-pubertal children.

When supporting a gender questioning pupil, we will take a cautious approach as there are still unknowns around the impact of social transition, and a pupil may have wider vulnerability, such as complex mental health and psychosocial needs, and in some cases, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

We will also consider the broad range of their individual needs, in partnership with their parents/carers (other than in rare circumstances where involving parents/carers would constitute a significant risk of harm to the pupil). We will also include any clinical advice that is available and consider how to address wider vulnerabilities such as the risk of bullying. Risks can be compounded where children lack trusted adults with whom they can be open. We therefore aim to reduce the additional barriers faced and create a culture where pupils can speak out or share their concerns with members of staff.

Children with SEND

We ensure that staff have knowledge and understanding of the additional barriers which can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in children with special needs/disabilities. These barriers can include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionally impacted by things like bullying - without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

We aim to build the necessary skills in staff so that they can safeguard and respond to the specific needs of this group of children.

Schools and colleges should consider extra pastoral support and attention for these children, along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place. Further information can be found in the department's:

- SEND Code of Practice 0 to 25 years, and
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions.

And from specialist organisations such as:

- The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information and Support Services (SENDIASS). SENDIASS offer information, advice and support for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. All Local Authorities have such a service: Find your local IAS service (councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk)
- Mencap - Represents people with learning disabilities, with specific advice and information for people who work with children and young people
- NSPCC - Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and NSPCC - Safeguarding child protection/deaf and disabled children and young people

Homelessness

The DSL and deputies will be aware of the contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so that concerns over homelessness can be raised as early as possible. Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include the following:

- Household debt
- Rent arrears
- Domestic abuse
- Anti-social behaviour
- Any mention of a family moving home because “they have to”

Referrals to the Local Housing Authority do not replace referrals to CSCS where a child is being harmed or at risk of harm.

For 16- and 17-year-olds, homelessness may not be family-based and referrals to children’s services will be made as necessary where concerns are raised.

County lines criminal activity

County lines criminal activity refers to drug networks or gangs grooming and exploiting children to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban areas, rural areas and market and seaside towns.

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.’

Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims.

Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

Staff will be made aware of pupils with missing episodes who may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs.

Staff members who suspect a pupil may be vulnerable to, or involved in, this activity will immediately report all concerns to the DSL.

The DSL will consider referral to the National Referral Mechanism on a case-by-case basis. Indicators that a pupil may be involved in county lines activity include the following:

- Persistently going missing or being found out of their usual area
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones
- Excessive receipt of texts or phone calls
- Relationships with controlling or older individuals or groups
- Leaving home without explanation
- Evidence of physical injury or assault that cannot be explained
- Carrying weapons
- Sudden decline in school results
- Becoming isolated from peers or social networks
- Self-harm or significant changes in mental state
- Parental reports of concern

Serious violence

Through training, all staff will be made aware of the indicators which may signal a pupil is at risk from, or is involved with, serious violent crime. These indicators include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Increased absence from school

- A change in friendships
- New relationships with older individuals or groups
- A significant decline in academic performance
- Signs of self-harm
- A significant change in wellbeing
- Signs of assault
- Unexplained injuries
- Unexplained gifts or new possessions

Staff will be made aware of some of the most significant risk factors that could increase a pupil's vulnerability to becoming involved in serious violent crime. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A history of committing offences
- Substance abuse
- Anti-social behaviour
- Truancy
- Peers involved in crime and/or anti-social behaviour

Staff members who suspect a pupil may be vulnerable to, or involved in, serious violent crime will immediately report their concerns to the DSL

Pupils with family members in prison

Pupils with a family member in prison will be offered pastoral support as necessary.

They will receive a copy of 'Are you a young person with a family member in prison' from Action for Prisoners' Families where appropriate and allowed the opportunity to discuss questions and concerns.

Children and the court system

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two age appropriate guides to support children 5-11-year olds and 12-17 year olds.

The guides explain each step of the process, support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained.

Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children. The Ministry of Justice has launched an online child arrangements information tool with clear and concise information on the dispute resolution service. This may be useful for some parents and carers.

LAC and PLAC

Children most commonly become looked after because of abuse and/or neglect. Because of this, they can be at potentially greater risk in relation to safeguarding. PLAC, also known as care leavers, can also remain vulnerable after leaving care.

The school will ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep LAC and PLAC safe. This includes ensuring that the appropriate staff have the information they need, such as:

- Looked after legal status, i.e. whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents, or on an interim or full care order.
- Contact arrangements with parents or those with parental responsibility.
- Care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after the pupil.

The DSL will be provided with the necessary details of pupils' social workers and the VSH, and, for PLAC, personal advisers.

Private Fostering

We recognise that our school has a mandatory duty to report to the Local Authority when we become aware of, or suspect that, a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement. To aide our awareness we ensure that we establish parental responsibility for each and every child; we take steps to verify the relationship of the adults to the child when we register them.

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a Local Authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

A close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.

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

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

Where a member of staff becomes aware of private fostering arrangements they are aware that they need to notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will then speak to the family of the child involved to check that they are aware of their duty to inform Children's Services.

Children absent from education

Under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 we have a duty to investigate any unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education as a child absent from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect.

At Rufforth Primary School we follow Local Authority procedures for dealing with children that go missing from lessons and/or school, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future. The school will inform the LA of any pupil who fails to attend regularly or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more.

We also ensure that we are rigorous in our attendance procedures. Where a child's destination is unknown when they have left our school we ensure we carry out all necessary checks and refer them as CME using the appropriate form so that they can be followed up on. Staff are aware of the trafficking of children and the importance of rigour around our attendance procedures to reduce this as a threat to our children's safety.

Attendance

Attendance is an essential part of safeguarding our students. Please see our 'attendance policy' for full details.

Admissions register

Pupils are placed on the admissions register at the beginning of the first day that is agreed by the school. The school will ensure that the admissions register is kept up-to-date and accurate at all times and will inform parents when any changes occur. At least three emergency contact details will be held for each pupil where

possible. Staff will monitor pupils who do not attend the school on the agreed date and will notify the LA at the earliest opportunity.

If a parent notifies the school that their child will live at a different address, the school will record the following information on the admissions register:

- The full name of the parent with whom the pupil will live
- The new address
- The date from when the pupil will live at that address

If a parent notifies the school that their child will be attending a different school, or is already registered at a different school, the following information will be recorded on the admissions register:

- The name of the new school
- The date on which the pupil first attended, or is due to attend, that school

Where a pupil moves to a new school, the school will use a secure internet system to securely transfer pupils' data. Any safeguarding information will be transferred via CPOMS automatic, firstly the DSL will ensure the information is correct.

To ensure accurate data is collected to allow effective safeguarding, the school will inform the LA of any pupil who is going to be deleted from the admission register, in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended), where they:

- Have been taken out of the school by their parents, and are being educated outside the national education system, e.g. home education.
- Have ceased to attend the school, and no longer live within a reasonable distance of the premises.
- Have been certified by the school's medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and their parent has not indicated the intention to the pupil continuing to attend school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
- Have been in custody for a period of more than four months due to a final court order and the school does not reasonably believe they will be returning to the school at the end of that period.
- Have been permanently excluded.

