



Caldecote Day Nursery



Safeguarding Children Policy

EYFS: 3.4 – 3.18, 3.19, 3.21, 3.21 & 3.22

1. Policy statement and principles

At Caldecote Day Nursery we work with children, parents, external agencies and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect, be helped to thrive and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form.

We support the children within our care, protect them from maltreatment and have robust procedures in place to prevent the impairment of children's health and development. Safeguarding is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single policy, therefore this document should be used in conjunction with the nursery's other policies and procedures.

This policy is available on the nursery website and all staff and volunteers are required to read it and confirm they have done so in writing before commencing work at nursery.

Child protection statement

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff, volunteers and governors and are consistent with statutory guidance and those of the locally agreed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements put in place by Warwickshire Safeguarding (WS).

Policy principles:

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- The nursery's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance
- All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection
- Children who are safe and feel safe are better equipped to learn
- This nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
- All adults are required to take all welfare concerns seriously and to encourage children and young people to talk to them about anything that worries them. Staff will always act in the best interests of children.
- Due to their day-to-day contact with children, staff are uniquely placed to observe changes in children's behaviour and the outward signs of abuse, neglect, exploitation and radicalisation. Children may also turn to a trusted adult when they are in distress or at risk. It is vital that all staff are alert to the signs of abuse, are approachable and trusted by children, listen actively to them and understand the procedures for reporting their concerns. The nursery will act on identified concerns and will provide early help to prevent concerns from escalating.





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- All staff have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm at home, in the community or in nursery.
- All staff members will 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.
- If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral will be made to Children's Social Care and / or the Police immediately. **Anybody can make a referral.** If the child's situation does not appear to be improving, any staff member with concerns should press the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for re-consideration.
- If a member of staff remains concerned about a child, they can discuss their concerns with the Proprietor, Manager, another DSL or contact the MASH Educational Lead for additional advice as necessary (contact details in Appendix 2).
- Children and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support.
- This policy will be reviewed at least annually unless an incident, new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an interim review.
- Representatives of the nursery community of pupils, parents and staff will be involved in reviewing, shaping and developing the school/college's safeguarding arrangements and child protection policy.
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Policy aims:

- To provide all staff with the necessary information to enable them to meet their safeguarding and child protection responsibilities.
- To ensure consistent good practice.
- To demonstrate the nursery's commitment with regard to safeguarding and child protection to children, parents and other partners.
- To contribute to the nursery's safeguarding portfolio.

Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to the process of protecting children from maltreatment, preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care 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 at risk of suffering significant harm.

Staff refers to all those working for or on behalf of the nursery, 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, foster carers and adoptive parents.





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1. Safeguarding legislation and guidance

Academies, free nurseries, independent nurseries, alternative providers of education - Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 and the Education (Independent Nursery Standards) Regulations 2014 require proprietors of independent nurseries (including academies and city technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are children at the nursery.

- The **Teachers' Standards** state that teachers, including Proprietor / Managers, must have regard for the need to safeguard children's well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions; and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.
- The statutory guidance **Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2018)** covers the legislative requirements and expectations of individual services (including nurseries and colleges) to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It also provides the framework for the three local safeguarding partners (the local authority; a clinical commissioning group for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority; and the chief officer of Police for a Police area, any part of which falls within the local authority area) to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children including identifying and responding to their needs. The guidance confirms that it applies, in its entirety, to all schools and nurseries.
- The statutory guidance **Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2020)** is issued under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent Nursery Standards) Regulations 2014 and the Non-Maintained Special Nurseries (England) Regulations 2015. Nurseries and colleges must have regard to this guidance when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Unless otherwise stated, 'nursery' in this guidance means all nurseries, whether maintained, non-maintained or independent, including academies and free nurseries, alternative provision academies, maintained nursery nurseries and child referral units. 'College' means further education colleges and sixth form colleges as established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and relates to their responsibilities to children under the age of 18 (but excludes 16-19 academies and free nurseries, which are required to comply with relevant safeguarding legislation by virtue of their funding agreement).

All staff must read Part One of **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020**. Staff can find a copy in the nursery office and staff room. In addition, all staff who work directly with children must read part 5 and Annex A.

- **What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015 - Advice for practitioners** is non-statutory advice which helps practitioners (everyone who works with children) to identify abuse and neglect and take appropriate action. A copy of this can be found in the nursery office.





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• COVID-19

Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2020) and this policy are to remain in force throughout the response to coronavirus (COVID-19). This policy has been updated in accordance with DfE advice published in July 2020 'Guidance for full opening: schools' -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>; and will be further updated when new and/or revised guidance is issued.

This policy applies to children who are attending school and others who may be staying at and accessing learning from home because of COVID-19. Please refer to Appendix 3 for specific arrangements in relation to the safeguarding of children who are at home.

2. Roles and responsibilities

Key personnel

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is Lilly Wagstaff

Contact details: email: lillywagstaff@hotmail.com Tel: 07510 323377

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is Katie Duffy

Contact details: email: katielduffy7@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07723 521889

The deputy designated safeguarding lead is Pamela Sheppard

Contact details: email: pls10@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07711 103620

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

- is a senior member of staff from the school/college's leadership team and therefore has the status and authority within the school/college to carry out the duties of the post, including committing resources and supporting and directing other staff
- takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) in the school/college, which will not be delegated although the activities of the DSL may be delegated to appropriately trained deputies. The role and responsibility is explicit in the role holder's job description.
- is appropriately trained, (including Prevent Training) receives refresher training at two-yearly intervals and regularly (at least annually) updates their knowledge and skills to keep up with any developments relevant to their role
- acts as a source of advice, support and expertise to the school/college community
- encourages a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings
- is alert to the specific needs of children in need; those with special educational needs; children who are looked after or were previously looked after; children who have a social worker; young carers and oversees





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the provision of effective pastoral support to all of those children, promoting their educational outcomes by sharing information about their welfare, circumstances and needs with teachers and other staff as appropriate.

- works closely with pastoral support staff; the SENCo; the designated teacher for children who are looked after or were previously looked after; staff with designated responsibility for promoting children's mental health and emotional wellbeing; the ICT lead and any ICT support staff; and school nurses in relation to safeguarding matters (including online and digital safety) and whether to make referrals to relevant partner agencies.
- has a working knowledge of locally agreed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and procedures put in place by WS.
- has an understanding of the early help process to ensure effective support, assessment and understanding of children's additional needs in order to inform appropriate provision of early help and intervention
- keeps detailed and accurate written records of all concerns, ensuring that such records are stored securely and flagged, but kept separate from, the pupil's general file
- refers cases of suspected abuse to Children's Social Care or the Police as appropriate and, where a crime may have been committed, refers cases to the Police.
- refers cases using the prescribed pro forma to Children's Social Care and the Prevent policing team for a joint assessment where there is a concern that a child is at risk of radicalisation; and to the Channel panel if subsequently advised to do so.
- ensures that staff do everything they can to support social workers when and contribute to assessments of children when Children's Social Care become involved
- notifies Children's Social Care if a child with a child protection plan is absent without explanation at intervals as defined in the plan.
- ensures that, when a pupil under the age of 18 years leaves the school/college, all child protection records are passed to the new school/college (separately from the main pupil file and ensuring secure transit) and confirmation of receipt is obtained. If the child is the subject of an open case to Children's Social Care, the pupil's social worker is also informed
- considers whether to share any information about a child leaving the school with the receiving school/college/education provider in advance so that the receiving setting is appropriately informed in order to support the child as effectively as possible and plan for her/his arrival.
- attends and/or contributes to child protection conferences, strategy meetings and multi-agency exploitation (MASE) meetings
- co-ordinates the school/college's contribution to child protection plans as part of core groups, attending and actively participating in core group meetings
- develops effective links with relevant statutory and voluntary agencies including the local safeguarding partnership
- ensures that all staff sign to indicate that they have read and understood the child protection and safeguarding policy; the staff behaviour policy (code of conduct); the behaviour policy; the school/college's safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and the role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies).
- ensures that all staff understand that if they have **any concerns** about a child's welfare, they should act on them immediately, either by speaking to the DSL (or a deputy) or, in exceptional circumstances, taking responsibility to make a referral to Children's Social Care
- ensures that all staff know how to make a referral as in sections 26-28 of this policy





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- has a working knowledge of relevant national guidance in respect of all specific safeguarding issues highlighted in paragraphs 21-34 (pages 8-11) and Annex A of *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020* (pages 78-91), ensuring that all staff receive necessary training, information and guidance
- understands the unique risks associated with online safety and ensures that staff are trained to have the requisite knowledge and up to date capability to keep children safe whilst they are online.
- understands the relevance of data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in respect of safeguarding children.
- ensures that the child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures are reviewed and updated at least annually, working with the whole school/college community of pupils, parents, staff, volunteers and governors and/or proprietors regarding this
- liaises with the nominated governor and headteacher (where the DSL role is not carried out by the headteacher) as appropriate
- keeps a record of staff attendance at child protection training
- makes the child protection and safeguarding policy available publicly, i.e. on the school/college's website or by other means
- ensures parents are aware of the school/college's role in safeguarding and that referrals about suspected abuse and neglect may be made
- ensures that the school/college holds more than one emergency contact number for every pupil/student
- ensures that the headteacher is aware of the responsibility under *Working Together 2018* to refer all allegations that a child has been harmed by or that children may be at risk of harm from a member of staff or volunteer to the Designated Officer (DO) in the Local Authority within one working day prior to any internal investigation; and to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) as appropriate.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)

Is/are appropriately trained to the same standard as the DSL and supports the DSL with safeguarding matters as appropriate. In the absence of the DSL, carries out those functions necessary to ensure the ongoing safety and protection of pupils. The role and responsibility is explicit in the role holder's job description. In the event of the long-term absence of the DSL, the deputy will assume all of the functions of the DSL as above.

