

# Wood End Primary School



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## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

**Approved by:** Wood End Primary School  
Governors

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NSPCC Whistleblowing helpline -	NSPCC	0800 028 0285	Link available from KCSiE- NSPCC's 'What you can do to report abuse available at: help@nspcc.org.uk

## Wood End Primary Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

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## **1.Safeguarding Definition**

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

- protecting children from maltreatment.
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development.
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

(The term 'children' includes everyone under the age of 18.)

Safeguarding is what we do for all children and young people to keep them safe whilst in our care. Child protection describes the policy and procedures specifically for those young people who are at risk of serious harm or have been seriously harmed.

At Wood End Primary we are committed to safeguarding children and young people, and we expect everyone who works in our school to share this commitment.

Adults in our school take all welfare concerns seriously and encourage children and young people to talk to us about anything that may worry them.

### **Victims and alleged perpetrator(s)**

**For the purposes of this policy, we, in places, use the term 'victim'. It is a widely recognised and understood term. It is important that we recognise that not everyone who has been subjected to abuse considers themselves a victim or would want to be described in this way. Ultimately, we will be conscious of this when managing any incident and be prepared to use any term with which the individual child is most comfortable.**

**For the purpose of this policy, we, in places, use the term 'alleged perpetrator(s)' and where appropriate 'perpetrator(s)'. These are widely used and recognised; however, we will think very carefully about terminology, especially when speaking in front of children, not least because in some cases the abusive behaviour will have been harmful to the perpetrator as well. The use of appropriate terminology will be determined as appropriate, on a case-by-case basis.**

## **2.Legislation and Guidance**

The Governing Body (GB) of Wood End Primary school recognises and is committed to fulfilling its statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- The Education Act 2002 (section 175/157)
  - Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires local education authorities and the governors of maintained schools and further education (FE) colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
  - Section 157 of the same act and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 require proprietors of independent schools (including academies and city technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the school.
- The Education (independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

- The non-maintained Special schools (England) Regulations 2015
- Wolverhampton Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements - Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together
- Multi-Agency Children Services Threshold Guidance: Continuum of Help and Support 2020
- Working together to safeguard children (July 2018, updated February 2019)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2022)
- Information sharing - Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents, and carers (July 2018)
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (March 2015)
- Sections 26 & 29 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015
- Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (July 2018 Regulations)

### **3. Related Policies**

Our policy relates to safeguarding and child protection concerns and sits within a suite of other safeguarding policies. Our policy applies to all staff (teaching and non-teaching), governors and volunteers, temporary and supply staff working in our school. It will be reviewed at least annually by the GB, and is in line with our local safeguarding procedures, the expectations of the Department for Education and Ofsted which inspects schools' safeguarding arrangements.

Other policies that may be referred to within this policy include:

- Attendance and Punctuality
- Admissions
- Anti-bullying
- Educational Visits
- Code of Conduct
- Safer Recruitment
- Behaviour Policy
- Equal Opportunity
- Management of Allegations
- ICT & Acceptable Use Policy
- Whistleblowing
- RSE
- Intimate Care

### **4. Aims and purpose**

- To provide Staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and in so doing ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities.
- To ensure consistent good practice across the school; and
- To demonstrate our commitment to protecting and supporting our vulnerable children, children who need support through early help, children in need and children who have a child protection plan.

### **Principles and values**

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We understand that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and everyone who comes into contact with our children and families has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

We make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe that they are being listened to.

We maintain an attitude of **"it could happen here"** where safeguarding is concerned.

We will adopt a 'child-centred' approach to safeguarding and child protection, and we will act in the 'best interests' of our children.

We ensure that everyone is aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

We provide staff, volunteers and governors with the framework, training and support they need to keep children safe and secure in our school and to inform parents and guardians how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care.

## **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Governing Body (PART TWO - KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION)**

Our Safeguarding Link Governor is Rabia Adeogun.

Our Chair of Governors is Rabia Adeogun.

Our GB have a strategic leadership responsibility for the safeguarding arrangements and will ensure they comply with their duties under legislation, they will have regard to 'Keeping children safe in education' to ensure that the policies, procedures, and training in our school are effective and always comply with the law.

Our GB will ensure that they facilitate a whole school's approach to safeguarding. This will ensure that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. They will ensure that all systems, processes and policies operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

Our school will have a senior board level (or equivalent) lead to take leadership responsibility for our school's safeguarding arrangements.

Our governing bodies will ensure that all governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in Wood End Primary are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole school approach to safeguarding. Their training will be regularly updated.

Our governing bodies should be aware of their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, (including the Public Sector Equality Duty, and their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements).

Our GB will ensure the following are maintained, understood, and adhered to (see 'Keeping children safe in education' 2022 part 2 for further information):

- Safeguarding policies
- Designated safeguarding lead and deputies
- Multi-agency working:

- Information Sharing
- Staff Training
- Opportunities to Teach Safeguarding
- Online Safety
- Inspection
- Safer Recruitment
- Dealing with concerns or allegations made about staff who may pose a risk of harm to children
- Child-on-child abuse
- The use of 'reasonable force' in schools and colleges
- The Child's wishes
- Children potentially at greater risk of harm
  - Children who need a social worker (Child in Need and Child Protection Plans)
  - Children missing from education
  - Elective Home Education (EHE)
  - Children requiring mental health support
  - Looked after children and previously looked after children
  - The designated teacher
  - Virtual school heads
  - Care leavers
  - Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or physical health issues
  - Children who are lesbian, gay, bi, or trans (LGBT)

#### Roles and Responsibilities - Designated and deputy safeguarding lead/s (ANNEX C)

Our designated safeguarding lead is S Sharma

Our deputy safeguarding leads are H Farley, F Bellenger, and D Barnett

Our GB will ensure that a senior member of staff from the leadership team is appointed to the role of designated safeguarding lead. The designated safeguarding lead will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection including online safety. Their responsibilities will be explicit in the role holder's job description.

Our GB will ensure that this person has the appropriate status and authority within the school or college to carry out the duties of the post. The role of the designated safeguarding lead carries a significant level of responsibility, and they should be given the additional time, funding, training, resources and support they need to carry out the role effectively. Their additional responsibilities include providing advice and support to other staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, taking part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings, and/or supporting other staff to do so, and to contributing to the assessment of children.

Our GB will determine whether to appoint additional deputy designated safeguarding leads, they will be trained to the same level as the designated safeguarding lead and their responsibilities will be explicit in their job description.

Our designated safeguarding lead may delegate safeguarding activities to the deputy safeguarding lead however the designated safeguarding lead will retain the lead responsibility for child protection and safeguarding. This responsibility will not be delegated.

The responsibilities of the designated lead at Wood End Primary in line with Keeping children safe in education Annex C are:

- Availability:



- Manage referrals:
- Work with others:
- Information sharing and the child protection file
- Raise Awareness:
- Training, knowledge, and skills:
- Providing support to staff
- Understanding the views of children
- Holding and sharing information

Our school will arrange adequate and appropriate arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities including:

- Updating the LA with new contact numbers
- E-mail accessibility
- mobile phone

The HT will complete a Safeguarding Report for Governors at least annually.

### Roles and Responsibilities - All staff

The Teacher Standards (2012) state that teachers, including headteachers should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties. We extend this level of duty to include all the staff and volunteers who work at Wood End Primary school

All staff are given part one of Keeping children safe in education together with annexe A. All staff receive annual safeguarding training and regular safeguarding updates throughout the course of the year. Staff confirm that they have received, read and understood our school's safeguarding policies and procedures and that they have attended safeguarding training.

- All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.
- All staff have a responsibility to identify children who may benefit from early help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.
- Any staff member who has a concern about a child must follow the referral process
- All staff have a responsibility to take appropriate action, our staff will be expected to support social care and other agencies following referrals.
- In addition to working with the designated safeguarding lead or deputy designated safeguarding lead staff members should be aware that they may be asked to support social workers and other agencies to take decisions about individual children.
- During induction, all staff members will be made aware of the systems within our school which support safeguarding systems, and these will be explained to them as part of their induction. This includes: the safeguarding and child protection policy, which includes the policy and procedures to deal with child-on-child abuse ; the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct; the school behaviour policy, which includes measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying; safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; Keeping Children Safe in Education -part 1, Annex C- the role of the designated safeguarding lead and the names of the designated safeguarding lead and deputies. (Please refer to our Induction policy and procedures);
- All staff members will receive appropriate safeguarding/child protection updates regularly, but at least annually.
- All staff will be made aware of the local early help process and understand their role in it.
- All staff will be made aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments, especially children in need (section 17) and a child suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm (Section 47) that may follow a referral along with the role that they may be expected to play in such assessments

- All staff will be made aware of what to do if a child discloses that he/she is being abused or neglected
- All staff members will be made aware of the types and signs of abuse and neglect so that they can identify cases of children who may need help or protection.
- Staff members working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the best interests of the child and always speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy immediately
- All staff should be aware of the seven golden rules for sharing information, if in any doubt about sharing information, staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy. 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 should ensure that if a child has made a disclosure, they are aware that the information will only be shared with the designated safeguarding lead and children's social care. staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse.
- Our staff will be alert to the potential need for any child who: is disabled and has specific needs; has special educational needs; is a young carer; is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social behaviour including gangs and organised crime; frequently goes missing from care or home, is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves; is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation; is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child; has returned home to their family from care; is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect; is at risk of being radicalised or exploited and is a privately fostered child.
- All staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead with regards to any concerns about female genital mutilation. Our teachers know that there is a legal duty placed upon, teachers must report to the police if they discover that an act of female genital mutilation appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18
- If staff have concerns, or an allegation is made about another member of staff (including volunteers and supply staff) posing a risk of harm to children, then the concern should be referred to the headteacher/principal. If the concern is about the headteacher the member of staff should report this to the chair of governors. Our staff will comply with the guidelines in part four of Keeping children safe in education.
- All staff and volunteers should raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in our school's safeguarding regime. Staff should follow the school's whistleblowing policy and procedures or contact the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline.
- All staff should be able to reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. Nor should the victim be made to feel ashamed for making the report.
- All staff should be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or being threatened. this could be due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. This should not prevent staff from having a professional curiosity and speaking to the DSL if they have concerns about a child. It is also important that staff determine how best to build trusted relationships with children and young people which facilitate communication.
- All staff should be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues

#### Supply staff, volunteers, work experience and students:

The designated safeguarding lead and/or the Headteacher will explain the responsibility of reporting any concerns about children's safety and welfare to the designated safeguarding lead or deputies. Further, they will be briefed on the school's confidentiality policy and the code of conduct that we expect from all in our school.

