

# Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy



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## **INTRODUCTION**

Witchford Village College fully recognises the responsibility it has under *section 157/175 of the Education Act 2002* to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This responsibility is more fully explained in the statutory guidance for schools and colleges '*Keeping Children Safe in Education*' (September 2020). All staff must be made aware of their duties and responsibilities under part one of this document, which are set out below.

Staff should read the above document together with 'Annex A' of '*Keeping Children Safe in Education*' (September 2020), and the College Acceptable use Policy.

**Through their day-to-day contact with pupils and direct work with families all staff in school have a responsibility to:**

- o Identify concerns early to prevent them from escalating;
- o Provide a safe environment in which children can learn;
- o Identify children who may benefit from early help;
- o Know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected;
- o Follow the referral process if they have a concern.

This policy sets out how Witchford Village College discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at the school. Our policy applies to all staff, paid and unpaid, working in the school including governors. Teaching assistants, mid-day supervisors, office staff as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child. Concerned parents/carers may also contact the school and its governors.

It is consistent with the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board procedures.

**There are four main elements to our policy:**

**PREVENTION** through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils and the creation and maintenance of a whole school protective ethos;

**PROCEDURES** for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix A);

**SUPPORTING CHILDREN** particularly those who may have been abused or witnessed violence towards others;

**PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

Processes are followed to ensure that those who are unsuitable to work with children are not employed.

This policy is available to parents on request and is on the school website.

## **1. PREVENTION**

- We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to protect children.
- The school will therefore:
  - Establish and maintain an environment where children feel safe, including in a digital context, and are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
  - Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.
  - Incorporate into the curriculum, activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safer from abuse in all contexts, including:

- How to determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy, judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe and how to seek help or advice.
- The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships
- That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control
- What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable
- About online risks, including that any material someone provides has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removed potentially compromising material placed online
- What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online
- The impact of viewing harmful content
- That specifically explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners.
- That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail
- The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM and how they can affect current and future relationships.
- How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent and how and when that can be withdrawn (in all contexts including online).

### **Prevention of Peer on Peer Abuse**

We recognise that peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under our school's behaviour policy, but this policy will apply to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. *This might include where the alleged behaviour:*

- Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence
- Could put pupils in the school at risk
- Is violent
- Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol
- Involves sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment, such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, upskirting or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos (including sexting), teenage relationship abuse or physical abuse.

**All forms of peer on peer abuse are unacceptable and will be taken seriously.**

The school will therefore:

- Create a whole school protective ethos in which peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- Provide training for staff about recognising and responding to peer on peer abuse, including raising awareness of the gendered nature of peer abuse, with girls more likely to be victims and boys perpetrators.
- Ensure that staff do not dismiss instances of peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".
- Include within the curriculum, information and materials that support children in keeping themselves safe from abuse, including abuse from their peers and online.
- Provide high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), to ensure our curriculum helps to educate pupils about appropriate behaviour and consent

- Challenging any form of derogatory or sexualised language or behaviour, including requesting or sending sexual images
- Being vigilant to issues that particularly affect different genders – for example, sexualised or aggressive touching or grabbing towards female pupils, and initiation or hazing type violence with respect to boys
- Ensuring pupils know they can talk to staff confidentially by speaking to Student Services, Head of Year or a trusted member of staff if they wish to do so. They can also send an email to the DSL, Head of Year or form tutor if they would prefer.
- Ensuring staff are trained to understand that a pupil harming a peer could be a sign that the child is being abused themselves, and that this would fall under the scope of this policy

**If a pupil makes an allegation of abuse against another pupil:**

- You must record the allegation and tell the DSL, but do not investigate it
- The DSL will contact the local authority children’s social care team and follow its advice, as well as the police if the allegation involves a potential criminal offence
- The DSL will put a risk assessment and support plan into place for all children involved (including the victim(s), the child(ren) against whom the allegation has been made and any others affected) with a named person they can talk to if needed
- The DSL will contact the children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), if appropriate

**2. PROCEDURES**

We will follow the procedures set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board ‘Inter-Agency Procedures’. A copy of these procedures can be found on their website: <http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection is:**

**Miss Bessie Owen (Head of School)**

**The members of staff have also received the Designated Safeguarding training:**

See Appendix C

**The nominated governor for Safeguarding and Child Protection is:**

**Ray Harding**

**The nominated trustee for Safeguarding and Child protection is:**

**Victoria Stubbs**

The Eastern Learning Alliance will ensure that the Head of School will:

Appoint a senior member of staff, from the leadership team, to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained Designated Safeguarding Persons, (DSPs), the lead responsibility for child protection remains with the DSL and cannot be delegated.

