


## Bridgwater College Trust

### Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy of Bridgwater College Trust

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<b>Signature of Andy Berry On behalf of sponsor</b>		<b>Date</b> 9/7/18
<b>Signature of Peter Elliott On behalf of Bridgwater College Trust</b>		9/7/18

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History of most recent policy changes:

Version	Date	Page	Change	Origin of change e.g. BCT request, change in legislation
1	15 March 2017	Whole Document	New BCT safeguarding and CP Policy	Update reflect changes to legislative guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 and development of BCT Policies
2	1 November 2017	Whole Document	Update in light of SSE Model Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy	Request from Academy
3	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Whole Document	Update reflect changes to legislative guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 and development of BCT Policies	KCSiE September 2018

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## 1. Introduction

Bridgwater College Trust's aims to provide clear direction to staff and others about expected codes of behaviour in dealing with child welfare concerns. The policy also aims to make explicit the Trust's commitment to the development of good practice and sound procedures to keep children safe in our school.

The purpose of the policy is, therefore, to ensure that our children's welfare is of paramount importance, early and additional help is offered to prevent escalation and where child protection concerns are identified referrals are handled sensitively, professionally and in ways that support the needs of the child's well-being.

Trustees and staff are committed within Bridgwater College Trust (BCT) to keeping children safe by safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our care through all our policies, procedures and practices.

This Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy applies to all trust staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, governors, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students, visitors, parents in our schools or anyone working on behalf of this organisation. It also applies wherever staff or volunteers are working with pupils away from our schools, for example, at an activity centre or on an educational visit.

*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 professionals 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.

Purpose:

- To inform the school's responsibilities for safeguarding children and to enable everyone to have a clear understanding of how these responsibilities will be carried out.
- To inform providers of Somerset Safeguarding Children Board's Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures.
- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires local education authorities and the governors of maintained schools and further education (FE) colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This policy will support this.
- Section 157 of the same act and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 require proprietors of independent schools (including academies and city technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the provision. This policy will support this.

All education provisions have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

Education Providers and volunteers are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour and failure to develop because they have daily contact with children.

All education staff and volunteers will therefore receive appropriate safeguarding training (which is updated regularly), so that they are knowledgeable and aware of their role in the early recognition of the indicators of abuse or neglect and of the appropriate procedures to follow. In addition all staff members should receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

Temporary staff will be made aware of the safeguarding policies and procedures by the Designated Safeguarding Lead including Bridgwater College Trust (BCT) Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Policy and BCT Code of Conduct.

The Director of Children's Services, within the Local Authority has the overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in the area. They have a number of statutory functions under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 which make this clear. This policy is to add detail to expectations of staff to expect specific duties to happen in relation to children in need and children suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, regardless of where they are or who takes any further action.

*“Children are best protected when professionals are clear about what is required of them individually, and how they need to work together.”* (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 updated 2017)

## 1a. Terminology

*Safeguarding* and promoting the welfare of children refers to the process of protecting children from maltreatment, preventing the impairment of health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

*Child Protection* refers to the processes undertaken to protect children who have been identified as suffering, or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

*Schools* refer to academies and partner schools within the Bridgwater College Trust at the time of writing this includes: Bridgwater College Academy, Brymore Academy, Hamp Academy, West Somerset College and Otter Hampton Primary School. Each school will have their own policy to reflect local circumstances in their setting.

*Staff* refers to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full time or part time, temporary or permanent, in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

*Child* includes everyone under the age of 18.

*Parent* refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example step-parents, guardian, foster carers and adoptive parents.

## 2. Mission Statement of our Education Provision

- Establish and maintain an environment where school staff and volunteers feel safe, are encouraged to talk and are listened to when they have concerns about the safety and well-being of a child.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Ensure that children, who have additional/unmet needs, are supported appropriately. This could include referral to Early Help services or specialist services if they are a child in need or have been / are at risk of being abused and neglected.
- Consider how children may be taught about *safeguarding*, including online safety, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Staff members working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of '*it could happen here*' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the interests of the child and develop a culture where *Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility* and should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

## 3. Implementation, Monitoring and Review of the Child Protection Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees. It will be implemented through the academies/college induction and training programme, and as part of day to day practice. Compliance with the policy will be monitored by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Trust Safeguarding Lead and Governance through staff performance measures and day to day practice.

## 4. Statutory Framework

In order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, the schools will act in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Education Act 2002 (Section 175/157) which outlines that Local Authorities and School Governing Bodies have a responsibility to "ensure that their functions relating to the conduct of school are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are its pupils"
- Somerset Safeguarding Children Board Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures (Effective Support for Children and Families)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, September 2016/2018)

- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0- 25 years. HM government Jan 2015
- Section 26, The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (PREVENT duty)
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (Section 74 ,Serious Crime Act 2015)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015/2017) requires each Education Provision to follow the procedures for protecting children from abuse which are established by the out in the South West Child Protection Procedures ([www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)) and Somerset Safeguarding Children Board.

Education Providers are also expected to ensure that they have appropriate procedures in place for responding to situations in which: a child may have been abused or neglected or is at risk of abuse or neglect: a member of staff has behaved in a way that has, or may have harmed a child or that indicates they would pose a risk of harm.

## 5. The Designated Safeguarding Lead

Governing bodies and trustees should ensure that the education provision or college designates an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety). This person should have the status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post including committing resources and, where appropriate, supporting and directing other staff. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) are most likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and be the most appropriate person to advise on the response to safeguarding concerns.

During term time the designated safeguarding lead and or a deputy will always be available (during provision hours) for staff in the provision or other professionals to discuss any safeguarding concerns. The trust safeguarding lead will be available out of hours/out of term if contact is needed.

### 5a. Responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- The DSL will refer all cases of suspected abuse or neglect to the Local Authority Children's Services (Safeguarding and Specialist Services) and/or Police (cases where a crime may have been committed) or to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern.
- Liaise with the Head Teacher or Principal to inform him/ her of issues- especially ongoing enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies and all relevant staff.
- Support staff members around requests for involvement to other agencies.
- Share information with appropriate staff in relation to a child's looked after (CLA) legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an Interim Care Order or Care Order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.