The Nursery Management ensure that the nursery:

- appoints a Designated Safeguarding Lead who is a member of the senior leadership team and who has undertaken training in inter-agency working, in addition to basic child protection training
- ensures that the DSL role is explicit in the role holder's job description (and also the job description of any Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads) and that safeguarding responsibilities are identified explicitly in the job/role descriptions of every member of staff and volunteer.
- ensures that the DSL or a Deputy DSL is always available during working hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. The DSL or a Deputy DSL will generally be expected to be available in person but in exceptional circumstances availability will be via telephone and/or Skype or other such media.
- ensures that the DSL or a Deputy DSL is always available at least via telephone or other media as above during any out of hours.
- has a child protection policy and procedures, including a staff code of conduct, that are consistent with local safeguarding partnership and statutory requirements, reviewed annually and made available publicly on the school's website or by other means
- has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against members of staff and volunteers





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- including allegations made against the headteacher and allegations against other children
- follows safer recruitment procedures that include statutory checks on the suitability of staff to work with children and disqualification from providing childcare regulations
 - develops an induction strategy that ensures all staff, including the headteacher, and volunteers receive information about the school's safeguarding arrangements, Staff Behaviour Policy (Code Of Conduct) and the role of the DSL on induction
 - develops a training strategy that ensures all staff, including the headteacher, and volunteers receive appropriate and regularly updated safeguarding and child protection training and updates as required (at least annually) to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively in line with any requirements of WS. The training strategy will also ensure that the DSL receives refresher training and regular updates as defined under the DSL's duties above.
 - ensures that all staff, including temporary staff and volunteers, are provided with copies of or access to the school's child protection and safeguarding policy and Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct) before they start work at the school
 - appoints a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after by the Local Authority and who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales; and ensures that the designated teacher has appropriate training
 - contributes to inter-agency working and plans
 - provides effective pastoral care, participates in the early help process and offers to initiate Early Help Single Assessments for pupils/students with additional needs in order to provide a co-ordinated offer of early help
 - teaches pupils about safeguarding and how to keep themselves safe at all times, including when online, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.
 - The nursery will submit a response to WS's annual EY safeguarding audit. An action plan will be drawn up and any weaknesses will be rectified in accordance with that plan.

3. Good practice guidelines and staff code of conduct

To meet and maintain our responsibilities towards children, we identify standards of good practice and set out our expectations of staff in the Staff Behaviour Policy, which all members of staff and volunteers are required to read and sign before starting work in the nursery. In summary, our expectations include:

- treating all children with respect
- setting a good example by conducting ourselves appropriately
- involving children in decisions that affect them
- encouraging positive, respectful and safe behaviour among children
- being a good listener
- being alert to changes in children's behaviour and to signs of abuse and neglect and exploitation
- recognising that challenging behaviour and mental health difficulties may be an indicator of abuse
- reading and understanding the nursery's child protection policy, Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct) and guidance documents on wider safeguarding issues, for example bullying, behaviour, physical contact, sexual exploitation, extremism, e-safety and information-sharing
- maintaining appropriate standards of conversation and interaction with and between children and avoiding the use of sexualised or derogatory language
- being aware that the personal and family circumstances and lifestyles of some children lead to an





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increased risk of abuse

- applying the use of reasonable force and physical intervention only as a last resort and in compliance with nursery procedures and WSCB guidance
- referring all concerns about a child's safety and welfare to the DSL or, if necessary, directly to the Police or Children's Social Care
- following the nursery's rules with regard to communication and relationships with children, including via social media
- referring all allegations against members of staff, volunteers or other adults that work with children and any concerns about breaches of the Staff Behaviour policy directly to the Proprietor / Manager; and any similar allegations against or concerns about the Proprietor / Manager directly to the chair of governors.

4. Abuse of position of trust

All nursery staff are aware that inappropriate behaviour towards children is unacceptable and that their conduct towards children must be beyond reproach.

In addition, staff should understand that, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is an offence for a person over the age of 18 to have a sexual relationship with a person under the age of 18, where that person is in a position of trust, even if the relationship is consensual. This means that any sexual activity between a member of the nursery staff and a child under 18 may be a criminal offence, even if that child is over the age of consent.

5. Children who may be particularly vulnerable

Some children are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect than others. Several factors may contribute to that increased vulnerability, including prejudice and discrimination; isolation; social exclusion; communication issues; a reluctance on the part of some adults to accept that abuse can occur; as well as an individual child's personality, behaviour, disability, mental and physical health needs and family circumstances.

To ensure that all of our children receive equal protection, we will give special consideration to children who are:

- Disabled, have special educational needs or have mental health needs
- young carers
- affected by parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and violence or parental mental health needs
- asylum seekers
- looked after by the Local Authority or otherwise living away from home
- in receipt of support and services from a social worker
- vulnerable to being bullied, or engaging in bullying behaviours
- living away from home or in temporary accommodation
- living transient lifestyles
- living in chaotic and unsupportive home situations
- vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, disability or sexuality
- at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) / and or child criminal exploitation
- at risk from or are involved with serious violent crime





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- do not have English as a first language
- at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM)
- at risk of forced marriage
- at risk of being drawn into extremism.

This list provides examples of additionally vulnerable groups and is not exhaustive. Special consideration includes the provision of safeguarding information and resources in community languages and accessible formats for children and parents / carers with communication needs.

6. Children with special educational needs and disabilities or have mental health needs

Children with special educational needs (SEN), disabilities or who have mental health needs can face additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children, which can include:

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

Staff are trained to manage these additional barriers to ensure this group of children are appropriately safeguarded and are aware that mental health difficulties can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Staff are not expected or trained to diagnose mental health conditions or issues but they will record and report any concerns about a child's mental health to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as with any other safeguarding concern, recognising that mental health concerns may be an outcome and/or indicator of wider safeguarding issues and concerns.

7. Early Help and use of the Pathway to Change process

The school recognises that providing timely pastoral support and early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. *Keeping Children Safe in Education 20120* emphasises that **all** staff should be aware of the early help process and understand their role in it. All school/college staff are therefore trained and required to notice any concerns about children which may help to identify that they would benefit from early help; to record those concerns using Green forms and to share their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a Deputy DSL), who is most likely to have a complete picture and be the most appropriate person to decide how best to respond to any concerns.





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Early help might be simple pastoral support and something the school/college is able to address with parents so that the child's needs are met quickly and easily. The school/college will keep a record of any such help using the 'Pre Early Help Pathway to Change Action Plan' to record clear targets, actions for all parties including parents/carers and progress, using WCC Pathway to Change documentation as appropriate.

It may become necessary to take some time with parents to understand a child's needs and circumstances in a more structured way. Children and families may also need support from a range of local agencies beyond the school/college. Where the school/college has identified that a structured assessment would benefit a child in order to determine how best to meet their needs and support their family; or where a child and family would benefit from co-ordinated support from more than one agency (e.g. education, health, housing, Police) and her/his parents' consent, the school will use the Early Help Pathway to Change process to identify what help the child and family require to prevent the child's needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed via a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989.

If early help is appropriate, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy DSL) will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an Early Help Pathway to Change as appropriate. Other staff may be required to work directly with pupils and their families and to support other agencies and practitioners in an Early Help Pathway to Change, in some cases acting as the lead professional.

The school/college is committed to working in partnership with children, parents and other agencies to:

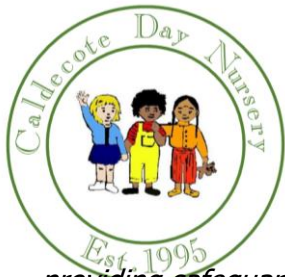
- identify situations in which children and/or their families would benefit from early help
- undertake an assessment of the need for early help when that is appropriate, using the Early Help Pathway to Change process; and
- provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family, developing an action plan that will focus on activity to improve the child's outcomes.

The school/college will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for any child who:

- is disabled and has specific additional needs;
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan);
- is a young carer;
- is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups;
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- is in a family whose circumstances present challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health issues or domestic abuse;
- has returned home to their family from care;
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- is a privately fostered child.
- is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect; and/or
- is particularly vulnerable in any of the ways identified in paragraph 6 above.

