



Child Protection Framework Policy for Schools

Revised September 2021

Speen CE Combined School

***May our roots go down deep into the soil of God's love and make us strong
Ephesians 3 v 17***

***Our vision is to be a happy, vibrant and caring school with deep roots in the Christian faith,
so all grow and flourish (spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally).***

This policy was reviewed in the light of the
updated Keeping Children Safe In Education 2021 national document
and the Bucks template policy for Child Protection 2021.

It is the governing body's responsibility to ensure that the policy is reviewed annually.

This policy was adopted on (date).....

The policy is to be reviewed by (date).....

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1. Contacts

School contacts

Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Mrs J Coles
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)	Mrs D Hayman
Nominated Safeguarding Governor	Dr E Barrett
Chair of Governors	Dr E Barrett

Contacts in County

Education Safeguarding Advisory Service ESAS offers support to education providers to assist them to deliver effectively on all aspects of their safeguarding responsibilities.	01296 387981
First Response Team (including Early Help, Channel) The First Response Team process all new referrals to social care, including children with disabilities. Referrals are assessed by the team to check the seriousness and urgency of the concerns and whether Section 17 and/or Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 apply. The First Response Team will ensure that the referral reaches the appropriate team for assistance in a quick and efficient manner.	01296 383962 Out of hours 0800 999 7677
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) The Buckinghamshire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is responsible for overseeing the management of all allegations against people in a position of trust who work with children in Buckinghamshire on either a paid or voluntary basis	01296 382070
Bucks Family Information Service Information for families on a range of issues including childcare, finances, parenting and education	01296 383065
Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Procedures, policies and practice guidelines	
Schools Web School bulletin, Safeguarding links, A-Z guide to information and services	
Buckinghamshire Council Equalities & School Improvement Manager	01296 382461
Buckinghamshire Council Prevent Co-ordinator	01296 674784
Thames Valley Police	101 (999 in case of emergency)

Other contacts

NSPCC NSPCC	0800 800 5000
Childline Childline	0800 11 11
Kidscape – Parent Advice Line (bullying) (Mon-Weds from 9:30am to 2:30pm) Kidscape	020 7823 5430
Female Genital Mutilation Helpline (NSPCC) NSPCC FGM Helpline	0800 028 3550 fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk
Samaritans - Helpline Samaritans	116 123
Forced Marriages Unit - Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced marriage - GOV.UK	020 7008 0151 fmufco.gov.uk
Crimestoppers Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
R-U Safe? Barnardos - Children/Young People Sexual Exploitation Service Barnardos RUSafe Bucks	01494 785 552
CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection)	

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies and other policies you feel it would be useful to refer to:

- Anti-bullying
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Children Looked After
- Equality
- Lettings
- SEN/Inclusion
- Health & Safety (including managing children with medical needs)
- Photographic images
- E-Safety (Acceptable use of IT)
- Staff Code of Conduct
- PSHE & RSE
- RE
- Visitors
- Whistleblowing

- Safer Recruitment
- Record Keeping

Definitions

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing 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.

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process and it refers to the procedures undertaken to protect individual children who have been identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child and may involve inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Further information regarding the categories of abuse can be found in the appendix to this document.

Children includes everyone under the age of 18

2. Introduction

2.1. At Speen School we believe that a policy on child protection is founded on the right of all children to be safe. We expect all members of the school community including staff, governors, supply staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Every member of the school community is responsible for contributing to a positive culture of safeguarding.

The aim of this policy is to provide staff, supply staff, governors and volunteers with the framework they need to keep children in Speen School safe and secure and to provide parents and carers with the information about how we will safeguard their children whilst in our care.

This policy has been developed in accordance with following legislation and guidance:

- Children Act 1989 (amended 2004)
- "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018" - July 2018 [Working Together To Safeguard Children July 2018](#)
- "Keeping Children Safe in Education"- statutory guidance for schools and further education colleges - Sept 2021 [Keeping Children in Education 2021](#)
- Information Sharing Guidance for Safeguarding Practitioners [Information Sharing Guidance](#) – DfE July 2018
- Children Missing Education; Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities - Sept 2016 [Children missing education - GOV.UK](#)
- Statutory Guidance issued under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act - 2015 [Prevent Duty Guidance](#)

- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges – Sept 2021 [Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges](#)
- The Equality Act - 2010 [Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused - March 2015 [What to do if you are worried a child is being abused](#)
- Statutory guidance on FGM [Multi-agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation](#)

2.2. We believe clear governance and leadership is central to embedding a safeguarding culture. The Governing Body takes its responsibility seriously under **section 175 of the Education Act 2002** to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; working together with other agencies to ensure effective and robust arrangements are in place within our school to identify and support those children who are suffering harm or whom may be at risk of harm. Governors will ensure all staff at the school have read and understood their responsibilities pertaining to **Part 1, Part 5 and Annexe B of Keeping Children Safe in Education, Sept 2021**.

2.3. All staff are required to read and adhere to the **Staff Code of Conduct**.

2.4. The school recognises that as well as risks to the welfare of children from within their families, children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation outside their homes and from other children. Staff must remain vigilant and alert to these potential risks.

2.5. The aims of this policy are:

2.5.1. To provide an environment in which children feel safe, secure, valued and [respected](#).

2.5.2. Children feel confident that they can talk to adults within school to share any concerns that they may have.

2.5.3. To ensure all teaching staff, non-teaching staff, supply staff, governors and volunteers:

- are aware of the need to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children
- identify the need for early support
- promptly report concerns, in line with guidance from the Buckinghamshire Continuum of Need
- are trained to recognise signs and indicators of abuse.

2.5.4. For all staff to recognise that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best

outcomes.

- 2.5.5. To provide systematic means of monitoring children known to be, or thought to be at risk of harm and ensure contribution to assessments of need and support plans for those children.
- 2.5.6. To ensure Speen School has a clear system for communicating concerns both internally and with external agencies in line with the Working Together guidance.
- 2.5.7. To ensure the school has robust systems in place to accurately record safeguarding and child protection concerns.
- 2.5.8. To develop effective working relationships with all other agencies involved in safeguarding, supporting the needs of children at our school.
- 2.5.9. To ensure that all staff appointed have been through the safer recruitment process and understand the principles of safer working practices as set out in our **Staff Code of Conduct**.
- 2.5.10. To ensure that any community users of our facilities have due regard to expectations of how they should maintain a safe environment, which supports children's wellbeing.
- 2.5.11. This policy is published on our website, www.speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk/ and hard copies are available from the school office.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1. All staff, supply staff, volunteers, visitors, governors and contractors understand safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. Any person who receives a disclosure of abuse, an allegation or suspects that abuse may have occurred must report it immediately to Name (Designated Safeguarding Lead; DSL) or, in their absence, to Name (Deputy DSL). In the absence of either of the above, concerns will be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff on site. Staff understand that if there is an immediate risk of harm then the police or First Response will be called directly and the DSL will be updated at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.2 Staff must maintain a good working knowledge of the Buckinghamshire Continuum of Need [The Continuum of Need - Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership \(buckssafeguarding.org.uk\)](http://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk) and any updates and how it should be used to inform decision making regarding a referral to First Response.
- 3.3 Staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep both looked after children and previously looked after children safe.
- 3.4 Staff understand vulnerability and that barriers exist when recognising abuse and neglect for children. Consider the following groups who may have increased vulnerability:
 - Young carers

- Children with SEND
- Children living with domestic abuse
- Children whose parents suffer with poor mental health, including substance misuse
- Criminal exploitation, including sexual exploitation, radicalisation and gang involvement
- Look after children and previously look after children
- Children who have a social worker
- Privately fostered children
- Asylum seekers
- So-called Honour Based Violence, including FGM and forced marriage
- Children who frequently go missing or whose attendance is a concern
- Children who are part of the LGBTQ group or who are exploring gender identification
- Children who are at risk of discrimination due to faith and belief, race or ethnicity.