The school will also remove a pupil from the admissions register where the school and LA has been unable to establish the pupil's whereabouts after making reasonable enquiries into their attendance.

If a pupil is to be removed from the admissions register, the school will provide the LA with the following information:

- The full name of the pupil
- The full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil lives
- At least one telephone number of the parent with whom the pupil lives
- The full name and address of the parent with whom the pupil is going to live, and the date that the pupil will start living there, if applicable
- The name of the pupil's new school and the pupil's expected start date there, if applicable
- The grounds for removal from the admissions register under regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

The school will work with the LA to establish methods of making returns for pupils back into the school. The school will highlight to the LA where they have been unable to obtain necessary information from parents, e.g. where an address is unknown. The school will also highlight any other necessary contextual information, including safeguarding concerns.

Contextual safeguarding

Safeguarding incidents can occur outside of school and can be associated with outside factors. School staff, particularly the DSL and their deputies, will always consider the context of incidents, this is known as contextual safeguarding.

Assessment of pupils' behaviour will consider whether there are wider environmental factors that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare.

Safeguarding incidents can occur outside of school and can be associated with outside factors. School staff, particularly the DSL and their deputy(s), will always consider the context of incidents.

Rufforth Primary School is one of the smallest schools in the City of York, a small semi-rural community school situated just to the west of the city's ring road. Road safety is a risk as farming vehicles and lorries regularly drive through the village. Parking for families is limited and we have a high proportion of children attending from out of catchment, travelling to school by car. This makes nearby streets busy at the beginning and end of the school day.

We would see these incidents as

- Parenting
- Parent's mental health
- Deprivation / poverty
- Aspirations
- Attitudes towards education
- Peer on Peer abuse
- Road safety
- Water safety

The school will provide as much contextual information as possible when making referrals to CSCS

Alternative provision

Where a school places a pupil with an alternative provision provider, it continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil and should be satisfied that the placement meets the pupil's needs.

The cohort of pupils in Alternative Provision often have complex needs, schools should obtain written information from the alternative provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at their establishment (i.e. those checks that schools would otherwise perform on their own staff). This includes written confirmation that the alternative provider will inform the commissioning school of any arrangements that may put the child at risk (i.e. staff changes), so that the commissioning school can ensure itself that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on new staff.

Schools should always know where a child is based during school hours. This includes having records of the address of the alternative provider and any subcontracted provision or satellite sites the child may attend. They should regularly review the alternative provision placements they make. Reviews should be frequent enough (at least half termly) to provide assurance that the child is regularly attending and the placement continues to be safe and meets the child's needs. Where safeguarding concerns arise, the placement should be immediately reviewed, and terminated, if necessary, unless or until those concerns have been satisfactorily addressed.

Online safety

The school will adhere to the Online Safety Policy at all times. As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, all pupils will be made aware of online risks and taught how to stay safe online.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable and ever evolving, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

- **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation, extremism, misinformation, disinformation (including fake news) and conspiracy theories.
- **contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.
- **conduct:** online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying, and
- **commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

Through training, all staff members will be made aware of:

- Pupil attitudes and behaviours which may indicate they are at risk of potential harm online.
- The procedure to follow when they have a concern regarding a pupil's online activity.

Reviewing online safety

The school will carry out an annual review of its approach to online safety, supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks faced by pupils.

Filtering and monitoring

The Trust will ensure that suitable filtering and monitoring systems are in place to prevent children accessing inappropriate or harmful material, in accordance with the Trust's Online Safety Policy. The Trust will, however, ensure that the use of filtering and monitoring systems does not cause "over blocking", which may lead to unreasonable restrictions on teaching and learning.

Roles and responsibilities:

- The Trust is responsible for ensuring suitable filtering and monitoring systems are in place across all schools, including how these apply to the use of generative AI in education in accordance with the DfE's Generative AI: product safety expectations guidance.
- The Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead and School Business Manager are responsible for ensuring that the filtering and monitoring systems remain effective and report any issues to the Trust.
- The Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead and School Business Manager are responsible for following up on any inappropriate or harmful content identified by the system.
- The Trust will review the filtering and monitoring system on an annual basis to ensure it remains effective.

Further information regarding the school's approach to online safety can be found in the Online Safety Policy.

Personal electronic devices

The use of personal electronic devices, including mobile phones and cameras, by staff and pupils is closely monitored by the school, in accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy.

Photographs and Videos

Photographs and videos of pupils will be carefully planned before any activity with particular regard to consent and adhering to the Trust's Data Protection Policy. Where photographs and videos will involve pupils who are LAC, adopted pupils, or pupils for whom there are security concerns, the Headteacher will liaise with the DSL to determine the steps involved. The DSL will, in known cases of pupils who are LAC or who have been adopted, liaise with the pupils' social workers, carers or adoptive parents to assess the needs and risks associated with the pupils.

Staff members will not use personal mobile phones or cameras when pupils are present unless for educational purposes. Staff may use mobile phones in the staffroom during breaks and non-contact time. Mobile phones will be safely stored and in silent mode whilst pupils are present. Staff will use their professional judgement in emergency situations.

Mobile devices can only be used to take 'appropriate images' for use on the school's social media channels that are downloaded as soon as possible and then deleted from the device immediately after.

The sending of inappropriate messages or images from mobile devices is strictly prohibited. Staff who do not adhere to this policy will face disciplinary action.

The Headteahcer/School Business Manager will review and authorise any downloadable apps – no apps or programmes will be downloaded without express permission from the Headteacher or School Business Manager.

The school will adhere to the terms of the Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policy.

Staff will report any concerns about another staff member's use of mobile phones to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Managing Allegations Made Against Staff Policy.

Modern slavery

For the purposes of this policy, **"modern slavery"** encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour. This can include CCE, CSE, and other forms of exploitation.

All staff will be aware of and alert to the signs that a pupil may be the victim of modern slavery. Staff will also be aware of the support available to victims of modern slavery and how to refer them to the National Referral Mechanism.

Upskirting

Under the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, it is an offence to operate equipment and to record an image beneath a person's clothing without consent and with the intention of observing, or enabling another person to observe, the victim's genitals or buttocks (whether exposed or covered with underwear), in circumstances where their genitals, buttocks or underwear would not otherwise be visible, for a specified purpose.

A "specified purpose" is namely:

- Obtaining sexual gratification (either for themselves or for the person they are enabling to view the victim's genitals, buttocks or underwear).
- To humiliate, distress or alarm the victim.

"Operating equipment" includes enabling, or securing, activation by another person without that person's knowledge, e.g. a motion activated camera.

Upskirting will not be tolerated by the school.

Any incidents of upskirting will be reported to the DSL who will then decide on the next steps to take, which may include police involvement.

Pupils potentially at greater risk of harm

The school recognises that some groups of pupils can face additional safeguarding challenges, and understands that further barriers may exist when determining abuse and neglect in these groups of pupils.