The Early Help process can only be effective if it is undertaken with the agreement of the child's parents/carers. Young people in secondary schools or FE colleges may consent to early help, possibly including an Early Help Pathway to Change in their own right, subject to *Information sharing - Advice for practitioners*





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providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (HMG 2018). The school/college should seek advice from an Early Help Officer or the MASH Educational Lead in those circumstances. The Early Help process should involve the child and family as well as all the practitioners who are working with them.

The school/college will keep the needs and circumstances of children receiving early help under constant review. If the child's situation does not improve and/or the child's parents and/or the child do not consent to early help, the school/college will make a judgement about whether, without help, the needs of the child will escalate. If so, the school/college will seek the parents' consent to a referral to a multi-agency Locality Panel in order to address child's needs. Alternatively, a referral to Children's Social Care may be necessary.

8. Attendance

We recognise that attendance at nursery is important to the well-being of all our children and enables them to access the opportunities made available to them at nursery. Attendance is monitored closely and we address poor or irregular attendance without delay, working in partnership with the Warwickshire County Council Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement (ACE) Service when patterns of absence give rise to concern. Our attendance policy is set out in a separate document and is reviewed regularly by the governing body.

9. Children Missing from Education

The nursery operates in accordance with statutory guidance *Children Missing Education (DfE 2016)* - https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550416/Children_Missing_Education_-_statutory_guidance.pdf

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special needs they may have.

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation, child criminal exploitation, radicalisation or mental health problems. Staff will also be alert to signs of children at risk of travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Effective information sharing between parents, nurseries, schools and local authorities is critical to ensuring that all children of compulsory school age are safe and receiving suitable education.

Attendance, absence and exclusions are closely monitored. The DSL will monitor unauthorised absence and take appropriate action, including notifying the local authority, particularly where children go missing on repeated occasions and / or are missing for periods during the nursery day.

We follow the DfE legal requirements for nurseries in respect of recording and reporting of children who leave nursery without any known destination.

Where a child has 10 consecutive nursery days of unexplained absence and all reasonable steps* have been taken by the nursery to establish their whereabouts without success, the nursery will make an immediate





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referral to Warwickshire County Council 's Education and Learning Business Unit at 01926 742036 or via e mail to cme@warwickshire.gov.uk.

*Reasonable steps include:

- Telephone calls to all known contacts
- Letters home (including recorded delivery)
- Contact with other settings where siblings may be registered
- Possible home visits where safe to do so
- Enquiries to friends, neighbours etc. through nursery contacts
- Enquiries with any other Service known to be involved with the child/family
- All contacts and outcomes to be recorded on the child's file

Upon receipt of a referral from the nursery, the Local Authority will continue to attempt to track the child, for at least a further 10 nursery days, using access to additional contacts/services, e.g. the MASH, Health services, Housing services. If this also fails to establish the child's whereabouts, the nursery will be informed by email and may then, but not before, remove the child from roll and place the child's name on the School to School database, entering XXXXXXXX in the box for destination. This will place the child on the list of Children Missing from Education.

Deletions from roll agreed with the Local Authority will normally be backdated to the first day of absence.

If the Local Authority is able to contact the child and her / his parents, arrangements will be made with the nursery and family for a return to education, including a re-integration programme where necessary. If the child has registered at another nursery, the nursery will delete the child's name from our roll and transfer the child's educational records to the new nursery in the normal way. Any child protection records will be transferred separately and securely for the attention of the DSL in the new nursery and a receipt secured.

Pupils leaving the school for known destinations outside the maintained sector in England and Wales will be updated to the School to School database using MMMMMMM in the destination box. This includes private/independent schools, schools in other countries (including Scotland and Northern Ireland) and pupils moving into Home Education. The latter will be formally notified to the Elective Home Education Service by the school as soon as written confirmation is received from the parent(s).

10. Children who run away or go missing from home or care

The nursery recognises that children who run away or go missing - and are thus absent from their normal residence - are potentially vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, offending and placing themselves in situations where they may suffer physical harm.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 highlights that '*Statutory Guidance on Children who Run Away or go Missing from Home or Care*' (DfE 2014) requires that every child or young person who runs away or goes missing must be offered a Return Home Interview (RHI) within a period of 72 hours of their return.



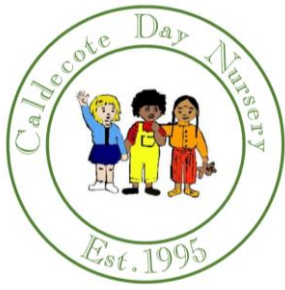
Lancaster Road, Rugby, CV21 2QN



01788 542337



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RHI's are intended to ascertain the factors that triggered the young person's absence. Those factors may include difficulties at home, in nursery and in the community. The short timescale of 72 hours is imposed in order to ensure that the RHI remains relevant to the young person and enables any required action to be initiated at the earliest opportunity.

RHI's are undertaken by professionals who are independent in order to facilitate a discussion with the young person that is as open as possible. As soon as the Local Authority receives notification that a young person has gone missing from home or care, a letter will be sent to parents/carers seeking their consent to a RHI with their son/daughter. Direct contact will then be made with parents/carers and the young person to make arrangements for the interview.

In order to fulfil the timescale of within 72 hours, it is essential that all opportunities to interview young people including times during the nursery/college day are utilised.

When necessary and in conjunction with the Local Authority, the nursery/college will facilitate Return Home Interviews, both in terms of releasing the young person from their normal timetable to participate in an interview and in providing an appropriate and safe space on the nursery/college site for the interview to take place.

The nursery/college will check with the Local Authority whether or not parents/carers have given their consent to the interview. However, young people aged 16 and 17 years old are generally considered to be able to consent and withhold consent to their own information being shared and therefore to participate in a RHI or not. With reference to the Fraser Guidelines, younger children may also be deemed able to consent.

If the Local Authority has not received consent from parents/carers and the young person is not assessed as being capable of giving or withholding informed consent, the nursery/college will contact the parent/carer and seek to secure their consent.

Parents/carers may also choose to accompany their son/daughter in interviews and the nursery/college will facilitate that as appropriate.

11. Helping children to keep themselves safe

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 requires governing bodies and proprietors to ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a 'broad and balanced curriculum.'

Children are taught to understand and manage risk through PSED. Our approach is designed to help children to think about risks they may encounter and with the support of staff work out how those risks might be reduced or managed. Discussions about risk are empowering and enabling for all children and promote sensible behaviour rather than fear or anxiety. Children are taught how to conduct themselves and how to behave in a responsible manner. Children are also reminded regularly about online safety. The nursery continually promotes an ethos of respect for children and children are encouraged to speak to a member of staff of their choosing about any worries they may have.





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We have adopted the NSPCC Pants Rules as a way of introducing children to the private parts of their body and about ways of keeping safe.

12. Support for children, families and staff involved in a child protection issue

Child abuse is devastating for the child and can also result in distress and anxiety for staff who become involved.

We will support children, their families, and staff by:

- taking all suspicions and disclosures seriously
- nominating a link person (*usually the DSL*) who will keep all parties informed and be the central point of contact
- Where a member of staff is the subject of an allegation made by a child, separate link people will be nominated to avoid any conflict of interest
- responding sympathetically to any request from children or staff for time out to deal with distress or anxiety
- maintaining confidentiality and sharing information on a need-to-know basis only with relevant individuals and agencies
- storing records securely
- offering details of helplines, counselling or other avenues of external support
- following the procedures laid down in our child protection, whistleblowing, complaints and disciplinary procedures
- co-operating fully with relevant statutory agencies.

13. Complaints procedure

Our complaints procedure will be followed where a child or parent raises a concern about poor practice towards a child that initially does not reach the threshold for child protection action. Poor practice examples include unfairly singling out a child or attempting to humiliate them, bullying or belittling a child or discriminating against them in some way. Complaints are managed by the Proprietor / Manager, other members of the senior leadership team and governors. An explanation of the complaints procedure is included in the safeguarding information for parents and children.

Complaints from staff are dealt with under the nursery's complaints and disciplinary and grievance procedures.

Complaints which escalate into a child protection concern will automatically be managed under the nursery's child protection procedures.

14. Staff reporting concerns about a colleague or other adult who works with children (Whistleblowing)

Staff who are concerned about the conduct of a colleague - including visiting professionals and volunteers - towards a child are undoubtedly placed in a very difficult situation. They may worry that they have





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misunderstood a situation and they will wonder whether a report could jeopardise a colleague's career. All staff must remember that the welfare of the child is paramount.

The nursery's **whistleblowing** policy enables staff to raise concerns or allegations, initially in confidence, and for a sensitive enquiry to take place.

Staff are expected to report all concerns about poor practice or possible child abuse by colleagues - including what may seem minor contraventions of the nursery's Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct) – to the Proprietor / Manager; to facilitate proactive and early intervention in order to maintain appropriate boundaries and a safe culture that protect children and reduce the risk of serious abuse in nursery.