- Ensure they have details of the CLA's social worker and the name of the virtual school Head Teacher in the authority that looks after the child.
- Have a good knowledge and attend meetings (or submit reports) to contribute to the planning for children who have Child in Need or Child Protection Plans.
- Utilise, implement, scrutinise and monitor the use of Early Help Assessments in the provision.
- Work with relevant staff e.g. SENCo, to ensure safeguarding systems and procedures reflect any additional barriers in recognising abuse and neglect concerns with children who have SEN needs.
- Ensure tracking and recording of students with attendance concerns and engagement. Evidence the measures taken to engage with students and parents..
- Work with relevant staff in the provision to ensure the site is safe and secure.
- Ensure recording child safeguarding and child protection files are correctly drawn up and regularly reviewed to scrutinise any patterns or drift/outstanding actions. Follow guidance given by SSE and ensure safeguarding files are audited on a regular basis.
- Ensure the education provision's Single Central Record is correct at all times, audited on a regular basis and safe recruitment procedures are upheld throughout the academy.
- Ensure the provision's site security and risk assessments are maintained and completed to support staff and children feel safe.

## 5b. Training

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and any deputies should undergo the Local Authority's formal training every two years. The DSL should also undertake Prevent (WRAP) awareness and disseminate in addition to this training. Their knowledge and skills should be refreshed (for example via e-bulletins, meeting other DSLs, or taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at least annually. Other requirements are:

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as early help assessments. (EHA)
- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the schools or college's safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures including code of conduct, behaviour policy. Staff also need to know the safeguarding response to children who go missing in education.
- All staff to undergo safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety at induction and on regular basis, at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers.

- Understand and support the school or college with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and are able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals with actions and outcomes.
- Obtain/disseminate access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses.
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school or college may put in place to protect them.
- SENCos (those responsible for SEND to complete Introduction to Child Protection training to have a heightened awareness of vulnerable SEN indicators.

### 5c. Raising Awareness

The designated safeguarding lead should ensure the school or college's policies are known, understood and used appropriately, as well as; .

- Ensure the school or college's safeguarding and child protection policy is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies or proprietors regarding this.
- Ensure the safeguarding and child protection policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school or college in this.
- Link with the Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB) and Support Services for Education (SSE) to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding.
- Where children leave the school or college, ensure the file for safeguarding and any child protection information is sent to any new school /college as soon as possible but transferred separately from the main pupil file.
- Education providers should obtain proof that the new school/education setting has received the safeguarding file for any child transferring and then destroy any information held on the child in line with data protection guidelines.

### 6. The Governing Body (including Trusts or Directors)

Governing bodies and proprietors will ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They will also have regard to this guidance to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in the provision are effective and comply with the law at all times.

The responsibilities placed on governing bodies and proprietors include:

- Contributing to ensure the provision is carrying out inter-agency working, which includes providing a coordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified.
- Ensuring that an effective academy safeguarding and child protection policy is in place, together with a staff behaviour code of conduct policy (BCT Code of Conduct) and behaviour policy.

- Ensuring staff are provided with Part One and Annex A of *Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2018)* –and are aware of specific safeguarding issues.
- Ensuring that staff induction is in place with regards to child protection and safeguarding (including online safety)
- Appointing an appropriate senior member of staff to act as the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Ensure each academy has a designated teacher (as per Section 20 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008) who works with local authority to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after. In compliance with section 4 to 6 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 designated teacher to have responsibility to promote the educational achievement of children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship, child arrangement orders or those adopted from state care outside of England and Wales.
- Ensuring that all of the Designated Senior Persons (including deputies) undergo formal child protection training every two years (in line with SCSB guidance) and receive regular (annual) safeguarding refreshers (for example via e-bulletins, meeting other DSPs, or taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments).
- Prioritising the welfare of children and young people and creating a culture where staff are confident to challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns.
- Ensuring that children are taught about safeguarding and online safety in an age appropriate way.
- Ensuring appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place to safeguard children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. Having a senior board level lead to take leadership responsibility for the organisation’s safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure scrutiny and effectiveness of the single central record and child protection recording is undertaken.
- Ensure compliance with The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 require governing bodies to ensure that at least one of the persons who conducts an interview has completed Safer Recruitment Training.
- Ensure safeguarding is discussed and outcomes recorded at Governors meetings.
- Ensure the requirements of The Governors Safeguarding Audit Section 175 are met.

## 7. Supporting Children

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals 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.

Education providers and staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is based on the principle of providing help for families to stay together where it is safe for the children to do so, and looking at alternatives where it is not, whilst acting in the best interests of the child at all times.

Children who may require early help will be offered early intervention through Early Help support services for families.

A directory of early help services is available from the Early Help Advice Hub on 01823 355803. Somerset Choices ([www.somersetchoices.org.uk](http://www.somersetchoices.org.uk)) and Professional Choices (<https://professionalchoices.org.uk>) will also help practitioners and families find information and support to prevent escalation of needs and crisis.

Staff will be aware of the early help process, and understand their role in identifying emerging problems, sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment of a child's needs. It is important for children to receive the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating. This also includes staff monitoring the situation and feeding back to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or any deputies) any ongoing/escalating concerns so that consideration can be given to a request for involvement to Children's Services if the child's situation does not appear to be improving.

Staff and volunteers working within the school will also be alert to the potential need for early help for children also who are more vulnerable. For example:

- Children with a disability and/or specific additional needs
- Children with special educational needs
- Children who are acting as a young carer
- Children who are looked after or previously looked after
- Children who are showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour especially if there is a concern that it is exploitative
- Children missing education
- Children whose family circumstances present challenges, such as substance abuse, adult mental health or learning disability, domestic violence
- Children who are showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect

School and college staff members will be aware of the main categories of maltreatment: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. They will also be aware of the indicators of maltreatment and specific safeguarding issues so that they are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection.

(See Appendices for information on further descriptors of abuse and specific safeguarding issues)

## 8. Dealing with a disclosure

If a child discloses that he or she has been abused in some way, the member of staff or volunteer should:

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief
- Accept what is being said
- Allow the child to talk freely
- Reassure the child, but not make promises which it might not be possible to keep

- Never promise a child that they will not tell anyone - as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child
- Reassure him or her that what has happened is not his or her fault
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell
- Listen, only asking questions when necessary to clarify
- Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told
- Make a written record (Report a concern on *MyConcerns* or complete a cause for concern form) records should be factual, using the child's own words
- Pass the information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately

Dealing with a disclosure from a child, and safeguarding issues can be stressful. The member of staff/volunteer should, therefore, consider seeking support for him/herself and discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If an education provider /college staff member receives a disclosure about potential harm caused by another staff member, they should see section – Allegation involving school staff/volunteers.