Additional considerations for managing safeguarding concerns and incidents amongst these groups are outline below.

Pupils who need social workers

Pupils may need social workers due to safeguarding or welfare needs. These needs can leave pupils vulnerable to further harm and educational disadvantage.

As a matter of routine, the DSL will hold and use information from the LA about whether a pupil has a social worker in order to make decisions in the best interests of the pupil's safety, welfare, and educational outcomes.

Where a pupil needs a social worker, this will inform decisions about safeguarding, e.g. responding to unauthorised absence, and promoting welfare, e.g. considering the provision pastoral or academic support.

Home-educated children

Parents may choose elective home education (EHE) for their children. In some cases, EHE can mean that children are less visible to the services needed to safeguard and support them.

In line with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, the school will inform the LA of all deletions from the admissions register when a pupil is taken off roll.

Where a parent has expressed their intention to remove a pupil from school for EHE, the school, in collaboration with the LA and other key professionals, will coordinate a meeting with the parent, where possible, before the final decision has been made, particularly if the pupil has SEND, is vulnerable, and/or has a social worker.

Use of the school premises for non-school activities

Where the school hires or rents out school facilities or the school premises to organisations or individuals, e.g. for providers to run community or extracurricular activities, it will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to keep pupils safe.

Where the school provides the activities under the direct supervision or management of school staff, child protection arrangements will apply. Where activities are provided separately by another body, this may not be the case; therefore, the school will seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place, including inspecting these as needed. The school will also ensure that there are arrangements in place to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate. The school will ensure safeguarding requirements are included in any transfer of control agreement, i.e. a lease or hire agreement, as a condition of use and occupation of the premises, and specify that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement.

Extracurricular activities and clubs

Extra-curricular activities and clubs hosted by external bodies, e.g. charities or companies, will work in collaboration with the school to effectively safeguard pupils and adhere to local safeguarding arrangements. Staff and volunteers running extracurricular activities and clubs are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and promote the welfare of pupils. Paid and volunteer staff understand how they should respond to child protection concerns and how to make a referral to CSCS or the police, if necessary.

All national governing bodies of sport that receive funding from either Sport England or UK Sport must aim to meet the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport.

Homestay exchange visits

School-arranged homestays in UK

Where the school is arranging for a visiting child to be provided with care and accommodation in the UK in the home of a family to which the child is not related, the responsible adults are considered to be in regulated activity for the period of the stay. In such cases, the school is the regulated activity provider; therefore, the school will obtain all the necessary information required, including a DBS enhanced certificate with barred list information, to inform its assessment of the suitability of the responsible adults.

Where criminal record information is disclosed, the school will consider, alongside all other information, whether the adult is a suitable host. In addition to the responsible adults, the school will consider whether a DBS enhanced certificate should be obtained for anyone else aged over 16 in the household.

School-arranged homestays abroad

The school will liaise with partner schools to discuss and agree the arrangements in place for the visit. The school will consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether to contact the relevant foreign embassy or High Commission of the country in question to ascertain what checks may be possible in respect of those providing homestay outside of the UK. The school will use its professional judgement to assess whether the arrangements are appropriate and sufficient to safeguard every child involved in the exchange. Pupils will be provided with emergency contact details to use where an emergency occurs or a situation arises that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Privately arranged homestays

Where a parent or pupil arranges their own homestay, this is a private arrangement and the school is not the regulated activity provider.

SECTION C: A Safeguarding culture

At Rufforth Primary School we are very proud of our safeguarding culture. Safeguarding permeates all aspects of school life. This includes the following sections:

Safer Recruitment

The safe recruitment of staff at Rufforth Primary School is the first step to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the young people in education. Rufforth Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment as outlined in the Rufforth Primary School Safeguarding Policy. It is recognised that this can only be achieved through sound procedures, good inter-agency cooperation and the recruitment and retention of competent, motivated employees who are suited to, and fulfilled in the roles they undertake.

As part of the shortlisting process schools carry out an online search as part of their due diligence on all shortlisted candidates. This is to help identify any incidents or issues that have happened, and are publicly available online, which the schools might want to explore with the applicant at interview.

All shortlisted candidates will be informed that an online search will be conducted as part of the recruitment process.

The guidance in KCSIE 2025 (Part Four) should be followed where it is alleged that anyone working in the school or college that provides education for children under 18 years of age, including supply teachers and volunteers has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; or

- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

The SLT members who are involved in recruitment and at least one member of the LGC will also complete safer recruitment training (through the NSPCC) to be renewed every 5 years.

The school's full policy and procedures for safer recruitment are outlined in the Safer Recruitment Policy.

An enhanced DBS check with barred list information will be undertaken for all staff members engaged in regulated activity. A person will be considered to be in 'regulated activity' if, as a result of their work, they:

- Are responsible on a daily basis for the care or supervision of children
- Regularly work in the school at times when children are on the premises
- Regularly come into contact with children under 18 years of age

The DfE's DBS Workforce Guides will be consulted when determining whether a position fits the child workforce criteria.

The school will conduct the appropriate pre-employment checks for all prospective employees, including internal candidates and candidates who have lived or worked outside the UK. The appropriate DBS and suitability checks will be carried out for all governors, volunteers, and contractors.

You can read the full Safer Recruitment Policy on the Pathfinder Portal:
https://sites.google.com/pmat.academy/pathfinderportal/policies-and-procedures/hr-policies?authuser=0

- All members of staff and volunteers are provided with child protection awareness information at induction so that they know who to discuss a concern with.
- All members of staff are trained in and receive regular updates in e-safety and reporting concerns.
- All staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities for being alert to signs of abuse and referring these to the DSL.
- All other staff and governors, have child protection awareness training, updated by the DSL as appropriate, to maintain their understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse.

Ongoing suitability

Following appointment, consideration will be given to staff and volunteers' ongoing suitability – to prevent the opportunity for harm to children or placing children at risk.

Referral to the DBS

Referrals should be made as soon as possible when an individual is removed from regulated activity. This could include when an individual is suspended, redeployed to work that is not regulated activity, dismissed or when they have resigned. It is important that as much relevant information is provided to the DBS as possible, as it relies on the quality of information provided by the school or college when considering the referral.

Single central record (SCR)

The school keeps an SCR which records all staff, including supply staff and teacher trainees on salaried routes, who work at the school.

The MAT holds a central SCR containing information that is easily accessible and recorded in such a way that allows for details for each individual academy to be provided separately, and without delay, to all who need to see it, including Ofsted.

All members of the proprietor body are also recorded on the SCR.

The following information is recorded on the SCR:

- An identity check
- A barred list check
- An enhanced DBS check
- A prohibition from teaching check
- A section 128 check
- A check of professional qualifications
- A check to determine the individual's right to work in the UK
- Additional checks for those who have lived or worked outside of the UK
- The school is free to record any other information it deems relevant.
- The details of an individual will be removed from the SCR once they no longer work at the school.

For agency and third-party supply staff, the school will also record whether written confirmation from the employment business supplying the member of staff has been received which indicates that all the necessary checks have been conducted and the date that confirmation was received.

