



Child Protection Policy

Safeguarding Children

Academic Year 2019 - 2020

Responsibility for monitoring this policy: Mrs H Shaw

Review Annually

(or in response to changes in legislation or LSCB operating procedures)

Updated September 2019, Reviewed by – Stuart Brown (Executive Headteacher)

Approved by Chair of Executive Governor Group (EGG)

.....Mr Nicolas Field

on

Key People and Contact Details and Dates

Date of Last Review:	September 2019
Reviewed by:	S Brown & H Shaw
Agreed by Governors:	
Shared with all Staff:	September 2019
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Child Protection Policy

Rationale

Children and young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm. They have a right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment. It is a guiding principle of the law and child protection procedures that the protection and welfare of a child must always be the first priority. Failure to provide an effective response can have serious consequences for the child.

Safeguarding is defined as –

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

Bromley Pensnett Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people both within the school environment and outside. Because of our day-to-day contact with children and young people, education staff are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in children's behaviour or their failure to develop. We need, therefore 'to be alert to the possibility of abuse occurring, be aware of the procedures to be followed if you have suspicions and have the confidence to follow those procedures.' This policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school.

See Page 17 Definitions and Indicators of Abuse

Bromley Pensnett Primary School recognises its legal duty under s.175/157 Education Act 2002 to work with other agencies in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and protecting them from "significant harm". The protection of our pupils from suffering or likely to suffer significant harm is the responsibility of all staff within our school, superseding any other considerations. The following documents, circulars and guidance for good practice govern child protection work at Bromley Pensnett Primary School:

- Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership Board (DSPPB) - Safeguarding Children Procedures (<http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk>)
- Dealing with a disclosure school guidance (*See Appendix 1*)
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Education Act 2002
- Working together to safeguard children (DfE) July 2018
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE) September 2019
- Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with Children and Young People in Education Settings (May 2019)
- What do you do if you are worried a child is being abused March 2015 (*See Appendix 2*)
- The Prevent Duty for England & Wales June 2015 (under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015)
- Information Sharing Advice for Safeguarding Practitioners (DfE) Updated 2018
- Children Missing in Education September 2016

- Child Sexual Exploitation February 2017
- Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff 2012
- Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2013 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015)

Aims

Bromley Pensnett Primary School is committed to the safeguarding of all pupils in the school. Our aim is to ensure that all pupils are safe in school and that measures are put in place to support any child who is at risk of harm. Overall the policy provides information for all adults working with children to carry out their duty of care responsibly. Bromley Pensnett Primary School will provide information and training for all staff and other adults to carry out this duty of care responsibly.

Prevention

The six main elements of the policy are:

- ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children;
- raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe;
- implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse;
- supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her child protection plan;
- establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop;
- ensuring there are links with other safeguarding policies and practice, for example, physical intervention, anti-bullying, behaviour policy, attendance, medical conditions, first aid, intimate care, emergency evacuation, educational visits, sexual exploitation, sexting, disability, homophobic abuse, racism, domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, radicalisation and extremism. (Further guidance on these issues is available on the DSPBB website- see links on 29.)

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help prevention. The school will therefore:

- establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, 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;
- include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm.

Procedures

Bromley Pensnett Primary School will ensure that all staff follow the procedures set out by the Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership Board (DSPPB) and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE) to:

- ensure we have a designated safeguarding lead for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role. The formal training will be updated every 2 years. The DSL will be

updated on a regular basis (at least annually) to keep up with current safeguarding developments and priorities;

THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD FOR BROMLEY PENNETT PRIMARY SCHOOL IS HOLLIE SHAW.