3.5. The Governing Body understands and fulfils its safeguarding responsibilities.

It must:

- 3.5.1.** Ensure that the Headteacher (DSL) and the Deputy DSL create and maintain a strong, positive culture of safeguarding within the school.
- 3.5.2.** Ensure that this policy reflects the unique features of the community we serve and the needs of the pupils attending our provision. This policy will be reviewed at least annually.
- 3.5.3.** Regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this Child Protection Policy.
- 3.5.4.** Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and has the required level of authority and also appoint at least one Deputy DSL. The Headteacher has overall responsibility for safeguarding within the school. The roles and responsibilities of the DSL and Deputy DSL are made explicit in those post-holders' job descriptions.
- 3.5.5.** Recognise the importance of the role of the DSL, ensuring they have sufficient time, training, skills and resources to be effective. Refresher training must be attended every 2 years, in addition knowledge and skills must be refreshed at regular intervals, at least annually.
- 3.5.6.** Ensure measures are in place for the governing body to have oversight of how the school's delivery against its safeguarding responsibilities are exercised and evidenced. Ensure robust structures are in place to challenge the Headteacher where there are any identified gaps in practice or procedures are not followed.

- 3.5.7.** Recognise the vital contribution that the school can make in helping children to keep safe, through incorporation of safeguarding within the curriculum. This will also be taught through the PSHE curriculum and relevant issues through the Relationship Education (primary schools) or Relationship Sex Education (secondary schools, mandatory from Sept. 2020). Ensure that through curriculum content and delivery children understand to keep themselves safe.
- 3.5.8.** Ensure that school is following the statutory RSE guidance –[Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- 3.5.9.** Ensure safe and effective recruitment policies and disciplinary procedures are in place.
- 3.5.10** Ensure resources are allocated to meet the needs of pupils requiring child Protection or early intervention.
- 3.5.11** Ensure the DSL completes an Annual Safeguarding Report for Governors and a copy is shared with the Education Safeguarding Advisory Service at Buckinghamshire Council.
- 3.6.** It is the duty of the Chair of Governors to liaise with relevant agencies if any allegations are made against the Headteacher. If there are concerns that issues are not being progressed in an expedient manner, staff/pupils/parents/carers should escalate concerns to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) via First Response.
- 3.7.** The Governing body must ensure that procedures are in place to manage safeguarding concerns of allegations against staff, supply staff, governors, volunteers, visitors or contractors where they could pose a risk of harm to children. The guidance in Part four of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 must be followed if there were any such concerns. [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#)
- 3.8.** The Governing Body must ensure that a named teacher is designated for Children Looked After and that an up to date list of children who are subject to a Care Order or are accommodated by the County Council is regularly reviewed and updated. The school must work with the Virtual Schools Team to support the educational attainment for those children who are Looked After.
- 3.9.** The governing body has a statutory duty to appoint a Nominated Governor for safeguarding. The Nominated Governor must be familiar with [Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) procedures, Local Authority procedures and guidance issued by the Department for Education. The Nominated Governor must:
- 3.9.1.** Work with the DSL to produce the Child Protection Policy annually.
- 3.9.2.** Undertake appropriate safeguarding training, to include Prevent training.
- 3.9.3.** Ensure child protection is regularly discussed at Governing Body meetings
- 3.9.4.** Meet at least termly with the DSL to review and monitor the school's delivery on its safeguarding responsibilities and to review the Single Central Record.
- 3.9.5.** Take responsibility to ensure that the school is meeting the OFSTED requirements as set out in the inspection guidance:
[Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings](#)

- 3.10.** All governors must complete safeguarding training on appointment, to also include Prevent training.
- 3.11.** The governing body must ensure that relevant staff have due regard to the relevant data protection principles set out in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR, which allow them to share or withhold personal information when it is necessary to safeguard any child.
- 3.12.** We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is responsible for:
- 3.12.1.** Creating a culture of safeguarding within the school, where children are protected from harm. Ensuring all staff receive an effective induction and ongoing training to support them to recognise and report any concerns.
 - 3.12.2.** Ensuring children receive the right help at the right time using the Buckinghamshire Continuum of Need document.
 - 3.12.3.** Ensuring referrals to partner agencies are followed up in writing, including referrals to First Response.
 - 3.12.4.** Establishing a safe and secure system for recording and recording safeguarding and child protection records. These records must be audited regularly to ensure all actions are completed.
 - 3.12.5.** Ensuring all child protection files are held separately from pupils' educational records.
 - 3.12.6.** Maintaining the record for staff safeguarding training. Ensuring that the safeguarding team contact details and photos are displayed in prominent areas around the school and also on the website.
 - 3.12.7.** Being the designated point of contact for staff to be able to discuss and share their concerns.
 - 3.12.8.** Being available to staff and outside agencies during school hours and term time for consultation on safeguarding concerns raised. Having responsibility to ensure that cover is arranged outside of term-time during working hours.
 - 3.12.9.** During residential and extended school hours, ensuring arrangements are in place for staff to have a point of contact.
 - 3.12.10.** Contributing effectively to multiagency working, for the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children, as set out in Working Together.
 - 3.12.11.** Providing the Headteacher (if the Headteacher is not the DSL), with an annual report for the Governing Body, detailing how school delivers on its safeguarding responsibilities and any child protection issues within the school. The Governing Body will use this report to fulfil its responsibility to provide the Local Authority with information about their safeguarding policies and procedures.

- 3.12.12.** Meeting regularly (at least once a term) with the Nominated Governor to share oversight of the safeguarding provision within the setting, monitor performance and develop plans to rectify any gaps in policy or procedure.
- 3.12.13.** Meeting the statutory requirement to keep up to date with knowledge, enabling them to fulfil their role, including attending mandatory and any other additional relevant training.
- 3.12.14.** Referring immediately to the Police, using the guidance, When to call the police, [2491596 C&YP schools guides.indd \(npcc.police.uk\)](#) , for any cases where a criminal offence may have been committed or risk of harm is imminent.

4. Procedures

- 4.1.** Our school procedures for all staff, supply staff, governors, volunteers, visitors and contractors in safeguarding and protecting children from harm are in line with Buckinghamshire Council and [Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) safeguarding procedures, “**Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**” [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#), “**Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021**” [Keeping children safe in education 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) and statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** [Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

We will ensure:

- 4.2.** We have a designated member of the Senior Leadership Team who has undertaken appropriate training for the role, as recommended by the BSCP. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be required to update their training in accordance with the Learning Pathway agreed by the BSCP.
- 4.3.** We have a member of staff (Deputy Safeguarding Lead) who will act in the DSL’s absence and who has also received training for the role of DSL. In the absence of an appropriately trained member of staff, the most senior member of staff on site will assume this role.
- 4.4.** All adults (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) new to our school are made aware of the school’s policy and procedures for child protection, the name and contact details of the DSL, their role and responsibilities under “**Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021**” [Keeping children safe in education 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) and the booklet “**What to do if You’re Worried a Child is Being Abused**” [Stat guidance template \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) . They will have these explained, as part of their induction into the school.
- 4.5.** Visitors must be:
- Clearly identified with visitor/contractor passes.
 - Met and directed by school staff/representatives.
 - Signed in and out of the school by school staff.
 - Given a safeguarding leaflet to read informing them of how to report a concern.
 - Given restricted access to only specific areas of the school, as appropriate.
 - Escorted by a member of staff/representative as required.