The recommended format for all staff in nurseries to record any such poor practice or possible child abuse by colleagues or other adults who work with children is the pro forma '*Logging A Concern about the behaviour of an adult who works with children*', also known as the 'Yellow form'. All such forms should be passed directly to the Proprietor / Manager or DSL. Alternatively, staff are free to approach the Proprietor / Manager directly to discuss their concerns.

Concerns or complaints about the Proprietor or Manager should be reported to the DSL. The 'Yellow form' should also be used for that purpose as above.

Staff may also report concerns about suspected abuse or neglect directly to Children's Social Care or the Police if they believe direct reporting is necessary to secure action.

Staff can also contact the Designated Officer in the Local Authority, who is responsible for the co-ordination of responses to allegations against people who work with children, by submitting a 'Warwickshire MASH - Position of Trust Referral' form or via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01926 414144.

The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is also available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 between 8.00a.m. and 8.00p.m. Monday to Friday or e mail help@nspcc.org.uk.

The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline and contact numbers for Children's Social Care, the Police and the Designated Officer are all displayed in the staff room.

15. Managing allegations against staff

When an allegation is made against a member of staff, set procedures must be followed. The full procedures for dealing with allegations against staff can be found in Part 4 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020* and the WS inter-agency safeguarding procedures *Allegations Against Staff or Persons in Positions of Trust* – <https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children/i-work-with-children-and-young-people/interagency-safeguarding-procedures>.

Staff who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress.

Suspension is not the default option and alternatives to suspension will always be considered. However, in





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some cases staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that allegations are investigated fairly, quickly and consistently and that all parties are protected. In the event of suspension the school will provide support and a named contact for the member of staff.

Staff, parents and governors are reminded that publication of material that may lead to the identification of a teacher who is the subject of an allegation is prohibited by law. Publication includes verbal conversations or writing, including content placed on social media sites.

Allegations concerning staff who no longer work at the school or historical allegations will be reported to the Police.

In accordance with *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020*, the school will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity while an allegation is being investigated or considered.

As required by *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, all allegations in respect of an individual who works at the school that fulfil any of the following criteria will be reported to the Designated Officer in the Local Authority (LADO) within one working day:

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

The Designated Officer's contact number is **01926 745376**. Referrals to the Designated Officer should be submitted on a PoT MARF form and sent to lado@warwickshire.gov.uk.

NB it is the manager's responsibility to contact and refer to the Designated Officer when necessary. The only exception is when the allegation is against the manager, in which instance the nominated DSL will undertake that responsibility.

16. Staff training

It is important that all staff have training to enable them to recognise the possible signs of abuse, neglect, exploitation and radicalisation and to know what to do if they have a concern.

New staff, who will have direct contact with children and volunteers will receive an explanation during their induction which will include:

- the nursery's child protection and safeguarding policy
- signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect
- responding to disclosure of abuse or neglect by a child
- reporting and recording arrangements
- the Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct)
- details of the DSL.





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All of the above will be explained **before** a new member of staff has direct contact with children in nursery. The nursery's child protection policy and Staff Behaviour policy (code of conduct) are sent with the application pack with a written requirement that the individual reads the two policies in advance of starting work at the nursery. The individual will be given an opportunity to clarify any issues on their first day at work and then asked to sign to confirm that they have read and understood both policies and undertake to comply with them.

All staff, including the Proprietor / Manager (unless the Proprietor / Manager is the DSL), will receive appropriate and regularly updated safeguarding and child protection training and thematic updates as required (at least annually) during staff meetings, to provide them with the requisite skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively in line with statutory guidance and any requirements of WS.

The DSL will attend training for newly appointed DSLs and refresher training every two years delivered by Warwickshire County Council's Education Safeguarding Service. That training will include up to date information about WS inter-agency procedures. In addition, the DSL will update their knowledge and skills at least annually to keep up with any developments relevant to their role and will be supported to access WSCB inter-agency training as part of their continuing professional development.

All staff will be made aware of the increased risk of abuse to certain groups, including children with special educational needs and disabilities, looked after children, previously looked after children, young carers and risks associated with specific safeguarding issues including child sexual exploitation, county lines activity, child criminal exploitation, peer on peer abuse, sexual harassment and sexual violence, extremism, so-called honour based abuse including female genital mutilation and forced marriage; and will receive training in relation to keeping children safe online.

In addition, the Proprietor / Manager (and/or other nursery leaders as appropriate) will attend safer recruitment training and the nursery will ensure that there are at least two nursery leaders who have attended safer recruitment training within the past three years.

17. Safer recruitment

Our nursery endeavours to ensure that we do our utmost to employ only 'suitable' staff and allow 'suitable' volunteers to work with children by following the guidance in *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020* together with WS and the nursery's *Safer Recruitment* policies.

Safer recruitment means that all applicants will:

- complete an application form which includes their employment history and explains any gaps in that history
- provide two referees, including at least one who can comment on the applicant's suitability to work with children
- provide evidence of identity and qualifications
- if offered employment, be checked in accordance with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) regulations as appropriate to their role. This will include an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check for those engaged in Regulated Activity
- if offered employment, provide evidence of their right to work in the UK





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- be interviewed by a panel of at least two nursery leaders, if shortlisted.

The nursery will also

- ensure that every job description and person specification for roles in nursery includes a description of the role holder's responsibility for safeguarding
- ask at least one question at interview for every role in nursery about the candidate's attitude to safeguarding and motivation for working with children
- verify the preferred candidate's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities
- obtain references for all shortlisted candidates, including internal candidates
- carry out additional or alternative checks for applicants who have lived or worked outside the UK
- ensure that applicants for teaching posts are not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State

At least one member of each recruitment panel will have attended safer recruitment training.

All new members of staff will undergo an induction that includes familiarisation with the nursery's child protection and safeguarding policy, Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct), other issues as in section 16 of this policy and identification of their child protection training needs.

All staff are required to sign to confirm they have received a copy of the child protection and safeguarding policy and Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct).

All relevant staff are made aware of the disqualification and disqualification from providing childcare legislation (*state how awareness is raised e.g. with a staff/volunteer briefing, a clause in employment contracts for new staff etc.*).

The nursery obtains written confirmation from supply agencies and third party organisations that they have satisfactorily undertaken all appropriate checks in respect of individuals they provide to work in the nursery that the nursery would have undertaken if they were employing the individual directly.

The nursery maintains a single central record of recruitment checks undertaken and ensures that the record is maintained in accordance with section 3 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* and guidance issued by Warwickshire County Council.

Supervised volunteers

Volunteers who work only in a supervised capacity and are not in regulated activity will undergo the safer recruitment checks appropriate to their role, in accordance with the nursery's risk assessment process and statutory guidance.

Contractors

The nursery checks the identity of all contractors working on site and requests DBS checks where appropriate. Contractors who have not undergone checks will not be allowed to work unsupervised or in regulated activity.





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18. Site security

Visitors to the nursery, including contractors, are asked to sign in and are given an identity badge, which confirms they have permission to be on site. Parents who are simply delivering or collecting their children do not need to sign in. All visitors are expected to observe the nursery's safeguarding and health and safety regulations to ensure children in nursery are kept safe. The Proprietor / Manager will exercise professional judgement in determining whether any visitor should be escorted or supervised while on site.

19. Behaviour Management

Our behaviour policy is set out in a separate document and is reviewed regularly by the nursery. This policy is transparent to staff, parents and children.

20. Record Keeping

The nursery will maintain safeguarding (including early help) and child protection records in accordance with the guidance document provided by WCC Education Safeguarding Service *Child Protection Record Keeping Guidance*.

The nursery will:

- keep clear detailed written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Children's Social Care immediately;
- keep records in a folder, either on paper or electronically in a meticulous chronological order;
- ensure all records are kept secure and in locked locations;
- ensure all relevant child protection records are sent to the receiving nursery when a child moves.

Safeguarding and child protection records will be maintained independently from the child's nursery file and the nursery file will be 'tagged' to indicate that separate information is held. Such records will only be accessible to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and nursery leaders who need to be aware.

The recommended format for all staff in nursery to record any safeguarding or child protection observations or concerns about a child is the WSCB pro forma *Logging A Concern About A Child's Safety And Welfare* (Form C) also known as the 'Green form'.

Such records will include, in addition to the name, address and age of the child, timed and dated observations describing the child's behaviour, appearance, statements/remarks made to staff or other children and observations of interactions between the child, other children, members of staff and/or parents/carers that give rise to concern. Where possible and without interpretation, the exact words spoken by the child or parent/carer will be recorded. Records will be signed, dated and timed by the member of staff making the record.

Records of safeguarding/child protection observations or concerns can be completed electronically or as a paper version but it is most important that **all staff use one consistent system for the recording of**





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concerns and that all records are passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who should complete the form to confirm what action has been taken. Child protection records are normally exempt from the disclosure provisions of the Data Protection Act, which means that children and parents do not have an automatic right to see them. If any member of staff receives a request from a child or parent to see child protection records, they will refer the request to the Proprietor / Manager or DSL, who will advise them to submit a Subject Access to Information request for consideration. The Data Protection Act does not prevent nursery staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child.

21. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

The nursery will manage and share confidential information about children in line with *Information sharing - Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (HMG 2018)*. All staff will understand that child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the pupil, family and staff involved but also to ensure that information being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence.

The Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the GDPR places duties on the school and individual staff to process personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure.

However, neither the DPA nor the GDPR prevent or limit the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. *Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2019)* states clearly that **"Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children"**.

Staff will ensure confidentiality protocols are adhered to and information is shared appropriately. If in any doubt about confidentiality, staff will seek advice from the DSL, another SLT member or outside agency as required (e.g. MASH Education Lead).

It is reasonable for staff to discuss day-to-day concerns about pupils with colleagues in order to ensure that children's general needs are met in school. However, staff should report all child protection and safeguarding concerns to the DSL or headteacher or – in the case of concerns about the headteacher – to the chair of governors. The person receiving the referral will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

***Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020* emphasises that the DSL or a deputy DSL should always be available to discuss safeguarding concerns but in exceptional circumstances where neither the DSL nor any appointed deputy DSL are available, that should not delay appropriate action being taken and staff should speak to a member of SLT or take advice from Children's Social Care if they are concerned about a child.**

The GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child. All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.

The DSL will normally obtain consent from the pupil and/or parents to share sensitive information within the





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school or with outside agencies. Where there is good reason to do so, the DSL may share information *without* consent, and will record the reason for not obtaining consent.

If any member of staff receives a request from a pupil or parent to see child protection records, they will refer the request to the data protection officer [or DSL].

Information sharing will take place in a timely and secure manner and where:

- it is necessary and proportionate to do so; and
- the information to be shared is relevant, adequate and accurate.

Information sharing decisions will be recorded, whether or not the decision is taken to share.

All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child/parent to keep secrets.

All safeguarding and child protection information will be stored separately from the pupil's school file and the school file will be 'tagged' to indicate that separate information is held. All such information will be handled in line with the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018, which require that sensitive information is:

- processed for limited purposes
- adequate, relevant and not excessive
- accurate
- kept no longer than necessary
- processed in accordance with the data subject's rights
- secure.

Record of concern forms (Form C – Green forms) and other written information will be stored in a locked facility and any electronic information will be password protected and only made available to relevant individuals.

Every effort will be made to prevent unauthorised access to sensitive information. Any sensitive information that needs to be stored on portable devices such as laptop computers or tablets or on portable media such as a CD or flash drive will be password protected or encrypted and kept in locked storage.

The school's policy on confidentiality and information-sharing is available to parents and pupils on request.

22. Extended nursery and off-site arrangements

All extended and off-site activities are subject to a risk assessment to satisfy health and safety and safeguarding requirements. When our children attend off-site activities, we will check that effective child protection and whistleblowing arrangements are in place.





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23. Photography and images

The vast majority of people who take or view photographs or videos of children do so for entirely innocent, understandable and acceptable reasons. Sadly, some people abuse children through taking or using images, so we must ensure that we have some safeguards in place.

To protect children we will:

- seek their consent for photographs or video images to be taken;
- seek parental consent;
- ensure children are appropriately dressed; and
- encourage children to tell us if they are worried about any photographs/images that are taken of them.

Furthermore, when using images for publicity purposes (e.g. on our website or in newspapers or publications), we will:

- avoid naming children when possible
- if it is necessary to name children, use first names rather than surnames
- if children are named, avoid using their image
- establish whether the image will be retained for further use, where and for how long
- ensure that images are stored securely and used only by those authorised to do so.

For the protection of children and staff, only nursery owned equipment will be used to record and store images taken by staff during offsite nursery activities.

Parents are welcome to take still photographs of their **own children only** during nursery activities. Parents must not publish (including on social media) photographs of other children inadvertently captured during nursery events without the express permission of the parents of those children.

Parents are welcome to video record their **own children only** during nursery activities, subject to the same terms and conditions as for photographs above.

Visiting professionals who work directly with children are subject to the same restrictions as nursery staff in respect of recording and storing images of children. However, some visiting professionals are permitted to record images of the premises only specifically for professional purposes and in order to support the nursery, e.g. professionals providing advice or preparing quotations for work such as maintenance, health and safety and building.

24. Online Safety

Children and young people commonly use electronic equipment including mobile phones, tablets and computers on a daily basis to access the internet and share content and images via social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, MSN, Tumblr, Snapchat and Instagram.

Those technologies and the internet are a source of fun, entertainment, communication and education. Unfortunately, however, some adults and young people will use those technologies to harm children and the use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation;





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radicalisation; sexual predation: technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm through child and sexual exploitation; county lines activity; radicalisation; sexual predation and cyber bullying.

The breadth of issues within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into three areas of risk:

- **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views;
- **contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults; and
- **conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.

Chatrooms and social networking sites are the more obvious sources of inappropriate and harmful behaviour and pupils are not allowed to access those sites in school. Many pupils own or have access to hand held devices and parents are encouraged to consider measures to keep their children safe when using the internet and social media at home and in the community.

The nursery's **online safety policy** explains how we try to keep pupils safe in school and protect and educate pupils in the safe use of technology. The school has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place to protect children from potentially harmful online material.

Cyberbullying and sexting by pupils will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures (see 'Sexting' below). Serious incidents may be managed in line with our sexual exploitation policy or child protection procedures.

All staff receive online safety training and are trained to be vigilant about and to report any concerns about risk to children online in the same way that they notice and report offline concerns.

The nursery's online safety co-ordinator is Pamela Sheppard.

Online communication between staff and children

Staff also receive advice regarding personal online activity, use of social networking and electronic communication with children, about which there are strict rules. Staff found to be in breach of these rules may be the subject of a referral to the Designated Officer in the Local Authority and may be subject to disciplinary action.

25. Child protection procedures

Recognising abuse

To ensure that our children are protected from harm, we need to understand what types of behaviour constitute abuse and neglect. Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, for example by hitting them, or by failing to act to prevent harm, for example by leaving a small child home alone.

Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by adult men or women or by other children or young people. Staff are trained to understand and recognise indicators of all four categories of abuse as defined below.





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There are four categories of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is 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 (this used to be called Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, but is now more usually referred to as fabricated or induced illness).

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is 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, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. 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 (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect

Neglect is 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:

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

Definitions taken from *Keeping Children Safe in Education - 2020*.





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Indicators of abuse

Physical signs define some types of abuse, for example bruising, bleeding or broken bones resulting from physical or sexual abuse, or injuries sustained while a child has been inadequately supervised. The identification of physical signs is complicated, as children may go to great lengths to hide injuries, often because they are ashamed or embarrassed, or their abuser has threatened further violence or trauma if they 'tell'. It is also quite difficult for anyone without medical training to categorise injuries into accidental or deliberate with any degree of certainty. For those reasons it is vital that staff are also aware of the range of behavioural indicators of abuse and report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

It is the responsibility of staff to report their concerns. It is not their responsibility to investigate or decide whether a child has been abused.

A child who is being abused or neglected may:

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

Individual indicators will rarely, in isolation, provide conclusive evidence of abuse. They should be viewed as part of a jigsaw and each small piece of information will help the DSL to decide how to proceed.

It is very important that staff report all of their concerns, however minor or insignificant they may think they are – they do not need 'absolute proof' that the child is at risk.





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Impact of abuse

The impact of child abuse, neglect and exploitation should not be underestimated. Many children do recover well and go on to lead healthy, happy and productive lives, although most adult survivors agree that the emotional scars remain, however well buried. For some children, full recovery is beyond their reach and the rest of their childhood and their adulthood may be characterised by one or more of the following, anxiety, depression or other mental health difficulties, self-harm, eating disorders, alcohol and substance misuse, unequal and destructive relationships and long-term medical or psychiatric difficulties.

Taking action

Any child in any family in any nursery could become a victim of abuse. Staff should always maintain an attitude of "It could happen here".

Key points for staff to remember when taking action are:

- in an emergency take the action necessary to help the child, for example, call 999;
- report your concern to the DSL as quickly as possible – immediately when there is evidence of physical or sexual abuse and certainly by the end of the day;
- do not start your own investigation;
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends or family;
- complete a record of concern, using a Form C (Green form)
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed or need to debrief.

If a member of staff or volunteer is concerned about a child's welfare

There will be occasions when staff may suspect that a child may be at risk but have no 'real' evidence. The child's behaviour may have changed, their artwork could be bizarre, they may write stories or poetry that reveal confusion or distress or physical but inconclusive signs may have been noticed. In these circumstances, staff will try to give the child the opportunity to talk. The signs they have noticed may be due to a variety of factors, for example a parent has moved out, a pet has died, a grandparent is very ill or an accident has occurred. It is fine for staff to ask the child if they are OK or if they can help in any way.

Staff should use the same record of concern form Form C (Green form) to record these early concerns. If the child does begin to reveal that they are being harmed, staff should follow the advice below. Following an initial conversation with the child, if the member of staff remains concerned, they should discuss their concerns with the DSL.

Concerns which do not meet the threshold for child protection intervention will be managed through the Early Help process as in section 8 of this policy.