## 9. Record Keeping

All concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for those decisions should be reported on *myconcern* or recorded in writing e.g. cause for concern form. If in doubt about recording requirements staff should discuss with the designated safeguarding lead. Anyone who does not have access to *myconcern* will be expected to fill in a cause for concern incident form.

Schools use *myconcern* for the monitoring of safeguarding and child protection, issues and should regularly review to scrutinise any patterns or drift/outstanding actions. Working alongside the schools existing safeguarding processes, *myconcern* will help with the management of child protection, behavioural, bullying issues and much more. The system allows schools to record information in a central repository and have relevant people alerted immediately.

When a child has made a disclosure, the member of staff/volunteer should:

- Record as soon as possible after the conversation. Use *myconcern* or cause for concern incident form.
- Any hand written notes made immediately after the event, for example a disclosure, can act as evidence of them having been written at the time in any future court case.
- Record the date, time, witness, place and any noticeable non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the child
- Indicate the position of any injuries use a body map.
- Record statements and observations rather than interpretations or assumptions

All records need to be given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead promptly (or any deputies). No copies should be retained by the member of staff or volunteer.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all safeguarding records are managed in accordance with the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005. Our schools follows the guidance on safeguarding/child protection records for educational and early years settings in Somerset.

Records should be factual, accurate, relevant, up to date and auditable. They should support analysing, monitoring, risk assessment and planning for children; enabling appropriate, informed and timely actions to take place.

If a pupil who is/or has been the subject of a child protection plan changes provision, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will inform the social worker responsible for the case and transfer the appropriate records to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the receiving provision as soon as possible, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained, they should be sent separate to the main school file. The receiving school should ensure the DSL and SENCo (or named person with oversight for SEN) are aware as required. The DSL should also consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new school or college in advance of the child leaving.

All files will be individual to the child and not in shared files on families. All school records will have an indicator to inform staff a child protection file does exist for the individual.

All child protection recordings should be scrutinised regularly to ensure the action and outcome has been carried and any drift avoided.

## 10. Confidentiality

Safeguarding and protecting children raises issues of confidentiality that must be clearly understood by all staff/volunteers in education.

All staff, both teaching and non-teaching staff, have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals, particularly the investigative agencies (Children's Services: Safeguarding and Specialist Services and the Police).

If a child confides in a member of staff/volunteer and requests that the information is kept secret, it is important that the member of staff/volunteer tell the child in a manner appropriate to the child's age/stage of development that they cannot promise complete confidentiality – instead they must explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child or other children safe. This may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.

Staff/volunteers who receive information about children and their families in the course of their work should share that information only within appropriate professional contexts.

## 11. Procedure

When a member of staff is concerned about a child he or she will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The member of staff must record information regarding the concerns on the same day via reporting on MyConcern or in person. The recording must be a clear, precise, factual account of the observations. Use a cause for concern form if you do not have access to MyConcern.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide whether the concerns should be referred to Children's Services. If it is decided to make a request for involvement to Children's Services this will be discussed with the parents, unless to do so would place the child at further risk of harm. An Early Help Assessment will be completed in most instances.

While it is the DSL's role to make request for involvement, any staff member can make a referral to Children's Services.

If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, a referral should be made to Children's Services and/or the Police immediately. Where referrals are not made by the DSL, the DSL must be informed as soon as possible.

Particular attention must also be paid to the attendance and development of any child about whom the school has concerns, or who has been identified as being the subject of a child protection plan and a written record will be kept and attendance procedures followed.

A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve and maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significant or further impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled. Local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Local authorities, with help of other organisations as appropriate, have a duty to make enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. Such enquiries enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare and must be initiated where there are concerns about maltreatment, including all forms of abuse and neglect, female genital mutilation or other so-called honour based violence, and extra-familial threats like radicalisation and sexual exploitation.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for making the senior leadership team aware of trends in behaviour or concerns that may affect pupil welfare. Gathering safeguarding data and impact will be embedded into the provision's process to measure effective safeguarding practice and resolve any weaknesses.

## 12. Communication with Parents

Schools will ensure the BCT Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available publicly either via the provision website or by other means.

Parents should be informed prior to referral, unless it is considered to do so might place the child at increased risk of significant harm by:

- The behavioural response it prompts e.g. a child being subjected to abuse, maltreatment or threats / forced to remain silent if alleged abuser informed;
- Leading to an unreasonable delay;
- Leading to the risk of loss of evidential material.

(The school may also consider not informing parent(s) where it would place a member of staff at risk).

The school will ensure that parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibilities placed on the school and staff for safeguarding children.

## 13. Managing Allegations

An allegation is any information which indicates that a member of staff (including volunteers) may have:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against/related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way which indicates s/he may pose a risk of harm to children.

This applies to any child the member of staff (including volunteers) has contact with in their personal, professional or community life.

All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the academy/college setting's safeguarding arrangements.

If staff members have concerns about another staff member then this should be referred to the Head Teacher or Trust Safeguarding Lead. Where there are concerns about the Head Teacher or Trust Safeguarding Lead, this should be referred to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Trustee to the board responsible for safeguarding as appropriate.

The person to whom an allegation is first reported should take the matter seriously and keep an open mind. S/he should not investigate or ask leading questions if seeking clarification; it is important not to make assumptions. Confidentiality should not be promised and the person should be advised that the concern will be shared on a 'need to know' basis only.

Actions to be taken include making an immediate written record of the allegation using the informant's words – including time, date and place where the alleged



incident took place, brief details of what happened, what was said and who was present. This record should be signed, dated and immediately passed on to the Head Teacher or Trust Safeguarding Lead.

The recipient of an allegation must not unilaterally determine its validity, and failure to report it in accordance with procedures is a potential disciplinary matter.

The allegation will be discussed with Trust HR Manager and CEO and a decision will be collectively made whether this is a child protection concern and whether it is necessary to refer the concern to the Local Authority Designated Officer:

If the allegation meets any of the three criteria set out at the start of this section, contact should always be made with the Local Authority Designated Officer without delay.