- Given access to pupils restricted to the purpose of their visit.

4.6. All members of staff must complete regular safeguarding training, attend regular refresher training and partake in any training opportunities arranged or delivered by the DSL. Updates must be cascaded to all staff throughout the year, at a minimum of once a year.

4.7. All parents/carers must be made aware of the school's responsibilities in regard to child protection procedures through this policy.

All staff, including supply staff, must follow the reporting procedures as follows when reporting any child protection concerns:

- Staff must ensure the child is in a safe place and in receipt of support;
- Staff must initially make a verbal report to the DSL to alert them to the safeguarding/child protection concern;
- Staff must make a written report using the school record keeping process;
- All concern forms (on green paper) are located on the Staffroom noticeboard, completed immediately, and given to the Secretary who will ensure it is given attention by the DSL or Deputy DSL.
- Staff must ensure the time and date of the incident is recorded;
- A factual account of the incident must be recorded, including who was involved, what was said/seen/heard, where the incident took place and any actual words or phrases used by the child;
- Use a body map to record any injuries seen or reported by the child;
- Staff must sign and date the report giving details of their role within school;
- The DSL must record when the report was passed to them and what action was taken alongside any outcomes achieved;
- The DSL must ensure the child's wishes and feelings are taken into consideration when deciding on next steps.

4.8. Through our **Attendance Policy**, we have a robust system for monitoring attendance and will act to address absenteeism with parents/carers and pupils promptly and identify any safeguarding issues arising.

4.9. All children attending our school are required to have a minimum of two identified emergency contacts.

4.10 Any pupil whose absence is causing concern and where it has not been possible to make contact with a parent/carer, will be reported as a Child Missing in Education (CME) using the **Buckinghamshire CME Protocol**.

4.11. Any absence, of a pupil who is currently subject to a child protection or child in need plan is immediately referred to their social worker.

4.12. Parents/carers must inform school if there are any changes to a pupil's living arrangement. Speen School has a mandatory duty to inform the local authority, via the First Response Team, if a child under the age of 16 years old lives with someone other than their parent, step-parent, aunt, uncle or grandparent for a period of more than 28 days. This is defined as being a private fostering arrangement.

4.13. All staff, parents/carers and children are made aware of the Contact List at the beginning of this policy and the escalation process, which can be activated in the event of concerns not being resolved after the first point of contact.

- 4.14. Our lettings policy reflects the ongoing responsibility the school has for safeguarding those using the site outside of normal school hours, ensuring the suitability of adults working with children on school sites at any time. School must have sight of the up to date **Child Protection Policy** of any organisation hiring the school's facilities, or receive confirmation that they will comply with the school's policy.
- 4.15. The school operates **Safer Recruitment** practices.
- 4.16. Allegations against members of staff, supply staff, governors, including volunteers and contractors are referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- 4.17. Our procedures are reviewed and updated annually as a minimum, or as there are changes to legislation.

5. Record-Keeping and Retention of Records

- 5.1. When a disclosure of abuse or an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer has been made, our school must have a record of this. These records are maintained in a way that is confidential and secure, in accordance with our **Record Keeping Policy** and **Data Protection Legislation**.
- 5.2. Records should include:
- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
 - details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
 - a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.
- 5.3. There is a statutory requirement for our school to pass any child protection records to the pupil's next school. There must be an auditable system in place to evidence this has taken place. Safeguarding records will be sent separately from the general files using a secure method.
- 5.4. The last statutory school maintains child protection files until a pupil reaches the age of 25 years, therefore if the transfer school is unknown, or a pupil is going to be electively home educated, any child protection files will remain at our school in a secure location. Child protection files will only be destroyed when the pupil reaches their 25th birthday.
- 5.5. We have a robust system for reviewing our archived information held. Our files are stored and disposed of in line with GDPR protocols.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1 We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.
- 6.2. The Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead must only disclose personal information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis.
- 6.3. Staff must not keep duplicate or personal records of child protection concerns. All information must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and securely stored in the designated location within the school, separate from the pupil records.
- 6.4. All staff are aware they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or well-being or that of another as they have a duty to

share. Staff must, however, reassure the child that information will only be shared with those people who will be able to help them and therefore need to know.

- 6.5.** We will always undertake to share our intention to refer a child to Social Care (First Response) with their parent/carer's consent, unless to do so could put the child at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. If in doubt, we will consult with First Response on this point. We recognise that GDPR must not be a barrier for sharing information regarding safeguarding concerns in line with '**Working Together**'.

7. Dealing with a disclosure

In the event of a child disclosing abuse staff must:

- 7.1.** Listen to the child, allowing the child to tell what has happened in their own way, and at their own pace. Staff must not interrupt a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- 7.2.** Remain calm. Be reassuring and supportive, endeavouring to not respond emotionally.
- 7.3.** Not ask leading questions. Staff are reminded to ask questions only when seeking clarification about something the child may have said or to gain sufficient information to know that this is a safeguarding concern. Staff are trained to use TED; Tell, Explain, Describe.
- 7.4.** Make an accurate record of what they have seen/heard using the school's record keeping processes, recording; times, dates or locations mentioned, using as many words and expressions used by the child, as possible.

Staff must not substitute anatomically correct names for body part names used by the child.

- 7.5.** Reassure the child that they did the right thing in telling someone.
- 7.6.** Staff must explain to the child what will happen next and the need for the information to be shared with the DSL.
- 7.7.** In the unlikely event the DSL and deputy DSL not being available, staff are aware they must share concerns with the most senior member of staff.
- 7.8. If there is immediate risk of harm to a child, staff will NOT DELAY and will ring 999.**
- 7.9.** The child will be monitored/accompanied at all times following a disclosure, until a plan is agreed as to how best they can be safeguarded.
- 7.10.** Following a report of concerns the DSL must:
- 7.10.1.** Decide whether there are sufficient grounds for suspecting significant harm, in which case a referral must be made to First Response and the police if it is appropriate, referring to the guidance, When to call the police, [2491596 C&YP schools guides.indd \(npcc.police.uk\)](#) The rationale for this decision should be recorded by the DSL.

- 7.10.2.** School should try to discuss any concerns about a child's welfare with parents/carers and, where possible, obtain consent before making a referral to

First Response. However, in accordance with DfE guidance, this should only be done when it will not place the child at increased risk or could impact a police investigation. Where there are doubts or reservations about involving the child's family, the DSL should clarify with First Response or the police whether the parents/carers should be told about the referral and, if so, when and by whom. This is important in cases where the police may need to conduct a criminal investigation. The child's views should also be taken into account.

7.10.3. If there are grounds to suspect a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, the DSL (or Deputy) must contact First Response by telephone immediately, in first instance and then complete the Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF).

7.10.4. If the child is in immediate danger and urgent protective action is required, the police must be called. The DSL must then notify First Response of the occurrence and what action has been taken.