If any checks have been conducted for volunteers, this will also be recorded on the SCR.

If risk assessments are conducted to assess whether a volunteer should be subject to an enhanced DBS check, the risk assessment will be recorded.

Staff Induction

All staff receive the following induction training when they first start at the school: The induction training will cover:

- The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- The Behaviour Policy
- The Staff Code of Conduct
- The safeguarding response to children who are absent from education
- The identity of the DSL and any deputies
- The role of the DSL and deputy DSLs
- A tutorial from our Designated Safeguarding lead, covering policies, procedures for reporting safeguarding concerns, best practise and scenario based discussions.
- On-line training including Child Protection Training
- and Prevent Training

It is each member of staff's responsibility to apply the training, and must return their Certificates to the DSL. All students receive the following induction training when they first start at the school:

- Code of conduct – covering do and don'ts,
- Lanyards
- Who to talk to and where to go for advice

Training

Staff members will undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction, which will be regularly updated on a termly basis or whenever there is a change in legislation. Ongoing training includes:

- All staff receive regular training throughout the year (all governors must also complete relevant safeguarding training). All staff must read "Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1" and complete the On-line training including Child Protection Training (TES) annually.

- It is each member of staff's responsibility to apply the training and when completed handing in the certificate to the DSL.
- The Child-on-Child Abuse Policy and procedures.
- The Staff Code of Conduct.
- Information about the role and identity of the DSL and deputy DSLs.

All staff members will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required, but at least annually. Training will cover, at a minimum:

- The issues surrounding sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Contextual safeguarding.
- Updated online safety training.
- All students receive regular training via notices, assemblies, lessons and individual support as required. There is also a weekly safeguarding question and answer with a short explanation in the weekly staff bulletin.

Staff will receive opportunities to contribute towards and inform the safeguarding arrangements in the school.

The DSL and deputy DSL will undergo updated child protection training every two years, as well as additional training to refresh their skills and knowledge at regular intervals (at least annually) to allow them to keep up-to-date with any developments relevant to their role.

The DSL and deputy DSL will also undergo biennial Prevent awareness training which will enable them to understand and support the school with regards to the Prevent Duty and equip them with the knowledge needed to advise staff.

The DSL and their deputies will undergo online safety training to help them recognise the additional risks that pupils with SEND face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation, to ensure they have the capability to support pupils with SEND to stay safe online

Online training will also be conducted for all staff members as part of the overall safeguarding approach.

School Site Security

We keep the school safe and secure by:

- Site access – the school has one main entrance and has a gate system of entry outside of busy times. We have signs to inform visitors that they are not allowed on site unless they have a specific and legitimate reason and they must sign into main school reception.
- Entrance to the building – there is a fob system allowing entrance to the school. We ask that ALL visitors report to main school reception.
- All visitors to the school must sign in at main school reception. At this stage they will be issued with a lanyard. If you have provided a valid DBS and it is suitable you will allowed to move around the school unsupervised, otherwise you will escorted everywhere.
- We regularly remind all staff and students that they have a responsibility to either challenge or inform the nearest member of staff of anyone in the school without a lanyard or following our rules regarding lanyards
- Completion of Health and Safety Audits and following our policy.
- Like all schools we hire out our facilities and will have contractual staff on site at various times. We have suitable policies and procedures that includes following guidance from Keeping Children Safe Page 37, point 134. In short we ensure they have suitable DBS checks and where they hire our facilities there safeguarding procedures are in place and we believe are suitable to keep our students safe.
    - Like all schools we can hire out our facilities and will have contractual staff on site at various times. We have suitable policies and procedures that include following guidance from Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025.

Further details on the above can be provided when visiting our school.

Visitors and lanyards

All visitors **MUST** be signed in at the main school reception.

If a visitor has a suitable DBS, they will be assigned a “white” lanyard and will be free to walk around the building unaccompanied, otherwise they will be assigned a “red” lanyard and must stay with a member of staff at all times. They cannot be left unaccompanied at any time and **MUST NEVER** be left with a student at any time.

Pathfinder
Multi Academy Trust

Know Your Lanyards

Everyone in school must wear a lanyard

Anyone wearing a **red lanyard** must be accompanied by a member of staff at all times.

If you see anyone with a **red lanyard** without a member of staff with them or someone not wearing a lanyard at all, report them to the nearest member of staff immediately.

The following are free to walk around the school site:

- School staff wearing a blue lanyard
- Pathfinder MAT staff wearing a blue lanyard
- Visitors who have provided a suitable DBS on a white lanyard

All other visitors must:

- Wear a red lanyard
- Be accompanied by a member of staff at all times

All staff must challenge anyone who does not meet the above criteria. All students must inform a member of staff of anyone who does not meet the above criteria.

Trips and visits

Trips and visits are a vital and essential part of school life. The safety of our students and staff are paramount and as such, trips and visits must have a risk assessment completed via Evolve. Once the Evolve list has been completed this is then signed off by the Headteacher/DSL.

Sports clubs and extracurricular activities

Clubs and extracurricular activities hosted by external bodies, e.g. charities or companies, will work in collaboration with the school to effectively safeguard pupils and adhere to local safeguarding arrangements.

Paid and volunteer staff running sports clubs and extracurricular activities are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and promote the welfare of pupils.

Paid and volunteer staff understand how they should respond to child protection concerns and how to make a referral to CSCS or the police, if necessary.

All national governing bodies of sport that receive funding from either Sport England or UK Sport, must aim to meet the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport.

Storage of School records

We ensure that all information is kept confidential at all times and paper records are kept in a locked cabinet in a locked cupboard. The DSL and deputies only have access to this. Alongside this record keeping the school uses CPOMS which is a safeguarding and Child Protection software for schools. Appropriate access is given to members of the pastoral team. All Records are kept for 25 years in accordance to UK GDPR.

Transfer of records

When a student transfers to another school the new school is contacted and the records are delivered by hand if the school is local or sent by recorded delivery. CPOMS automatically transfers the record if the new school has CPOMS also. This will occur within 5 days of a transfer in-year or within the first 5 days of a start of a term for new starters.

When a student transfers to our school from another school a letter requesting a student's CP record is sent to their previous school.

SECTION D: Safeguarding procedures and protocols

Receiving Disclosures

Below is advice on protocols staff should follow when receiving a disclosure:

Receive

- Listen, try not to look shocked or be judgmental
- Believe what they say, accept what they say and take it seriously
- Don't make them feel bad by saying "you should have told me earlier"
- Don't 'interrogate' them – let them tell you, try not to interrupt
- Note the date and time, what was done, who did it, and where it took place
- Don't criticise the perpetrator
- Don't ask leading questions – use 'open' questions to clarify only (T.E.D)

Tell me what you mean by that?
Explain that to me
Describe that….