If it is decided that the allegation meets the threshold for safeguarding, this will take place in accordance Somerset Safeguarding Children Board Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures.

If it is decided that the allegation does not meet the threshold for safeguarding, it will be handed back to the employer for consideration via the school's internal procedures.

The Head Teacher/Trust Safeguarding Lead should, as soon as possible, following briefing from the Local Authority Designated Officer inform the subject of the allegation.

For further information see: SSCB's Allegations Management or contact Somerset Direct for a referral to the LADO **Somerset Direct 0300 123 2224**.

Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer/through the whistleblowing procedure or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels may be open to them:

NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for those who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285, line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

#### 14. Safer Working Practice

To reduce the risk of allegations, all staff should be aware of safer working practice and should be familiar with the guidance contained in the trust code of conduct and Safer Recruitment document Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings (2015)

The document seeks to ensure that the responsibilities of school leaders towards children and staff are discharged by raising awareness of illegal, unsafe, unprofessional and unwise behaviour. This includes guidelines for staff on positive

behaviour management in line with the ban on corporal punishment (School Standards and Framework Act 1998).

## 15. Site Safety

The academy will make *reasonable* effort to provide a secure, healthy, hazard-free environment for everyone at and visiting our provision. Consequently, all staff will:

- Maintain suitable/reasonable physical boundaries and barriers such as fencing, gates and locks on doors;
- Directly supervise children at all times, ensuring they remain on the premises and are never permitted to enter hazardous or insecure sections areas;
- Take all reasonable steps to monitor contractors, visitors and volunteers using the premises during time, requiring them to report to the provision office, take and read our Information and Guidance for Contractors and Visitors leaflet sign in to confirm that they have received, read and understood this leaflet, and wear a visitor's badge/sticker;
- Alert contractors, visitors and volunteers to our school's Safeguarding expectations and protocols, advising them of the name of the DSL and Deputy DSLs.
- Update the single central record of staff/volunteers /casual/governance that are in regulated activity with children.

Our schools believes good safe security allows both staff and pupils to feel safe and confident in their surroundings, and offers reassurance to parents and carers. We note that clearly defined risk management of the site allows staff to manage the school site by limiting trespass and by channelling visitors to the site through appropriate entrances.

## 16. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018

The statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2018 is available online.

Therefore it is decided to provide the hyperlink only to Keeping Children Safe in Education in this policy rather than the document in its entirety, due to likely frequent change in its content. [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\) \(DfE 2018\)](#)

It is essential that all staff have access to this online document and read Part 1 and Annex A, which provides further information on:

- Children missing from education
- Children and the court system
- Children with family members in prison
- Child criminal exploitation
- County lines
- Domestic abuse
- Homelessness
- Peer on peer abuse (including sexual violence and harassment)
- Honour based' violence

- Forced marriage
- Preventing radicalisation

This is to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in this guidance.

Our staff members and regular visitors are asked to sign to say they have read these sections and should subsequently be re-directed to these online documents again should any changes occur.

## **17. Boarding**

Brymore Academy has boarding provision and as such, will be particularly alert to safeguarding and child protection in boarding time. Brymore Academy Designated Safeguarding Lead also works in boarding ensuring that safeguarding is a key priority at all times.

Children and young people can be particularly vulnerable in residential settings and as such the academy complies with the guidance DfE Boarding Schools National minimum standards April 2015 (to be reviewed March 2017)

Within the Boarding context, relationships may develop. The academy forbids sexual acts between pupils. The academy aims to keep such incidents confidential from other pupils but will always refer concerns to Somerset Children's Services for advice. Please read Brymore Academy Sexualised Behaviours Policy and Procedures available on the academy website.

Peer abuse – where there is suspicion of abuse between pupils, the academy recognises the importance of rapid investigation (notwithstanding its duty to refer (if it meets threshold) to Somerset Children's Services for advice. The possibility of peer abuse at Brymore is minimised by: an open atmosphere of mutual trust among the boarding community; experienced, trained boarding staff; good staff provision and supervision; access to Academy Mental Health & Wellbeing Practitioners.

The academy has, and implements effectively, appropriate policies for the care of the boarders who are unwell and ensures that the physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing of boarders is promoted.

## **18. Children staying with host families**

Boarding students, with parental consent, to make arrangements for the boarder to stay with a host family to which they are not related. For this to occur permission from both sets of parents/hosts will need to be obtained 24 hours in advance of the arrangement.

Where the academy has not been involved in making arrangement but a member of staff at the academy becomes aware that a child or young person may be in a private fostering arrangement, where a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by someone to whom they are not related in that person's home, they

should raise this in the first instance with the Head of Boarding and he/she will advise the DSL if there is a child protection concern.

## 19. Early Years Setting

This policy applies to the Bridgwater College Academy provision for the Early Years Foundation Setting responsibility for safeguarding within this setting.

Only academy cameras and iPad/laptop are to be used in EYFS. Staff must not use their own mobile phones or other cameras to take photographs within the EYFS setting. All staff are required to adhere to the ICT Acceptable Use Policy, and specifically to ensure that any images taken of children are appropriate and stored and managed safely.

Safeguarding training for staff in the EYFS will include guidance on identifying signs of possible abuse and neglect (such as significant changes in children's behaviour, deterioration in wellbeing, physical indications, or comments which give cause for concern) and on how to respond in a timely and appropriate way to such signs or to inappropriate behaviour in other members of staff or any other person working with children (Statutory Framework for the EYFS (2014) Section 3.6)

## Appendix A

### Types of Abuse

**Physical abuse** is deliberately hurting a child causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts. It isn't accidental - children who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit, kicked, poisoned, burned, and slapped or having objects thrown at them. Shaking or hitting babies can cause non-accidental head injuries (NAHI). Sometimes parents or carers will make up or cause the symptoms of illness in their child, perhaps giving them medicine they don't need and making the child unwell – this is known as fabricated or induced illness (FII). There's no excuse for physically abusing a child. It causes serious, and often long-lasting, harm – and in severe cases, death.

**Neglect** is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is abuse. A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care. A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm. They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents. A child who's neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well. Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death.

