



Safeguarding Guide

23-24

Phoenix Park & Sevenhills Academies

“ 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 order to fulfil this **responsibility** effectively, **all** practitioners should make sure their approach is **child-centred**. This means that they **should** consider, at all times, **what** is in the **best** interests of the **child**. ”

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment.
- Preventing harm to children's health or development.
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

Safeguarding Team:

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Categories of Abuse



Physical:

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



Emotional:

- the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development.
- It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved.
- It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.
- It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.
- It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.



Sexual:

- involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.
- The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse.
- Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse.



Neglect:

- the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.
- Neglect may occur during pregnancy, for example, as a result of maternal substance abuse.
- Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter.

Signs of Safety

There are many different signs and symptoms depending on the type of abuse being suffered from. Here are some of the main ones to look out for:

Physical Abuse

Signs and symptoms of physical abuse include:

- Unexplained injury or injury that is not consistent with the explanation given.
- Unexplained fractures/repeated admissions to hospital.
- Flinching when approached/being unwilling to cooperate with personal care.
- Bruising suggesting systematic injury, or the shape of objects or finger marks.

Psychological (emotional) abuse

Signs and symptoms of psychological abuse include:

- Having an important impact on mental health, behaviour and self-esteem.
- Is especially damaging in infancy.
- May be more significant than other, more visible, forms of abuse in terms of its long-term impact.
- May be an element of domestic abuse, with symptoms including poor self-esteem, mental health problems and substance misuse.

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Sexual Abuse

Signs and symptoms of sexual abuse include:

- Disturbed behaviour such as self-harm, inappropriate sexual behaviour, sadness, depression and loss of self-esteem.
- More severe the longer the abuse occurs or occurred.
- Severity of the impact is linked to the extent or the pre-meditation, degree of threat, coercion, sadism and bizarre or unusual elements.

Neglect

Signs and symptoms of neglect include:

- Constant hunger.
- Poor personal hygiene/dental health.
- Constant tiredness.
- Inadequate and/or dirty ill- fitting clothing.
- Missed medical /dental appointments.
- Compulsive stealing/scavenging.

Other areas to consider:

- Harmful Sexual Behaviours
- Child on child Abuse
- CSE
- CCE
- FGM
- Force Marriage
- Grooming
- Domestic Abuse
- Radicalisation/Extremism/PREVENT
- Online Safety
- Mental Health



What is Harmful Sexual Behaviours?

Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour displayed by children and young people which is harmful or abusive. HSB can take many forms, this can include (but is not limited to):

- Sexist or homophobic name calling and bullying.
- Sexual comments in person and on social media.
- Rumours about other students' sexual activity.
- Controlling behaviour in relationships, including pressure from partners to share social media passwords and to take down images they didn't like.
- Pressure to send sexual photos by another student.
- Inappropriate or unwanted touching or groping.
- Pressure to perform sexual acts.

What is child on child abuse?

Children can abuse other children, this is generally referred to as child on child abuse and can take many forms, this can include (but is not limited to):

- Bullying (including cyberbullying, homophobic bullying, sexual, sexist and transphobic bullying, disablist bullying).
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm.
- Sexting.
- Initiating / hazing type violence and rituals.

Types of exploitation [CCE/CSE]

Child Criminal Exploitation:

- Criminal exploitation is child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes.
- CCE can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing.
- They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others.
- **Signs of CCE include:**
 - Frequently absent from and doing badly in school.
 - Going missing from home, staying out late and travelling for unexplained reasons.
 - In a relationship or hanging out with someone older than them.
 - Being isolated or withdrawn.
 - Having unexplained money and buying new things.
 - Having more than one mobile phone.
 - Spending more time on social media and being secretive about time online.
 - Taking drugs and abusing alcohol.
 - Unexplained injuries and refusing to seek medical help.
 - Carrying weapons.