Therefore, supply staff, volunteers and students have the responsibility to:

- Work within the school's code of conduct, KCSIE, safeguarding/child protection policy, acceptable use of technology policy and confidentiality/information sharing expectations; and

- Immediately share any concerns about a child's welfare with the designated safeguarding lead or deputy.

### Parental Responsibilities

At Wood End Primary we have an open-door policy where we encourage parents to share any concerns regarding their own children or any other child/children who they feel may be at risk of harm. All concerns will be explored in a sensitive and timely manner. Parents /carers should ensure their child attends school and that they arrive on time and are collected on time. We expect parents/carers to notify us of any changes in family circumstances and inform us of any changes of address and contact numbers and where reasonably possible to provide more than one emergency contact number.

### Children's Responsibilities

In our school, we respect our children. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best and to talk freely about any concerns or worries. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves. Children will always be taken seriously and listened to if they seek help from a member of staff. Our school encourages all pupils to share any worries or concerns with any adult in the school at any time.

## **6. Confidentiality and Information sharing**

Our school adopts the principles outlined in the DfE Information sharing guidance (July 2018)

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential. The headteacher or designated safeguarding lead and deputies will disclose any information about a child to other members of staff on a need-to-know basis only. All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other statutory agencies to safeguard children.

All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or wellbeing. If a child wishes to confide in a member of staff/supply staff/volunteer and requests that the information is kept secret, the member of staff/supply staff/volunteer will tell the child, in an appropriate manner to the individual needs of the child, that they cannot promise confidentiality and will need to pass the information on to help keep the child or other children safe. All information and data are stored securely, and any information or data is shared on a need-to-know basis.

## **7. Communication with Parents**

Our school will always discuss concerns with parents/carers and consent for any referrals should be sought unless to do so would:

- Place the child at risk of significant harm or further risk of significant harm.
- Place a vulnerable adult at risk of harm; and
- Compromise any enquiries that need to be undertaken by children's social care or the police.

The school will endeavour to ensure that parents understand the responsibilities placed on the school and staff to safeguard children.

In the best interests of safeguarding children there may be occasions when the school may consult with other agencies without a parent's or carer's prior knowledge. Our first concern and responsibility are the child's welfare, and we have a duty to protect children first and always. Such consultation may result in a formal referral which could prompt visits from social care and/or the police. We fully understand that this can be a very distressing set of circumstances. Our school will follow the procedures required by the Multi-agency partnership arrangements

The visit may take place at the school at the request of the police or social care. In the event of the meeting being held at school parents/carer's will be asked by the school to remain on the school premises until such time that the police or social care can attend. If parents/carer's choose to leave school premises with their child, the school will contact the police or social care to inform them of the parent's/carer's decision.

Our school will employ the services of an interpreter if required.

#### **8. Advice for all staff, supply staff and volunteers - What to do if a child discloses**

All staff at Wood End Primary will also refer to 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused' DfE March 2015

##### DO's

- Keep an open mind
- Reassure
- Listen carefully
- Work at the child's pace
- Where appropriate, ask only open questions in a non-leading way – clarifying the facts, don't interrogate
- Explain your actions
- Record accurately and quickly using child's words/action
- Pass all the information on to the DSL, or the deputy DSL immediately/soon as possible or the same day
- At all times, keep children and young people safe
- Treat everyone with respect
- Create an environment in which people feel comfortable in pointing out attitudes and behaviours they don't like
- Report all inappropriate and/or abusive activities, including ridicule or bullying
- Familiarize yourself with the school's code of conduct, and other related policies
- Demonstrate positive behaviours you wish others to follow
- Treat all health and safety concerns as emergencies and report them immediately
- Follow the school's procedures for reporting safeguarding and welfare concerns
- Follow the school's procedures for reporting all allegations against staff, carers, and volunteers; and
- Look after yourself – ask for support.

##### DON'Ts

- Make false promises
- Interrupt/Interrogate/Investigate
- Assume e.g. this child tells lies/good imagination
- Make suggestions about what is being said
- Speculate or accuse anyone
- Show anger, shock etc.
- Tell the child to go and speak to someone else
- Discuss with parent/carers without speaking to the DSL, or their deputy.
- Forget to record accurately and/or pass on to DSL, or the deputy
- Discuss with any other staff before speaking to DSL, or deputy
- Leave any related written information laying around
- Jump to conclusions about people's behaviour without knowing the facts
- Investigate an allegation of child protection concern yourself
- Make suggestive (what could be seen as suggestive) remarks or gestures, tell jokes of a sexual nature or engage in inappropriate verbal banter with or in front of children and/or young people
- Create 'intense' personal relationships with a child/young person/s

- Give any personal details about yourself or others, to a child/young person, unless this has been agreed with a senior member of staff for a specific reason
- Allow children/young people to have access to your personal activities, including social networking sites
- Have inappropriate physical contact with children/young people, this includes whilst playing games
- Engage in any sexual activity (even consensual) with a child/young person under the age of 18 years who is attending any educational establishment
- Intimidate, threaten, coerce, or undermine others; and
- Believe that safeguarding matters are someone else's business and responsibility – it is... and it's also yours.

## **9. Wood End Primary school's recording and reporting concerns and disclosures procedures**

At Wood End;

- If staff have any concerns about the welfare of a child in school, however trivial they may think it is we ask them to verbally notify DSL / DDSL immediately or as soon as practically possible then complete a record of concern.
- The record of concern form and body maps are available from the staffroom or in an electronic format within the school staff shared area of the network.
- The forms should be returned to the school office within the confidential pigeonhole.
- The form should be completed immediately where possible but not later than the same day of the concern.
- Verbal referrals will be taken a written follow up is expected within the time frame.
- All reports are submitted to PFSO (DDSL), in her absence the DSL and deputy DSL will respond to any concerns reported. The PFSO or DSL acts upon the information: completing the reverse of the form showing actions taken.

Suggested relevant Information to record on the concern/disclosure form

Record:

- Details of the child's name, DOB, class etc.
- Address, contact numbers
- Parent/carers names
- Siblings
- All details of the concerns/behaviour/incident/disclosure
- Use child's own words
- Ensure all information recorded is factual and accurate
- Date and time of recording
- Who the incident/disclosure was made to
- Note any other witnesses
- Use full names and titles/roles
- Do not use abbreviations
- To whom the concern was reported to and time DSL notified
- Chronology of actions – date, place, who and what; and
- Signature and date of person recording the incident.

## **10. Making a referral to children's social care- points to be considered**

### **Child Protection Procedures**

Upon receipt of a school concern form the designated safeguarding lead or deputy will decide and seek advice to determine whether the concern/disclosure meets a threshold for support

The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will consider:

Is this a child with unmet needs where health, development or achievement may be affected? Wolverhampton Supporting Children' Model says practitioners should form a Team around the Family/Child (TaF/TAC) and complete an Early Help Assessment (EHA) when:

- Age-appropriate progress is not being made and the causes are unclear; or
- The support of more than one agency is needed to meet the child or young person's needs.

If this is a child with additional needs the designated safeguarding lead or deputy will discuss the issues with the child's parents/carers. The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will obtain parental consent for an Early Help Assessment to be completed.

Is this a child in need?

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 says:

- The child is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have opportunity to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development.
- The child's health or development is likely to be impaired, or further impaired without the provision of such services; and
- The child has a disability.

Is this a Child Protection matter?

Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 says:

- Children at risk or who are suffering significant harm.
- Children suffering the effects of significant harm; and
- Serious health problems.

All concerns, child with unmet needs, Child in Need and Child Protection matters, MUST be discussed with the designated safeguarding lead or deputy and will need to be assessed and referred using the correct channels by the school as soon as possible. It is important to recognise anybody can make a referral where they believe a child to be in imminent danger or at risk of harm

Where a case reaches the 'significant harm' threshold that justifies statutory intervention into family life, a professional making a child protection referral under Section 47 must therefore provide information which clearly outlines that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

It is not possible to rely on one absolute criterion when judging what constitutes significant harm. Consideration of the severity of ill-treatment may include the extent of the harm suffered, the context within which it occurred and its duration.

Significant harm may also arise from a combination of significant events which are both acute and long standing and which impair the child's physical, psychological, and social development. To both understand and establish significant harm, it is necessary to consider the family context, together with the child's development within their wider social and cultural environment. It is also necessary to consider any special needs, e.g. medical condition, communication difficulties or disability that may affect the child's development and care within the family. The nature of harm, in

terms of ill-treatment or failure to provide adequate care also needs consideration alongside the impact on the child's health and development and the adequacy of care provided.

### Making a referral

If, a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm a referral should be made to children's social care and /or the police immediately.

Anybody can make a referral. Although, where a child is registered at school, consultation must take place with the school's designated safeguarding lead or deputy, who will often be the most appropriate people to initiate any referral. A written record of the concerns should be made using the school's internal recording form. This should be used to aid in the decision-making process if a referral is needed to the MASH/Central Referral Hub.

For referrals to the MASH

phone 01902 555392

and speak to a social worker. Any action will need to be followed up with a written confirmation on the E-MARF (Electronic Multi Agency Referral form).

Out of hours: 01902 552999

## **11. Voice of the child – (children's wishes)**

Children's wishes and feelings are considered if appropriate when determining what action to take and what services to provide to protect individual children through ensuring there are systems in place for children to express their views and give feedback. Staff members do not promise confidentiality and always act in the best interests of the child.

## **12. Record Keeping**

At Wood End Primary all records of concerns and safeguarding/child protection files are stored separately from the child's school file. They are locked in a secure location.

If a child moves the school, we will transfer the files, wherever possible, this will be done in person if not the file will be transferred securely and separately from the child's main file within 5 days. We will obtain a receipt from the receiving school. If our school is the last known school the child attend, records will be retained until the child's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

If a child arrives at our school with a child protection file, we will ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads, designated teacher, and SENCOs, are aware as required.

In addition to the child protection file, our designated safeguarding lead will also consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving. For example, information that would allow the new school or college to continue supporting victims of abuse and have that support in place for when the child arrives.

### **13. Looked after children, previously looked after children, designated teacher, and liaison with the virtual school headteacher**

Our designated teacher for looked after children and previously looked after children is F Bellenger

Our designated teacher will undertake any relevant training to update their skills, understanding and knowledge to enable them to keep our looked after children and previously looked after children safe. Our designated teacher will promote the educational, physical, social, and emotional welfare of children who are looked after and previously looked after children.

Previously looked after children are children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship, or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales.