THE DEPUTY LEADERS ARE STUART BROWN, AMANDA GARRISH, KAREN PALMER, JESSICA SAMPSON

Child Protection issues can be very difficult to spot. If in doubt, it is always best to inform the relevant person, and allow them to make the decision about what further action is necessary. The DSL and their deputies are most likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and will be the most appropriate individuals to advise on any safeguarding concerns. **If in doubt, ask.**

- ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection
THE DESIGNATED GOVERNOR FOR CHILD PROTECTION IS MR DAVID SHELDON;
- ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and governing body members knows the name of the designated safeguarding lead responsible for child protection and their role;
- ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated safeguarding lead responsible for child protection;
- ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection. Parents should be made aware of the policies and procedures;
- ensure that parents are aware that this policy is available on request, and make the policy available on the school website;
- develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at child protection meetings;
- develop links with other agencies that support the child, such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Education Investigation and Education Psychology Service;
- keep written records of concerns about children (noting date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Social Services and other relevant agencies immediately;
- ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations;
- ensure that if a child who has a child protection plan leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and Social Care is informed;
- ensure that all staff are aware of what to do if there are concerns around a child. **Appendix 2 refers to What to do if you are concerned.** A copy of the interagency referral form that must be completed when making a referral can be accessed from the DSPBB website. The DSL should be consulted for completion of this form.

Early Years Procedures

For avoidance of doubt, for those that provide Early Years provision within our school premises will adhere and ensure that they follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2014. This is fundamental in setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five.

Furthermore within the Early Years Setting at our school and to ensure the safety and welfare of our children in our care, personal mobile phones are not permitted within this setting, when in the presence of children. This being a statutory requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

Therefore we will ensure that the setting takes measures including;

1. All mobile phones must be kept in a secure place and should not be accessed throughout contact time with the children
2. Photographs or images of any children within our care may only be taken following parental consent and only using the school camera and those images should remain within the setting
3. When on outings, mobile phones may only be used to make or receive phone calls relating directly to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children.

Roles and Responsibilities

Safeguarding and child protection is **everyone's** responsibility. This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and governors in the school. Our policy and procedures also apply to extended school and off-site activities.

Role and Responsibilities of All Staff

All staff will read and understand part 1 and Annex A of the Department for Education's statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019), and review this guidance at least annually.

All staff will be aware of:

- Our systems which support safeguarding, including this Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, the Staff Code of Conduct, the role and identity of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies, the Behaviour policy and the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education.
- The early help process (sometimes known as the common assessment framework) and their role in it, including identifying emerging problems, liaising with the DSL and sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment.
- The process for making referrals to local authority children's social care and for statutory assessments that may follow a referral, including the role they might be expected to play.
- What to do if they identify a safeguarding issue or a child tells them they are being abused or neglected, including specific issues such as FGM, and how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality while liaising with relevant professionals.
- The signs of different types of abuse and neglect, as well as specific safeguarding issues, such as child sexual exploitation (CSE), indicators of being at risk from or involved with serious violent crime, FGM and radicalisation.

Role and Responsibilities of Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is a member of the senior leadership team. The Designated Safeguarding lead has responsibility and management oversight and accountability for child protection, along with the Head Teacher.

When the school has concerns about a child, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide what steps should be taken and should advise the Head Teacher.

Child protection information will be dealt with in a confidential manner.

Staff will be informed of relevant details only when the Designated Safeguarding Lead feels their having knowledge of a situation will improve their ability to deal with an individual child and/or family. A written record will be made of what information has been shared with whom, and when.

Child protection records will be stored securely in a central place separate from academic records. Individual files will be kept for each child: the school will not keep family files. Files will be kept for at least the period during which the child is attending the school, and beyond that in line with current data legislation and guidance.

Access to these records by staff other than by the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be restricted.

Parents will be aware of information held on their children and kept up to date regarding any concerns or developments by the appropriate members of staff. General communications with parents will be in line with our home school policies and give due regard to which adults have parental responsibility. The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. **Do not disclose to a parent any information held on a child if this would put the child at risk of significant harm.**

If a pupil moves from our school, child protection records will be forwarded on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the new school, with due regard to their confidential nature and in line with current government guidance on the transfer of such records. Direct contact between the two schools may be necessary, especially on transfer from primary to secondary schools. We will record where and to whom the records have been passed and the date.