Child Sexual Exploitation:

- Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity.
- The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.
- CSE may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse including via the internet.
- **Signs of CSE include:**
 - Unhealthy or inappropriate sexual behaviour.
 - Being frightened of some people, places or situations.
 - Being secretive.
 - Sharp changes in mood or character.
 - Having money or things they can't or won't explain.
 - Physical signs of abuse, like bruises or bleeding in their genital or anal area.
 - Alcohol or drug misuse.
 - Sexually transmitted infections.
 - Pregnancy.

FGM & Forced Marriage

Female Genital Mutilation:

- FGM is when a female's genitals are deliberately altered or removed for non-medical reasons. It's also known as 'female circumcision' or 'cutting'.
- It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.
- Facts regarding FGM are that; there are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It's often performed by someone with no medical training, using instruments such as knives, scalpels, scissors, glass or razor blades. Children are rarely given anaesthetic or antiseptic treatment and are often forcibly restrained. It's used to control female sexuality and can cause long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.
- **Signs of FMG include:**
 - A relative or someone known as a 'cutter' visiting from abroad.
 - A special occasion or ceremony takes place where a girl 'becomes a woman' or is 'prepared for marriage'.
 - A female relative, like a mother, sister or aunt has undergone FGM.
 - A family arranges a long holiday overseas or visits a family abroad during the summer holidays.
 - A girl has an unexpected or long absence from school.
 - A girl runs away – or plans to run away - from home.

Forced Marriage:

- A forced marriage is one 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 a marriage.
- Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological.
- Some communities use religion and culture as a way to coerce a person into marriage.
- Most cases of forced marriage involve girls and young women aged between 13 and 30, although victims can be male. Some forced marriages take place in the UK and may involve a partner coming from overseas, and others may involve a British citizen being sent abroad.
- Parents who force their children to marry may seek to justify their behaviour, believing that it protects their children, preserves cultural and/or religious traditions, and caters for stronger family relationships.
- Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales.
- **Signs of a forced marriage include:**
 - Absence from school.
 - Request for extended leave / home education.
 - Failure to return from visit to country of origin.
 - Surveillance by family.
 - Deterioration in behaviour, achievement or punctuality.

Grooming & Domestic Abuse

Grooming:

- Grooming is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them.
- Children and young people can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know.
- Anybody can be a groomer, no matter their age, gender or race. Grooming can take place over a short or long period of time – from weeks to years. Groomers may also build a relationship with the young person's family or friends to make them seem trustworthy or authoritative..
- **Signs of grooming include:**
 - Being very secretive about how they're spending their time, including when online.
 - Having an older boyfriend or girlfriend.
 - Having money or new things like clothes and mobile phones that they can't or won't explain.
 - Underage drinking or drug taking.
 - Spending more or less time online or on their devices.
 - Being upset, withdrawn or distressed.
 - Sexualised behaviour, language or an understanding of sex that's not appropriate for their age.
 - Spending more time away from home or going missing for periods of time.

Domestic Abuse:

- Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship.
- It's important to remember domestic abuse:
 - can happen inside and outside the home
 - can happen over the phone, on the internet and on social networking sites
 - can happen in any relationship and can continue even after the relationship has ended
 - both men and women can be abused or abusers.
- Domestic abuse can be emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological.
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- Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales.
- **Signs of a forced marriage include:**
 - Absence from school.
 - Request for extended leave / home education.
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Radicalisation/Extremism/PREVENT

- Radicalisation is a process by which a student could come to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals.
- The internet, in particular social media, is being used as a channel to promote and engage. Often this promotion glorifies violence, attracting and influencing many people including children and in the extreme cases, radicalising them.
- PREVENT is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. PREVENT is an element of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Signs of Radicalisation & Extremism include:

- Withdrawal from family and friends, or changing circle of friends.
- Hostility towards others.
- Talking as if from a script.
- Being unwilling to discuss their views.
- Increased levels of anger.
- Being secretive, particularly around what they are doing on the internet.
- Using extremist terms to exclude people or incite violence.
- Expressing the values of extremist or terrorist organisations (including political or religious based grievances).
- Supporting violence and terrorism towards other cultures, nationalities, or religions.
- Writing or creating artwork that promotes extremist values.
- Talking about being a 'martyr'.
- Possession of extremist literature or other material, or trying to access extremist websites.
- Possession of any material about weapons, explosives, or military training.