Our designated teacher will ensure:

- They are aware of the legal status (interim care order, full care order, voluntary arrangements of any looked after child at Wood End Primary.
- They obtain information regarding, contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.
- They obtain information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him or her.
- They obtain the name of the child's social worker.
- They obtain the name and contact details of the virtual head in the local authority that looks after the child; and
- They liaise with the virtual school headteacher to discuss how the funding for that child can be best used to support the child's need outlined in the personal education plan.
- The role of virtual school heads includes a non-statutory responsibility for the strategic oversight of the educational attendance, attainment, and progress of children with a social worker. In offering advice and information to workforces that have relationships with children with social workers, virtual school heads should identify and engage with key professionals, helping them to understand the role they have in improving outcomes for children. This should include Designated Safeguarding Leads, social workers, headteachers, governors, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators, mental health leads, other local authority officers, including Designated Social Care Officers for SEND, where they exist.

### **14. Care leavers**

Local authorities have on-going 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. Our designated safeguarding lead or deputy should be given details of the local authority personal advisor appointed to guide and support the care leaver, our designated safeguarding lead or deputy will liaise with the personal advisor as necessary regarding any issues of concern affecting the care leaver.

### **15. Children with special educational needs and disabilities or physical health issues**

At Wood End Primary we are aware that children with special educational needs and disabilities or certain health issues may face additional safeguarding challenges both online and offline. Barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children.

These can include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration.



- Children with SEN and disabilities and certain medical conditions can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying- without outwardly showing any signs.
- Being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children; and
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.
- Cognitive understanding – being unable to understand the difference between fact and fiction in online content and then repeating the content/behaviours in schools or colleges or the consequences of doing so.

We will ensure we have appropriate mechanisms in place to assist these children. Any reports of abuse involving children with SEND will therefore require close liaison with the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) and the SENCO.

We will consider extra pastoral support and attention for these children, along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place.

Examples of mechanisms:

- Suitably qualified professionals (Inclusion manager and send lead)
- Suitable training
- Referrals to specialist agencies
- Use of communication packages
- Use of signs and symbols
- One to one support for communication
- Appropriate IT aides

## **16. Children who are lesbian, gay, bi or trans (LGBT)**

The fact that a child or a young person may be LGBT is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm. However, children who are LGBT can be targeted by other children. In some cases, a child who is perceived by other children to be LGBT (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as children who identify as LGBT.

Risks can be compounded where children who are LGBT lack a trusted adult with whom they can be open. It is therefore vital that staff endeavour to reduce the additional barriers faced and provide a safe space for them to speak out or share their concerns with members of staff.

## **17. Staff safeguarding training, including induction**

### Induction

All staff members including governors will undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. The training will be regularly updated. Induction and training provided will be in line with advice from the WST. Upon appointment and starting the new post, new staff, students and volunteers will be issued with an induction pack, safeguarding policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education -Part 1, annex A ( if this is decided for certain staff) and annex c, Whistleblowing Policy, Management of Allegations Policy, Code of Conduct, Acceptable use of IT policy, the school's behaviour policy, our school's children missing education procedures and other relevant safeguarding information e.g. the name of the designated safeguarding lead and deputies . They will sign to say that they have received it, read and understood it. A meeting will be arranged on appointment to clarify and check understanding and to respond to any questions.

### Designated safeguarding lead and deputies

Our designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) will undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training will be updated at least every two years.

Our designated safeguarding lead and deputies will undertake Prevent awareness training. In addition to the formal training set out above, their knowledge and skills will be refreshed (this might be via e-bulletins, meeting other

designated safeguarding leads, or simply taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals, as required, but at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role so they:

- understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as early help assessments.
- have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- ensure each member of staff has access to and understands our school's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff.
- are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
- understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation.
- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and college, and with the three safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations, and practitioners.
- can keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals.
- Understand and support our school with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and can provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- can understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at school or college.
- can recognise the additional risks that children with SEN and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support SEND children to stay safe online.
- obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses; and
- encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school or college may put in place to protect them.

### Staff Training

All staff members will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates including online safety (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings), as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. Our GB recognise the expertise staff build by undertaking safeguarding training and managing safeguarding concerns daily. Opportunity will therefore be provided for staff to contribute to and shape safeguarding arrangements and child protection policy.

### Governor Training

All governors receive regular safeguarding training, including e-safety,

### Safer Recruitment Training

Our school will ensure that at least one member of any recruitment panel has received safer recruitment training.

## **18. Safer working practices**

Our school has a code of conduct; all staff, supply staff and volunteers are issued with this at induction.

You should seek to keep your personal contact with children under review and seek to minimise the risk of any situation arising in which misunderstandings can occur. The following sensible precautions can be taken when working alone with children:

- Work in a room where there is a glass panel in the door or leave the door open.
- Make sure that other adults visit the room occasionally.
- Avoid working in isolation with children unless thought has been given to safeguards.
- Must not give out personal mobile phone numbers or private e-mail addresses.
- Must not give pupils lifts home in your cars.
- Must not arrange to meet them outside of school hours; and
- Must not chat to pupils on the social websites.

Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 it is a criminal offence for anyone working in an education setting to have a sexual relationship with a pupil even when the pupil is over the age of consent.

Any use of physical force or restraint of pupils will be carried out and documented in accordance with the relevant behaviour policy. If it is necessary to use physical action to prevent a child from injury to themselves or others, parents will be informed.

### **19. Safer recruitment (Please refer to our safer recruitment policy for further information)**

To create a safe environment for our children our school will adopt the safer recruitment procedures that help deter, reject, or identify people who might abuse children, outlined in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education. We will monitor to ensure that the policy and procedures are embedded and effective.

Our school will ensure that at least one member of any recruitment panel has received safer recruitment training.

Our school adheres to statutory responsibilities to check staff who work with children, making decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required; and ensuring volunteers are appropriately supervised.

We expect all staff to have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of children. They should adopt high standards of personal conduct to maintain confidence and respect of the general public and those with whom they work.

There may be times where an individual's actions in their personal life come under scrutiny from the community, the media, or public authorities, including with regard to their own children, or children or adults in the community. Staff should be aware that their behaviour, either in or out of the workplace, could compromise their position within the work setting in relation to the protection of children, loss of trust and confidence, or bringing the employer into disrepute. Such behaviour may also result in prohibition from teaching by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) a bar from engaging in regulated activity, or action by another relevant regulatory body.

The Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2018 set out grounds for disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 where the person meets certain criteria set out in the Regulations. For example, an individual will be disqualified where they have committed a relevant offence against a child; been subject to a specified order relating to the care of a child; committed certain serious sexual or physical offences against an adult; been included on the DBS children's barred list; been made subject to a disqualification order by the court; previously been refused registration as a childcare provider or provider or manager of a children's home or had such registration cancelled. A disqualified person is prohibited from providing relevant early or later years childcare as defined in the Childcare Act 2006 or being directly concerned in the management of such childcare.

At Wood End Primary School we understand that schools are also prohibited from employing a disqualified person in respect of relevant early or later years childcare.

At school all shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children e.g

- if they have a criminal history.
- whether they are included on the barred list.
- whether they are prohibited from teaching.
- whether they are prohibited from taking part in the management of an independent school.
- information about any criminal offences committed in any country in line with the law as applicable in England and Wales, not the law in their country of origin or where they were convicted.
- if they are known to the police and children's social care; • have they been disqualified from providing childcare and,
- any relevant overseas information

In addition, as part of the shortlisting process we will consider carrying out an online search as part of our due diligence on the shortlisted candidates. This may help identify any incidents or issues that have happened, and are publicly available online, which we might want to explore with the applicant at interview.

Any offer of appointment made to a successful candidate, including one who has lived or worked abroad will be conditional on satisfactory completion of the necessary pre-employment checks and satisfactory references. Upon appointment of new staff our school will:

- Verify a candidate's identity. Best practice is to check the birth certificate, where this is available.
- Obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS certificate (including barred list information, for those who will be engaging in regulated activity);
- Obtain a separate barred list check if an individual will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available.
- Verify the candidate's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities. A job applicant can be asked relevant questions about disability and health to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role.
- Verify the person's right to work in the UK. If there is uncertainty about whether an individual needs permission to work in the UK, we will follow advice on the GOV.UK website.
- if the person has lived or worked outside the UK, make any further overseas checks the school consider appropriate
- Verify professional qualifications, as appropriate; we will use The Teacher Services' system to verify any award of qualified teacher status (QTS) and the completion of teacher induction and probation
- Check that a person taking up a management position is not subject to a section 128 direction made by the Secretary of State.
- Check that the candidate is not disqualified under the Childcare Act 2006 (2018 regulations) where relevant

These checks are part of a wider safeguarding regime which will carry on following appointment.

Our school understands that it is a criminal offence to allow any individual who is barred to carry out any form of regulated activity. Our school will comply with the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult; where the harm test is satisfied in respect of that individual; where the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence, or if there is reason to believe that individual has committed a listed relevant offence; and that individual has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left.

Our school makes decisions about the suitability of any prospective employees based on checks and evidence including criminal record checks (DBS), barred list checks and prohibition checks together with references and interview information.

Consideration is given to the regulated activity prospective employees will be engaged in. In summary, a person will be considered to be engaging in regulated activity if as a result of their work they:

- Will be responsible, on a regular basis in a school, for teaching, caring for or supervising children.
- Will carry out paid or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children; and
- Engage in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once.

For all other staff who have opportunity for regular contact with children who are not engaging in regulated activity, the school requires an enhanced DBS certificate, which does not include a barred list check.

For anyone appointed to carry out teaching work, an additional check will be undertaken to ensure they are not prohibited from teaching (including directions, sanctions, and restrictions)

Since 01 January 2021 the TRA Teacher Services system no longer maintains a list of those teachers who have been sanctioned in EEA member states. Schools will apply the same approach for any individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK regardless of whether or not it was in an EEA country or the rest of the world.

These checks could include, where available:

- criminal records checks for overseas applicants - Home Office guidance can be found on GOV.UK; and for teaching positions
- obtaining a letter (via the applicant) from the professional regulating authority in the country (or countries) in which the applicant has worked confirming that they have not imposed any sanctions or restrictions, and or that they are aware of any reason why they may be unsuitable to teach. Applicants can find contact details of regulatory bodies in the EU/EEA and Switzerland on the Regulated Professions database. Applicants can also contact the UK Centre for Professional Qualifications who will signpost them to the appropriate EEA regulatory body.

Our school keeps a Single Central Record that complies with all the requirements. It is monitored by the Headteacher at regular intervals.