If sending by post, pupil records will be sent by "Special/Recorded Delivery". For audit purposes a note of all pupil records transferred or received should be kept in electronic format on our Information Management System. This will include the child's name, date of birth, where and to whom the records have been sent and the date sent and/or received.

If a pupil is permanently excluded and moves to a Pupil Referral Unit, child protection records will be forwarded on to the relevant organisation.

When a Designated Safeguarding Leader resigns their post or no longer has child protection responsibility, there will be a full face-to-face handover/exchange of information with the new post holder.

Role and Responsibilities of the Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, including:

- Ensuring that staff (including temporary staff) and volunteers are informed of our systems which support safeguarding, including this policy, as part of their induction.
- Communicating this policy to parents when their child joins the school and via the school website.
- Ensuring that the DSL has appropriate time, funding, training and resources, and that there is always adequate cover if the DSL is absent.
- Ensuring that all staff undertake appropriate safeguarding and child protection training and update this regularly.
- Acting as the 'case manager' in the event of an allegation of abuse made against another member of staff or volunteer, where appropriate.

- Ensuring the relevant staffing ratios are met, where applicable
- Making sure each child in the Early Years Foundation Stage is assigned a key person

Role and Responsibilities of Governors and the Executive Governing Body

It is the responsibility of governing bodies to ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must have regards to this guidance to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in their schools are effective and comply with the law at all times.

The statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education, places statutory requirements on all governing bodies. Governing bodies must make sure that their school has policies and procedures in place and take into account any guidance issued by the Secretary of State, any LA guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures.

Staff support

We recognise the stressful and traumatic nature of child protection work. We will support staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and seek further support as appropriate.

Safer Recruitment and Employment Practices

Bromley Pensnett Primary School has created a culture of safe recruitment, and has adopted the Local Authority policy on recruitment procedures. Bromley Pensnett Primary School will follow the 'Safer Recruitment' processes for all appointments, which will include the following;

- Declaration of our statement of commitment and the intent to undertake a DBS check in the advertisement
Our statement of Commitment
 "Bromley Pensnett Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All posts are subject to Enhanced DBS Clearance, Qualification and ID Checks."
- Ensuring that at least one member of the interview panel has attended DSPBB Safer Recruitment Training
- Ensuring that references are gained before interview
- Ensuring that a safeguarding question is included in the interview
- Ensuring that any gaps in employment are explored at interview
- Undertake a DBS check* at the relevant level to the position
- Ensuring that a prohibition check is carried out for anyone in 'teaching work', not just those with QTS

(*An enhanced DBS check with barred list information will be appropriate for all staff as the majority of staff will be engaging in 'regulated activity'.)

If the school has reason to believe that an individual is barred, it commits an offence if it allows the individual to carry out any form of regulated activity. There are penalties of up to five years in prison if a barred individual is convicted of attempting to engage in such work.

All new appointments will have their identity verified from a current photographic ID and proof of address to obtain an enhanced DBS check with barred list information. The school will always ask for written information about previous employment history and check that the information is complete.

The school does not have the power to request DBS checks for visitors (for example children's relatives visiting a sports day). On these occasions, the Head Teacher will use their professional judgment on how best to supervise these occasions.

Allegations of Peer on Peer Abuse

All staff should recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under our school's behaviour policy, but this child protection and safeguarding 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 – also known as youth produced sexual imagery).

This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- verbal abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual violence and sexual harassment;
- bullying (including cyberbullying);
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

When dealing with such incidents, they will usually, in the first instance, be investigated by the class teacher. If there is a need to escalate the issue, it will then be passed to the DSL/ senior leadership team; Head teacher and, in extreme cases, the Governing Body. At the Head teacher's discretion, the police may be informed, in certain circumstances.

We recognise that every case will be unique and that they may need to be dealt with in a variety of ways.

To minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse the school has an ethos of promoting friendship and cooperation. Through assembly time, PSHE and other curriculum areas the children are taught tolerance, empathy and understanding. Each class has a 'feelings box', which is regularly monitored and the school employs a learning mentor to support both victims and perpetrators.

Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers

This is not the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Bromley Pensnett Primary school will follow the 'Managing Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers' (DSPBB Procedures) and will have regard for the DfE 'Harm Test' guidance in respect of all cases in which it is alleged that a teacher or other member of staff, including volunteers, has:

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

The **Head Teacher** will deal with allegations made against school staff.

All staff have access to the counselling service within Dudley Council.

If any concerns or allegations are made against members of staff, in the first instance these should be discussed with the Designated Officer for Managing Allegations (DO) or duty Independent Reviewing Officer. It is useful at this stage to also provide full names of the member of staff and child involved in the allegation, their dates of birth, addresses and details of any previous concerns, as this will avoid delay. All allegations against people who work with children will be passed on to the Designated Officer (Managing Allegations) in accordance with the Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) and the DSPBB Safeguarding Children Procedures.

A Managing Allegations Referral form will need to be completed.

In the event of the allegation being made against the Head Teacher, the **Chair of Governors** is to be notified.

If an allegation is made against any governor, including the Chair of Governors, the Head Teacher will contact the LA appointed Designated Officer.

- If any allegation is made a quick resolution should be a clear priority. Any unnecessary delays should be eradicated.
- In response to an allegation all other options should be considered before suspending a member of staff.
- Allegations that are found to be malicious should be removed from the personnel records.
- Pupils that are found to have made malicious allegations are likely to have breached school behaviour policies; the school will therefore consider the appropriate sanction.
- We, as the employer, have a duty of care to all staff; support for the individual is the key to fulfilling this duty.
- When an allegation is made it is extremely important that every effort is made to maintain confidentiality.
- After any allegations of abuse have been made, the outcome will be categorised as either substantiated, malicious, false, unsubstantiated or unfounded.

In addition to this, Bromley Pensnett Primary School have routine systems for continually monitoring the performance of staff ensuring compliance with both child protection procedures and the code of good practice. All staff within Bromley Pensnett Primary will adhere to the Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with Children and Young People in Educational Settings (Oct 2015). This covers a wide range of issues around staff conduct.

If staff have concerns about a fellow colleague, they should follow the **Whistle Blowing** Procedures. Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other channels are open to them such as the NSPCC Whistle Blowing helpline: **0800 028 0285**.

Referral to Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS)

Any employee who is dismissed or resigns due to a child protection case will be referred to the DBS, who will consider the future risk and harm the individual possesses to vulnerable groups including children.

The Single Central Record must be in place and include all the areas covered in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). Further advice is sought from HR.

Whistleblowing

All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime and know that such concerns will be taken seriously by the senior leadership team. A copy of the school's whistleblowing policy is available in the staffroom and office. There is also a copy on the school's website.

Information Sharing, Confidentiality and Record Keeping

Confidentiality is an issue, which needs to be discussed and fully understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of Child Protection. Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only.

Advice should be sought from the Social Care Team, who should approach the alleged abuser (or parents if the alleged abuser is a child).

Information will be stored in a secure place with restricted access to designated people and be maintained in line with data protection laws (e.g. that information is accurate, regularly updated, relevant and secure).

If a child who is subject to a child protection plan leaves, their information will be forwarded to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the new school, in line with the government guidance on the transfer of such records. (See page 10 Role and Responsibilities of Designated Safeguarding Lead)

The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about information sharing must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of the children (KCSiE 2019).

Involving Parents/Carers

In general, we will discuss any child protection concerns with parents/carers before approaching other agencies, and will seek their consent to making a referral to another agency. Appropriate staff will approach parents/carers after consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. However there may be occasions when the school will contact another agency before informing parents/carers because it considers that contacting them may increase the risk of significant harm to the child.