7.10.5. If a child needs urgent medical attention, the DSL (or Deputy) should call an ambulance via 999. DSL to contact First Response; advice to be sought from First Response about informing parents/carers.

8. Multi-agency working

8.1. Speen School knows what its role is, as a relevant agency, within the three safeguarding partner arrangements and as required, will contribute to multi-agency working, in line with the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'.

8.2. When named as a relevant agency and involved in safeguarding arrangements, Speen School will co-operate alongside other agencies with the published arrangements.

8.3. Speen School will contribute to inter-agency plans to offer children support of early help and those children supported through child protection plans.

8.4. Speen School will allow access for and work with children's social care to conduct or consider whether to conduct as section 17 or section 47 assessment.

9. Supporting Staff

9.1. We recognise that staff becoming involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm, could find the situation stressful and upsetting.

9.2. We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the DSL and to seek further support if necessary. This could be provided by the Headteacher or another trusted colleague, Occupational Health, and/or a representative of a professional body, Employee Assistance Programme (PAM) or trade union, as appropriate.

10. Allegations against staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors (including Governors)

10.1. Here at Speen School, we follow Bucks Safeguarding Children's Board's guidelines for managing concerns and/or allegations against those working in school to include staff, supply teacher, volunteers and contractors.

<https://bscb.procedures.org.uk/skosz/adults-who-pose-a-risk-of-harm-to-children/managing-allegations-against-staff-and-volunteers-working-with-children>

10.2. KCSIE 2021- Part four contains comprehensive guidance covering the two levels of allegations/concern:

1. allegations that may meet the harms threshold
2. Allegations/concerns that do not meet the harms threshold- referred to for the purpose of this guidance as 'low level concerns'.

10.3 All school staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors must take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents/carers to be conducted in view of other adults

10.4 We understand that a pupil may make an allegation against a member of staff, member of supply staff, volunteer or contractor. If such an allegation is made, the member of staff notified of the allegation will immediately inform the Headteacher or the most senior teacher if the Headteacher is not present. If the allegation is made against the Headteacher, the Chair of Governors must be informed.

10.5 At Speen School we recognise that an allegation may be made if a member of staff, a member of supply staff, a volunteer or a contractor 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
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children. This includes behaviours both inside and outside of school.

10.6. The Headteacher/Senior Teacher on all such occasions must immediately discuss the content of the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

10.7. The Head Teacher/Senior Teacher must:

10.7.1. Follow all advice given by the LADO throughout the investigation process, including how to manage the staff member, supply staff member, volunteer or contractor against whom the allegation is made, as well as supporting other staff, supply staff members, volunteers and contractors within the workplace.

10.7.2. Follow all advice given by the LADO relating to supporting the child making the allegation, as well as other children connected to the organisation.

10.7.3. Ensure feedback is provided to the LADO about the outcome of any internal investigations.

10.8. The school will follow the local safeguarding procedures for managing allegations against staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors, a copy of which can be found requested from the school office.

10.9. If the allegation is made against a member of staff supplied by an external agency, the agency will be fully kept fully informed and involved in any enquiries from the LADO.

10.10. Suspension of the member of staff against whom an allegation has been made needs careful consideration and, if necessary, we will consult with the LADO in making this decision. Guidance will also be sought from HR.

10.11. If a suspension is made, restrictions will apply to all staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors regarding contact with them whilst they are suspended, including contact via social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.

10.12. Our lettings agreement for other users requires that the organiser will follow the Buckinghamshire Council procedures for managing allegations against staff and where necessary, the suspension of adults from school premises.

10.13. Should an individual staff member, supply staff member, governor, volunteer or contractor be involved in child protection, other safeguarding procedures or Police investigations in relation to abuse or neglect, they must immediately inform the Head Teacher. In these circumstances, the school will need to assess whether there is any potential for risk of transfer to the workplace and the individual's own work with children.

11. Whistleblowing

- o We have a **Whistleblowing Policy** within the school's Personnel Handbook. Staff are required to familiarise themselves with this document during their induction period.
- o All staff must be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and report their concerns to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors.

12. Physical intervention/Positive handling

Our policy on physical intervention/positive handling by staff is set out within the school's Behaviour policy.

13. Anti-Bullying

The Anti-Bullying policy outlines the measures that are in place to prevent and respond to all forms of bullying, which acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures.

14. Discriminatory Incidents

In line with the **Equalities Act 2010**, our **Equalities Policy** addresses all forms of discriminatory incidents.

15. Health and Safety

- We recognise the importance of safeguarding pupils throughout the school day. Our **Health and Safety policy** reflects the consideration we give to the protection of our children, both physically and emotionally, within the school environment.
- Part of the safeguarding measures we have in place include the safe dropping off and collection of pupils at the start and end of the school day. All parents/carers must be responsible for the delivery of their children to the school and collection from the school. (A taxi service and child care services are used by some parents.) Parents/carers are expected to inform the Secretary if there is to be a change in the arrangement of collection for their child.
- Pupils who leave the site during the school day do so only with the written permission of a parent/carer and are collected by an authorised adult where appropriate. School should be notified by the parents/carers regarding whom they have authorised for this task.
- Pupils who attend Breakfast Club continue into the start of the school day. At the end of the day pupils staying for after school clubs continue into this after school provision, with parents / carers collecting afterwards.
- In the event of a pupil going missing during the course of the school day we will carry out immediate checks to ensure the pupil is not on site, we will then make contact with the pupil's parents/carers and inform the police.

16. Mental Health

- 16.1 At Speen School, we are aware that mental health problems can be an indicator that a child has suffered or may be at risk of suffering abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- 16.2 Staff recognise that traumatic adverse childhood experiences can have lasting impact throughout a child's life and this can impact on mental health, behaviour and education.
- 16.3 Staff will report any mental health concern that is linked to a safeguarding concern to the DSL.
- 16.4 Where there are concerns for a child's mental health Speen School will seek advice from a trained professional, who would be able to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem.

[Mental health and behaviour in schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61111/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools.pdf)

17. Prevent Duty

Preventing radicalisation.

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

- We are aware of the Prevent Duty under **Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015** to protect young people from being drawn into terrorism.
- All school staff and governors complete Prevent training.
- We have in place and monitor appropriate web filtering systems.
- The DSLs and senior leaders are familiar with their duties under The Prevent Duty Guidance: [Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/Prevent-Duty-Guidance-2017.pdf)

18. Online Safety

All staff are aware of the school policy for **Online-Safety** which sets out our expectations relating to:

- Creating a safer online learning environment,
- Giving everyone the skills, knowledge and understanding to help children stay safe on-line, question the information they are accessing and support the development of critical thinking,
- Inspiring safe and responsible use of mobile technologies, to combat behaviours on-line which may make pupils vulnerable, including the sending of nude or semi-nude images.
- Use of camera equipment, including smart phones.
- What steps to take if there are concerns and where to go for help.
- Staff use of social media as set out in the school's **Acceptable Use policy**.
- Cyber-bullying by children, via texts, social media and emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures.
- School are aware of the risks posed by children in the online world; in particular non-age appropriate content linked to self-harm, suicide, grooming and radicalisation.
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers are supported to understand the risks posed by:
 - the CONTENT accessed by pupils
 - their CONDUCT on-line
 - who they have CONTACT within the digital world
 - COMMERCE - risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.
- Speen School have online filtering and monitoring systems in place to ensure children are safeguarded from potentially harmful online material.