Reassure

- Stay calm, tell the young person they've done the right thing in telling you
- Reassure them they are not to blame
- Empathise – don't tell them how they should be feeling
- Don't promise confidentiality, explain who needs to know
- Explain what you'll do next
- Be honest about what you can do

Report and Record

- Make a Brief, accurate, timely and factual record
- Discuss with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or their Deputy, without delay
- The DSL will assess the situation and decide on the next steps

Things to include:

- Time and full date of disclosure/incident and the time and full date the record was made
- An accurate record of what was said or seen, using the child's words as appropriate
- Whether it is 1st or 2nd hand information
- Whether the child was seen/spoken to
- Whether information is fact/ professional judgement
- Full names and roles/status of anyone identified in the report
- Sign the record with a legible signature.
- Record actions agreed with/by the Designated Lead (SMART)
- Avoid acronyms/jargon/abbreviations

Review records regularly; add any new concerns and respond to these immediately.

Staff Referral

If a member of staff has any concern about a child's welfare, they will act on them immediately by speaking to the DSL or a deputy. However if the concern does not require immediate action and can be addressed by the end of the day staff can either email or fill out the Child Protection concern form, see APPENDIX 1.

Members of staff also need to record on CPOMS there concerns and alert DSL

If a pupil is in immediate danger, a referral will be made to CSCS and/or the police immediately.

If a pupil has committed a crime, such as sexual violence, the police will be notified without delay.

Where there are safeguarding concerns, the school will ensure that the pupil's wishes are always taken into account, and that there are systems available for pupils to provide feedback and express their views.

When responding to safeguarding concerns, staff members will act calmly and supportively, ensuring that the pupil feels like they are being listened to and believed.

Staff referrals direct to social services or the police

Anyone can refer a safeguarding concern direct to the social or the police. They do not have to refer via the DSL. If a referral is made about a child by anyone other than the DSL, the DSL will be informed as soon as possible.

Direct referrals can be made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01904 551900.

Staff actions following a referral to social services

Staff are required to monitor a referral if they do not receive information from the LA regarding what action is necessary for the pupil.

If the situation does not improve after a referral, the DSL will ask for reconsideration to ensure that their concerns have been addressed and that the situation improves for the pupil.

If early help is appropriate, the case will be kept under constant review. If the pupil's situation does not improve, a referral will be considered.

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, as well as the reasons for making those decisions, will be recorded in writing by the DSL on the schools safeguarding database CPOMS.

Managing referrals

The reporting and referral process outlined in Appendix 2 will be followed accordingly.

All staff members, in particular the DSL, will be aware of the LA's arrangements in place for managing referrals. The DSL will provide staff members with clarity and support where needed.

When making a referral to CSCS or other external agencies, information will be shared in line with confidentiality requirements and will only be shared where necessary to do so.

The DSL will work alongside external agencies, maintaining continuous liaison, including multi-agency liaison where appropriate, in order to ensure the wellbeing of the pupils involved.

The DSL will work closely with the police to ensure the school does not jeopardise any criminal proceedings, and to obtain help and support as necessary.

Where a pupil has been harmed or is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, the referrer will be notified of the action that will be taken within one working day of a referral being made. Where this information is not forthcoming, the referrer will contact the assigned social worker for more information.

The school will not wait for the start or outcome of an investigation before protecting the victim and other pupils: this applies to criminal investigations as well as those made by CSCS.

Where CSCS decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate, the school will consider referring the incident again if it is believed that the pupil is at risk of harm.

Where CSCS decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate and the school agrees with this decision, the school will consider the use of other support mechanisms, such as early help and pastoral support.

At all stages of the reporting and referral process, the pupil will be informed of the decisions made, actions taken and reasons for doing so.

Discussions of concerns with parents will only take place where this would not put the pupil or others at potential risk of harm.

The school will work closely with parents to ensure that the pupil, as well as their family, understands that the arrangements in place, such as in-school interventions, are effectively supported and know where they can access additional support.

Supporting staff

We recognise that staff working in the school who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm may find the situation stressful and upsetting.

We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the DSLs and to seek further support as appropriate.

The DSL and deputies have the opportunity to receive ‘Supervision’. This can be in the form of peer ‘supervision’ or from an external source.

Early help

All staff understand the Rufforth Primary School Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures; to ensure that the needs of our children are effectively assessed; decisions are based on a child’s development needs, parenting capacity and family & environmental factors. We ensure that the most appropriate referrals are made. We actively support multi-agency planning for these children and, in doing so, provide information from the child’s point of view; bringing their lived experience to life as evidenced by observations or information provided. Staff know how to pass on any concerns no matter how trivial they seem.

Staff members always act in the interests of the child and are aware of their responsibility to take action as outlined in this policy. In our school staff are aware that they must be prepared to identify those children who may benefit from early help.

If there are concerns about a child’s welfare that do not meet the thresholds of child abuse the school will consider whether the Early Help approach should be considered. Staff are aware that early identification of concerns and the use of Early Help to develop a multi-agency plan for the child can reduce the risk of subsequent abuse.

Our school is an Operation Encompass school which means that we are able to give proactive support to those children and their families where Domestic abuse is identified. Operation Encompass information is sent to the DSL who puts the information on to the secure data base of CPOMS.

If a member of staff has concerns about a child they will need to decide what action to take. Where possible, there should be a conversation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead to agree a course of action, although any staff member can make a referral to children’s social care//contact the police. Other options could include referral to specialist services or early help services - Local Area Team and should be made in accordance with the referral threshold set by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. In the first instance staff should discuss early help requirements with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Where early help and or other support is appropriate we ensure that the case is kept under constant review. If the child's situation doesn't appear to be improving we take appropriate action.

The children in our school are made aware that there are adults whom they can approach if worried or in difficulty.

There is adequate signposting to external sources of support and advice for staff, parents and pupils. There are notices around the school with information on who the DSL and deputies are, information in the staff room and around the school for Early Help. Information on visitor's lanyards of DSL and procedures.

Inter-agency working

The school contributes to inter-agency working as part of its statutory duty.

The school is aware of the expected timeline for its LSCB to fully transition to a new system of three safeguarding partners.

The school will work with CSCS, the police, health services and other services to protect the welfare of its pupils, through the early help process and by contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support.

Where a need for early help is identified, the school will allow access for CSCS from the host LA and, where appropriate, a placing LA, for that LA to conduct (or consider whether to conduct) a section 17 or 47 assessment.

The school recognises the importance of proactive information sharing between professionals and local agencies in order to effectively meet pupils' needs and identify any need for early help.

Staff members are aware that whilst the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 place a duty on schools to process personal information fairly and lawfully, they also allow for information to be stored and shared for safeguarding purposes – data protection regulations do not act as a barrier to sharing information where failure to do so would result in the pupil being placed at risk of harm.

Staff members will ensure that fear of sharing information does not stand in the way of their responsibility to promote the welfare and safety of pupils.

If staff members are in doubt about sharing information, they will speak to the DSL or deputy DSL.