The Single Central Record covers the following people:

- all staff (including supply staff, and teacher trainees on salaried routes) who work at the school: in colleges, this means those providing education to children.
- Volunteers.
- Governors; and
- Agency, third-party staff, and contractors

The following information will be recorded on the Single Central Record:

- An identity checks.
- A standalone children's barred list check.
- An enhanced DBS check/certificate.
- Prohibition, directions, sanctions, and restrictions checks.
- A section 128 check
- Further checks on people who have lived or worked outside the UK.
- A check of professional qualifications; and
- A check to establish the person's right to work in the United Kingdom.
- The date upon which the current and original DBS certificate was seen (applicable for employees appointed after 1/9/16)

Our school will obtain written confirmation that the employment business supplying staff has carried out the relevant checks and obtained the appropriate certificates. Our school will also check that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made (Identity check)

We will obtain written confirmation from alternative providers we use to confirm they have undertaken the relevant pre-employment and DBS checks for their staff

All applicants MUST show their current original DBS certificate to the school as soon as they take up post.

**20. Safeguarding concerns and allegations made about staff, including supply teachers, volunteers, and contractors**  
**(Please refer to our management of allegations policy for further information)**

It is important that all staff understand the process and procedures to follow if they have a safeguarding concern about another staff member.

Our school has adopted the Connect-Ed Managing Allegations Policy.

Our policy complies with the guidance set out in part four of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

All allegations of abuse of children carried out by any staff member or volunteer will be taken seriously. If an allegation is made regarding a member of staff, a supply teacher or volunteer, the following will be considered:

Has the member of staff/supply teacher/volunteer.

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child?
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child?
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would 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.

If an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer or supply staff the headteacher must be informed immediately or as soon as possible within 1 working day and he or she must contact the Designated Officer (Kenny Edgar) immediately to discuss the allegation to consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action.

If our school must consider an allegation against an individual not directly employed by us, where our disciplinary procedures do not fully apply, for example, supply teachers provided by an employment agency or business. Whilst our school is not the employer of supply teachers, we will ensure allegations are dealt with properly. In no circumstances will our school decide to cease to use a supply teacher due to safeguarding concerns, without finding out the facts and liaising with the local authority designated officer (LADO) to determine a suitable outcome. Our governing body will discuss with the agency whether it is appropriate to suspend the supply teacher, or redeploy them to another part of the school, whilst they carry out their investigation. Our school will comply with all aspects of the guidance in Part 4 of KCSiE.

If an allegation is made against the headteacher, the member of staff who has the concern must contact the chair of governors, who must then contact the Designated Officer (Kenny Edgar) immediately or as soon as possible within 1 working day to discuss the allegation to consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action.

Our procedures and approach to dealing with allegations will be applied with sensitivity and common sense. Our school will exercise its duty of care to employees, we will act appropriately to manage and minimise the stress inherent in the allegation process. Our school will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity while an allegation is being investigated or considered.

At Wood End Primary we understand that there is a legal requirement for employers to make a referral to the DBS where we think that an individual has engaged in conduct that harmed (or is likely to harm) a child; or if a person otherwise poses a risk of harm to a child. If the accused person resigns, or ceases to provide their services, this will

not prevent an allegation being followed up and a referral to the DBS *must* be made, if the criteria are met (outlined in KCSIIE)

As part of our whole school approach to safeguarding, we will ensure that we promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the school or college (including supply teachers, volunteers, and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately. We have policies and processes to deal with concerns (including allegations) which do not meet the harm threshold.

The Designated Officer in Wolverhampton is Kenny Edgar

### **Low-Level Concerns**

If staff have a safeguarding concern or an allegation about another member of staff (including supply staff, volunteers, or contractors) that does not meet the harm threshold, then this should be shared in accordance with the low-level concerns policy.

At Wood End Primary we create a culture in which all concerns about adults (including allegations that do not meet the harms threshold are shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with appropriately, is critical.

The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the threshold for referral.

A low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' - that an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college may have acted in a way that:

- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and
- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

Low-level concerns may arise in several ways and from a number of sources. For example: suspicion; complaint; or disclosure made by a child, parent, or other adult within or outside of the organisation; or because of vetting checks undertaken. It is crucial that all low-level concerns are shared responsibly with the right person and recorded and dealt with appropriately.

Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:

- being over friendly with children
- having favourites
- taking photographs of children on their mobile phone, contrary to school policy
- engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door, or
- humiliating pupils.

If the concern has been raised via a third party, the headteacher should collect as much evidence as possible by speaking:

- directly to the person who raised the concern, unless it has been raised anonymously, and
- to the individual involved and any witnesses.

Our Governing Body will set out their low-level concerns policy within their staff code of conduct and safeguarding policies. It will contain procedures for sharing confidentiality such concerns which is clear, easy to understand and implement.

Low-level concerns about a member of staff, supply staff, volunteer or contractor will be reported to the Head Teacher. Reports about supply staff and contractors will be notified to their employers, so any potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

We will create an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer, where, for example, they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.

All low-level concerns will be recorded in writing. The record should include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, and the action taken. The name of the individual sharing their concerns should also be noted, if the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible. Records will be retained by the Headteacher and will be reviewed regularly so that potential patterns of concerning behaviour can be identified.

Should the level of concern reach the harms threshold the case will be referred to the LADO. Records will be retained until the individual ceases to be employed in Wood End Primary.

For references we should only provide substantiated safeguarding allegations in references. Low level concerns will not be included in references unless they relate to issues which would normally be included in a reference, for example, misconduct or poor performance. It follows that a low-level concern which relates exclusively to safeguarding (and not to misconduct or poor performance) should not be referred to in a reference. However, where a low-level concern (or group of concerns) has met the threshold for referral to the LADO and found to be substantiated, it should be referred to in a reference.

The Designated Officer in Wolverhampton is Kenny Edgar

## **21. Whistleblowing (Please refer to our whistleblowing policy for further information)**

All staff, volunteers and parents at Wood End Primary should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in our safeguarding regime and such concerns will be taken seriously by our headteacher, GB and senior leadership team. Our school has adopted the Connect-Ed Whistleblowing Policy and appropriate whistleblowing procedures, which are suitably reflected in staff training and staff behaviour policies, are in place for such concerns to be raised with our headteacher, governing body or senior leadership team.

Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with our headteacher, governing body or senior leadership team or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels are open to them, for example:

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



## **22. Curriculum and e-safety**

Child safety issues and child protection will be addressed through the curriculum where appropriate, especially through PSHE, Computing and E-Safety, Citizenship, Relationship and Sex Education (RSE,) Health Education and British values.

Governing body will ensure online safety is a running and interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing their whole school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and procedures. This will include considering how online safety is reflected as required in all relevant policies and considering online safety whilst planning the curriculum, any teacher training, the role, and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) and any parental engagement.

School is likely to be in regular contact with parents and carers. Those communications will be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online and parents and carers are likely to find it helpful to understand what systems we use to filter and monitor online use. It will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and be clear who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online

We use a variety of resources and approaches to teach the children how to keep themselves safe, build their resilience and manage risks.

The curriculum, in particular, the personal, social and health education development strand of the curriculum, includes an emphasis on relationships (relationships and sex education), building confidence and resilience in pupils and in developing preventative strategies to ensure their own protection and that of others. Opportunities are provided for pupils to develop the skills and strategies they need to stay safe from abuse, including age-appropriate discussions about healthy relationships, their bodies and being able to say no to requests that they do not want to carry out. Clear advice and guidance are built into the curriculum to ensure that pupils understand that there is a range of contacts they can turn to for advice and support and that they know where and how to report abuse.

Our school teaches the children how to keep themselves safe through:

- Cycling Proficiency
- Swimming lessons
- Educational Visits
- PCSO – Talks on Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Stranger Danger, Firework and Park Safety
- People Who Help Us Topics
- PSHE/ Assemblies
- RSE/ School Nurses
- British Values/ Virtues and Values
- PANTS campaign
- Base 25/Catch 22 etc

Through the school's/academy's curriculum the children have the opportunity to go on school/college trips and residential visits to enhance their learning. All off site visits are recorded. Permission slips and medical forms are collected and kept with the office and the lead member of staff. Risk assessments are completed and filed within the 'Educational visits folder.'

E-Safety curriculum and computing, use of mobile technology (See separate policies for further information)

The E-Safety lead is J Sheard

The growth of different electronic media in everyday life and an ever-developing variety of devices including PC's, laptops, mobile phones, webcams etc. place an additional risk on our children. Internet chat rooms, discussion forums, social networks, and the ability to live stream can all be used as a means of contacting children and young people with a view of grooming them for inappropriate or abusive relationships. The anonymity of the internet allows adults, often pretending to be children, to have conversations with children and in some cases, arrange to meet them.

Access to abusive images is not a 'victimless' act as it has already involved the abuse of children. The internet has become a significant tool in the distribution of indecent photographs of children and should be a concern to all those working with children at our school.

Pupils can engage in or be a target of Cyber-bullying using a range of methods including text, sexting, and instant messaging to reach their target. Mobile phones are also used to capture violent assaults and inappropriate images or other children for circulation (e.g. happy slapping/sexting).

The best protection is to make children aware of the dangers through age-appropriate curriculum teaching particularly computing and IT lessons, PSHE and RSE.

At Wood End Primary

- Software (filters, firewalls, and monitoring) are in place to minimise access and to highlight any person or child accessing inappropriate sites or information.
- Pupils will be encouraged to discuss openly their use of technology and anything which makes them feel uncomfortable. (if this results in child protection concerns the schools DSL will be informed immediately);
- Pupils are taught not give out personal details, phone numbers, schools, home address, computer passwords etc. and
- Pupils should adhere to the school policy on mobile phones, social media/live streaming/apps
- Staff receive e-safety and online training
- School will review the e-safety policy annually and include a risk assessment

The police will be involved, and advice will be sought from CEOP if required if there is any criminal element to misuse of the internet, phones, or any other form of electronic media.

#### Use of mobile phones, cameras, and other devices (See Code of Conduct)

Unauthorized or secret use of a mobile phone or other electronic device, to record voice, pictures or video is forbidden. Unauthorized publishing of such materials on a website which causes distress to the person(s) concerned will be considered a breach of school/college code of conduct, whether intentional or unintentional. The person responsible for the material will be expected to remove this immediately upon request and appropriate procedures will be followed. Where any crime may have been committed, the police will be informed.

We recognise that many aspects of the curriculum can be enhanced using multi-media and that there are now a wide and growing range of devices on which this can be accomplished. Digital images, video and sound recording are only taken with the permission of participants; images and video are of appropriate activities and are only taken of children wearing appropriate dress. Full names of participants are not used either within the resource itself, within the filename or in accompanying text online.

All parents & visitors are asked not to use mobile phones when visiting our school and to take any calls or texts outside of the building. All staff must be vigilant and remind any parents/visitors who forget.

We ask all parents/carers to sign an agreement about taking and publishing photographs and video of their children and this list is checked whenever an activity is being photographed or filmed.

For their own protection staff or other visitors to school never use a personal device (mobile phone, digital camera, or digital video recorder, etc.) to take photographs or audio of pupils.