- School will follow the advice as given by the government, to advise and support children with any online learning taking place at home to ensure this is done so safely.
- Visitors to our school are respectfully requested to turn all mobile devices off.
- Staff use of mobile technology whilst on site is set out in the school's Acceptable Use policy.
- All staff receive e-safety awareness training as part of their induction to understand the risks children are exposed to.

19. Contextual Safeguarding

- Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, children's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that children form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers may have little influence over these contexts, and children's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent/carer-children relationships.
- At Speen School, all staff recognise that pupils may encounter safeguarding incidents that happen outside of school and can occur between children outside of this environment. We will respond to such concerns, reporting to the appropriate agencies in order to support and protect the pupil.
- All staff and especially the DSLs, will consider the context of incidents that occur outside of school to establish if situations outside of their families may be putting the pupil's welfare and safety at risk of abuse or exploitation, including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and serious youth violence.
- Children who may be alleged perpetrators will also be supported to understand the impact of contextual issues on their safety and welfare.
- In such cases the individual needs and vulnerabilities of each child will be considered.

Further guidance can be found at: <https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>

20. Serious Violence

- All staff are aware of signs and indicators which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with, serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or significant change in well-being or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Staff are aware that unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.
- At Speen School we are aware of the range risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence such as being male, having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school, having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending such as theft or robbery. School will take

appropriate measures to manage any situations arising. [Preventing youth violence and gang involvement - Practical advice for schools and colleges \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/424242/preventing-youth-violence-and-gang-involvement-practical-advice-for-schools-and-colleges.pdf)

21. Domestic Abuse

All staff recognise that children who experience domestic abuse, including intimate partner abuse, can suffer long lasting emotional and psychological effects. Staff must report any concerns using the school's safeguarding procedures.

Speen School recognise that some groups of children are potentially at greater risk of harm.

22. Children who need a social worker (Child Protection and Child In Need Plans)

- 26.1.** Staff recognise that children may have a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs and this can cause them to have barriers with attendance, behaviour, learning and mental health.
- 26.2.** Speen School will share information with a social worker for any child whom they are supporting to ensure decisions are made in the best interests of the child.
- 26.3.** Informed decisions will be made by staff with regards to safeguarding for those children who are being supported by a social worker.

27. Use of Photography

27. We will often use photographs and film to capture achievements, monitor a child's development and help promote successes within our school. We like to have a record of all the wonderful activities our pupils take part in, guidelines for the use of photography at Speen is set out in our **Use of Photographic Images Policy**.

28. Policy Review

The Governing Body of our school is responsible for ensuring the annual review of this policy. The date the next review is due is on the front cover of this policy.

CHILD PROTECTION APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Confidentiality statement

Appendix 2: Overview of procedure for dealing with suspected child abuse

Appendix 3: Be alert to signs of abuse

Appendix 4: Disclosure – summary guidelines

Appendix 5: Log of incident or areas of concern

Appendix 6: Child protection definitions

**Appendix 7: Specific safeguarding issues
Extremism and Radicalisation policy**

Appendix 8: Assessment Framework for Bucks

APPENDIX 1:

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

Staff and Governors

The Headteacher, teachers, Governors and all members of the ancillary staff cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality; the needs and well being of pupils always overrides confidentiality boundaries. “Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children”.

If any member of staff or Governor has a concern regarding the health and/or welfare of a child it is school policy to report it to the headteacher and/or in appropriate cases, the designated member of staff with responsibility for child protection.

This member of staff may, depending on the circumstances, inform the First Response Team and/or the LA Safeguarding Team in accordance with the school’s Child Protection Policy.

Should the occasion seem likely to arise, before disclosure, pupils are told that:

- I. members of staff cannot offer unconditional confidentiality,
- II. their best interests will be maintained,
- III. if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first, then supported as appropriate,
- IV. only the minimum of those who ‘ need to know’ will be involved.

Pupils are encouraged regularly throughout the school to have a network (as represented on 5 digits of hand) of people who they know who;

will listen to them

they can trust,

will understand

The people on each child’s network might be parents, relatives, carers, staff and/or any other adult who fit the above criteria (people both at school and out of school).

The phone number for the confidential helpline service, Childline, is always on display throughout the school and pupils should be regularly informed of this.

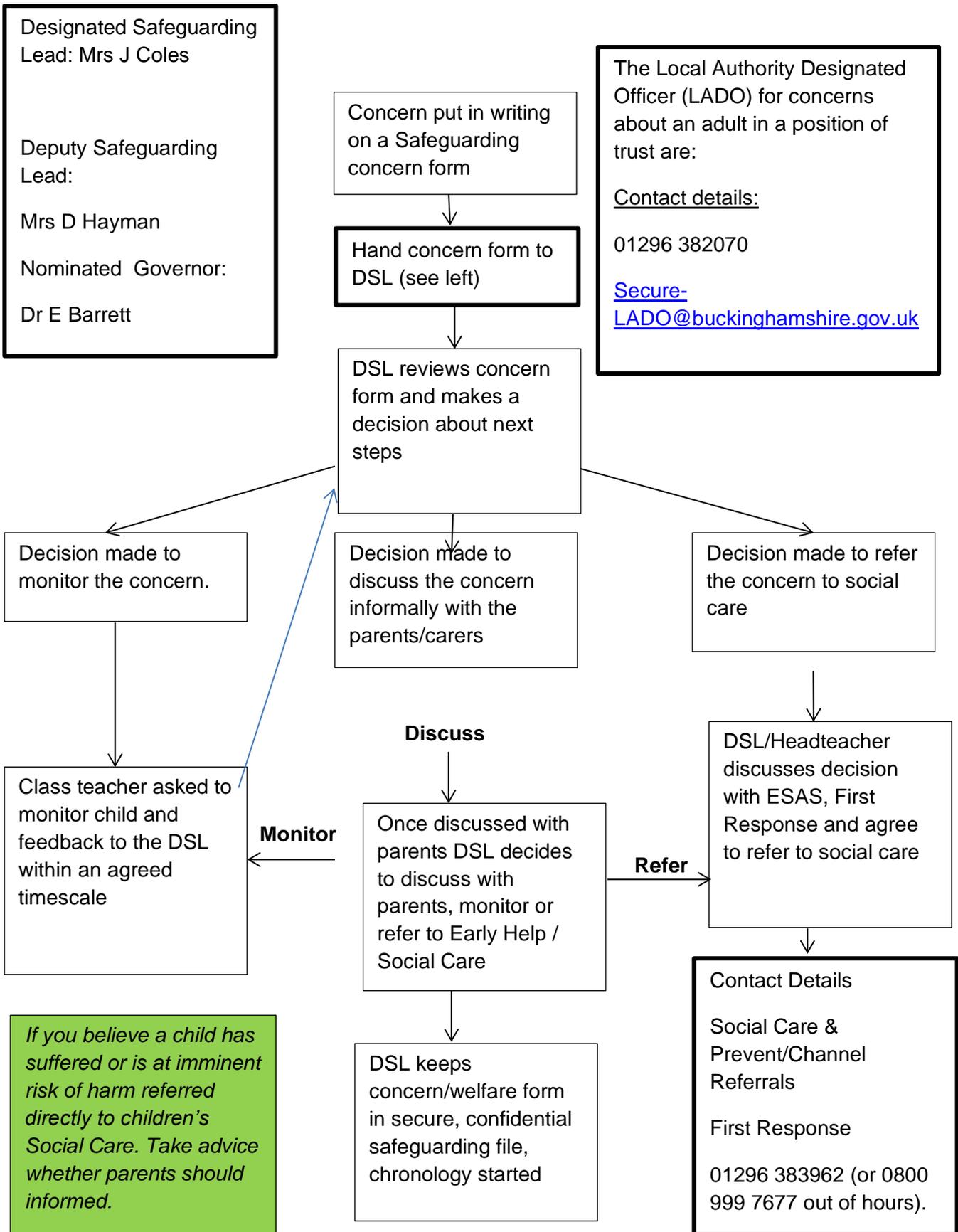
Health Professionals

Health professionals are bound by their professional codes of conduct to maintain confidentiality, although whilst working in the classroom they abide by the relevant school policies.