Ensure that the role of DSL is explicit in the role holder’s job description.

Ensure that the DSL has the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post. Give the DSL the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. (See ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education, Annex B’). Ensure that the DSL and DSPs have undertaken the two day training provided by the Education

Safeguarding Team and that this training is updated **at least every two years**.

Ensure that in addition to the formal training set out above, the DSL and DSPs refresh their knowledge and skills e.g. via bulletins, meetings or further reading **at least annually**.

Ensure that every member of staff, paid and unpaid and the governing body knows who the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Designated Safeguarding Persons are and the procedures for passing on concerns from the **point of induction**.

Ensure that the DSL or DSP are always available (during school hours, during term-time) to discuss any safeguarding concerns and that all staff are clear upon the course of action they must take if in exceptional circumstances the DSL and DSP are not available.

Nominate a governor for safeguarding and child protection who has undertaken appropriate training. The LGB has a link Governor for safeguarding and child protection who has undertaken the appropriate training.

Ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:

- o the name of the Designated Safeguarding Lead/DSPs and their role;
- o how to identify the signs of abuse and neglect;
- o how to pass on and record concerns about a pupil;
- o that they have an individual responsibility to be alert to the signs and indicators of abuse; and for referring child protection concerns to the DSL/DSP;
- o that they have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn;
- o where to find the Inter – Agency Procedures on the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board website;
- o their role in the early help process;
- o the process for making referrals to children’s social care.

Ensure all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. Ensure that staff training is regularly updated and that in addition to this training all staff members receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required **but at least annually**.

Ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies.

Ensure that parents are informed of the responsibility placed on the school and staff in relation to child protection by setting out these duties in the school website.

Ensure that this policy is available publicly via the school website

Where pupils are educated off site or in alternative provision, the school and the provider will have clear procedures about managing safeguarding concerns between the two agencies. Written confirmation that the alternative provider has carried out appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working at the establishment will be sought by the school.

### **Liaison with Other Agencies**

The school will:

- o Work to develop effective links with relevant services to promote the safety and welfare of all pupils.
- o Co-operate as required, in line with ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children,’ (July 2018), with key agencies in their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance and providing written reports at child protection conferences and core groups.
- o Notify the relevant Social Care Team immediately if:

- it should have to exclude a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan (whether fixed term or permanently);
- there is an unexplained absence of a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan;
- there is any change in circumstances to a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan.
- When a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new school immediately. The Child Protection Chair and Social Work Team will also be informed.

## **Record Keeping**

The school will:

- Keep clear, detailed, accurate, written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Social Care immediately.
- Ensure all paper records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in a locked location.
- Ensure electronic records are stored on an identified, purpose-built, secure platform (e.g. MyConcern).
- Ensure all relevant child protection records are sent to the receiving school or establishment when a pupil moves schools in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2020) and the Education Safeguarding Team's Guidance on Keeping and Managing Child Safeguarding Records.
- The DSL will consider whether it would be appropriate to share information with the new school/college in advance of a child leaving.
- Make parents aware that such records exist except where to do so would place the child at risk of harm.
- Ensure all actions and decisions are led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child.

## **Confidentiality and information sharing**

The Data Protection Act 2018 does not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child.

**The school will:**

- Ensure staff and volunteers adhere to confidentiality protocols and that information is shared appropriately.
- Ensure staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children, (as set out in 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).
- Ensure that if a member of staff receives a Subject Access Request (under the Data Protection Act 2018) from a pupil or parent they will refer the request to the DSL or Headteacher.
- Ensure staff are clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets.

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead/DSP will:**

- Disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a 'need to know' basis. Parental consent may be required.
- Aim to gain consent to share information and be mindful of situations where to do so would place a child at increased risk of harm. Information may be shared without consent if a person believes that

there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner.

- Record when decisions are made to share or withhold information, who information has been shared with and why. (See 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' July 2018)
- Seek advice about confidentiality from outside agencies if required. (See 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).