School mobile phones or similar devices with communications facilities used for curriculum activities are set up appropriately for the activity. Pupils are taught to use them responsibly.

### **23. Contextual safeguarding**

At Wood End Primary School we know that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside our school and/or can occur between children outside our school. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) will consider the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur. This is known as contextual safeguarding, which simply means assessments of children will consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. Our DSL/deputy DSLs will consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence. Children's social care assessments should consider such factors, so our school will provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and the full context of any abuse

### **24. Types and signs of abuse**

All staff and volunteers are familiar with the types and signs of abuse, they are aware that abuse, neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

All will understand that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of home and online. They will exercise professional curiosity and know what to look for to identify abuse and neglect early.

All staff are expected to be vigilant at all times, taking account of the following.

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

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

Some signs:

- Bruising of various ages
- Bite marks
- Burns and scalds
- Fractures in non-mobile children
- Injuries in unusual areas or with well - defined edges
- Old injuries or scars
- Refusal to discuss injuries

- Inconsistent explanations
- Talk of punishment which seems excessive
- Arms and legs kept covered in hot weather
- Reluctance to remove clothing for PE or swimming

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, 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.

Some signs:

- Physical, mental, or emotional development delay
- Abnormal attachment to parents/carer
- Low self-esteem
- Lack of confidence
- Over-reaction to making mistakes
- Fear of new situations
- Fear of parents being contacted
- Self-harm

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.

Some signs:

- Aggression
- Withdrawn
- Self-harming, including eating disorders
- Distrust of familiar adult
- Wetting or soiling day and night
- Fear of undressing for sport or swimming
- Sleep disturbances or nightmares
- Apparent secrecy about social activities or special friends
- Inappropriate sexualized conduct
- Drawings of sexual behaviours
- Sexually explicit behaviour

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy because 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 caregivers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Some signs:

- 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 caregivers)
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- neglect of or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs
- Under weight for age
- Hungry
- Tired
- Poor state of clothing for the child's size, weather, or time of year
- Persistently dirty with a body odour
- Frequent lateness or non-attendance
- Compulsive stealing or scavenging
- Poor health and untreated medical problems
- Lack of immunisations
- Frequently missed medical appointments

The list of signs is not an exhaustive list.

If staff recognise any of these signs, they should not presume that the child is being abused but MUST report their concerns to the designated safeguarding lead or the deputy designated safeguarding lead immediately.

### **Specific safeguarding issues**

#### **25. Mental Health**

All staff at Wood End Primary School are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. We understand only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Our staff, however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. Our staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour, and education.

If any staff member has a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action will be taken, following our child protection policy and they will speak to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy immediately

#### **26. Children Missing from Education**

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full-time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude, and any special educational needs they may have. Effective information sharing between parents,

settings, schools/colleges, and the local authority is critical to ensure that all children are safe and receiving suitable education.

Staff at Wood End Primary school are aware that a child going missing from education, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and child criminal exploitation. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of children going missing in future.

Our staff are aware of and adhere to the school's procedures for unauthorised absence and children missing from education.

Our school has appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and responses for children who go missing from education.

Our school has an admission register and an attendance register. All children are placed on these registers at the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed, or been notified, that the pupil will attend our school. If the child fails to attend on the agreed or notified date, our school will notify the local authority at the earliest possible opportunity to prevent the child from going missing.

Our attendance and admission registers are kept up to date. We actively encourage our parents and carers to inform us of any changes whenever they occur.

Our school monitors attendance regularly and we address any issues that may cause concern and where attendance fails to meet the expected level.

Our school will notify the local authority of any child who fails to attend school regularly or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or, more at such intervals as are agreed by the school and the local authority.

Where a parent notifies our school that a pupil will live at another address, our school will record in the admission register:

- the full name of the parent with whom the pupil will live.
- the new address; and
- the date from when it is expected the pupil will live at this address.

Where a parent of a pupil notifies our school that the pupil is registered at another school or will be attending a different school in future, our school will record in the admission register:

- the name of the new school; and
- the date on which the pupil first attended or is due to start attending that school.

Our school will notify the local authority within five days when a pupil's name is added to the admission register. We will provide the local authority with all the information held within the admission register about the pupil.

Our school will also notify the local authority when a pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register under any of the fifteen grounds set out in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended as soon as the ground for deletion is met and no later than the time at which the pupil's name is deleted from the register.

Our school will only delete a pupil's name from the admission register under regulation 8(1), sub-paragraph (f)(iii) or (h)(iii) if our school and the local authority have failed to establish the pupil's whereabouts after jointly making reasonable enquiries.

When our school notifies the local authority that a pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register, our school will provide the local authority with:

- the full name of the pupil.
- the full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil lives.
- at least one telephone number of the parent with whom the pupil lives.
- the full name and address of the parent with whom the pupil is going to live, and the date the pupil is expected to start living there, if applicable.
- the name of pupil's destination school and the pupil's expected start date there, if applicable; and
- the ground in regulation 8 under which the pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register.

Our school will work with the local authority to agree on methods of making returns. When making returns, we will highlight to the local authority where we have been unable to obtain the necessary information from the parent, for example in cases where the child's destination school or address is unknown. We will also consider whether it is appropriate to highlight any contextual information of a vulnerable child who is missing education, such as any safeguarding concerns.

It is essential that schools comply with these duties, so that local authorities can, as part of their duty to identify children of compulsory school age who are missing education, follow up with any child who might be at risk of not receiving an education and who might be at risk of being harmed, exploited, or radicalised.

Our school uses a secure internet system – school2school – we use this to transfer pupil information to another school when the child moves.

As a maintained school, we are required, when a pupil ceases to be registered at our school and becomes a registered pupil at another school in England or Wales, to send a Common Transfer File (CTF) to the new school. Our school complies with this requirement.

## **27. Private Fostering Arrangements**

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of the local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18 if disabled) who is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer; for 28 days or more. Close relatives are defined as stepparents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts, (whether of full blood, half blood, or marriage/ affinity.)

School staff will notify the designated safeguarding lead or deputy when they become aware of private fostering arrangements. The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will speak to the family of the child involved to check that they are aware of their duty to inform the LA. Our school is aware that we need to report any private fostering arrangements that we become aware of to the Local Authority.

On admission to the school, we will take steps to verify the relationship of the adults to the child who is being registered and where reasonably possible we will obtain more than one emergency contact number.

## **28. Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or videos**

At Wood End Primary School, we know and understand that sharing photos and videos online is part of daily life for many children, enabling them to share their experiences, connect with friends and record their lives. Photos and videos can be shared as text messages, email, posted on social media or increasingly via mobile messaging apps, such as, Snapchat, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger, etc.

The increase in the speed and ease of sharing imagery has brought concerns about children producing and sharing sexual imagery of themselves. This can expose them to risks, particularly if the imagery is shared further, including embarrassment, bullying, sexual harassment, and increased vulnerability to sexual exploitation.

Although the production of such imagery will likely take place outside of our school, these issues often manifest in schools and organisations working with children and young people. Our school will respond swiftly and confidently to ensure that children are safeguarded, supported, and educated.

Producing and sharing sexual images of under-18s is also illegal.

Our school will deal with all incidents as a safeguarding concern. We will be guided by the principle of proportionality and our primary concern will be the welfare and protection of the children involved. Our school may respond to incidents without involving the police in accordance with the guidelines set out in the UKCCIS- Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people.

Our school will adopt the recommended procedures regarding the law and handling incidents outlined in UKCCIS- Sharing nudes and semi-nudes; advice for education settings working with children and young people and DfE guidance – Searching, screening and confiscation

Whilst dealing with an incident our school will:

- Respond immediately to disclosures or incidents in line with our school's safeguarding procedures, staff will notify the designated safeguarding lead immediately of any concern, incident, or disclosure
- Handle devices and imagery according to DfE advice (Searching, Screening and confiscation)
- Risk assess situations
- Involve other agencies, including escalation to the police and children's social care
- Record incidents
- Involve parents
- Seek to support children
- Support children to report youth produced sexual imagery online.
- Provide preventative education

## **29. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

The definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.



Like all forms of child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex.
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual.
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity; can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both.
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.
- may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (through others copying videos or images they have created and posting on social media, for example).
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Child sexual exploitation is never the victim's fault, even if there is some form of exchange: all children and young people under the age of 18 have a right to be safe and should be protected from harm.

At Wood End Primary School, we understand that any child in any community may be vulnerable to child exploitation, we will be alert to the fact that child sexual exploitation is complex and rarely presents in isolation of other needs and risks of harm (although this may not always be the case, particularly in relation to online abuse). Child sexual exploitation may be linked to other crimes, and we will be mindful that a child who may present as being involved in criminal activity is actually being exploited.

At Wood End Primary School, we are aware that the following vulnerabilities are examples of the types of things children can experience that might make them more susceptible to child sexual exploitation:

- 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 exploited.
- Family members or other connections involved in adult sex work.
- Having a physical or learning disability.
- Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories); and
- Sexual identity.

We understand that not all children and young people with these vulnerabilities will experience child sexual exploitation. Child sexual exploitation can also occur without any of these vulnerabilities being present.

Children rarely self-report child sexual exploitation so we understand it is vitally important that all staff at Wood End Primary School are aware that some of the following signs may be indicators of child sexual exploitation:

- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions.

- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation.
- children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends.
- children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant.
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being.
- children who misuse drugs and alcohol.
- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

We will remain open to the fact that child sexual exploitation can occur without any of these risk indicators being obviously present and be alert to the potential signs of abuse and neglect and to understand the procedures set out by local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

At Wood End Primary School, we will provide information and raise awareness of CSE including the signs, vulnerabilities, and reporting procedures in line with WST guidelines

Our staff will report any concerns regarding children at risk of CSE to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy who will then make a referral and liaise with other relevant statutory agencies, for example, social care, police, and health professionals as required.

We know that different forms of harm often overlap, and that perpetrators may subject children and young people to multiple forms of abuse, such as criminal exploitation (including county lines and sexual exploitation).

Wolverhampton Exploitation Lead is Sandeep Gill

### **30. 'Honour based Abuse'**

So-called 'honour-based' Abuse (HBA) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. Our staff will be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such.

If our staff have any concerns regarding a child that might be at risk of HBA or who has suffered from HBA they will speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy. As appropriate the designated safeguarding lead or deputy will activate the local safeguarding procedures by contacting the police and or social care.

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

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

ALL staff will speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy regarding any concerns about female genital mutilation.

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18.

Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions.

It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies.

**Teachers must personally report to the police** cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should also still consider and discuss any such case with our school’s designated safeguarding lead or deputy and involve children’s social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers will follow local safeguarding procedures.