The school also recognises the particular importance of inter-agency working in identifying and preventing child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Working with Outside agencies

Very few staff will ever have to work with outside agencies, (e.g. CAMHS, Police, Children's Services, CIN Workers, Youth Workers, YOT workers, IDAS workers, Lifeline), if you have contact with outside agencies then you need to ensure that our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is fully aware and that if they visit school for a meeting with a student the following procedures are followed:

- Inform our DSL
- DSL will book a suitable room
- DSL will inform the office
- The office will check they have proof of identification and are allocated a white lanyard.
- DSL will ensure if it is a regular meeting it is held at a different time each week to avoid the same lesson being missed.
- DSL will act as the appropriate adult if a student is being interviewed by the police and parents cannot attend.

Working with the police

The following is the school's policy for working with the police.

We will…

- Share students names and addresses to identify suspects and to help safeguard students
- We will accommodate the police when wanting to interview students in school. On these occasions the police seek parental permission and if a parent cannot attend then DSL or a suitable MOS must be in the interview.

We will not…

- divulge any information that we feel is not relevant .

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (2015) supports frontline practitioners, working in child or adult services, who have to make decisions about sharing personal information on a case by case basis. The advice includes the seven golden rules for sharing information effectively and can be used to supplement local guidance and encourage good practice in information sharing.

EHA, Child in Need and Child Protection

In our school we ensure that we follow the Local Authority children's services protocols and practices and work, on behalf of our students and families, is of a consistently good standard. We use these standards to challenge other workers on behalf of children and young people where the standards are not being met.

Concerns about staff members and safeguarding practices

If a staff member has concerns about another member of staff, it will be raised with the Headteacher and LADO.

If the concern is with regards to the Headteacher, it will be referred to the Chair of Governors and LADO.

Any concerns regarding the safeguarding practices at the school will be raised with the SLT, and the necessary whistleblowing procedures will be followed, as outlined in the Whistleblowing Policy.

If a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with the SLT, they should access other whistleblowing channels such as the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline (0800 028 0285).

Any allegations of abuse made against staff members will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Whistle blowing Policy.

Any concerns or allegations which do not meet the harm threshold will be dealt with as a low-level concern following the trust's Low-level Concerns Policy and Managing Allegations Made Against Staff Policy.

Responding to allegations of abuse against staff

We will ensure that child protection type concerns or allegations against adults working in the school are referred to the LADO for advice, and that any member of staff found not suitable to work with children will be notified to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for consideration for barring, following resignation, dismissal, or when we cease to use their service as a result of a substantiated allegation, in the case of a volunteer.

All allegations against staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors will be managed in line with the Trust's Managing Allegations Made Against Staff Policy – a copy of which will be provided to, and understood by, all staff. The school will ensure all allegations against staff, including those who are not employees of the school, are dealt with appropriately and that the school liaises with the relevant parties.

When managing allegations against staff, the school will recognise the distinction between allegations that meet the harms threshold and allegations that do not, also known as "low-level concerns", as defined in the Low Level Concerns Policy. Allegations that meet the harms threshold include instances where staff have:

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

When an allegation or concern is made against a member of school staff, relating to the person's conduct towards a child, the following process **must be followed**.

- The allegation or concern must immediately be reported to the Headteacher/DSL.
- If the allegation or concern relates to the Headteacher, the matter must be reported to the Chair of Governors.
- If the allegation or concern fits with the scope of the guidance, the Headteacher/DSL must report the matter to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within the same working day.
- The LADO will discuss the matter with the Headteacher in order to decide which process should be followed. Where it is believed that allegation falls within the scope of the guidance, there are three possible strands to enquiries that may be initiated:
    - Child protection
    - Criminal enquiries
    - Disciplinary
- If the matter is felt to constitute a criminal offence the police will be informed and a strategy meeting held.
- If the matter is felt to be child protection, Children and Family Services will be informed and a strategy meeting held.
- If the matter is felt to amount to an employment or capability issue the matter will be discussed with the MAT's Human Resource department.
- Strategy meetings are convened by Children and Family Services/Local Authority Local Area Teams and involve the relevant agencies, including the Headteacher. The purpose of the strategy meeting is to agree the strategy of the investigation and to ensure that each agency works together. The meeting will always consider the most appropriate support needed for the child and the alleged person.

Transferable risk

Transferable risk covers the behaviour of staff or volunteers outside of the school setting that could impact on their suitability to work with children e.g. domestic abuse. The trust and school leaders will create the right culture and environment so that staff feel comfortable to discuss matters both within, and where it is appropriate, outside of the workplace (including online), which may have implications for the safeguarding of children.

Communication and confidentiality

All child protection and safeguarding concerns will be treated in the strictest of confidence in accordance with the Data Protection policy.

Where there is an allegation or incident of sexual abuse or violence, the victim is entitled to anonymity by law; therefore, the school will consult its policy and agree what information will be disclosed to staff and others, in particular the alleged perpetrator and their parents.

Where a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system, the school will do all it can to protect the anonymity of the pupils involved in the case.

If a victim asks the school not to tell anyone about the sexual violence or sexual harassment:

- There's no definitive answer, because even if a victim doesn't consent to sharing information, staff may still lawfully share it if there's another legal basis under the UK GDPR that applies.
- The DSL will have to balance the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and other children.
- The DSL should consider that:
    - Parents or carers should normally be informed (unless this would put the victim at greater risk).
    - The basic safeguarding principle is: if a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger, or has been harmed, a referral should be made to Local Authority children's social care.
    - Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault are crimes. Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, this should be referred to the police. While the age of criminal responsibility is 10, if the alleged perpetrator is under 10, the starting principle of referring to the police remains.

Concerns will only be reported to those necessary for its progression and reports will only be shared amongst staff members and with external agencies on a need-to-know basis.

During disclosure of a concern by a pupil, staff members will not promise the pupil confidentiality and will ensure that they are aware of what information will be shared, with whom and why.

Where it is in the public interest, and protects pupils from harm, information can be lawfully shared without the victim's consent, e.g. if doing so would assist the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime.

- Before doing so, the DSL will weigh the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and others.
- Where a referral is made against the victim's wishes, it is done so carefully with the reasons for the referral explained to the victim and specialist support offered.

Depending on the nature of a concern, the DSL will discuss the concern with the parents of the pupils involved.

Discussions with parents will not take place where they could potentially put a pupil at risk of harm.

Discussion with the victim's parents will relate to the arrangements being put in place to safeguard the victim, with the aim of understanding their wishes in terms of support arrangements and the progression of the report.

Discussion with the alleged perpetrator's parents will have regards to the arrangements that will impact their child, such as moving classes etc. with the reasons behind decisions being explained and the available support discussed.

External agencies will be invited to these discussions where necessary.

Where confidentiality or anonymity has been breached, the school will implement the appropriate disciplinary procedures as necessary and will analyse how damage can be minimised and future breaches be prevented.

Where a pupil is leaving the school, the DSL will consider whether it is appropriate to share any information with the pupil's new provider, in addition to the child protection file, that will allow the new provider to support the pupil and arrange appropriate support for their arrival.

Regarding anonymity, all staff will:

- Be aware of anonymity, witness support and the criminal process in general where an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system.
- Do all they reasonably can to protect the anonymity of any children involved in any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment, for example, carefully considering which staff should know about the report, and any support for children involved.
- Consider the potential impact of social media in facilitating the spreading of rumours and exposing victims' identities.