Parents/carers will be informed about our Child Protection Policy through the school website.

Early Help

Where unmet needs have been identified for a child/ young person utilising the Early Help model but there is no evidence of a significant risk, the DSL will add the child/young person to our records of children with a safeguarding vulnerability, and support school staff to deliver an appropriate Early Help response.

Early Help Assessment is recommended when a child has some additional needs. If early help intervention is required, an early help assessment form, with consent of the child/parent, needs to be completed. This should be filled in providing as much information as possible and then contact, via email, the family centre in the locality where the child lives. Stourbridge Family Centre (Telephone number 01384 818780) is the closest centre to school. The Early Help Strategy guidance and thresholds can be found at <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/care-health/children-and-family-care/early-help-for-children-and-families/> .

In the first instance, the child/young person may require simple reasonable adjustments within the educational setting. This may be all that is needed to address the unmet needs and after review the child/young person may then be removed from the safeguarding vulnerability list. By utilising the Early Help approach, we can hopefully negate – or reduce - the need for any further involvement with the family at this level.

Should the lived experience of the child and professional opinion of the DSL indicate that a wider Early Help response is required in order to meet the unmet safeguarding need, the DSL will develop a school-focused action plan with the child/young person and parent/carer as appropriate. This school-focused plan will then be regularly reviewed and updated to record progress towards the goals until the unmet safeguarding needs have been addressed. Once all unmet safeguarding needs have been addressed, the child can be removed from the safeguarding vulnerability list.

Should the professional opinion of the DSL indicate that a multi-agency Early Help response is required in order to meet the unmet safeguarding need, the DSL will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an Early Help Assessment and with the Early Help Support Team. This multi-agency plan will then be reviewed regularly and progress updated towards the goals until the unmet safeguarding needs have been addressed.

Should the DSL feel that a Social Care response is needed to meet the unmet safeguarding need; the DSL will initiate a Request for Support, seeking advice from Children’s Services.

The DSL will then oversee the agreed intervention from school as part of the multiagency safeguarding response and ongoing school focused support.

The Curriculum

Safeguarding issues will be addressed through the PSHE curriculum, for example self-esteem, emotional literacy, assertiveness, power, healthy relationship education (previously known as sex and relationship education SRE), online safety (formally known as e-safety), sexting and bullying (including cyber bullying). We currently use Jigsaw PSHE scheme.

Relevant issues will be addressed through all areas of the curriculum such as assemblies, visitors, etc.

Children Looked After

The designated teacher for children looked after at Bromley Pensnett is: **Jessica Sampson**. She is responsible for promoting the educational achievement of children who are looked after. The designated teacher will work closely with the Virtual School Head, to ensure that pupil premium funding is best used to support the progress of the child looked after.

The virtual school head for Dudley is Andrew Wright.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are three times more likely to be abused than their peers.

Additional barriers can sometimes exist when recognising abuse in SEND 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.
- The potential for children with SEND being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying and harassment, without outwardly showing any signs.
- Communication barriers and difficulties overcoming these barriers.

Any reports of abuse involving children with SEND will therefore require close liaison with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) and the SENDCo.

Other areas of our work

All of our policies which address issues of power and potential harm, for example bullying, equal opportunities, physical handling, positive behaviour, will be linked to ensure a whole school approach.

Our Child Protection policy cannot be separated from the general ethos of the school, which should ensure that pupils are treated with respect and dignity, taught to treat each other with respect, feel safe, have a voice, and are listened to.

Training and Development

Bromley Pensnett Primary School will ensure that:

- All staff are kept up to date with Child Protection issues by formal training taking place regularly annually; online courses, external training and in-house training provided throughout the year.
- Clear reminders of all procedures will be given out to all staff in the Inset session at the start of every academic year, with frequent reminders at appropriate meetings/training events.
- The designated Safeguarding Lead/s will take part in regular formal training sessions Advanced level training at least every two years.
- All policies and procedures will follow DFE guidance on Child Protection issues.
- Governors will be kept informed about procedures through the Child Protection Link Governor.
- Good monitoring takes place of pupils identified as at risk.
- The pastoral team works closely with outside agencies to share information and co-ordinate support for the pupil.