At Wood End Primary school teachers must also report their concerns and share the information with the designated safeguarding lead or deputy following the school’s procedures for recording and reporting. The teacher will be supported by the designated safeguarding lead to fulfil their duty to report FGM cases to the police and social care.

Some warning signs:

- Difficulty walking, sitting, or standing.
- Unusual behaviour after an absence from school.
- Age of the young girl (0-15 years).
- A young girl may visit the bathroom more frequently or spend more time than usual in the bathroom.
- A young girl may have frequent, urinary, menstrual or stomach problems.
- Prolonged or repeated absence from school.
- A young girl may try to avoid PE lessons.
- Travel to a country known to practise FGM (School holiday times).
- An Elder family member visiting from a country known to practise FGM.
- Over hearing conversations related to FGM.
- A young girl may disclose, ask questions or ask for advice.
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examination; and
- Girls that are withdrawn from PSHE or SRE.

### **32. Forced Marriage**

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some communities use religion and culture to coerce a person into marriage.

The Forced Marriage Unit has published Multi-agency guidelines, with pages 35-36 focusing on the role of schools and colleges. School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information. Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email: [fmufco.gov.uk](mailto:fmufco.gov.uk).

### **33. Breast ironing/flattening**

Breast flattening, also known as breast ironing, is the process during which young pubescent girls’ breasts are ironed, massaged, flattened and/or pounded down over a period (ranging from a few weeks to years) in order for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts entirely. In some families, large stones, a hammer, or spatula that have been heated over hot coals can be used to compress the breast tissue. Other families may opt to use an elastic belt or binder to press the breasts to prevent them from growing. Breast flattening usually starts with the first signs of puberty, it is usually carried out by female relatives.

It should also be acknowledged that some adolescent girls and boys may choose to bind their breast using constrictive material due to gender transformation or questioning their identity, and this may also cause health problems.

### Health Implications

Due to the type of instruments that may be used, the type of force and the lack of aftercare, significant health and developmental issue may occur, such as:

- Severe Pain
- Fever
- Dissymmetry or disappearance of breast/s
- Itching
- Tissue damage
- Infection
- Discharge of milk
- Breast cancer
- Abscesses or cysts
- There may also be an impact on the child's social and psychological well-being

### Justifications

In many cases, the abuser thinks they are doing something good for the girl by delaying the effects of puberty and the practice is designed to:

- prevent pregnancy and rape
- make teenage girls look less "womanly" and no-longer sexually attractive to men.
- enable the girl to continue her education
- prevent dishonour being brought upon the family if the girl begins sexual relations outside of marriage
- prevent early marriage
- deter unwanted attention

### Prevalence

There has not been extensive research done on breast flattening and the few studies that have been carried out indicate that the practice occurs predominantly in Cameroon. Other countries include Togo, Chad, Kenya, Guinea Bissau, South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin and Zimbabwe.

### Signs that a girl could be at risk

- A girl is embarrassed about her body
- A girl is born to a woman who has undergone breast flattening
- A girl has an older sibling or cousin who has undergone breast flattening • References to breast flattening in conversation, for example a girl may tell other children about it
- A girl may request help from a teacher or another adult if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk
- A girl from an affected community is withdrawn from PSHE and/or Sex and Relationship Education as her parents wish to keep her uninformed about her rights and her body.
- One of both parents or elder family members consider breast flattening integral to their cultural identity.
- The family indicate that there are strong levels of influence held by elders who are involved in bringing up female children and support breast flattening.

Signs that breast flattening has occurred

As well as keeping in mind the signs that indicate a girl may be at risk of breast flattening, professionals and others should be mindful that:

- A girl may disclose to a teacher, social worker, GP, or another medical professional
- Some girls may ask for help, perhaps talk about pain or discomfort in their chest area, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear
- A girl may display reluctance to undergo medical examination
- A girl may be fearful of changing for physical activities due to scars showing or bandages being visible

Law in the UK

There are no specific laws in the UK regarding breast flattening.

What to do if you suspect a girl is at risk of/undergoing breast flattening

If any member of staff is concerned that a girl is at risk of breast flattening, they must speak to the DSL/DDSL immediately. The DSL /DDSL will contact the MASH and make a referral.

### **34. Up-Skirting**

The Voyeurism (Offences) Act, which is commonly known as the Up-skirting Act, came into force on 12 April 2019. 'Up-skirting' is where someone takes a picture under a person's clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission and or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.

### **35. Serious violence**

All staff should be aware of indicators which may signal that children are at risk from or involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or significant change in well-being, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs. All staff should be aware of the associated risks and understand the measures in place to manage these

There are a number of indicators, which may signal children are at risk from, or are involved with, serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school

- a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups
- a significant decline in performance
- signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries
- Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

The likelihood of involvement in serious violence may be increased by factors such as:

- being male

- having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school
- having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery

Staff should also be aware that violence can often peak in the hours just before or just after school, when pupils are travelling to and from school. These times can be particularly risky for young people involved in serious violence

### **36. Preventing Radicalisation**

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Like protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk will be a part of our school's/college's safeguarding approach.

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our 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.

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

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

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

From 1 July 2015, specified authorities, including all schools (and since 18 September 2015 all colleges) as defined in the summary of this guidance, are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counterterrorism 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. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies. Bodies to which the duty applies must have regard to statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the CTSA 2015. Paragraphs 57-76 of the statutory "Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales" (for schools) summarises the requirements on schools in terms of four general themes:

At Wood End Primary we will:

- Assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.
- Work in partnership with parents, children, families and statutory agencies.
- Assess the risk in our local area and as a minimum our designated safeguarding lead will undertake Prevent awareness training to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation; and
- Ensures that suitable filtering and monitoring is in place. Our pupils are taught to stay safe on-line. Our E-safety is integral to the school's IT curriculum.

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- Showing sympathy for extremist causes.
- Glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures.
- Making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school.
- Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature.
- Advocating messages like illegal organisations or other extremist groups.
- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent).
- Secretive behavior.
- Online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles.
- Intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race, or sexuality.
- Graffiti, artwork or writing that displays extremist themes.
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.
- Verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views; and
- Advocating violence towards others.

At Wood End Primary, we aim to build the children's resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment and through aspects of the curriculum including SMSC, British Values, PSHE, RSE and Citizenship.

Training on Prevent will be delivered as required to the relevant staff. Our school will use the e-learning links outlined in KCSiE if required. Our school will utilise The Department for Education advice for schools on the Prevent duty and other links and guidance outlined in KCSiE.

#### Channel

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from our school, if required, will attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

Our staff understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme. Channel guidance is available at: [Channel Guidance](#).

Our staff will co-operate with local Channel panel as required.

Our school will contact the Wolverhampton Community Safety Team at: [safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk) or call: 01902 551214

### **37. Child on child abuse**

At Wood End Primary we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other children.

We recognise that some children will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's relevant policy e.g. behaviour policy.

ALL staff recognise that children can abuse their peers and that it can happen inside and outside of school. All staff should be clear as to the school's policy and procedures regarding child-on-child abuse and the important role they must play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it.

ALL allegations will be taken seriously, at Wood End Primary we understand that ‘abuse is abuse and should never be passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”. We have a zero-tolerance approach to this behaviour. ALL allegations will be carefully considered, and all decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis in consultations with social care. Referrals under safeguarding arrangements may be necessary, key specific considerations will include:

- The age, maturity and understanding of the children; and
- Any disability or special needs of the children

#### Allegations against other children which are safeguarding issues

Some allegations may be of such a serious nature that they may raise safeguarding concerns. These allegations may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, sexual violence and harassment, up skirting and sexual exploitation, causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent; and consensual and non-consensual use of nude and semi-nude images/videos.

We understand the gendered nature of child-on-child abuse (it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys will be perpetrators) but all peer-on-peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously

Other gender issues that can be prevalent when dealing with child-on-child abuse could, for example, include girls being sexually touched or assaulted or boys being subject to initiation or hazing type violence. It is also likely that incidents may involve older students and their behaviour towards younger students or those who are vulnerable.

It is likely that, to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a child, some of the following features will be found.

If the allegation:

- Is made against an older child and refers to their behaviour towards a younger child or a more vulnerable child.
- Is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence.
- Raises risk factors for other children in the school.
- Indicates that other children may have been affected by this child; and
- Indicates that young children outside the school may be affected by this child.

Examples of safeguarding issues against a child could include:

#### Physical Abuse

- Violence, particularly pre-planned.
- Forcing others to use drugs or alcohol; and
- Initiation and hazing violence.

#### Emotional Abuse

- Blackmail or extortion.
- Threats and intimidation; and
- Bullying and cyber-bullying.

#### Sexual Abuse including sexting and gender-based violence

- Indecent exposure, indecent and inappropriate touching, or serious sexual assaults.
- Forcing others to watch pornography or consensual or non-consensual sharing of images/videos



- Initiation and hazing violence.
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (sometimes known as ‘teenage relationship abuse’)

#### Sexual Exploitation/violence and harassment

- Encouraging other children to engage in inappropriate sexual behaviour (For example - having an older boyfriend/girlfriend, associating with unknown adults or other sexually exploited children, staying out overnight); and
- Photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts.

#### Prevention, assessing and minimising the risks

At Wood End Primary we will minimise the risk of allegations against other children by:

- Providing a developmentally age appropriate PSHE, RSE, British Values curriculum which develops children’s understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe.
- Having clear systems in place for any child to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be taken seriously
- Delivering targeted work on assertiveness, protective behaviours and keeping safe those children identified as being at risk.
- Developing robust risk assessments & providing targeted work for children identified as being a potential risk to other children; and
- Training and awareness sessions will be provided for staff.
- Staff recognising, acknowledging, or understanding the scale of harassment and abuse and not downplaying some behaviours related to abuse which can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment and in worst case scenario a cultural that normalises abuse and leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

#### Procedure to manage and record child- on- child allegations

- When an allegation is made by a child against another child, members of staff should consider whether the complaint raises a safeguarding concern. If there is a safeguarding concern the designated safeguarding lead or deputy will be informed.
- A factual record will be made of the allegation, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances.
- The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will contact social care/multi-agency agency safeguarding hub (MASH) to discuss the allegation and seek advice.
- The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a referral where appropriate.
- If the allegation indicates that a potential criminal offence has taken place, this will be referred to the multi-agency agency safeguarding hub MASH where the police will become involved.
- Following advice from Social Care and/or the police, parents of both the child being complained about and the alleged victim, should be informed and kept updated on the progress of the referral.
- The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both children’s files.
- It may be appropriate to exclude the pupil being complained about for a period of time according to the school’s behaviour policy and procedures.
- Where neither social services nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school’s usual behaviour procedures.