### Communication with Parents/Carers

The school will:

- Ensure that parents/carers are informed of the responsibility placed on the school and staff in relation to child protection by setting out its duties in the school prospectus/website.
- Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of another agency, unless the circumstances preclude this action.
- Seek advice from Social Care if the school believes that notifying parents could increase the risk of harm to the child. *[Further guidance on this can be found in the Inter-agency Procedures of the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board]*. Particular circumstances where parents **may not** be informed include any disclosure of sexual abuse or physical abuse where the child has an injury or where it may lead to the loss of evidence.
- Record what discussions have taken place with parents or if a decision has been made not to discuss it with parents, record the reasons why. Records may subsequently be disclosable to relevant partner agencies if Child Protection proceedings commence, (see 2.6.1)

### Dealing with Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children

The school recognise that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. Sexual violence may include rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault. Sexual harassment refers to 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature', such as sexual comments, sexual taunting or physical behaviour such as deliberately brushing against someone. Online sexual harassment may include non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos, sexualised online bullying, unwanted sexual comments and messages, and sexual exploitation, coercion and threats.

The school will:

- Be clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- Provide training for staff on how to manage a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- Make decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, offer appropriate support and take the wishes of the victim into account when decision making.
- Implement measures to keep the victim, alleged perpetrator and if necessary other children and staff members, safe. Record any risk assessments and keep them under review.
- Give consideration to the welfare of both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in these situations.
- Liaise closely with external agencies, including police and social care, when required.

- Further guidance can be found in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education - Part Five' (September 2020), 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges,' (DfE, May 2018) and 'Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people' published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)

### 3. SUPPORTING CHILDREN

The school recognises that **any** child may be subject to abuse and neglect and as such will support all children by:

- Providing curricular opportunities to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- Creating an ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and safe environment and values the whole community.
- Applying the school's behaviour policy effectively. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the child but does not damage the pupil's sense of self-worth. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaising with other agencies which support the pupil such as Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service or Early Help Teams.
- Developing productive and supportive relationships with parents/carers.
- The school recognises that whilst **any** child may benefit from early help, staff are encouraged to consider the wider environmental factors present in a child's life which could pose a threat to their welfare or safety, (contextual safeguarding). Staff are required to be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for those:

#### Children with Disabilities, Additional Needs or Special Educational Needs

We recognise that, statistically, children with additional needs, special educational needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with complex and multiple disabilities and/or emotional and behavioural problems should be particularly sensitive to indicators of abuse.

The school has pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or challenging behaviours. The school will support staff to decide appropriate strategies that will reduce anxiety for the individual child and raise self-esteem as part of an overall behaviour support plan agreed with parents/carers.

As part of the PSHE curriculum staff will teach children personal safety skills commensurate with their age, ability and needs. Children will be taught personal safety skills such as: how to recognise if they are feeling unsafe including within family relationships and friendships; how to ask for help; the difference between safe and unsafe secrets; the difference between safe and unsafe physical contact; and how recognise and manage risk including in a digital context. The content of lessons will be shared with parents/carers so that these skills can be supported at home.

The school has pupils who may have communication difficulties and we are aware that they are vulnerable to abuse because they are unable to express themselves to others. Instead such children will often exhibit changes in behaviours or signs and indicators of abuse recognised by staff with a good knowledge of the child.

Where necessary, the school will provide additional training to staff in the use of Makaton, PECS or other communication systems. Supervision by senior managers will be vigilant to create a protective ethos around the child.

We promote high standards of practice, including ensuring that disabled children know how to raise concerns, and have access to a range of adults with whom they can communicate.

## **Young Carers**

The school recognises that children who are living in a home environment which requires them to act as a young carer for a family member or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol can increase their vulnerability and that they may need additional support and protection.

School will: seek to identify young carers; offer additional support internally; signpost to external agencies; be particularly vigilant to the welfare of young carers and follow the procedures outlined in this policy, referring to Early Help or Social Care as required if concerns arise.

Individual responsible for coordinating support for Young Carers: **Mrs Tracey Orchard**

## **Children at Risk of Criminal Exploitation**

Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity. Drug networks or gangs exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas. Exploitation can occur even if activity appears to be consensual.

The school will address indicators of child criminal exploitation with staff through training. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of criminal exploitation arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation (CSE / Criminal/Gangs) Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

The school recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of child criminal exploitation and/or trafficking and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions – (see 3.6.4).

## **Children Frequently Missing Education**

The school recognises that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities including abuse, neglect, child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, and risk of FGM or forced marriage.