If a child discloses to a member of staff or volunteer

It takes a lot of courage for a child to disclose that they are being abused. They may feel ashamed, particularly if the abuse is sexual. Their abuser may have threatened what will happen if they tell. They may have lost all trust in adults. Or they may believe, or have been told, that the abuse is their own fault. Sometimes they may not be aware that what is happening is abusive.





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If a child talks to a member of staff about any risks to their safety or wellbeing, **the staff member will need to let the child know that they must pass the information on** – staff are not allowed to keep secrets. The point at which they tell the child this is a matter for professional judgement. If they jump in immediately the child may think that they do not want to listen but if left until the very end of the conversation, the child may feel that they have been misled into revealing more than they would have otherwise.

If children have been completing the Taking Care curriculum they will have been taught about confidentiality and will generally understand the concept of safe and unsafe secrets. They should have a good knowledge and understanding of why staff cannot keep some information confidential but also know that information is passed on to specific people on a 'need to know' basis only.

During their conversations with children staff will:

- allow them to speak freely;
- remain calm and not overreact – the child may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting their listener;
- give reassuring nods or words of comfort – 'I'm so sorry this has happened', 'I want to help', 'This isn't your fault', 'You are doing the right thing in talking to me', 'I am going to do what I can to help you.'
- not be afraid of silences – staff must remember how hard this must be for the child;
- **under no circumstances** ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings too, or what does the child's mother think about all this; (**however**, it is reasonable to ask questions to clarify understanding and to support a meaningful referral if that is required, e.g. when did this happen, where did this happen?)
- at an appropriate time tell the child that in order to help them, the member of staff must pass the information on;
- not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort. It may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused;
- avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing earlier. Saying things such as 'I do wish you had told me about this when it started' or 'I can't believe what I'm hearing' may be the staff member's way of being supportive but may be interpreted by the child to mean that they have done something wrong;
- tell the child what will happen next;
- let them know that someone (either you or another named person, e.g. the DSL) will come to see them before the end of the day;
- report verbally to the DSL;
- write up their conversation as soon as possible on the **record of concern form** Form C (Green form) and hand it to the DSL; and
- seek support if they feel distressed or need to debrief.

Notifying parents

The nursery will normally seek to discuss any concerns about a child with their parents. This must be handled sensitively and the DSL will make contact with the parent in the event of a concern, suspicion or disclosure.

Our focus is the safety and wellbeing of the pupil. Therefore, if the school believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, advice will be sought first from Children's Social Care.





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26. Making a referral to Children's Social Care

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 emphasises that the DSL (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. The DSL will make a referral to Children's Social Care (and if appropriate the Police) if it is believed that a pupil is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm.

The pupil (subject to their age and understanding) and the parents will be told that a referral is being made, unless to do so would increase the risk to the child or create undue delay. *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020* also emphasises that **all** staff should be aware of the process for making referrals to Children's Social Care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, especially section 17 (children in need) and section 47 (a child suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm) that may follow a referral, along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments.

Statutory assessments

Children in need

A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly 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.

Children suffering or likely to suffer significant harm

Local authorities, with the help of other organisations as appropriate, have a duty to make enquires 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.

27. Submitting child protection referrals

All child protection referrals should be made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by completing a Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) and submitting it to the MASH at mash@warwickshire.gov.uk. The form can also be completed online.

All urgent child protection referrals, i.e. where there is an immediate concern about a child's safety, should be made in the first instance by telephoning the MASH on 01926 414144. This should be followed by submission of a MARF as above.

NB If a child is already the subject of an open case to Children's Social Care, the DSL will have the name and contact details of the allocated social worker. Further child protection concerns about any child in those circumstances must be referred directly to the allocated social worker, **not** to the MASH. Again, where there is an immediate concern about a child's safety, the DSL should contact the social worker by telephone in the





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first instance. Any difficulties in contacting the social worker must be escalated to their line manager, **not** to the MASH.

Outside of office hours, immediate concerns about a child should be referred to the Emergency Duty Team on telephone number 01926 886922.

If staff are ever concerned that a child is in immediate danger, they will contact the Police by dialling 999.

Staff may seek support directly from the MASH Educational Lead via 01926 414144, should they consider that necessary.

28. Staff reporting directly to child protection agencies

Staff should ordinarily follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy.

However, as highlighted above, **all** staff should be aware of the early help process and understand their role in it; and **all** staff should be aware of the process for making referrals to Children's Social Care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989. **Any member of staff may therefore refer their concerns directly to Children's Social Care and/or the Police if:**

- the situation is an emergency and the DSL, the deputy DSL, the headteacher and/or the chair of governors are all unavailable;
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the pupil's safety; or
- for any other reason they make a judgement that a direct referral is in the best interests of the child.

In any of those circumstances, staff may make direct child protection referrals and share information without being subject of censure or disciplinary action. However, staff should inform the DSL and/or headteacher at the earliest opportunity that they have done so unless in their judgement doing so would increase the risk of harm to the child.

If in any doubt, members of staff may consult the MASH (details above) or seek support from the MASH Educational Lead via 01926 414144.

29. What will Children's Social Care do?

Children's Social Care should make a decision about the type of response that is required within one working day of a referral being made; and should let the referrer know the outcome. This will include determining whether:

- the child requires immediate protection and urgent action is required;
- whether the child is in need, and should be assessed under section 17;
- there is reasonable cause to suspect the child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, and whether enquiries must be made and the child assessed under section 47;
- any services are required by the child and family and what type of services; and
- further specialist assessments are required in order to help the local authority to decide what further action to take.





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The school will follow up if this information is not forthcoming and if, after a referral, the child's situation does not appear to be improving, the school will consider following the WS escalation procedure to ensure the referred concerns have been addressed and, most importantly, that the child's situation improves.

If Children's Social Care decide to carry out a statutory assessment, school staff will do everything they can to support that assessment, led and supported by the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) as required.

30. Bullying

While bullying between children is not a separate category of abuse and neglect, it is a very serious issue that can cause considerable anxiety and distress. At its most serious level, bullying can have a disastrous effect on a child's well-being and in very rare cases has been a feature in the suicide of some young people.

All incidences of bullying, including cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying should be reported and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. If the bullying is particularly serious, or the anti-bullying procedures are deemed to be ineffective, the Proprietor / Manager and the DSL will consider implementing early help or child protection procedures.

Please also refer to issues in relation to children who are sexually harmful or abusive towards other children below.

31. Peer on peer abuse and children with sexually harmful or inappropriate behaviour

Children may be harmed by other children or young people. Staff will be aware of the harm caused by bullying and will use the nursery's **anti-bullying procedures** as above where necessary. However, there will be occasions when a child's behaviour warrants a response under child protection rather than anti-bullying procedures. Research suggests that up to 30 per cent of child sexual abuse is committed by someone under the age of 18.

Abusive behaviour by one child towards another will not be tolerated, minimised or dismissed as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'.

When dealing with abuse of children by other children, staff will be mindful of the potential for prejudice-based bullying; racist, disability, homophobic and transphobic abuse; gender-based violence and teenage relationship abuse. Whilst mindful of the particular vulnerability of women and girls to violence, it is also recognised that boys as well as girls can be abused by members of the opposite as well as the same gender group.

Members of staff who become concerned about a child's sexualised behaviour, including any known online sexualised behaviour, should record their concerns and report them to the DSL as soon as possible, as with any other safeguarding concern.

The management of children and young people with sexually harmful behaviour is complex and the nursery





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will work with other relevant agencies to maintain the safety of the whole nursery community. Young people who display such behaviour may be victims of abuse themselves and the child protection procedures will be followed for both victim and perpetrator.

Any instances of sexual harm caused by one child to another and any situation where there are concerns about power imbalance, coercion or force will be discussed with Children's Social Care.

The nursery will also be informed by the Police or Children's Social Care about referrals made directly to those agencies from other sources (e.g. family members, family friends, parents of other children) in relation to alleged sexualised inappropriate or sexually abusive behaviour displayed by children inside and/or outside nursery.

In all such circumstances, the nursery may be required to attend a strategy meeting under WSCB inter-agency child protection procedures in order to facilitate risk management and planning with other agencies.

In responding to cases involving children or young people who have committed sexually abusive behaviours, Children's Social Care will consult with the Sexualised Inappropriate Behaviours Service (SIBS), for advice, consultation or provision of a direct service. A wide range of practice guidance, knowledge and therapeutic materials has been developed by SIBS to inform the interventions relating to children and young people with sexual behaviour difficulties.

In circumstances where a child displays sexualised inappropriate behaviour but evidence of sexual harm towards other children is not clearcut, the nursery may seek consultation and advice from SIBS and/or the MASH Educational Lead.

In deciding the most appropriate response, relevant considerations will include:

- the nature and extent of the inappropriate/abusive behaviours. In respect of sexual abuse, it is necessary to distinguish between normal childhood sexual development and experimentation; and sexually harmful or aggressive behaviour;
- the context of the abusive behaviours;
- the child/young person's development, family and social circumstances;
- the need for services, specifically focusing on the child/young person's harmful behaviour as well as other significant needs; and/or
- the risks to self and others, including other children in the nursery, household, extended family, peer group and wider social network.