**Sexual Abuse** A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities. This doesn't have to be physical contact and it can happen online. Sometimes the child won't understand that what's happening to them is abuse. They may not even understand that it's wrong.

**Emotional abuse** is the ongoing emotional maltreatment of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and

development. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them. Children who are emotionally abused are often suffering another type of abuse or neglect at the same time – but this isn't always the case.

## Specific abuse and vulnerability concerns

### Domestic Abuse

*Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:*

- *Psychological*
- *Physical*
- *Sexual*
- *Financial*
- *Emotional*

Witnessing the physical and emotional suffering of a parent may cause considerable distress to children, and both the physical assaults and psychological abuse suffered by adult victims who experience domestic abuse can have a negative impact on their ability to look after their children. Children's exposure to parental conflict, even where violence is not present, can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. Children can see school as a safe retreat from problems at home or alternatively not attend school through a perceived need to be at home to protect abused parents or siblings.

Domestic abuse can therefore have a damaging effect on a child's health, educational attainment and emotional well-being and development. The potential scale of the impact on children is not always easy to assess, but may manifest itself as behavioural, emotional or social difficulties, including poor self-esteem, withdrawal, absenteeism, adult-child conflict. Children sometimes disclose what is happening or may be reluctant to do so, hoping that someone will realise something is wrong. Domestic abuse affecting young people can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life.

### Fabricated or Induced Illness by Carer (FII)

FII is a condition whereby a child suffers harm through the deliberate action of their carer and which is attributed by the adult to another cause.

FII can cause significant harm to children. FII involves a well child being presented by a carer as ill or disabled, or an ill or disabled child being presented with a more significant problem than he or she has in reality and suffering harm as a consequence.

There are three main ways of the parent/carer fabricating or inducing illness in a child:

- Fabrication of signs and symptoms, including fabrication of past medical history.

- Fabrication of signs and symptoms and falsification of hospital charts, records, letters and documents, and specimens of bodily fluids.
- Induction of illness by a variety of means.

The possibility of fabricated and induced illness should be considered where there are discrepancies between professional and parental perceptions of the child's needs or of any illness or disability and where there is a possibility of significant harm to the child. Where there are suspicions of FII in a child, the school's DSL must make a referral to Children's Social Care and/or the Police. Parents should not be informed of suspicions at this stage.

### **Child Exploitation, Sexual (CSE) and gangs, (also known as Child Criminal Exploitation)**

There will be other circumstances which give cause for serious concern about the welfare of children; such as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

The exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive something (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affections, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones.

In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common; involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

The current definition updated March 2017 states:

*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 (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*

Somerset's CSE screening tool can be found at:

<http://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk>

### **Peer on peer abuse**

Education settings are an important part of the inter-agency framework not only in terms of evaluating and referring concerns to children's services and the police, but also in the assessment and management of risk that the child or young person may pose to themselves and others in the education setting.

When considering whether behaviour is abusive, it is important to consider: Whether there is a large difference in power (for example age, size, ability, development) between the young people concerned; or whether the perpetrator has repeatedly tried to harm one or more other children; or where there are concerns about the intention of the alleged perpetrator.

Peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways and different gender issues can be prevalent. Peer on peer abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- Bullying (including cyberbullying, or otherwise causing physical harm)
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or otherwise causing physical harm.
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery)
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Sexual harassment we mean ‘unwanted conduct of a sexual nature’ that can occur online and offline. This can include:

- Sexual comments, such as telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names.
- Sexual ‘jokes’ or taunting
- Physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone’s clothes and displaying pictures, photos, drawings of a sexual nature
- Online harassment: non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos, unwanted sexual comments, sexual exploitation; coercion and threats.

Staff should recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers and should not be tolerated or passed off as “banter” or “part of growing up”.

Somerset County Council recommends that education settings use The Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool by the Brook Advisory Service to help professionals; assess and respond appropriately to sexualised behaviour. The traffic light tool can be found at [www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool](http://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool).

Guidance on responding to and managing sexting incidents can be found at: <https://ceop.police.uk>

In order to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse the academy will:

Ensure staff read the Peer on Peer Abuse policy.

Provide a developmentally appropriate PSHE curriculum which develops students understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe.

Have systems in place for any student to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued.

Develop robust risk assessments where appropriate (e.g. Using Risk Assessment Management Plan and Safety and Support Plan tools).

### **Honour-Based Violence (HBV)**

So-called 'honour based' violence (HBV) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and practices such as breast ironing.

Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. All forms of so-called HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. If in any doubt, staff should speak to the DSL. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV, or already having suffered HBV.

### **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

FGM comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (World Health Organisation). It is also sometimes referred to as female genital cutting or female circumcision. The practice is illegal in the UK.

FGM is not an issue that can be decided on by personal preference – it is an illegal, extremely harmful practice, and a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls. Professionals in health, social care and all staff have a statutory duty to report all cases of FGM to the Police where disclosure or signs of FGM are noted, or where a person knows or suspects FGM has been – or will be – perpetrated. When someone reports FGM to the Police, they should ask for a crime reference number.

If there is an IMMEDIATE RISK, call the Police on 999 (emergency number).

If there is NOT an immediate risk, call the Police on 101 (non-emergency number). Also speak with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and or any deputies)

### **Forced Marriage**

The UK Government describes this as taking someone, usually overseas, to force them to marry (whether or not the FM takes place), or marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured to or not). Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is also a criminal offence.

When a disclosure or signs of FM are noted, staff should always alert the DSL/Head teacher immediately. We should never attempt to intervene directly as a school or through a third party. In such situations, the DSL will always call either Somerset Direct/Police and/or the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151.



## **Breast Ironing/Binding**

Breast ironing (also known as breast flattening) is the pounding and massaging of a pubescent girl's breasts, using hard or heated objects, to try to make them stop developing or to disappear.

When a disclosure or signs of breast ironing are noted, staff should always alert the DSL immediately.

## **Faith Abuse**

Faith abuse is linked to a belief in witchcraft or possession by spirits and demons. In such instances, physical and/or psychological violence may be used in order to “get rid” of the possessing spirit.

Child abuse is never acceptable in any community, in any culture, in any religion, under any circumstances. This includes abuse that might arise through a belief in spirit possession or other spiritual or religious beliefs.”