The government's information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners includes 7 'golden rules' for sharing information, and will support staff who have to make decisions about sharing information.

If staff are in any doubt about sharing information, they should speak to the DSL (or deputy).

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed at least annually by the DSL and the Headteacher. This policy will be updated as needed to ensure it is up-to-date with safeguarding issues as they emerge and evolve, including any lessons learnt.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff. All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with all processes and procedures outlined in this policy as part of their induction programme.

APPENDIX 1: Child Protection Referral Form

Please record all concerns on your school's "Child Protection Concern Form".

Students Name: _____ Form: _____

Date of referral: _____ Time of referral: _____

Referred to: _____ Method of referral: _____

Member of Staff making referral: _____

Detailed account of concern and any conversation(s) held:

Date (information given): _____ Time (information given): _____

Please continue on back and separate piece of paper as required

Action Taken:

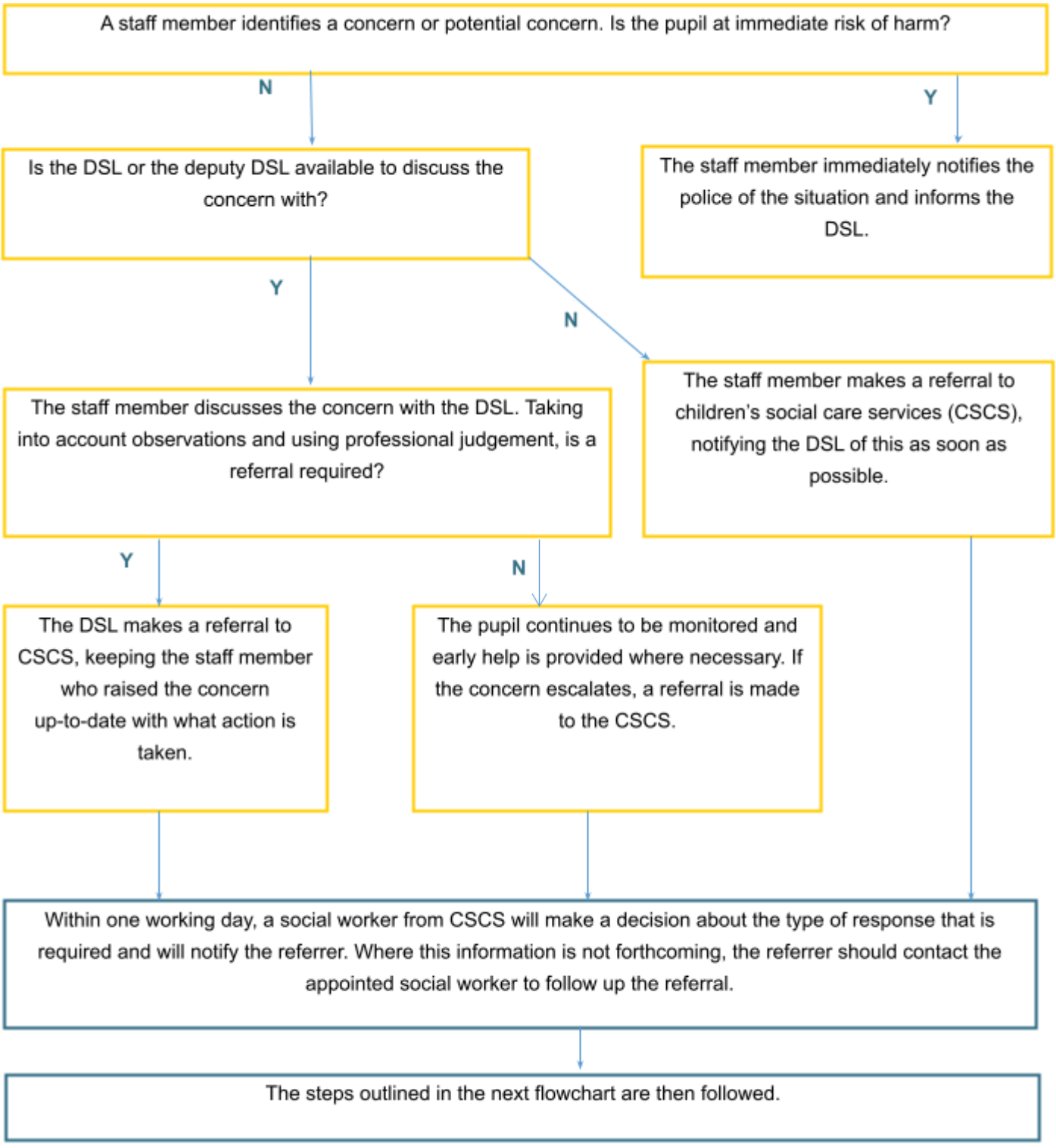
Recorded on CPOMs: Yes - No HOY informed: Yes – No – N/A FT informed: Yes – No – N/A

APPENDIX 2: Safeguarding Reporting Process

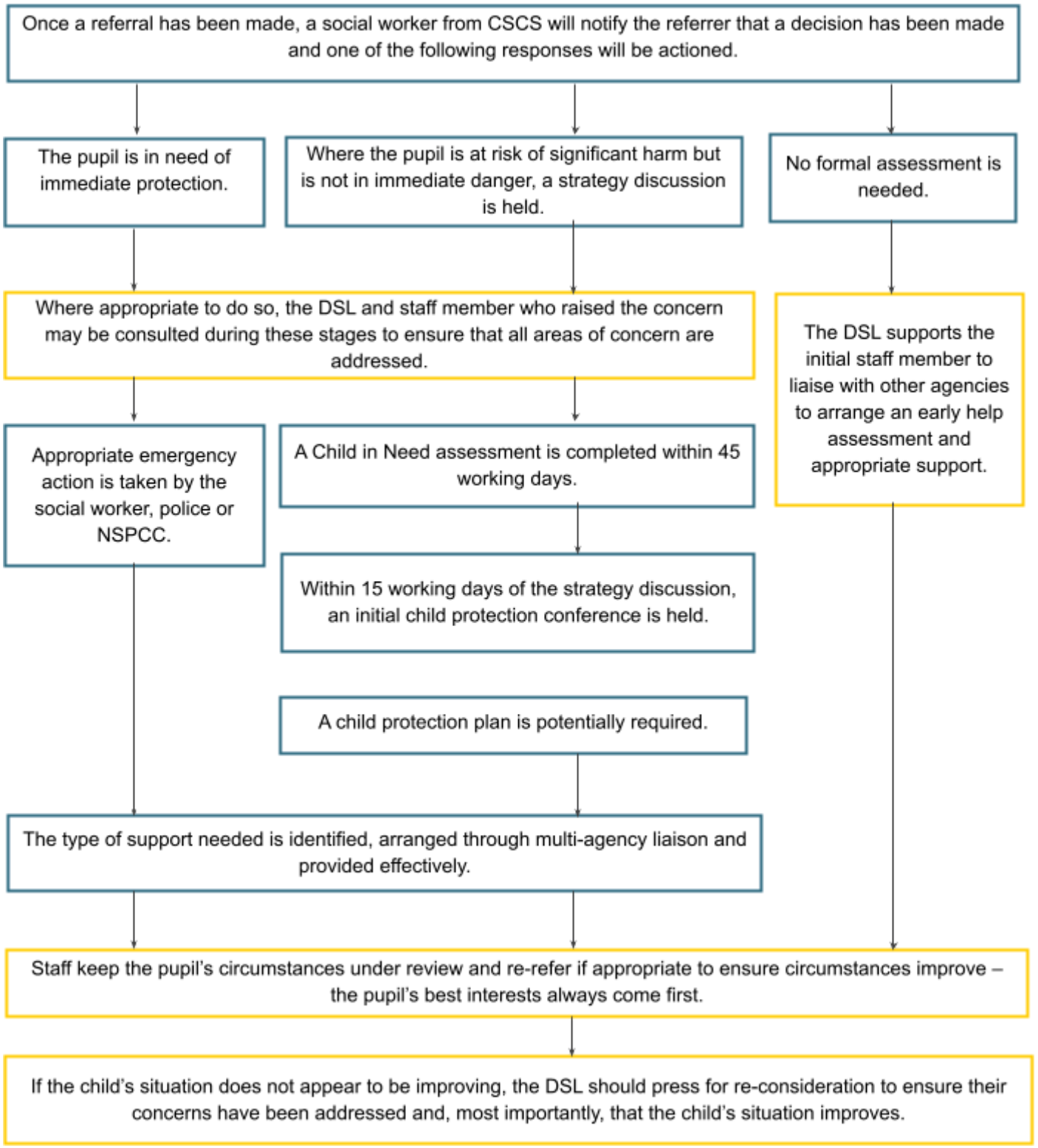
The process outlined within the first section should be followed where a staff member has a safeguarding concern about a child. Where a referral has been made, the process outlined in the 'After a referral is made' section should be followed.