Outside the classroom, e.g. in a one-to-one situation with individual pupils they may receive and retain information and give advice in accordance with their professional judgement.

APPENDIX 2:

FLOW CHART FOR RAISING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD



APPENDIX 3:

BE ALERT TO SIGNS OF ABUSE

A general definition of abuse of a child is as follows:

- making a child feel unwanted, ugly, worthless, guilty, unloved (emotional abuse)
- being physically violent to a child (physical abuse)
- exploiting a child sexually (sexual abuse)
- failing to provide the things needed for a child to grow (neglect) – omission

* If you notice an unusual pattern of behaviour developing or you suspect abuse:

Record your observations - Form ([Appendix 5](#)) and TELL THE DESIGNATED TEACHER AT ONCE

* If a child makes any odd comments or a disclosure to you, follow advice ([Appendix 4](#)) and TELL THE DESIGNATED TEACHER AT ONCE

Record your observations - Form ([Appendix 5](#))

* Do not discuss incidents with anyone else.

* If you are contacted by someone outside of school, do not give any information immediately. Arrange to call them after you have spoken to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Headteacher)

* If an allegation of child abuse is made against you:

INFORM THE HEADTEACHER

INFORM YOUR UNION (if suspension is possible)

Remember to [care](#) for colleagues involved in child abuse cases - you do not need to have access to the details to show your support for a colleague who may be under stress

* If you have Child Protection concerns about another member of staff, talk to the Headteacher and also consult the Whistleblowing policy

APPENDIX 4

DISCLOSURE – SUMMARY GUIDELINES

If a child discloses to you, the important do's and don'ts are ...

DO listen	
DO explain as soon as possible that you may need to pass on the information	DO NOT promise confidentiality – you have a duty to tell DSL and it may be necessary to tell Social Care
DO ask Who, What, Where, When if relevant to gain a good picture whilst the child is willing to talk. TED: Tell, Explain, Describe	DO NOT ask leading questions. Do not ask any 'Why' questions if there could be sexual or physical abuse.
DO reassure the child – it is not his/her fault and it is right to tell	
DO accept what is being said and take what the child says seriously.	DO NOT display shock or disbelief
DO give the child space and time to talk freely. Say 'Yes...?' 'And...?' 'Tell me about'	DO NOT make judgements or criticise
DO record details (preferably on the school's green safeguarding form), time, date, place using the child's exact words and note any accompanying non-verbal behaviour. Sign the disclosure form (Appendix 5) immediately afterwards. (Records could be used in court if a criminal offence)	DO NOT physically comfort / restrain unless in presence of someone else
DO explain to the child what you will do next. (Ensure that someone is identified as a support for the child.)	DO NOT make promises which may not be possible to keep e.g. 'I'll stay with you' or 'Everything will be ok now'
DO act quickly – tell the designated teacher	DO NOT involve others who don't need to know

The safety of the child is of paramount importance

and must override **ALL** other considerations

CONFIDENTIAL

GIVE COMPLETED FORM DIRECTLY TO DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD TO KEEP CONFIDENTIAL
RECORD STATEMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS, NOT INTERPRETATIONS
 (keep it factual)

Child Protection / Welfare Concern Form (Photocopied onto green paper)

Pupil name	Date of birth	Year Group
Name and position of person completing form (please print)		
Time and Date of incident /concern: dd.mm.yy		
Incident / concern (who what where when) Also comment on child's non verbal behaviours where helpful		
Record exact words of child where possible		
Place/s on body if any marks noticed or reported:		

Any other relevant information (context of info shared, witnesses, immediate action taken)

Action/s taken by staff member

Reporting Staff Signature **Date.....**

Passed to DSL.....time/date.....

Action Taken by DSL

Response/ outcome

Watching brief

Child Protection concern – file opened

DSL Signature..... Date

TELL THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD NOW!

AND GIVE THEM THIS WRITTEN RECORD OF YOUR CONCERNS

Appendix 6: Child Protection Definitions

Everyone who works with children has a duty to safeguard and promote their welfare. They should be aware of the signs and indicators of abuse and know what to do and to whom to speak if they become concerned about a child or if a child discloses to them.

The following is intended as a reference for school staff and parents/carers if they become concerned that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

The Children Act 1989 defines abuse as when a child is suffering or is likely to suffer 'significant harm'. Harm means ill treatment or the impairment of health or development. Four categories of abuse are identified:

Categories of Abuse

Child abuse is a form of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children people 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 another child or children.

Physical Abuse

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 Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. 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 feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to 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, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. 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. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The [Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool](#) can be used as guidance to support professionals in identifying and responding to sexual behaviour in children.

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 as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- a) provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- b) protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- c) ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
- d) ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

APPENDIX 7:

SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

Expert and professional organisations are best placed to provide up-to-date guidance and practical support on specific safeguarding issues. For example NSPCC offers information for schools on the [TES website](#) and also on its own website www.nspcc.org.uk. Schools can also access broad government guidance on the issues listed below via the GOV.UK website:

- [child sexual exploitation \(CSE\) and child criminal exploitation \(CCE\)](#) – see also below
- [bullying including cyberbullying](#)
- [domestic violence](#)
- [drugs](#)
- [fabricated or induced illness](#)
- [faith abuse](#)
- [female genital mutilation \(FGM\)](#) – see also below
- [forced marriage](#)
- [gangs and youth violence](#)
- [gender-based violence/violence against women and girls \(VAWG\)](#)
- [mental health](#)
- [private fostering](#)
- [radicalisation](#)
- [sexting](#)
- [teenage relationship abuse](#)
- [Trafficking](#)

Exploitation

Exploitation is a form of child abuse and may take a number of forms:

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.

Taken from – **“Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021”**.

[Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

County Lines

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. This activity can happen locally as well as across the UK - no specified distance of travel is required. Children and vulnerable adults are exploited to move, store and sell drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Taken from **“Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021”**

Extremism

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child’s vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home). However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children’s behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) making a Prevent referral. The school’s designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral.

Speen is committed to identifying and dealing with extremism and radicalisation.

By 'extremism' or 'radicalism' we mean any actions or systems of ideas which may lead to violence, hatred, harassment, bullying, breaking the law or a lack of respect for other pupils or people.