Online Safety: Think about the FOUR C's!

1. **Content**: is a child being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism?
1. **Contact**: is a child 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'?
1. **Conduct**: are personal online behaviours increasing 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?
1. **Commerce**: is a child involved with risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams?

Mental Health

- Mental health is as important to a child's safety and wellbeing as their physical health. It can impact on all aspects of their life, including their educational attainment, relationships and physical wellbeing. Mental health can also change over time, to varying degrees of seriousness, and for different reasons.
- Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour, and education.

Signs of child mental health issues:

- Sudden mood and behaviour changes.
- Self-harming.
- Unexplained physical changes, such as weight loss or gain.
- Sudden poor academic behaviour or performance.
- Sleeping problems.
- Changes in social habits, such as withdrawal or avoidance of friends and family.

If a child makes a disclosure to you...

If a child make a disclosure to you it's important to:

1. Listen carefully to what they're saying.
2. Let them know they've done the right thing by telling you.
3. Tell them it's not their fault.
4. Say you'll take them seriously.
5. Don't confront the alleged abuser.
6. Explain what you'll do next.
7. Never promise to keep things confidential, informing them that you will need to share your concern.
8. Report what the child has told you as soon as possible (CPOMS, DSL)

Managing disclosures;

1. Receive

- ✓ Listen actively, open body language, accept, non judgmental.

2. Reassure

- ✓ 'You've done the right thing by coming to me'.
- ✓ Reassure child that you have listened and hear what they are saying; don't promise what can't be delivered.

3. Respond

- ✓ Tell what you are going to do and do it.
- ✓ Ensure child is okay before leaving.

4. Report

- ✓ As soon as possible, to DSL.
- ✓ Record on CPOMS
- ✓ Vital – facts, no opinions.
- ✓ When? Where? Who? What?

Duty of Care: Let children know you're listening!

Show you care, help them **open up**

- Give them your full attention and keep your body language open and encouraging. Be compassionate, be understanding and reassure them their feelings are important. Phrases like “you’ve shown such courage today”.

Take your time, **slow down**

- Respect pauses and don’t interrupt them – let them go at their own pace. Recognise and respond to their body language, and remember that it may take several conversations for them to share what’s happened to them.

Show you understand, **reflect back**

- Make it clear you’re interested in what they’re telling you. Reflect back what they’ve said to check your understanding – and use their language to show it’s their experience.

Our Safeguarding Culture

- Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all our children. Each child's welfare is of paramount importance.
- As a school we are committed to putting the child at the heart of any procedures that operate.
- We will always take a considered and sensitive approach in order that we can support all our children. Safeguarding is at the heart of how we run our schools.

Low Level Concerns -

What are low level concerns ?

What is a low level concern ?

Is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work

Doesn't meet the threshold of harm or is not considered serious enough for the school or college to refer to the LADO .

Examples -

Being over-friendly with children

Having favourites

Engaging with a child one to one in a secluded area

Using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating, or offensive language

Reporting -

Please follow the Low Level Concern procedure set out in the CP Policy or speak to the Executive Principal/ Vice Principals/ DSL for advice and guidance .

Our investment in you and safeguarding training

Within 6 months you will have completed -

Safeguarding Induction - with a DSL within the first week

Meet the DSL and team

Introduction to CPOMS

KCSiE 2023 update (National College)

Basic Child Protection training (National College)

Prevent (Wellspring)

FGM (National College)

Online Safety (National College)

Child Exploitation - Criminal and Sexual (National College)

Domestic Abuse (National College)

Child on Child (National College)

Sexual Violence (National College)

Regular updates / Bulletins are provided by the DSL in terms of local themes, early help and referral process.