The actions taken by the school are outlined in yellow, whereas actions taken by another agency are outlined in blue.

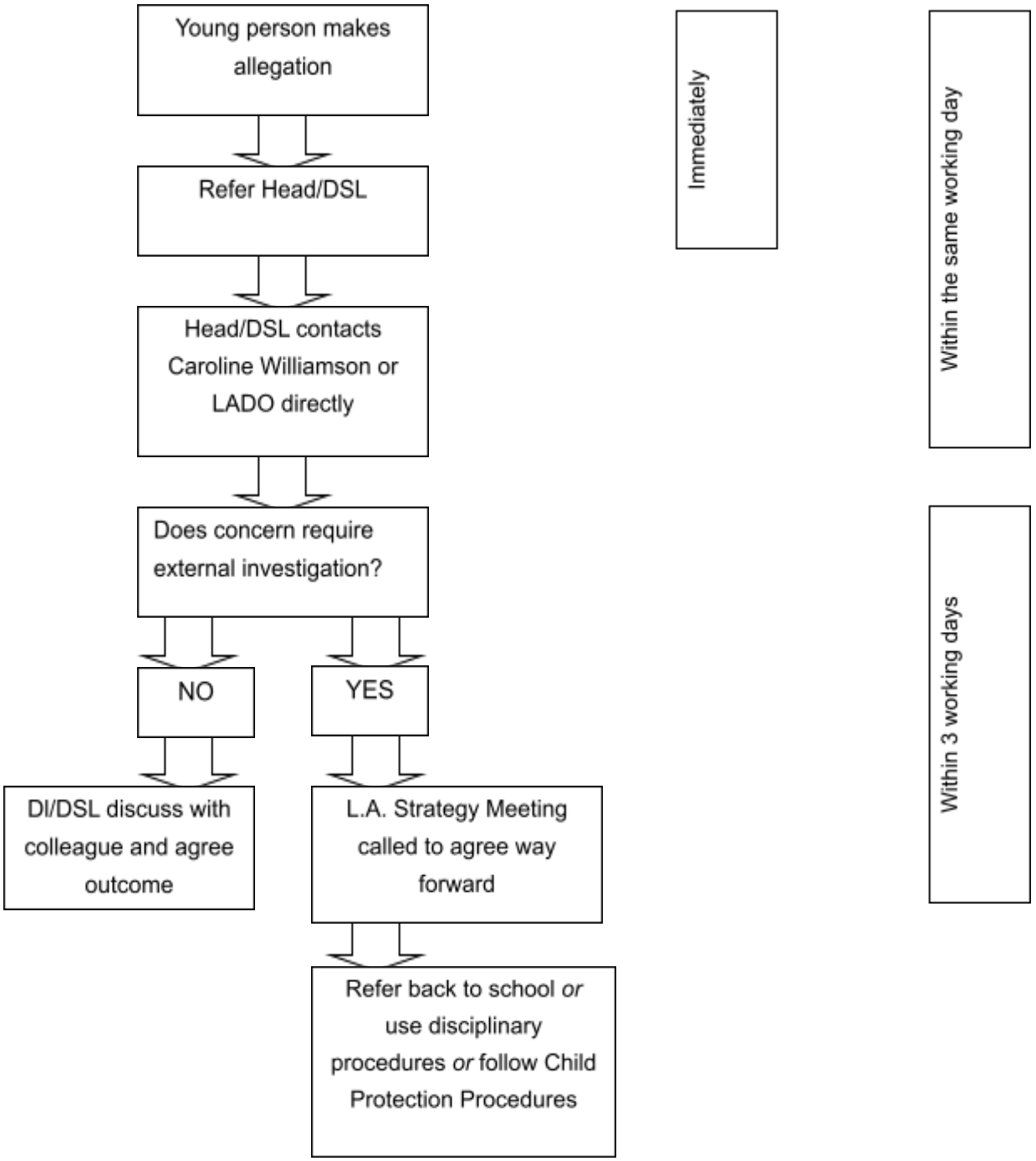
Before a referral is made



After a referral is made



Appendix 3: Allegation against a member of school staff flow diagram



Appendix 4: Contacts and Advice

Expert organisations

- Barnardo's
- Lucy Faithfull Foundation
- NSPCC
- Rape Crisis
- University of Bedfordshire: Contextual Safeguarding
- UK Safer Internet Centre

Support for victims

- Anti-Bullying Alliance
- MoJ Victim Support
- Rape Crisis
- The Survivor's Trust
- Victim Support

Toolkits

- Brook
- Safeguarding Unit, Farrer and Co, and Carlene Firmin, MBE, University of Bedfordshire

Further information on confidentiality and information sharing

- Gillick Competency Fraser Guidelines
- Government Information Sharing Advice
- NSPCC: Things to Know and Consider

Further information on sexting

- UK Council for Child Internet Safety: Sexting Advice
- London Grid for Learning – Collection of Advice

Support for parents

- Parentzone
- Parentsafe – London Grid for Learning
- CEOP Thinkuknow – Challenging Harmful Sexual Attitudes and their Impact
- CEOP Thinkuknow – Supporting Positive Sexual Behaviour