- In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan; and
- The plan should be monitored, and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned.
- Abuse that occurs online or outside of school will not be downplayed and will be treated equally seriously.

### Support and care

At Wood End Primary we recognise and understand that peer on peer allegations will be very distressing situations for all concerned – the victim, perpetrator, other children, family members and staff. We will seek to provide any support required and make any necessary referrals for counselling and support services.

### **38. Child on child sexual violence and harassment**

If an incident of sexual violence or sexual harassment occurs at our school will follow the guidance set out in Part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education and we will use the DfE guidance - Sexual violence and harassment between children in schools and colleges

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, likely, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal), inside or outside of school and are never acceptable.

At Wood End Primary we take a zero-tolerance approach, and any inappropriate behaviour will be addressed, even if it appears to be relatively innocuous.

At Wood End Primary all victims will be taken seriously and offered appropriate support. We know that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at greater risk.

Staff are aware and know the importance of:

- making clear that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment, that it is never acceptable, and it will not be tolerated. It should never be passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh”, “a part of growing up” or “boys being boys”. Failure to do so can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse, leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.
- recognising, acknowledging, and understanding the scale of harassment and abuse and that even if there are no reports it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported.
- challenging physical behaviour (potentially criminal in nature) such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

### Sexual violence

Our staff are aware of sexual violence and the fact children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way. When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

### Consent

Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent can be withdrawn at any time.

## Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment means ‘unwanted conduct of a sexual nature’ that can occur online and offline. For this policy, reference to sexual harassment, is in the context of child-on-child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child’s dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexual harassment can include:

- sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names
- sexual “jokes” or taunting
- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone’s clothes. Schools and colleges should be considering when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence – it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim.
- displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature
- upskirting (this is a criminal offence), and
- online sexual harassment. This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. It may include:
  - consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos.
  - sharing of unwanted explicit content or sexualised online bullying
  - unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media
  - sexual exploitation; coercion and threats, and
  - coercing others into sharing images of themselves or performing acts they’re not comfortable with online.

We will consider sexual harassment in broad terms. Sexual harassment (as set out above) creates a culture that, if not challenged, can normalise inappropriate behaviours and provide an environment that may lead to sexual violence.

## Harmful sexual behaviour

Children’s sexual behaviour exists on a wide continuum, ranging from normal and developmentally expected to inappropriate, problematic, abusive and violent. Problematic, abusive and violent sexual behaviour is developmentally inappropriate and may cause developmental damage. A useful umbrella term is “harmful sexual behaviour” (HSB). The term has been widely adopted in child protection and is used in this advice. HSB can occur online and/or face-to-face and can also occur simultaneously between the two. HSB will be considered in a child protection context.

When considering HSB, both ages and the stages of development of the children are critical factors.

The designated safeguarding lead (and their deputies) to have a good understanding of HSB. This will form part of their safeguarding training. This will aid in our planning preventative education, implementing preventative measures, drafting, and implementing an effective child protection policy and incorporating the approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment into the whole school approach to safeguarding.

HSB can, in some cases, progress on a continuum. Addressing inappropriate behaviour can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. Children displaying HSB have often experienced their own abuse and trauma. It is important that they are offered appropriate support.

## Preventing abuse

Effective safeguarding practice is demonstrated when we are clear, in advance, about what local processes are in place and what support can be accessed when sexual violence or sexual harassment has occurred. The DSL (or a deputy) will understand local procedures and where there is local specialist support.

## Our school response to a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment

Our school will follow the guidance set out in part 5 Keeping Children Safe in Education and the DfE guidance Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges -Sept 2021

- Any decisions made upon receipt of a concern will be made on a case-by-case basis by the designated safeguarding lead or deputy who will liaise with social care and or the police if necessary.
- All staff who have a concern regarding sexual violence or sexual harassment will speak with and report their concern to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy immediately
- All victims will be reassured that they are being taken seriously and they will be supported.
- It is important to explain that the law is in place to protect children and young people rather than criminalise them, and this should be explained in such a way that avoids alarming or distressing them.
- All staff will act in the best interest of the children
- Our staff will be supportive and respectful of the child
- Our staff will listen carefully to the child/student, they will be non-judgemental and will not ask leading questions
- Our staff will not promise confidentiality and will explain that the information will be shared with those people who will be able to help and progress the report.
- A record of the report will be made. Best practice is to wait until the end of the report and immediately write up a thorough summary. It may be appropriate to make notes during the report however staff must remain engaged with the children, listen very carefully and not be distracted by note taking.
- The record will only include the facts as the child presents them. We understand that the notes should not reflect the personal opinion of the note taker and we are aware that the notes could become part of a statutory assessment by social care or part of a criminal investigation
- Where the concern includes an online element, we know we should not view or forward any images unless there is a valid reason to do so and we will follow the DfE guidance set out in Screening, searching and confiscation advice.
- Where possible we will try to manage and record an initial report with two members of staff present preferably one of them being the designated safeguarding lead or deputy.
- If the designated safeguarding lead or deputy is not involved in the initial report the staff member will speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy immediately.

## Considering confidentiality and anonymity

We will only engage staff and agencies who are required to support the children involved and/or be involved in any investigation.

The victim may ask us not to tell anyone about the sexual violence or sexual harassment. There are no easy or definitive answers when a victim makes this request. If the victim does not give consent to share information, staff may still lawfully share it, if there is another legal basis under the UK GDPR that applies. For example, the public task basis may apply, where the overall purposes is to perform a public interest task or exercise official authority, and the task or authority has a clear basis in law. Advice will be sought from the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy), who should consider the following:

- parents or carers should normally be informed (unless this would put the victim at greater risk)
- the basic safeguarding principle is: if a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger, or has been harmed, a referral should be made to local authority children's social care, and
- rape, assault by penetration and sexual assaults are crimes. Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, this should be referred to the police. Whilst the age of criminal responsibility is ten, if the alleged perpetrator is under ten, the starting principle of referring to the police remains. The police will take a welfare, rather than a criminal justice approach, in these cases.

Ultimately, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will have to balance the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and other children.

If the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) decide to go ahead and make a referral to local authority children's social care and/or a report to the police against the victim's wishes, this will be handled extremely carefully, the reasons will be explained to the victim and appropriate specialist support should be offered.

### Anonymity

Where an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system, we should be aware of anonymity, witness support and the criminal process in general so we can offer support and act appropriately.

We will do all we reasonably can to protect the anonymity of any children involved in any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment. We will also consider the potential impact of social media in facilitating the spreading of rumours and exposing victims' identities.

### Risk assessment

If we receive a report of sexual violence or harassment, the designated safeguarding lead or deputy will make an immediate risk and needs assessment. This will be considered on a case-by case basis

Our risk and needs assessment will consider:

- the victim, especially their protection and support.
- whether there have been other victims
- the alleged perpetrator; and
- all the other children (and, if appropriate, adult students and staff) at our school, especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them from the alleged perpetrator(s) or from future harms
- The time and location of the incident, and any action required to make the location safer.

Our risk assessment will be a written record and will be reviewed and updated regularly. We will continually and actively consider the risks posed to all children/students and we will put adequate measures in place to protect and keep them safe.

Our designated safeguarding lead or deputy will engage with children's social care and specialist services as required. Where there has been a report of sexual violence, it is likely that professional risk assessments by social workers and or sexual violence specialists will be required. Any such professional assessments should be used to inform the school's approach to supporting and protecting our children/students and will be used to update our own risk assessment.

### Actions to consider following a report of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment

The starting point regarding any report made at Wood End Primary is that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment, and it is never acceptable and it will not be tolerated. We will not pass off any sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children.

Following a report of sexual violence and/or harassment we will consider:

- the wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed (in an age-appropriate way.) This is especially important in the context of sexual violence and sexual harassment. Victims will be given as much control as

is reasonably possible over decisions regarding how any investigation will be progressed and any support that they will be offered. This will however need to be balanced with our duty and responsibilities to protect other children.

- the nature of the alleged incident(s), including whether a crime may have been committed and consideration of harmful sexual behaviour.
- the ages of the children involved.
- the developmental stages of the children involved.
- any power imbalance between the children. For example, is the alleged perpetrator significantly older, more mature, or more confident? Does the victim have a disability or learning difficulty?
- if the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse (sexual abuse can be accompanied by other forms of abuse and a sustained pattern may not just be of a sexual nature)
- that sexual violence and sexual harassment can take place within intimate personal relationships between peers.
- importance of understanding intra familial harms and any necessary support for siblings following incidents
- are there ongoing risks to the victim, other children, adult students or school or college staff; and
- other related issues and wider context e.g. contextual safeguarding, any links to CSE and CCE

### Managing a report

We will consider every report on a case-by-case basis. When to inform the alleged perpetrator will be carefully considered. Where a report is going to be made to children's social care and/or the police, then, generally, our school will speak to the relevant agency and discuss next steps and how the alleged perpetrator will be informed of the allegations. However, as per general safeguarding principles, this will not stop our school taking immediate action to safeguard our children, where required.

Our school will consider four likely scenarios when managing any reports of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment.

We will either manage the report:

1. Internally
2. Consider early help
3. Refer to social care
4. Report to the police

In all scenarios decisions and actions will be regularly reviewed and relevant policies will be updated to reflect lessons learnt. We will look out for potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour. Where a pattern is identified, we will decide on a course of action. We will consider whether there are wider cultural issues within the school or college that enabled the inappropriate behaviour to occur and where appropriate extra teaching time and/or staff training could be delivered to minimise the risk of it happening again.

We should be part of discussions with statutory safeguarding partners to agree the levels for the different types of assessment and services to be commissioned and delivered, as part of the local arrangements.

### Unsubstantiated, unfound, false, and malicious reports

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing Safeguarding and supporting the victim. Records will be reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified, and addressed.

If a report is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false, or malicious, the designated safeguarding lead will consider whether the child and/or the person who has made the allegation is in need of help or may have been abused by someone else and this is a cry for help. In such circumstances, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate.

If a report is shown to be deliberately invented or malicious, we will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual who made it as per our behaviour policy.

### Safeguarding and supporting the victim

The following principles are based on effective safeguarding practice and will help shape any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the victim.

- The age and the developmental stage of the victim
- The needs and wishes of the victim will be paramount (along with protecting the child) in any response. It is important they feel in as much control of the process as is reasonably possible. Wherever possible, the victim, if they wish, should be able to continue in their normal routine. Overall, the priority will be to make the victim's daily experience as normal as possible, so that our school/college is a safe space for them.
- The victim should never be made to feel they are the problem for making a report or made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- Consider the proportionality of the response. Support should be tailored on a case-by-case basis. The support required regarding a one-off incident of sexualised name-calling is likely to be vastly different from that for a report of rape.
- We are aware that sexual assault can result in a range of health needs, including physical, mental, and sexual health problems and unwanted pregnancy. Children and young people that have a health need arising from sexual assault or abuse can access specialist NHS support from a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).
- It will be important in all scenarios that decisions and actions are regularly reviewed and that relevant policies are updated to reflect lessons learnt. It is particularly important to look out for potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour. Where a pattern is identified, we will decide on a course of action. Consideration will be given as to whether there are wider cultural issues within the school that enabled the inappropriate behaviour to occur and where appropriate extra teaching time and/or staff training could be delivered to minimise the risk of it happening again.