The school monitors attendance of individual pupils closely, as outlined in the Attendance Policy, and analyses patterns of absence to aid early identification of concerning patterns of absence.

The school endeavors to hold more than one emergency contact for each pupil to provide additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child missing education is identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.

When a child is missing from education, the school follows the procedure as set out in Cambridgeshire's Children Missing Education guidance. The school will inform the Education Welfare Officer and Social Care if a missing child is subject to a Child Protection Plan or there have been ongoing concerns.

## **Children Misusing Drugs or Alcohol**

The discovery that a young person is misusing legal or illegal substances or reported evidence of their substance misuse is not necessarily sufficient in itself to initiate child protection proceedings but the school will consider such action in the following situations:

When there is evidence or reasonable cause:

- o To believe the young person's substance misuse may cause him or her to be vulnerable to other abuse such as sexual abuse;

- To believe the pupil's substance related behaviour is a result of abuse or because of pressure or incentives from others, particularly adults;
- Where the misuse is suspected of being linked to parent/carer substance misuse.
- Where the misuse indicates an urgent health or safeguarding concern
- Where the child is perceived to be at risk of harm through any substance associated criminality

### **Children at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (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.

Sexual exploitation can take many different forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship to serious organised crime involving gangs and groups. Potential indicators of sexual exploitation will be addressed within staff training, including raising awareness with staff that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of abuse and may not recognise it as abuse. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of child sexual exploitation arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation (CSE / Criminal/Gangs) Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of CSE.

The school recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions (see 3.6.4).

### **Children Living with Substance Misusing Parents/Carers**

Misuse of drugs and/or alcohol is strongly associated with Significant Harm to children, especially when combined with other features such as domestic violence.

When the Trust or school receive information about drug and alcohol abuse by a child's parents/carers they will follow appropriate procedures.

This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

- Use of the family resources to finance the parent's dependency, characterised by inadequate food, heat and clothing for the children
- Children exposed to unsuitable caregivers or visitors, e.g. customers or dealers
- The effects of alcohol leading to an inappropriate display of sexual and/or aggressive behaviour
- Chaotic drug and alcohol use leading to emotional unavailability, irrational behaviour and reduced parental vigilance
- Disturbed moods as a result of withdrawal symptoms or dependency
- Unsafe storage of drugs and/or alcohol or injecting equipment
- Drugs and/or alcohol having an adverse impact on the growth and development of the unborn child

### **Children Living with Domestic Abuse**

Domestic Abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or 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. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.

The school recognises that where there is Domestic Abuse in a family, the children/young people will always be affected; the longer the violence continues, the greater the risk of significant and enduring harm, which

they may carry with them into their adult life and relationships. Domestic Abuse can also affect children in their personal relationships as well as in the context of home life.

Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of Domestic Abuse arise. The school will vigilantly monitor the welfare of children living in domestic abuse households, offer support to them and contribute to any Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) safety plan as required.

### **Children at risk of 'Honour- Based' Violence including Female Genital Mutilation**

So called 'honour-based' violence encompasses incidents which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including breast ironing, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. The school takes these concerns seriously and staff are made aware of the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of HBV through training. Staff are required to treat all forms of HBV as abuse and follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

FGM is a procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. FGM is illegal in the UK. Any indication that a child is at risk of FGM, where FGM is suspected, or where the woman is under 18, will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy. Staff will report concerns to the DSL, who will make appropriate and timely referrals to social care. In these cases, parents will not be informed before seeking advice and the case will still be referred to social care even if it is against the pupil's wishes.

In accordance with the Female Genital Mutilation Act, it is a statutory duty for teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' cases of FGM in under-18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. Teachers should still consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve social care as appropriate, but the teacher will personally report to the police that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out.

### **Children who have returned home to their family from care**

The school recognises that a previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable. School will vigilantly monitor the welfare of previously looked after children, keep records and notify Social Care as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern in accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 'Inter - Agency Procedures.'

### **Children showing signs of Abuse and/or Neglect**

The school recognise that experiencing abuse or neglect may have an adverse impact on those children which may last into adulthood without appropriate intervention and support. School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Children who have experienced abuse or neglect may display this through their own behaviour, which may be challenging and defiant or passive and withdrawn. We recognise that children may develop abusive behaviours and that these children may need to be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.