According to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2019), the Head Teacher and all other staff who work with children will undertake training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for Child Protection

effectively. This will be kept up to date by refresher training at regular intervals for all staff. A Training Record is kept for all adults working in contact with children.

Definitions and Indicators of Abuse

There are four types of child abuse. They are defined in the UK Government guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education; statutory guidance for schools and colleges, September 2019 as follows:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect

Physical Abuse

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

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation or exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone

Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child 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 production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate 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.

Significant Harm

"Significant Harm is any Physical, Sexual or Emotional Abuse, Neglect, accident or injury that is sufficiently serious to adversely affect progress and enjoyment of life. Harm is defined as the ill treatment or impairment of health and development."

Signs of Abuse

Recognising child abuse is not easy. It is every staff member's responsibility to be alert to whether or not child abuse has taken place or if a child is at significant risk of harm from someone. The following information should help to recognise the signs of possible abuse.

The physical signs of abuse may include:

- unexplained bruising, marks or injuries on any part of the body;
- multiple bruises - in clusters, often on the upper arm, outside of the thigh;
- cigarette burns;
- human bite marks;
- broken bones;
- scalds, with upward splash marks;
- multiple burns with a clearly demarcated edge.

Changes in behaviour that can also indicate physical abuse:

- fear of parents being approached for an explanation;
- aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts;
- flinching when approached or touched;
- reluctance to get changed, for example in hot weather;
- depression;
- withdrawn behaviour;
- running away from home.

Changes in behaviour which can indicate emotional abuse include:

- neurotic behaviour e.g. sulking, hair twisting, rocking;
- being unable to play;
- fear of making mistakes;
- sudden speech disorders;
- self-harm;
- fear of parent being approached regarding their behaviour.

Domestic Abuse

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

Controlling behaviour is: A range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: An act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim.

Our school recognises that exposure to domestic abuse can have serious, long-term emotional and psychological impact on children.

We work with other key partners and share relevant information where there are concerns that domestic abuse may be an issue for a child or family or be placing a child at risk of harm.

Specific Safeguarding Issues

Special Circumstances

Please see the following policies regarding these circumstances.

- Educational Visits
- Educational Visitors to school (theatre companies, charities etc. or refer to main policy)
- Children with medical needs and administration of medicine
- Site security - sign in procedures, gates open and closing times etc.
- Intimate care
- Physical Intervention

Online Safety

Bromley Pensnett Primary School use monitoring and filtering systems that employ 'key stroke' technology. Our School will monitor online activity within the school to ensure that inappropriate sites are not accessed by students or staff. In addition, we offer parent workshops to teach safe practices at home and lessons in school devoted to safety when online.

For further guidance, see Teaching Online Safety in Schools (2019).

Honour Based Violence (HBV)

So called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) 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. All forms of HBV are abuse (regardless of motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. If a member of staff has any doubt or concern, it should be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding lead.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. There is a range of potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk of FGM, which individually may not indicate risk but if there are two or more indicators present this could signal a risk to the child or young person.

Risk factors for FGM include:

- Low level of integration into UK society.
- Mother or a sister who has undergone FGM.
- Girls who are withdrawn from PSHE.
- Visiting female elder from the country of origin.
- Being taken on a long holiday to the country of origin.
- Talk about a 'special' procedure to become a women.
- FGM may be likely if there is a visiting female elder, there is talk of a special procedure or celebration to become a woman, or parents wish to take their daughter out-of-school to visit an 'at-risk' country (especially before the summer holidays).