Victims may not disclose the whole picture immediately. They may be more comfortable providing information on a piecemeal basis. It is essential that dialogue is kept open and encouraged. When ongoing support will be required, we will ask the victim if they would find it helpful to have a designated trusted adult (for example, their form tutor or designated safeguarding lead) to talk to about their needs. The choice of any such adult should be the victims. We will respect and support this choice.

We are aware that sexual assault can result in a range of health needs, including physical, mental, and sexual health problems and unwanted pregnancy.

We understand that a victim of sexual violence is likely to be traumatised and, in some cases, may struggle in a normal classroom environment. While we will avoid any action that would have the effect of isolating the victim, in particular from supportive peer groups, there may be times when the victim finds it difficult to maintain a full-time timetable and may express a wish to withdraw from lessons and activities. This should be because the victim wants to, not because it makes it easier to manage the situation. If required, we will provide a physical space for victims to withdraw.

We will do everything we reasonably can to protect the victim from bullying and harassment as a result of any report they have made.

Whilst the victim will be given all the necessary support to remain in our school, if the trauma results in the victim being unable to do this, alternative provision or a move to another school should be considered to enable them to continue to receive suitable education. This should only be at the request of the victim (and following discussion with their parents or carers).

If the victim does move to another educational institution (for any reason), the new educational institution will be made aware of any ongoing support needs. The designated safeguarding lead will take responsibility to ensure this happens (and should discuss with the victim and, where appropriate their parents or carers as to the most suitable way of doing this) as well as transferring the child protection file.

Children who have experienced sexual violence display a very wide range of responses to their experience, including in some cases clear signs of trauma, physical and emotional responses, or no overt signs at all. We will remain alert to the possible challenges of detecting those signs and show sensitivity to the needs of the child (e.g. about attendance in lessons) irrespective of how overt the child's distress is.

### Safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator(s) and children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour

The following principles are based on effective safeguarding practice and will help shape any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator:

We will have a difficult balancing act to consider. On one hand, they need to safeguard the victim (and the wider pupil/student body) and on the other hand provide the alleged perpetrator(s) with an education, safeguarding support as appropriate and implement any disciplinary sanctions. Taking disciplinary action and still providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions. They can, and should, occur at the same time if necessary.

The age and the developmental stage of the alleged perpetrator(s) and nature of the allegations. Any child will likely experience stress as a result of being the subject of allegations and/or negative reactions by their peers to the allegations against them.

Consider the proportionality of the response. Support (and sanctions) will be considered on a case-by-case basis. An alleged perpetrator(s) may potentially have unmet needs (in some cases these may be considerable) as well as potentially posing a risk of harm to other children. Harmful sexual behaviours in young children may be (and often are) a symptom of either their own abuse or exposure to abusive practices and or materials. We will seek advice, as appropriate, from children's social care, specialist sexual violence services and the police.

It is important that the perpetrator(s) is/are also given the correct support to try to stop them re-offending and to address any underlying trauma that may be causing this behaviour. Addressing inappropriate behaviour can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. Advice on behaviour and discipline in schools is clear that teachers can discipline pupils whose conduct falls below the standard which could be reasonably expected of them. If the perpetrator(s) is to be excluded the decision must be lawful, reasonable, and fair.

School can be a significant protective factor for children who have displayed HSB, and continued access to school, with a comprehensive safeguarding management plan in place, is an important factor to consider before final decisions are made.

It is important that if the alleged perpetrator(s) does move to another educational institution (for any reason), that the new educational institution is made aware of any ongoing support needs and where appropriate, potential risks to other children and staff. The designated safeguarding lead will take responsibility to ensure this happens as well as transferring the child protection file.



### Discipline and the alleged perpetrator(s)

Disciplinary action can be taken whilst other investigations by the police and/or local authority children's social care are ongoing. We will carefully consider this on a case-by-case basis. The designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will take a leading role. We will consider if, by taking any action, it would prejudice an investigation and/or any subsequent prosecution. Careful liaison with the police and/or local authority children's social care should help us make a determination. It will also be important to consider whether there are circumstances that make it unreasonable or irrational for us to reach our own view about what happened while an independent investigation is considering the same facts.

### Discipline and support

Taking disciplinary action and still providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions. They can, and should, occur at the same time if necessary. We will be very clear as to what our approach is. On the one hand there is preventative or forward-looking action to safeguard the victim and/or the perpetrator(s), especially where there are concerns that a perpetrator themselves may have been a victim of abuse; and, on the other, there is disciplinary action to punish a perpetrator for their past conduct. We will be very clear as to which category any action they are taking falls or whether it is really both and should ensure that the action complies with the law relating to each relevant category.

### Working with parents and carers

We will, in most instances, engage with both the victim's and the alleged perpetrator's parents or carers when there has been a report of sexual violence (this might not be necessary or proportionate in the case of sexual harassment and should be considered on a case-by-case basis). The exception to this rule is if there is a reason to believe informing a parent or carer will put a child at additional risk. We will carefully consider what information we provide to the respective parents or carers about the other child involved and when they do so. In some cases, local authority children's social care and/or the police will have a very clear view and it and we will work with the relevant agencies to ensure a consistent approach.

We will meet the victim's parents or carers, with the victim present, to discuss what arrangements are being put into place to safeguard them and to understand their wishes in terms of support and how the report is progressing.

We will meet with alleged perpetrator's parents or carers to discuss any arrangements that are being put into place that impact an alleged perpetrator, such as, for example, moving them out of classes with the victim and what this means for their education. The reason behind any decisions will be explained. Support for the alleged perpetrator will be discussed.

### Safeguarding other children

Consideration will be given to supporting children (and adult students) who have witnessed sexual violence, especially rape and assault by penetration. Witnessing such an event is likely to be traumatic and support may be required.

Following any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment, it is likely that some children will take "sides". We will do all we can to ensure both the victim and alleged perpetrator(s), and any witnesses, are not being bullied or harassed – this includes online and school transport.

Our whole school approach to safeguarding, a culture that makes clear that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment and that it is never acceptable, and it will not be tolerated, and a strong preventative education programme will help create an environment in which all children at Wood End Primary are supportive and respectful of their peers when reports of sexual violence or sexual harassment are made.

We will keep our policies, processes, and curriculum under constant review to protect all their children. Reports of sexual violence and/or harassment (especially where there is evidence of patterns of behaviour) may point to environmental and or systemic problems that could and will be addressed by updating relevant policies, processes, or relevant parts of the curriculum. Alongside this, patterns identified in school may also be reflective of the wider issues within a local area and it would be good practice to share emerging trends with our safeguarding partners.

### **39. Child criminal exploitation (CCE) and county lines**

Child criminal exploitation (CCE) is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using technology. CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (county lines) forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people. Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions.
- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation.
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being.
- children who misuse drugs and alcohol.
- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

#### 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 form of “deal line”. Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools, further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, special educational needs schools, children’s homes and care homes. Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations and are known to be exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging’, where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection. 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. One of the ways of identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes (both from home and school), when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered. If a child is suspected to be at risk of or involved in county lines, a safeguarding referral should be considered alongside consideration of availability of local services/third sector providers who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation.

Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years.
- can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years.
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual.
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

#### **40. 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. Our school will use the age-appropriate guides to support children, 5-11year olds and 12-17year olds. Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children. Our school will use the Ministry of Justice online child arrangements information tool to support this process and will make this information available to parents and carers if they require our assistance.

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

Some children who attend our school may have a parent who has been sent to prison. Our school will utilise the information NICCO provides designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

#### **42. Domestic Abuse**

Domestic violence and abuse are:

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

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.

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional. Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse.

Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of peer-on-peer abuse is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of 'domestic abuse' (if one or both parties are under 16). However, as with any child under 18, where there are concerns about safety or welfare, child safeguarding procedures should be followed and both young victims and young perpetrators should be offered support.

## Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass operates in all police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the police will inform the key adult (usually the designated safeguarding lead) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can enable support to be given to the child according to their needs.

Our school will make use of the advice and links available in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Annex B) to identify and support children who are affected by domestic abuse and how they can be helped.

### **43. Homelessness**

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. When required our designated safeguarding lead or deputies will obtain contact details and know referral routes into 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 will not, replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

Our school staff will consider homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis.

### **44. Modern slavery and the National Referral Mechanism**

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs.

### **45. Cybercrime**

Cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either 'cyber-enabled' (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer). Cyber-dependent crimes include.

- unauthorised access to computers (illegal 'hacking'), for example accessing a school's computer network to look for test paper answers or change grades awarded.
- denial of Service (Dos or DDoS) attacks or 'booting'. These are attempts to make a computer, network, or website unavailable by overwhelming it with internet traffic from multiple sources; and
- making, supplying, or obtaining malware (malicious software) such as viruses, spyware, ransomware, botnets, and Remote Access Trojans with the intent to commit further offence, including those above

Children with skill and interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime. If there are concerns about a child in this area, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy), will consider referring into the Cyber Choices programme.

#### **45. Child abduction and community safety incidents**

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends, and acquaintances); and by strangers.

Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation.

As children get older and are granted more independence (for example, as they start walking to school on their own) it is important they are given practical advice on how to keep themselves safe. Many schools provide outdoor-safety lessons run by teachers or by local police staff. It is important that lessons focus on building children's confidence and abilities rather than simply warning them about all strangers.

Other types of abuse to be aware of include:

- Bullying
- Children missing from home or care
- Drugs
- Fabricated and Induced illness
- Faith abuse
- Gangs and youth violence
- Gender based violence/violence against women and girls
- Hate
- Mental health
- Relationship abuse
- Consensual and non-consensual nude or semi-nude images/videos
- Trafficking
- Modern slavery
- Adverse childhood experiences

Whilst it is important for our staff to be always vigilant regarding the types and signs of abuse it does not necessarily mean that a child or young person has been abused because the signs have been noted or observed. However, ALL concerns MUST be shared with the designated safeguarding lead or deputy.

#### **46. Monitoring policy and practice**

Our safeguarding policy and procedures will be reviewed annually or sooner if required. All staff and stakeholders may contribute to the development of our policies and procedures.

Our policy will be published on our website and paper copies are available upon request.