The nursery is committed to participating in plans both to provide children who are at risk from other children and those children who may present a risk to other children with appropriate services to address any concerns and, wherever possible, to facilitate ongoing access to education in nursery for all children concerned, subject to appropriate risk assessments and risk management plans.





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32. Child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. **Child criminal exploitation (CCE)** is a form of child abuse. Both occur 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 and/or criminal 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; and / or
- (c) through violence or the threat of violence

The victim may have been sexually and/or criminally exploited even if the sexual/criminal activity appears consensual. CSE and CCE do not always involve physical contact; they can also occur through the use of technology.

Victims of CSE and CCE can be boys or girls. Children and young people are often unwittingly drawn into sexual and/or criminal exploitation through the offer of friendship and care, gifts, drugs, alcohol and sometimes accommodation.

CSE and CCE can affect any child or young person, female or male, under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17-year olds who can legally give consent to have sex.

Sexual exploitation can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they may have created and posted on social media).

Sexual exploitation is a serious crime and can have a long-lasting adverse impact on a child's physical and emotional health. It may also be linked to other criminal activity including trafficking and illegal drugs. 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.

Criminal exploitation of children can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence. It can be perpetrated by individuals or groups; males or females; and young people or adults. It is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. As well as age, the power imbalance can also be due to other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status and access to economic or other resources.

Child criminal exploitation may include activities such as:

- a child travelling outside the area in which she/he lives in order to transport, distribute or sell drugs for others by whom they are being exploited. This form of criminal activity and exploitation is referred to as **county lines** (for further information see https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741194/HOCountyLinesGuidanceSept2018.pdf);
- a child committing crimes on behalf of or at the behest of others because they, their friends or relatives have been threatened, deceived or manipulated;
- a child being forced to shoplift or pickpocket





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- a child being forced to commit crime in order to settle actual or fabricated debts
- gang membership, which may lead to the child being exploited to do something illegal or dangerous in return for kudos/status in the gang;
- a child being encouraged or manipulated to commit crime via social media;
- a child receiving food, money, kudos or status in return for storing a weapon or drugs for others.

All staff are trained to be vigilant about and report indicators of CSE and CCE including:

- acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones, etc. without plausible explanation;
- gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks;
- children being exposed to or perpetrating serious levels of violence; and/or being manipulated or forced into excessive violence towards others by somebody who is exploiting them (for further information see

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418131/Preventing_youth_violence_and_gang_involvement_v3_March2015.pdf;

- exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work;
- leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late;
- excessive receipt of texts/phone calls;
- returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol;
- inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age/sexually transmitted infections;
- evidence of/suspicions of physical or sexual assault;
- relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups;
- multiple callers (unknown adults or peers);
- frequenting areas known for sex work;
- concerning use of internet or other social media;
- increasing secretiveness around behaviours; and
- self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

Although the following vulnerabilities increase the risk of child sexual and/or criminal exploitation, not all children with these indicators will be exploited and child sexual and criminal exploitation can occur without any of these issues:

- having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse;
- lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example);
- recent bereavement or loss;
- social isolation or social difficulties;
- absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality;
- economic vulnerability;
- homelessness or insecure accommodation status;
- connections with other children and young people who are being sexually and/or criminally exploited;
- family members or other connections involved in adult sex work and/or other criminal activity;
- having a physical or learning disability; and
- being looked after (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories).





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The nursery teaches children about consent and the risks of sexual and criminal exploitation in the PSHE and SRE curriculum. A common feature of sexual and criminal exploitation is that the child often does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see her/himself as a victim. The child may initially resent what she/he perceives as interference by staff but staff must act on their concerns, as they would for any other type of abuse.

All staff are trained to report all concerns about CSE and CCE to the DSL immediately. The DSL will consider the need to make a referral to Children's Social Care via the MASH (see sections 27 and 28 above) as with any other child protection concern and with particular reference to WS procedures. Parents will be consulted and notified as above.

Following a referral to Children's Social Care, a Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting may be convened under WS inter-agency safeguarding procedures. The school will attend and share information at MACE meetings as required. Parents and young people will be invited to attend MACE meetings by Children's Social Care as appropriate.

Sexual exploitation involves an individual or group of adults taking advantage of the vulnerability of an individual or groups of children or young people. Victims can be boys or girls. Children and young people are often unwittingly drawn into sexual exploitation through the offer of friendship and care, gifts, drugs, alcohol and sometimes accommodation. Sexual exploitation is a serious crime and can have a long-lasting adverse impact on a child's physical and emotional health. It may also be linked to the trafficking of children.

All staff are made aware of the indicators of sexual exploitation of children and all concerns are reported immediately to the DSL. The DSL will consider the need to make a referral to Children's Social Care via the MASH (see section 33 below) as with any other child protection concern and with particular reference to WSCB Child Sexual Exploitation procedures. Parents will be consulted and notified as above.

County Lines

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

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

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

For further information see:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741194/HOCountyLinesGuidanceSept2018.pdf.



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Following a referral to Children's Social Care, a Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meeting may be convened under WSCB inter-agency safeguarding procedures. The nursery will attend and share information at MASE meetings as required. Parents and young people will be invited to attend MASE meetings by Children's Social Care as appropriate.

33. Serious violence

All staff are made aware of indicators that children are at risk from or are involved with serious violent crime; and are trained to record and report any concern about children at risk of or involved in perpetrating serious violence as with any other safeguarding concern. Indicators may include increased absence, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts could also indicate that children have been approached by or are involved with individuals associated with criminal gangs.

34. Contextual safeguarding

Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the nursery or can occur between children outside the nursery. The DSL, deputy DSLs and all staff will consider the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur. Contextual safeguarding means that assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors which are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. Staff will listen to children and be vigilant about any signs or indicators that would suggest children may be at risk in the community and will share intelligence with the Police in order to prevent children suffering harm. The school/college will provide as much information as possible when asked to do so as part of a police investigation and/or when making referrals to Children's Social Care, thus allowing any investigation or assessment to consider all the available evidence and the full context of any abuse.

35. So-called 'honour based' violence

So-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of a family and/or community. Such crimes include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Staff will be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV or already having suffered HBV.

All forms of so called HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and staff will record and report any concerns about a child who might be at risk of HBV to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as with any other safeguarding concern. The DSL will consider the need to make a referral to the Police, and/or Children's Social Care as with any other child protection concern; and may also contact the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151 for advice as necessary.

Female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a form of child abuse. It is the collective name given to a range of procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons or other injury to the female genital organs. It has no health benefits and harms girls and women in many ways. The practice, which is most commonly carried out without anaesthetic, can cause intense pain and distress





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and long-term health consequences, including difficulties in childbirth.

FGM is carried out on girls of any age, from young babies to older teenagers and adult women, so nursery staff are trained to be aware of risk indicators. Many such procedures are carried out abroad and staff should be particularly alert to suspicions or concerns expressed by female children about going on a long holiday during the summer vacation period.

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. Any person found guilty of an offence under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 is liable to a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment or a fine, or both.

(See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-guidelines> for further information).

If staff have a concern that a girl may be at risk of FGM, they will record their concern and inform the DSL as they would any other safeguarding concern.

Indications that FGM may already have taken place may include a child:

- having difficulty or looking uncomfortable when walking, sitting or standing;
- spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating;
- spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems;
- having frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems;
- having prolonged or repeated absences from school or college, especially with noticeable behaviour changes (e.g. withdrawal or depression) on the girl's return;
- being reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations;
- confiding in a member of staff without being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear;
- talking about pain or discomfort between her legs.

Practitioners are subject to a statutory duty defined by Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) to report to the Police personally where they discover (e.g. by means of a disclosure) that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl who is aged under 18. This is known as mandatory reporting.

Teachers in that situation will record their concerns and inform the DSL, who will support the teacher in making a direct report to the Police.

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is a marriage in which a female (and sometimes a male) does not consent to the marriage but is coerced into it. Coercion may include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. It may also involve physical or sexual violence and abuse.

A forced marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage. In an arranged marriage, which is common in several cultures, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses.





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Children may be married at a very young age, and well below the age of consent in England. Nursery staff should be particularly alert to suspicions or concerns raised by a child about being taken abroad and not being allowed to return to England.

Since June 2014 forcing someone to marry has become a criminal offence in England and Wales under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

(See <https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage> for further information).

36. Protecting Children from Radicalisation and Extremism

All schools and colleges are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This duty is known as the **Prevent duty**.

Some children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of the school's wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. As such, the Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for the school's strategy for protecting children from those risks.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to fundamental values, including 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. Even very young children have been exposed, in rare circumstances, to extremism at home and elsewhere including online.

As children get older, they look for adventure and excitement and they may start to ask questions about their identity and belonging. During that stage of their development they are vulnerable to extremist groups that may claim to offer answers, identity and a social network apparently providing a sense of belonging. Many of those extremist groups make sophisticated use of the internet and social media to target young people and spread their ideology, making young people more vulnerable to being influenced by extremist ideas. Young people who feel isolated or disaffected in some way are particularly vulnerable to radicalisation as they are other forms of abuse and exploitation.