At Speen we aim to counter the threat of radicalisation and extremism by:

- *teaching children why violence, hatred, harassment, bullying or a lack of respect for other people is wrong*
- *helping children to understand:*
 - *the fundamental dignity¹ of each human being,*
 - *why all people are equal²,*
 - *why people should be valued, **respected** and treated well*
 - *the importance of empathy³*
 - *the importance of the rule of law*
- *being alert to signs of radicalism or extremism as manifested in the children's behaviour, ideas, speech or work*
- *where necessary, reporting signs of radicalisation or extremism to the appropriate national authority*

We recognise that there are ideas and actions which may be regarded as radical or extreme but are good in terms of both their means and ends. Indeed much has been achieved in history by people who have been considered extremists and radicals.⁴ In the process of identifying and dealing with radicalism and extremism we do not wish to detract from what may be considered radical or extreme but is a force for good. As a Church of England School, we desire to encourage actions and ideas which fulfil the command to love God, to love our neighbour (charity, generosity, kindness, unselfishness, self-sacrifice etc), to love our enemies/do good to those who hate us and to work as peacemakers.

¹ In Christian terms the fundamental dignity of each person is based on the fact that all people are created by God in his own image

¹ Again, in Christian terms, all people are equal because we are all created by God and are made in his image; our status before God is equal

¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you (Luke 6:31, Matthew 7:12)

¹ For example, Martin Luther King, William Wilberforce, Ghandi and Nelson Mandela

Sending nude or semi-nude images

Sending nude images or semi-nude images, is one of a number of 'risk-taking' behaviours associated with the use of digital technologies, social media or the internet. It is

accepted that children experiment and challenge boundaries and therefore the risks associated with 'online' activity can never be completely eliminated.

Further advice and guidance can be found using the link below:

[Sharing nudes and semi-nudes](#)

- Staff, pupils and parents/carers are supported, via training, to understand the creation and sharing of sexual imagery, such as photos or videos, of under 18s is illegal. This includes images of pupils themselves if they are under the age of 18.
- Any youth produced sexual imagery disclosures will follow the normal safeguarding practices and protocols for our school. We will also use the guidelines for responding to incidents, as set out in:
[Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) produced by the UK Council for Internet Safety.
- If the incident meets the threshold it may be necessary to refer to the police in a timely manner.

Peer on Peer Abuse

- Speen School believes that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment free from harm by both adults and other pupils. We recognise that some safeguarding concerns can occur via peer on peer abuse.
- All staff operate a zero-tolerance policy to peer on peer abuse and will not pass off incidents as 'banter' or 'just growing up'.
- All staff recognise that peer on peer issues may include, but may not be limited to:
 - Bullying (including cyber bullying)
 - Racial abuse
 - Physical abuse, such as hitting, hair-pulling, shaking, biting or other forms of physical harm
 - Sexual violence and sexual harassment
 - Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party
 - Abuse related to sexual orientation or identity
 - Sending nude or semi-nude images (consensual & non-consensual)
 - Upskirting and initiation/hazing type violence and rituals
 - Emotional abuse
 - Abuse within intimate partner relationships
- All staff should be able to reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.
- The following will be considered when dealing with incidents:
 - Whether there is a large difference in power between the victim and perpetrator i.e. size, age, ability, perceived social status or vulnerabilities, including SEND, CP/CIN or CLA
 - Whether the perpetrator has previously tried to harm or intimidate pupils

- Any concerns about the intentions of the alleged perpetrator
- In order to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse taking place, school must:
 - Deliver RE/RSE/PSHE to include teaching pupils about how to keep safe and understanding what acceptable behaviour looks like
 - Ensure that pupils know that all members of staff will listen to them if they have concerns and will act upon them
 - Have systems in place for any pupil to be able to voice concerns
 - Develop robust risk assessments if appropriate
 - Refer to any other relevant policies when dealing with incidents, such as the **Behaviour Policy** and/or the **Anti-Bullying Policy**
- We recognise that ‘Upskirting’ involves taking a photograph under an individual’s clothing without their knowledge. We understand that it causes the victim distress and humiliation and that any gender can be a victim. Staff recognise that ‘Upskirting’ is a criminal offence and must promptly report any such incidents to the Headteacher, DSL or most senior member of staff.
- Reference will be made to the following government guidance and part 5 of the **Keeping Children Safe in Education, Sept 2021** to ensure that all staff have an understanding of the serious nature of sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools. [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97222/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges.pdf)

Sexual Violence & Sexual Harassment

- Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of **any age and sex**. It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. This can occur online, face to face (both physically and verbally) and can take place inside or outside of school. As set out in Part five of the KCSIE 2021, all staff maintain an attitude of **‘it could happen here’** and it is never acceptable.
- All staff have a responsibility to address inappropriate behaviour in a timely manner, however seemingly insignificant it may appear.
- All victims will be reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. No child will ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report or that they are creating a problem for our school.

Cultural Issues

- As a school we are aware of the cultural diversity of the community around us and work sensitively to address the unique culture of our pupils and their families as they relate to safeguarding and child protection. This includes children at risk of harm from abuse arising from culture, ethnicity, faith and belief on the part of their parent, carer or wider community.
- Staff must report concerns about abuse linked to culture, faith and beliefs in the same way as other child protection concerns.

So-Called 'Honour' Based Abuse

- Staff at our school understand there is a legal duty to report known cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and So Called 'Honour' Based Abuse to the police and they will do this with the support of the DSL. [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation: procedural information - GOV.UK](#)
- Our school is aware of the need to respond to concerns relating to forced marriage and understand that it is illegal, a form of child abuse and a breach of children's rights. We recognise some pupils, due to capacity or additional learning needs, may not be able to give an informed consent and this will be dealt with under our child protection processes. Speen School staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information. Contact 020 7008 0151 fm@fco.gov.uk
- We are aware of the signs of FGM [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) | NSPCC](#)
- We recognise both male and female pupils may be subject to honour-based abuse.
- We promote awareness through training and access to resources, ensuring that the signs and indicators are known and recognised by staff.
- Any suspicions or concerns for forced marriage are reported to the DSL who will refer to First Response or the police if emergency action is required.

Female Genital Mutilation

"FGM is considered child abuse in the UK and a grave violation of the human rights of girls and women. In all circumstances where FGM is practised on a child it is a violation of the child's right to life, their right to their bodily integrity, as well as their right to health.

UK communities that are most at risk of FGM include Kenyans, Somalis, Sudanese, Sierra Leoneans, Egyptians, Nigerians and Eritreans; an estimated 29 countries in Africa practice FGM. However women from non-African communities that are at risk of FGM include Yemeni, Kurdish, Indonesian and Pakistani women."

It should be noted that women who have undergone FGM may not readily identify with this term, some will refer to "cutting" "pricking", of being "closed" or Sunna etc. Due to the isolation of many communities, many do not understand that it is

- Illegal to perform FGM in the UK
- Illegal to assist the carrying out of FGM in the UK
- Illegal to assist a girl to carryout FGM on herself in the UK
- Illegal to assist from the UK a non-UK person to carryout FGM outside of the UK on a UK national or permanent UK resident

Schools must report to the police if they believe a child has been subject to FGM. There are a number of factors in addition to a girl's or woman's community, country of origin and family history that could indicate she is at risk of being subjected to FGM.