Faith abuse usually occurs in the household where the child lives. It may also occur in a place of worship where alleged “diagnosis” and “exorcism” may take place.

When a disclosure or signs of faith abuse are noted, staff should always alert the DSL immediately. In such situations, the DSL will always call Somerset Children's Social Care Emergency Duty Team on 0300 123 2224.

## **Historical Abuse**

Historical abuse (also known as non-recent abuse) is an allegation of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse made by or on behalf of someone who is now 18 years or over, relating to an incident which took place when the alleged victim was under 18 years old.

The Police should be informed about allegations of crime at the earliest opportunity. Any reports of historic abuse made to Avon and Somerset Police must be to the Safeguarding Co-ordination Unit 01823 349037.

## **County Lines, Cross Borders, Gangs, Trafficking and Cuckooing.**

These are police terms for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market/or coastal towns using dedicated mobile or ‘deal lines’. Gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. Often they take over the homes of vulnerable adults and children by force or coercion in a practice referred to cuckooing.

Getting involved in gang culture can have serious and potentially devastating consequences, with dealers/offenders/members not afraid to use violence. There are people themselves vulnerable and at risk of exploitation by gang members from outside the county.

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns.

Key identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation.

Any activity that seems to be suspicious, or involve drug dealing/crime/exploitation should be passed to the police on 101. Should young people thought to be involved the early help assessment is a useful tool. A request for involvement to CSC/police is needed if the child is at immediate risk of harm.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

### **Private Fostering**

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (18 if they are disabled) lives with someone who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility for 28 days or more. Private fostering is not the same as fostering arranged by the local authority.

Children and young people become privately fostered for a variety of reasons

- Their parents live overseas and they come to this country to attend school
- Their parents are ill and cannot look after them
- Their parents work away from home, possibly abroad
- Their parents have come to the UK to study or work and require someone to look after their children
- They are teenagers who are estranged from their families

The law says that the Local Authority must be told about all private fostering arrangements. The child's parents or carers should notify us of the arrangement, although anyone else involved in making the arrangement or who is aware of it also has a responsibility to inform us.

The Children Act 1989, and section 44 of the Children Act 2004, outlines the legal duty of the local authority to make sure that the welfare of all privately fostered children is safeguarded and promoted.

A social worker will need to check the placement is suitable and that all the needs of the child or children are being met. They will also speak to the child or children to make sure that a thorough assessment of the placement is carried out. When we are made aware a child may be privately fostered a request for involvement will be made to Somerset Direct.

## **Hate Crime**

A Hate Incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender. If you, or anyone you know, has been called names, been bullied or had anything happen to them that you think may be because of one of these factors, then you should report this as a hate incident. Not all hate incidents will amount to criminal offences, but those that do become hate crimes.

## **Sexting**

Sexting is sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photographs or images, primarily between mobile phones. It may also include the use of a computer or any digital device. The academy will follow local procedures with police, Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board and UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS – Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people) Further advice can be sought from Professionals Online Safety Helpline on: 0844 381 4772

## **Online Abuse**

This type of abuse happens on the web, through social networks, playing online games or using a mobile phone. Children and young people may experience cyberbullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse. Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know, as well as from strangers. Online abuse may be part of abuse that is taking place in the real world (for example bullying or grooming). Or it may be that the abuse only happens online (for example persuading children to take part in sexual activity online). Children can feel like there is no escape from online abuse – abusers can contact them at any time of the day or night, the abuse can come into safe places like their bedrooms, and images and videos can be stored and shared with other people. eLIM is part of Support Services for Education. Support Services for Education provides a wide range of services to schools and other educational providers promoting educational excellence for all the children and young people of Somerset and beyond. To find out more about what we can offer you please visit our website [www.SupportServicesforEducation.co.uk](http://www.SupportServicesforEducation.co.uk).

## **Harmful Sexual Behaviour**

Sexual behaviour between children is also considered harmful if one of the children is much older – particularly if there is more than two years' difference in age or if one of the children is pre-pubescent and the other isn't. However, a younger child can abuse an older child, particularly if they have power over them – for example, if the older child is disabled. If you're not sure whether a sexual behaviour is harmful find out about the signs, symptoms and effects of harmful sexual behaviour.

## Grooming

Is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children and young people can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age. Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed or that what has happened is abuse.

## Missing Children

Anyone under the age of 18 years is to be considered “missing” if he/she is absent from his/her place of residence without authority to a degree or in circumstances where the absence causes concern for safety of the child or a danger to the public” This includes children and young people who have been forced to leave home and those whose whereabouts are unknown and those who feel they have had to leave home (rather than making a positive choice to do so). Where reasonably possible our school to hold more than one emergency contact number for each child.

High risks concerns include where:

- The responsible adult has no indication when the child is likely to return
- The child develops a pattern of going missing repeatedly
- The child's location is unknown, or reason for absence is unknown and there is cause for concern for the child because of their vulnerability
- The child is at high risk of exploitation (sexual or child criminal) and gangs.
- The child is pregnant or has a young child
- The child has a history of suicidal thoughts or behaviours
- The child is at risk of radicalisation, risk of travelling to conflict zones
- The child is at risk of neglect
- The child is at risk of sexual abuse
- The child is at risk of female genital mutilation
- The child is at risk of forced marriage

Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risk of a child going missing in the future.

Statutory guidance:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/550416/Children\\_Missing\\_Education\\_-\\_statutory\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550416/Children_Missing_Education_-_statutory_guidance.pdf)

See Somerset Safeguarding Children Board Protocol for Children who go missing  
<https://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Missing-Children-Protocol.pdf>

**Children missing Education (CME)** are children of compulsory school age who:

- aren't on a school roll, and
- aren't getting a suitable education other than at school

For more information, refer to the Somerset's Children Missing in Education Policy. When children abscond from, or on route to/from, school, unexpectedly going missing from their registered school or education provider, parents/carers must be informed immediately and the Police involved where appropriate. When children (who are NOT on holiday and/or whose reason for absence is unknown) the absence is recorded as unauthorised and the education provider makes good attempts to find the child. Should the child not be found the case should be referred following the Child Missing in Education process. The CME referral process does NOT replace Safeguarding procedures for the reporting of Child Protection concerns, which must be observed at all times.