School will provide training for staff to ensure that they have the skills to identify and report cases, or suspected cases, of abuse in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix A).

### **Children at Risk of Radicalisation**

The school recognises that children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation and that protecting children from this risk forms part of the school's safeguarding response.

The Principal and governing body will ensure that the DSL has undertaken Prevent awareness training and that all staff receive training about the Prevent duty.

Staff are required to be alert to changes in children's behavior which could indicate they need help or protection. Concerns that a child is at risk of radicalisation are referred to the DSL in the usual way. If appropriate the DSL will make a Channel referral.

See also 'The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers', DfE (June 2015), and 'Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales,' HM Government, (July 2015).

### **Privately Fostered Children**

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16, (under 18 if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or relative in their own home for 28 days or more.

The school will follow the mandatory duty to inform the local authority of any 'Private Fostering' arrangements and refer to the Specialist Fostering Team.

### **Children who have Family Members in Prison**

The school is committed to supporting children and young people who have a parent or close relative in prison and will work with the family to find the best ways of supporting the child.

The school recognises that children with family members in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including: poverty, stigma, isolation, poor mental health and poor attendance.

The school will treat information shared by the family in confidence and it will be shared on a 'need to know' basis.

The school will work with the family and the child to minimise the risk of the child not achieving their full potential.

## **4. PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

- o The school will operate safer recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to Part three of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2020). This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Safer Recruitment Policy.
- o The governing body will ensure that at least one of the persons who conducts an interview has completed safer recruitment training.
- o Any allegation of abuse made against a member of staff or volunteer will be reported straight away to the Principal who will inform the CEO. In cases where the Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the CEO. In cases where the CEO is the subject of the allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of the Trust Board (See Allegations flowchart Appendix 1.) The school will follow the procedures set out in Part four of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2020).
- o The school will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer and adhere to the relevant procedures set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', (2020) *and the school's Personnel Manual from EPM Ltd or other HR provider (for subscribing schools).*
- o The Named Senior Officer will liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) ensuring that all allegations are reported to the LADO within one working day. Following consultation with the LADO, the Named Senior Officer will advise on all further action to be taken. Please note that the Head Teacher or Chair of Governors should **not** seek to interview the child/ren or members of staff involved until advice has been sought. Doing so may compromise any police interviews that may be necessary.
- o The school will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff or volunteers relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff or volunteer is no longer

employed at the school and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities and professional bodies and included in references where applicable.

- Staff or volunteers who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly, and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension is not mandatory, nor is it automatic but, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected.
- Consideration must be given to the needs of the child and a recognition that a child may make an allegation against an innocent party because they are too afraid to name the real perpetrator. It is rare for a child to make an entirely false or malicious allegation, although misunderstandings and misinterpretations of events do happen.
- The school will ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with pupils and parents/carers as advised within the WVC Code of Conduct: As part of the Induction process, all staff, paid and unpaid, will receive guidance about how to create appropriate professional boundaries (in both the real and virtual world) with all children, especially those with a disability or who are vulnerable.
- All staff have signed to confirm that they have read 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (May 2019).
- The school will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with pupils aged under 18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of Position of Trust).
- The school will ensure that communication between pupils and adults, by whatever method, are transparent and take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries and are open to scrutiny.

## **5. OTHER RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

This policy links to our:

- Bullying and Harassment policy
- Attendance policy
- Behaviour policy
- Complaints procedure
- Equality and Diversity policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Intimate Care policy
- Acceptable Use policy
- Safer Recruitment policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Staff Discipline and Grievance procedures
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- Protocol for children not collected from school at the end of the school day/activity

### **Use of Mobile Phones Policy**

Our policy on use of mobile phones, cameras and sharing of images is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually. It is recognised that personal mobile phones have the potential to be used inappropriately and therefore the school has developed a policy to outline the required protocol for all staff, students, volunteers and parents/carers.

## **6. TRUST CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITIES**

The **Trustees** have overall responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding policies are implemented across the Trust and that they are satisfied that procedure and practice are compliant with those policies

The **CEO**:

- Ensures each academy has appointed designated leads and governors for Looked After Children and safeguarding.
- Makes arrangement for safeguarding audits (including SCR) and reports the outcomes to the Executive Principal/ Head of School in detail and in summary to the Board.
- Informs the MAT Board of any safeguarding allegation raised in respect of the Executive Principal, Head of School, any member of the Senior Leadership Team or any other key employee of the Academy and takes action as necessary.
- Ensure that this Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is annually reviewed and updated and shared with staff. It will be made available on the Trust and school websites.