Potential risk factors may include:

- a female child is born to a woman who has undergone FGM;
- a female child has an older sibling or cousin who has undergone FGM;
- a female child's father comes from a community known to practise FGM;
- the family indicate that there are strong levels of influence held by elders and/or elders are involved in bringing up female children;

- a woman/family believe FGM is integral to cultural or religious identity;
- a girl/family has limited level of integration within UK community;
- parents have limited access to information about FGM and do not know about the harmful effects of FGM or UK law;
- a girl confides to a professional that she is to have a ‘special procedure’ or to attend a special occasion to ‘become a woman’;

Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation

- a girl talks about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent (see Section 2.3 for the nationalities that traditionally practise FGM);
- parents state that they or a relative will take the girl out of the country for a prolonged period;
- a parent or family member expresses concern that FGM may be carried out on the girl;
- a family is not engaging with professionals (health, education or other);
- a family is already known to social care in relation to other safeguarding issues;
- a girl requests help from a teacher or another adult because she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk of FGM;
- a girl talks about FGM in conversation, for example, a girl may tell other children about it (see Annex G for commonly used terms in different languages) – it is important to take into account the context of the discussion;
- a girl from a practising community is withdrawn from Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education or its equivalent;
- a girl is unexpectedly absent from school;
- sections are missing from a girl’s Red book; and/or
- a girl has attended a travel clinic or equivalent for vaccinations / anti-malarials.

Remember: this is not an exhaustive list of risk factors. There may be additional risk factors specific to particular communities. For example, in certain communities FGM is closely associated to when a girl reaches a particular age.

If any of these risk factors are identified professionals will need to consider what action to take. If unsure whether the level of risk requires referral at this point, professionals should discuss with their named/designated safeguarding lead.

If the risk of harm is imminent, emergency measures may be required.

Professionals should not assume that all women and girls from a particular community are supportive of, or at risk of FGM. Women who recognise that their ongoing physical and/or psychological problems are a result of having had FGM and women who are involved or highly supportive of FGM advocacy work and eradication programmes may be less likely to support or carry out FGM on their own children.

However, any woman may be under pressure from her husband, partner or other family members to allow or arrange for her daughter to undergo FGM. Wider family engagement and discussions with both parents, and potentially wider family members, may be appropriate.

Indicators that FGM May Have Already Taken Place

It is important that professionals look out for signs that FGM has already taken place so that:

- the girl or woman receives the [care](#) and support she needs to deal with its effects
- enquiries can be made about other female family members who may need to be safeguarded from harm; and/or
- criminal investigations into the perpetrators, including those who carry out the procedure, can be considered to prosecute those who have broken the law and to protect others from harm.

There are a number of indications that a girl or woman has already been subjected to FGM:

- a girl or woman asks for help;
- a girl or woman confides in a professional that FGM has taken place;
- a mother/family member discloses that female child has had FGM;
- a family/child is already known to social services in relation to other safeguarding issues;
- a girl or woman has difficulty walking, sitting or standing or looks uncomfortable;
- a girl or woman finds it hard to sit still for long periods of time, and this was not a problem previously;
- a girl or woman spends longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating;
- a girl spends long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems;
- a girl or woman has frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems;
- a girl avoids physical exercise or requires to be excused from physical education (PE) lessons without a GP's letter;
- there are prolonged or repeated absences from school
- increased emotional and psychological needs, for example withdrawal or depression, or significant change in behaviour;
- a girl or woman is reluctant to undergo any medical examinations;
- a girl or woman asks for help, but is not be explicit about the problem; and/or
- a girl talks about pain or discomfort between her legs.

Remember: this is not an exhaustive list of indicators.

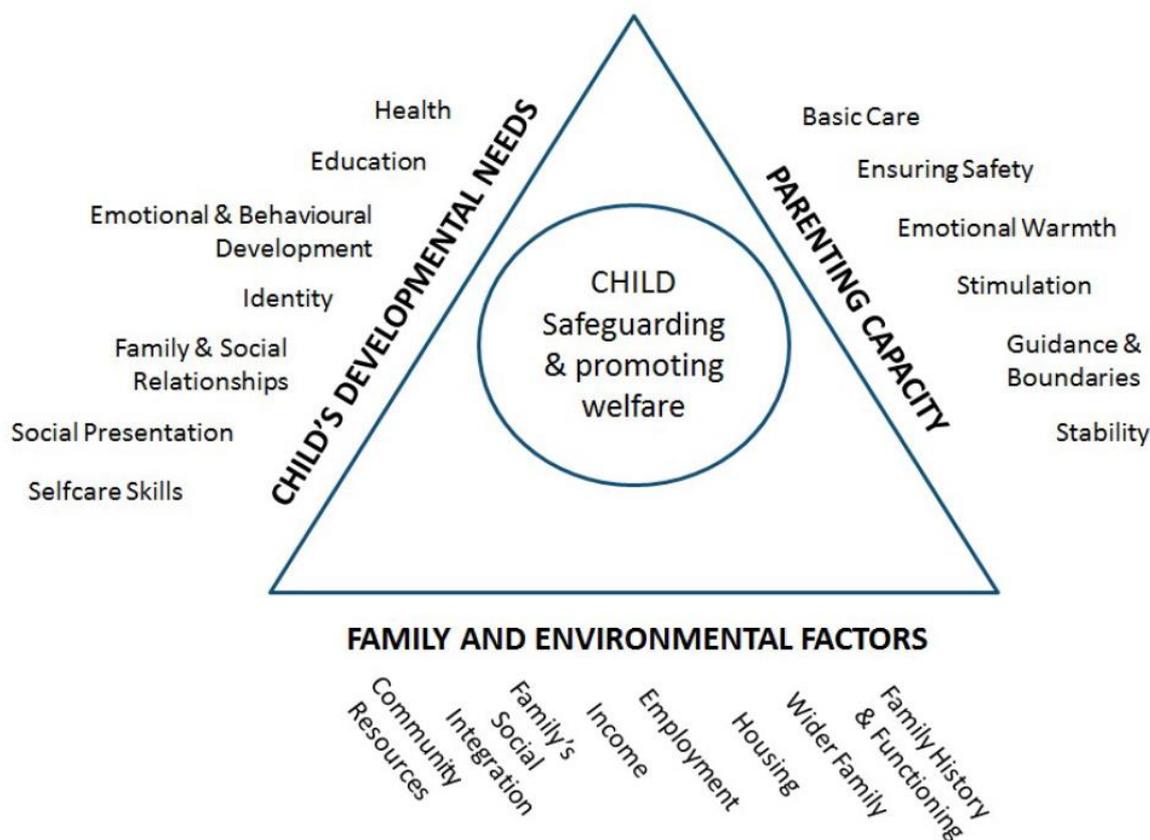
If any of these indicators are identified professionals will need to consider what action to take. If unsure what action to take, professionals should discuss with their named/designated safeguarding lead.

Professionals subject to the mandatory reporting duty are required to report 'known' 51 cases of FGM in girls under 18 to the police

Free online FGM training by the Home Office; <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/resources/female-genital-mutilation-recognising-preventing-fgm-free-online-training/>

Appendix 8: Assessment Framework

(from Working Together to Safeguard Children, July 2018)



Every assessment should draw together relevant information gathered from the child and their family and from relevant practitioners including teachers and school staff, early years workers, health practitioners, the police and adult social care.

Every assessment of a child should reflect the unique characteristics of the child within their family and community context.

Each child whose referral has been accepted by children's social care should have their individual needs assessed, including an analysis of the parental capacity to meet those needs, whether they arise from issues within the family or the wider community.

Frequently, more than one child from the same family is referred and siblings within the family should always be considered.