MissingChildren [MissingChildren@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:MissingChildren@somerset.gov.uk)

Elective Home Education Team [EHETeam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:EHETeam@somerset.gov.uk)

### **Children and the court system**

Children are sometime required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. Staff need to be aware of the structures in place to support children through this process.

Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. Staff need to be aware this can be stressful for children. There is information available to support children through this process.

### **Children with family members in prison**

Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. NICCO provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children. [www.nicco.org.uk](http://www.nicco.org.uk)

### **Homelessness**

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or any deputies) if you have a concern. The DSL will be aware of the local authority's referral routes.

If you are aware of 16 and 17 years olds living independently from their parents or guardians, speak with the designated safeguarding lead who will contact children's services. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities>

## Appendix B

### Single Central Record (SCR)

Keeping an accurate Single Central Record is a statutory requirement and an essential part of keeping children safe in education and forms part of the statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\) \(DfE 2018\)](#) which applies to all maintained schools and academies. The SCR is covered by the statutory guidance included within KCSIE and is a requirement of the School Staffing Regulations (and Independent School Regulations for academies). Guidance about what information should be held on the SCR is outlined at paragraph 112 of the guidance

### Single Central Record Checklist

	Yes	No	Action Required?
Is a single central record (SCR) in place for all staff (including supply staff)?			
Does the SCR include all others who work regularly or intensively with children, including volunteers?			
Are all members of the proprietor body included on the SCR? (For independent schools, free schools and academies)			
Does the SCR indicate that identity checks have been carried out and by whom?			
Is there evidence on the SCR that all staff have been checked against the Barred List (previously List 99)?			
Does the SCR record the date when the DBS and/or Barred List checks was carried out and who carried out the check?			
Does the SCR record that further overseas criminal checks have been undertaken as appropriate?			
Does the SCR record professional qualifications – where the qualification is a requirement of the job?			
Does the SCR record evidence that a Prohibition from Teaching check has been carried out on all teaching staff employed since September 2013?			
Does the SCR record evidence a check of “Right to Work” in the United Kingdom and suitability checks as appropriate?			
Have all <i>relevant</i> staff been asked been asked to complete a declaration confirming that they are not disqualified in line with the Childcare Act 2006 and the (Disqualification) Regulations 2009? Is evidence of these checks included on the SCR?			
Have copies of documents used to verify identity, qualifications and Right to Work in the UK been retained in individual personnel files?			
Does the SCR evidence that checks in respect of Section 128 directions have been undertaken for persons taking part in the management of an independent school including an academy or free school?			

NB: Schools are not required to keep copies of DBS certificates and in line with the Data Protection Act, copies of DBS certificates should not be retained for longer than 6 months.

## Appendix C

### Early Help

*Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. All staff should be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help. (Keeping children safe in Education Sept 2018)*

It's about working with children, young people and their families to identify and address problems before they escalate. Early help includes services that are available to all families as well as services for more vulnerable families who need a greater level of support. Effective early help means that:

- Parents and or care-givers feel supported to provide stable, consistent and appropriate care for their families
- Children and young people achieve their education goals
- Young people are equipped with the skills and attitudes to join the workforce and overcome barriers to employability
- Children and young people achieve the best possible physical and mental health
- Children and young people are safe and feel safe

This is what we are working towards as a partnership in Somerset. We want to have a consistent and collaborative early help offer for children, young people and families delivered jointly by all partners. Giving the ability to offer the right help at the right time as soon as a problem emerges. Early Help is everyone's responsibility; we want children, families, communities and agencies to work together so that families are assisted to help themselves and are supported as soon as a need arises, thereby improving the overall wellbeing and quality of life of all Somerset children, young people and their families.

Providing the right information and advice to enable choice for families so they can be empowered to make positive changes themselves with tailored support where needed. Helping families build protective factors and family resilience so that they have the skills, knowledge and ability to meet the children's needs and to prevent situations escalating

The early help assessment is used to help practitioners gather and understand information about the strengths and needs, based on discussions with the family. The holistic assessment identifies the most appropriate way to meet those needs.

Practitioners in universal or targeted early help services can complete an early help assessment on their own or with the support of the Early Help Co-ordination Hub.

## Appendix D

### Managing Allegations and Escalation

The statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016/18)' states that governing bodies and proprietors should appoint a member of staff of the school's or college's leadership team to the role of designated safeguarding lead. The designated safeguarding lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) All staff should be instructed that any allegation should be reported immediately to the Head teacher or Trust Safeguarding Lead. Written safeguarding procedures should reflect this guidance.

On being advised of an allegation which meets the criteria, which is:

- 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; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children

The head teacher or Trust Safeguarding Lead should contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within 1 working day.

Phone Somerset Direct on **0300 123 2224** for a referral.

The LADO's role is to provide advice and guidance to organisations dealing with allegations, to liaise with the police and other agencies, and to monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process.

All referrals should be made in the first instance by phone to Somerset Direct indicating that you wish to refer an allegation against an adult who works with children. Please follow up all referrals using the LADO Reporting Form (Allegation Referral Form ARF) available on the Somerset Children Safeguarding Board site.

All allegations against staff are dealt with in accordance with 'Working Together 2015 updated 2017'. In addition, schools should have regard to Part 4 of the statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2018). Should the allegation be about the designated lead or senior lead, allegations should be passed to a higher level such as a chair of governors or director.

### Escalation



When working with professionals from other agencies there will at times be differences of opinion with regards to how to respond to an identified concern about a child, young person or family. Disagreements can be a sign of developing thinking, and the value of exchanging ideas from different perspectives should not be under-estimated and is one of many benefits of partnership working.

Transparency, openness and a willingness to understand and respect individual and agency views are core aspects of a safe multi-agency / inter-agency working. Good preparation, open lines of communication and planning by professionals who take responsibility for decision-making will ensure differences of view are kept to a minimum. However, disagreements may disadvantage the child or family involved if they are not resolved constructively and in a timely manner.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is a responsibility shared by all agencies. If you feel that a professional or an agency is not acting in the best interests of the child, young person or family, you have a responsibility to respectfully challenge the professional or agency. The Somerset Children Safeguarding Board or the SSE Education Safeguarding Advisor can provide further advice on this matter.

## Appendix E

### SSCB referral routes Somerset Safeguarding Children Board

The SSCB has a statutory duty to co-ordinate how agencies work together to safeguard and promote the well-being of children and young people in Somerset and to ensure the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements.