The **Local Governing Body**:

- is responsible for safeguarding in the academy by implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of the academy's safeguarding and child protection policies.
- Appoints one of its members as the designated governor to liaise with the Principal regarding safeguarding matters. S/he will take leadership responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements and practice and champion child protection issues.
- Chair or designated governor liaises with Principal in arranging regular safeguarding training for all members.
- Monitors Single Central Record and ensures it is up to date.
- Ensure an annual report is made to the Trust Board, and copied to the Education Child Protection Service. Any weaknesses will be rectified without delay

The **Head of School**:

- Ensures a senior qualified Designated Safeguarding member of teaching staff has been appointed.
- Ensures all staff and LGB members receive regular safeguarding and Prevent training as set out in the Trust Safeguarding and CP policy.
- Reports regularly to the LGB on safeguarding matters.
- Notifies the LGB Chair, CEO and HR adviser immediately of any allegation made against a member of staff.
- Appoints a designated teacher for Looked After Children
- Maintains the Single Central Record.
- Undertakes DBS checks for all staff and volunteers.
- Ensure that children's exposure to potential risks while using the internet is limited by having in place age appropriate filtering and monitoring systems.

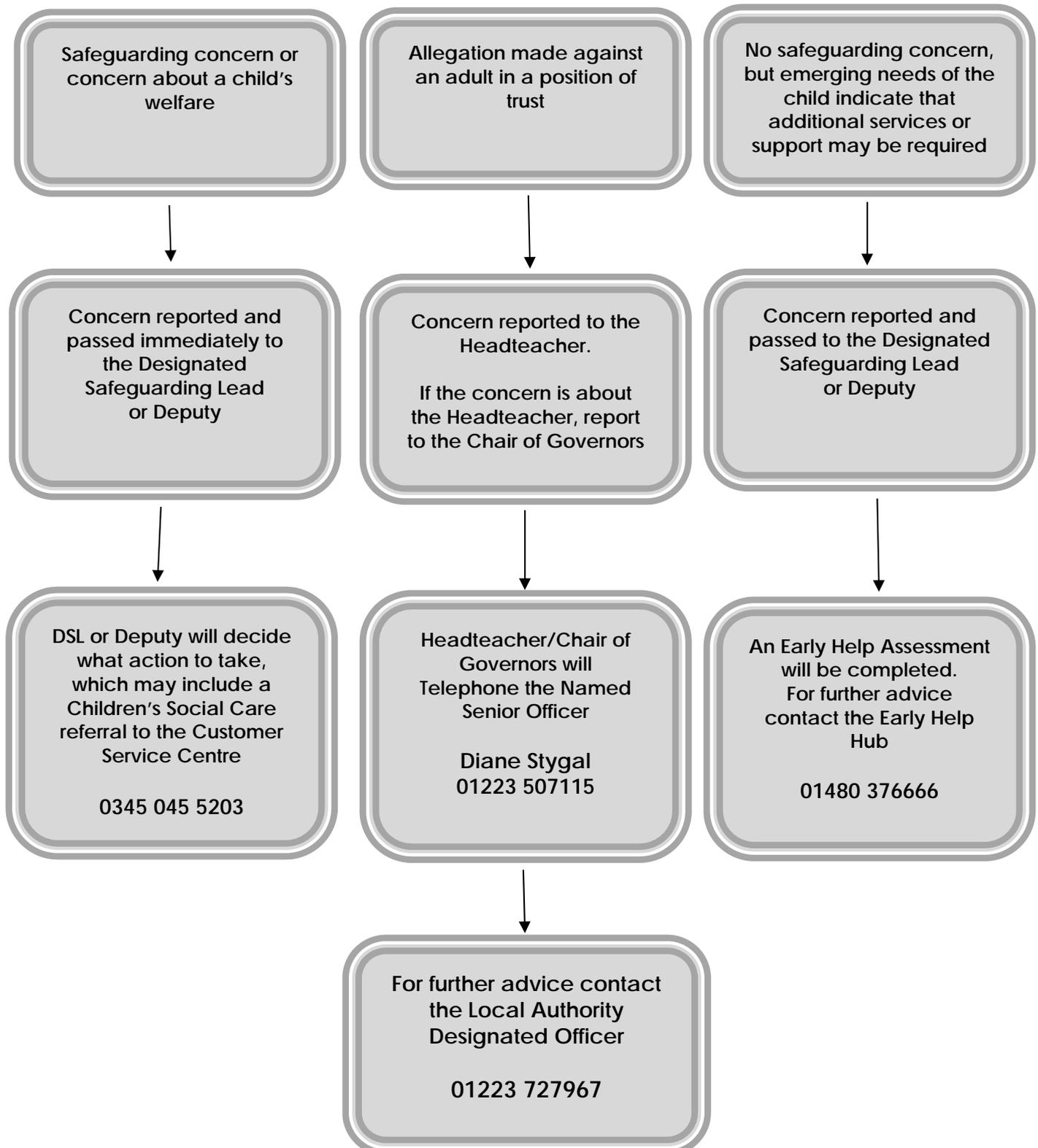
- Ensure children's wishes and feelings are taken into account where there are safeguarding concerns.