The school has defined responsibilities to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school.

During the process of radicalisation it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised. The school is committed to preventing pupils from being radicalised and drawn into any form of extremism or terrorism. The school promotes the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs by providing pupils with opportunities through the curriculum to discuss issues of religion, ethnicity and culture and learn how to discuss and debate points of view; and by ensuring that all pupils are valued and listened to within school.

School staff receive training that provides them with both the information they need to understand the risks affecting children and young people in this area; and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and how to support them. Staff are trained to report all concerns





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about possible radicalisation and extremism to the DSL immediately as they would any other safeguarding concern, identifying early indicators of possible radicalisation including changes in behaviour and attitudes to learning; and expressions of interest in extremist ideas along with a tolerance towards potential violence to certain members of society.

The school recognises the importance of providing a safe space for children to discuss controversial issues; and building their resilience and the critical thinking skills they need in order to challenge extremist perspectives. However, the DSL (or deputy) will make appropriate referrals to the Police PREVENT team and Channel programme in respect of any pupil whose behaviour or comments suggest that they are vulnerable to being radicalised and drawn into extremism and terrorism in order to ensure that children receive appropriate support.

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. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

As a Channel partner, the school or college may be asked to attend a Channel panel to discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support.

The school will discuss any concerns about possible radicalisation identified in school with a child's parents/carers as with any other safeguarding or child protection issue unless there is reason to believe that doing so would place the child at risk; and will also support parents/carers who raise concerns about their children being vulnerable to radicalisation. Subject to consultation with the Police PREVENT team and in the interests of making proportionate responses, the school may offer support to children and their families through the provision of early help as appropriate.

The school expects all staff, volunteers, governors, visiting practitioners, contractors and individuals or agencies that hire school premises to behave in accordance with the school's Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct), will challenge the expression and/or promotion of extremist views and ideas by any adult on school premises or at school events and, when necessary, will make appropriate referrals in respect of any such adult.

Parents and staff may find the website www.educateagainsthate.com informative and useful. The website is designed to equip school and college leaders, teachers and parents with the information, tools and resources they need to recognise and address extremism and radicalisation in young people and how best to support them. The website provides information on training resources for teachers, staff and school and college leaders. As part of the school's overall safeguarding arrangements and ongoing action plan for improvement, the DSL will take into account identified local issues; intelligence from pupils, parents, staff and partner agencies; and new information from national issues and learning to review practice and procedures in order to keep pupils safe.





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37. Children who are looked after or were previously looked after or who have a social worker

The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse or neglect. Children who were previously looked after potentially remain vulnerable. The school ensures that staff have the necessary skills and understanding to keep children who are looked after and children who were previously looked after safe and ensures that appropriate staff have information about a child's looked after status and care arrangements, including the level of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after the child. The designated teacher for children who are looked after and previously looked after and the DSL hold details of the social workers for all children who are looked after or were previously looked after; and the name and contact details of the Local Authority's virtual head for children who are looked after.

Children with a social worker

The school/setting recognises that when a child has a social worker, that is an indicator that she/he may be more vulnerable to harm than other children as well as facing barriers to educational attainment in relation to attendance, learning, behaviour and poor mental health issues.

The school/setting will take those issues and needs into account when making plans to support children who have a social worker.

Care leavers

Local authorities have ongoing responsibilities to young people who cease to be looked after and become care leavers. That includes keeping in touch with them, preparing an assessment of their needs and appointing a Personal Advisor who develops a pathway plan with the young person. This plan describes how the local authority will support the care leaver to participate in education or training. The DSL will have details of the local authority Personal Advisor appointed to guide and support all care leavers; and should liaise with them as necessary regarding any issues of concern affecting a care leaver.

Private fostering arrangements

A private fostering arrangement occurs when someone other than a parent or a close relative cares for a child for a period of 28 days or more, with the agreement of the child's parents. It applies to children under the age of 16, or under 18 if the child is disabled. Children looked after by the local authority or who are placed in a residential school, children's home or hospital are not considered to be privately fostered.

Private fostering occurs in all cultures, including British culture and children may be privately fostered at any age. Most privately fostered children remain safe and well but safeguarding concerns have been raised in some cases so it is important that schools are alert to possible safeguarding issues, including the possibility that a child has been trafficked into the country. By law, a parent, private foster carer or other persons involved in making a private fostering arrangement must notify Children's Social Care as soon as possible. When the school becomes aware of a private fostering arrangement for a pupil that has not been notified to Children's Social Care, the school will encourage parents and private foster carers to notify Children's Social Care and will share information with Children's Social Care as appropriate.





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38. Staff reporting directly to child protection agencies

Staff should ordinarily follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy. However, as emphasised in *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020*, any staff member can refer their concerns directly to Children's Social Care and/or the Police if:

- the situation is an emergency and the DSL, the deputy DSL, the Proprietor / Manager and/or the chair of governors are all unavailable;
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the child's safety; or
- for any other reason they make a judgement that a direct referral is in the best interests of the child.

In any of those circumstances, staff may make direct child protection referrals and share information without being subject of censure or disciplinary action. However, staff should inform the DSL and/or Proprietor / Manager at the earliest opportunity that they have done so unless in their judgement doing so would increase the risk of harm to the child.

If in any doubt, members of staff may consult the MASH (details below) or seek support from the MASH Educational Lead via 01926 742525.

39. Submitting child protection referrals

All child protection referrals should be made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by completing a Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) and submitting it to the MASH at mash@warwickshire.gcsx.gov.uk. The form can also be completed online.

All urgent child protection referrals, i.e. where there is an immediate concern about a child's safety, should be made in the first instance by telephoning the MASH on 01926 414144. This should be followed by submission of a MARF as above.

Outside of office hours, immediate concerns about a child should be referred to the Emergency Duty Team on telephone number 01926 886922.

If staff are ever concerned that a child is in immediate danger, they will contact the Police by dialling 999.

Staff may seek support directly from the MASH Educational Lead should they consider that necessary.

40. Related safeguarding portfolio policies

- Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct)
- Manual Handling
- Behaviour
- Intimate care
- Complaints & Compliments
- Whistleblowing
- SEND
- Missing children





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- Safer recruitment
- Grievance and disciplinary

41. Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is defined as 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; and
- Emotional abuse

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result. Domestic abuse affecting young people can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life. All concerns about children being affected by domestic abuse will be reported to the DSL as with any other safeguarding concern. The DSL will respond to the report by consulting Children's Social Care in order to establish whether a referral is required or the situation should be managed by discussion with parents/carers and possibly the offer of early help.

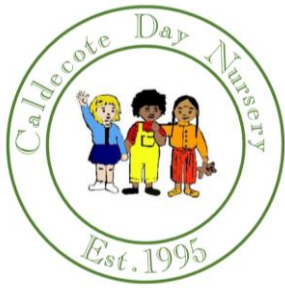
42. Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The DSL (and any deputies) refer any concerns to the *Local Housing Authority* so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. 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. Whilst referrals and or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into Children's Social Care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

In most cases school and college staff will be considering homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it should also be recognised that in some cases 16 and 17 year olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Children's services will be the lead agency for these young people and the DSL (or a deputy) will ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child's circumstances.

The DSL will maintain an overview of all pupils accessing any part of their learning from an alternative provider or via delivery online or offsite provided by any organisation or individual not employed by the school. The DSL will ensure that robust arrangements are in place for timely and effective two-way sharing of safeguarding information - including records of all safeguarding concerns - between the school and alternative/external providers.





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The DSL will also take responsibility for ensuring that robust procedures are in place to confirm attendance and to enable the swift reporting of non-attendance and children going missing from alternative/ external providers at any time when they should be with that provider. The DSL will also ensure that effective quality assurance arrangements are in place in order to monitor the ongoing effectiveness of all safeguarding arrangements that alternative/external providers have in place.

43. Special Circumstances

Work experience / Students

The nursery has detailed procedures to safeguard children undertaking work experience, including arrangements for checking people who provide placements and supervising children on work experience which are in accordance with the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020

Children and the court system

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. The school/college will access guidance highlighted in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020, which explain each step of the process and support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained.

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

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. The school/college will seek to support pupils/students in this position through pastoral care, early help and discussions with parents/carers and other family members as appropriate.

Local issues

Insert information about any issues that may be specific to the school's local area or population, for example gang activity, youth violence or any active extremist groups from which children may need to be safeguarded.






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For advice and support about any safeguarding matter in nursery or for information about a range of safeguarding training courses, please contact:

MASH Educational Lead
01926 418608 (or via e mail)
masheducationlead@warwickshire.gov.uk

Education Safeguarding Service
Linda Fenn (Team Administrator) – 01926 742525; lindafenn@warwickshire.gov.uk
Sophie Morley (Training Administrator) - 01926 742601; sophiemorley@warwickshire.gov.uk

This policy was adopted in	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>April 2021</i>		<i>April 2022</i>



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