#### Report a child at risk

If you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger please contact

- Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224
- by email at [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)
- or the police

You can contact the police directly by dialling 101 and they will discuss with Children's Social Care what action should be taken. **In an emergency always contact the police by dialling 999.**

If you would like to speak to a social worker outside of office hours please phone the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0300 123 23 27.

We will always deal with any calls in the strictest confidence.

If you suspect child abuse:

- **Do** listen to the child
- **Do** take what the child says seriously
- **Do** act quickly
- **Do** share your worries with Children's Social Care, the police or the NSPCC - they are there to help you
- **Do** continue to offer support to the child
- **Don't** delay
- **Don't** probe or push the child for explanations
- **Don't** assume that someone else knows and will help the child. You must act
- **Don't** be afraid to voice your concerns, the child may need urgent protection and help

Safeguarding is everybody's business.

## Appendix F

### Preventing radicalisation

**Radicalisation** is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

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

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 child’s vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods and settings e.g. online, social media.

Staff should be alert to changes in children’s behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

**The Prevent Duty** - Prevent is one part of the United Kingdom’s counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) and aims to stop people from being exposed to extreme ideologies and becoming radicalised. The CONTEST strategy is divided up into four priority objectives:

- Pursue – stop terrorist attacks
- Prepare – where we cannot stop an attack, mitigate its impact
- Protect – strengthen overall protection against terrorist attacks
- Prevent – stop people becoming terrorists and supporting violent extremism

All schools and colleges are subject to a duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have ‘due regard’ to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent duty should be seen as part of the schools wider safeguarding obligations.

### Channel

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks. Children should be protected from messages of all violent extremism.

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 any deputies) making a referral to the Channel programme.

To report concerns contact the Regional Police Prevent Team:

- Phone: 01179 455 536
- Email: [channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)
- SWCPP (Safeguarding Children and Young people against Radicalisation and Violent Extremism)  
[http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/somerset/p\\_sg\\_ch\\_extremism.html?zoom\\_highlight=prevent](http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/somerset/p_sg_ch_extremism.html?zoom_highlight=prevent) Revised Prevent Duty guidance for England and Wales.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

## Useful Contacts

The **Somerset Safeguarding Children Board** (SSCB) is the statutory, multi-agency partnership with responsibility for coordinating, monitoring and challenging all activity relating to safeguarding children and young people living in Somerset.

The SSCB have developed a range of learning opportunities that have been informed by the Board's priorities, quality assurance activities and learning reviews, which aim to equip you in your tasks and enable you to work confidently alone and alongside others to keep children safe and promote their wellbeing. These training opportunities and a wide variety of information, advice, tools and resources is located on the website: <http://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/>.

## Somerset Direct

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/childrens-services/safeguarding-children/report-a-child-at-risk/>

Consultation Line for Children's Safeguarding Leads', 0300 123 3078

Somerset Direct (Children's and Adult's) 0300 123 2224

- CAMHS Telephone Advice Line (12.00pm to 2.00pm Monday to Friday)
- West 01823 368368
- GP's and Lead Professionals (9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday)
- Early Help Advice Hub 01823 355803
- Emergency Duty Team (EDT) 0300 123 2327
- getset Sedgemoor 01278 446771
- getset Taunton and West Somerset 01823 322508 / 01643 700030
- Prevent – Regional Police Prevent Team 01179 455536/539
- [channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)

## LGBT - [stonewall.org.uk](http://stonewall.org.uk)

- Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS) 0300 303 8788
- Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (SIDAS) 0800 694 9999
- Somerset Partnership Integrated Therapy Service 0303 033 3002
- (9.00am to 12.00pm, Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri)

### **Somerset Support for Education (SSE)**

Education Safeguarding Advisor 01823 355014  
Early Years Safeguarding Advisor 01823 355492

<http://www.supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/>

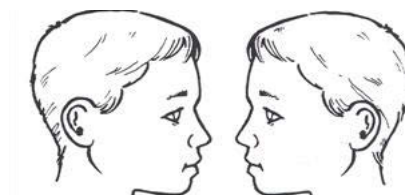
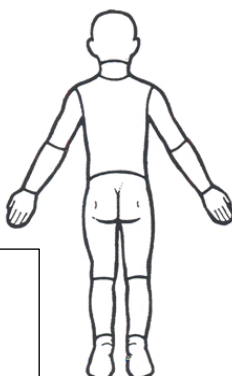
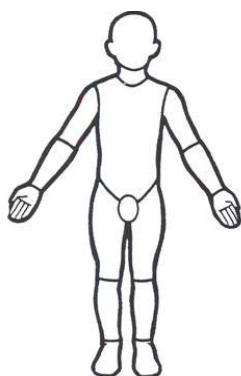
Includes Education Welfare, Governance, eLIM, Traveller Education and Property & Grounds services.

### **Further advice on child protection is available from:**

- NSPCC <http://www.nspcc.org.uk>
- Childline: <http://www.childline.org.uk/pages/home.aspx>
- CEOPsThinkuknow: <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>
- The UK Safer Internet Centre: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

## Cause for Concern Reporting Form

Child Name:		Year Group/Class:	
Date of Report:		Name of reporting person:	
Time:		Any witnesses?	
Details of concern/event:			
Signed:		Date:	



**Any injury seen?**

**Y      N**

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## Advice for recording a concern

When recording an incident include the date, time and place as well as the names of any potential witnesses to the event or disclosure. Keep observations factual. If recording conversations try to use exact words and not to rephrase. Avoid leading questions. Use the outlines provided to show injury sites. Size estimates can also be included.

### Safeguarding Lead

<b>Referred DSL on:</b>		<b>DSL on duty:</b>	
<b>Advice sought:</b> (when, from whom and what was advice given)			
<b>Concern/referral discussed with parent/carer?</b> (If not, state reasons why – if yes, note discussion with parent)			
<b>Referral made:</b> (If not, state reasons why – if yes, record to whom and any action agreed)			
<b>EHA required?</b>	<b>Yes / No?</b>	<b>By whom:</b>	
<b>Feedback to referring member of staff:</b>	<b>Yes / No?</b>	<b>By whom:</b>	
<b>Response to / action taken with pupil:</b> (what was done and by whom?)			
<b>Other action taken:</b>			
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	