**Extended Schools and Before and After School Activities (on or off school site)**

If the school provides extended school facilities or before or after school activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for child protection as written in this policy shall apply.

Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, either on or off school site, the Trust will seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place for safeguarding children and child protection and there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

## Safeguarding Concern Summary



## **Four categories of abuse**

**Physical Abuse** - 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.

**Neglect** - 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.

It may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

It may involve the neglect of or lack of responsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

It also includes parents or carers failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-givers
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

**Emotional Abuse** - Is the persistent emotional maltreatment so as to cause severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child that they are:

- Worthless
- Unloved
- Inadequate
- Valued only insofar as they meet another person's needs

It may include:

- not giving the child opportunities to express their views
- deliberately silencing them
- 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate

It may also feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children including:

- interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability
- overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning
- preventing participation in normal social interaction.

It may involve:

- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another
- Serious bullying (including cyberbullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- The exploitation or corruption of children

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment although it may occur alone

**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.

This may involve:

- physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex)
- non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing
- non-contact activities involving:
  - children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images,
  - children in watching sexual activities
  - or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
  - 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.*

## **Useful Contacts**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board – Safeguarding Inter-Agency Procedures <http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

Education Safeguarding Team [ECPSGeneral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ECPSGeneral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit Tel: 101

## **Useful Contacts**

Early Help Hub (EHH) Tel: 01480 376666

Customer Service Centre – social care referrals Tel: 0345 045 5203

Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) Tel: 01733 234724

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)  
[LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01223 727967  
Jackie Ward  
Lynn Chesterton

Named Senior Officer for allegations  
Education Adviser - Chris Meddle Tel: 01223 703564  
Education Adviser – Diane Stygal Tel: 01223 507115

## **Relevant Documents**

“Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings” (May 2019)

“Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers” (July 2018)

“Keeping children safe in education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges” (Sep 2020)

“The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers” (June 2015)

“Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales” (July 2015)

“Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people” published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) – (September 2016)

“Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges” (May 2018)

“What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners” (March, 2015)

“Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children” (July 2018)

# Safeguarding

## Witchford Village College

The safety of all young people and adults at Witchford is our priority and as such, we expect any person visiting this site to inform the school if they have concerns over a child's safety and wellbeing.

All concerns should be directed to the schools Designated Safeguarding Lead. If the lead person is not immediately available, concerns can be reported to any member of the Safeguarding Team – pictured below.

*Alternatively, please contact a member of the reception team who will call for a member of the safeguarding team in order to report your concern.*

**Bessie Owen**  
Head of School  
**Designated Safeguarding Lead**



### Our Safeguarding Team



**Zoe Tregear**  
Assistant Head



**Nick Harrison**  
Assistant Head



**Chris Armour**  
Assistant Head



**Ian Cook**  
Head of Year 7



**Lisa Barker**  
Head of Year 10



**Natalie Paine**  
SENCo



**Zoe Dingley**  
Student Support



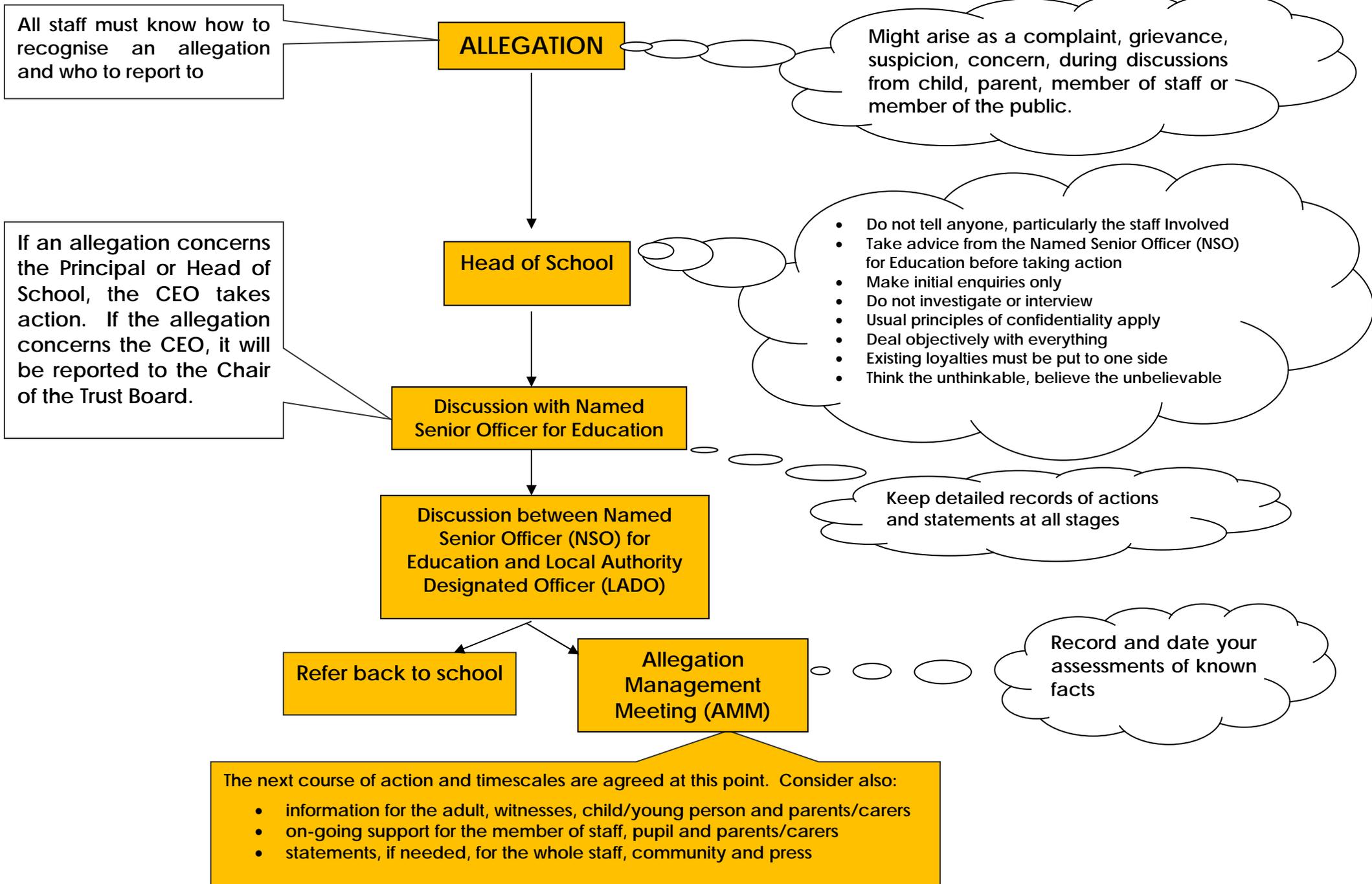
**Sharon Bogunovic**  
Prevent Lead



**Tracey Orchard**  
Young Carers Lead

Other members of the Designated Safeguarding Team	Job Title
Mr Rolf Purvis	Executive Principal

# Managing an Allegation Against a Member of Staff or volunteer at WVC



## **Appendix F**

At Witchford Village College we are working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire County Council to identify and provide appropriate support to pupils who have experienced domestic abuse in their home; this scheme is called Operation Encompass.

In order to achieve this, Cambridgeshire's Education Safeguarding Team will share police information of all domestic incidents, where one of our pupils has been present, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) (DSL)/Domestic Abuse (DA)Lead. On receipt of any information, the DSL/DA Lead will decide on the appropriate support the child may require. The Operation Encompass information is stored in line with all other confidential safeguarding and child protection information. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough *Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools, Colleges and Early Years settings*'