Indications that FGM may have already taken place may include:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may even look uncomfortable.
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating.
- Spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems.
- Frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems.
- Prolonged or repeated absences from school or college, especially with noticeable behaviour changes (e.g. withdrawal or depression) on the girl's return.
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations.
- Confiding in a professional without being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.
- Talking about pain or discomfort between her legs

Victims of FGM are likely to come from a community that is known to practise FGM. Professionals should note that girls at risk of FGM may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so sensitivity should always be shown when approaching the subject. Staff should activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children's social care. **Teachers must personally report to the police a disclosure that FGM has been carried out, in addition to liaising with the DSL. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases.**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

“Children and young people who are sexually exploited are the victims of child sexual abuse, and their needs require careful assessment. They are likely to be in need of welfare services and - in many cases - protection under the Children Act 1989. This group may include children who are sexually abused through the misuse of technology, coerced into sexual activity by criminal gangs or the victims of trafficking”.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money or in some cases simply affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities. Sexual exploitation can take many forms ranging from the seemingly ‘consensual’ relationship where sex is exchanged for affection or gifts, to serious organised crime by gangs and groups. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power in the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim which increases as the exploitative relationship develops. Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming. However, it is also important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse.

Child Criminal Exploitation – County Lines

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism⁹⁸ should be considered. (See KCSiE Annex A, p77 for further details)

National crime agency human-trafficking <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-capabilities/uk-human-trafficking-centre/national-referral-mechanism>

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 year
- 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.

Sexting

Electronic forms of communication have developed rapidly in recent years and the vast majority of children have access to a computer and/or mobile phone. Children are frequently exposed to internet abuse, including sexual abuse, and bullying by phone is on the increase. Any child thought to be the victim of such

abuse should therefore be regarded as in need of protection. In cases of 'sexting' we follow guidance given to schools and colleges by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) published in 2017: 'Sexting in schools and colleges, responding to incidents, and safeguarding young people'.

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children

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, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable. It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support.

Reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment are extremely complex to manage. It is essential that victims are protected, offered appropriate support and every effort is made to ensure their education is not disrupted. It is also important that other children, adult students and school staff are supported and protected as appropriate.

The school should be aware of the importance of:

- Sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up.
- Not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "part of growing up", "just having a laugh" or "boys being boys".
- Challenging behaviour (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia and flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.
- Understanding that all of the above can be driven by wider societal factors beyond the school and college, such as everyday sexist stereotypes and everyday sexist language.

Contextual Safeguarding

Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside of the school and/or can occur between children outside of the school. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) should be considering the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur. This is known as contextual safeguarding, which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. Children's social care assessments should consider such factors so it is important that school 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.

Mental Health

Positive mental health is the concern of the whole community and we recognise that schools play a key part in this. Hob Green Primary School wants to develop the emotional well-being and resilience of all pupils and staff, as well as provide specific support for those with additional needs. We understand that there are risk factors which increase someone's vulnerability and protective factors that can promote or strengthen resiliency. The more risk factors present in an individual's life, the more protective factors or supportive interventions are required to counter balance and promote further growth of resilience.

Children with Mental Health Issues

It is vital that we work in partnership with parents to support the well-being of our pupils. Parents should share any concerns about the well-being of their child with school, so appropriate support and intervention is identified and implemented.

Further guidance can be found in *Mental Health and Behaviour in School (2018)*.

Children Missing Education (CME)

A child going missing from education, particularly repeatedly, can be a warning sign of a range of safeguarding issues. This might include abuse or neglect, such as sexual abuse or exploitation or child criminal exploitation, or issues such as mental health problems, substance abuse, radicalisation, FGM or forced marriage.

Children missing education are children of compulsory school age who are:

- Not on a school roll.
- Not being educated other than at school.
- Identified as having been out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time (4 weeks).

Children go missing from education for a number of reasons including:

- They don't start school at the appropriate time and so they do not enter the educational system.
- They are removed by their parents.
- Behaviour and/or attendance difficulties.
- They cease to attend, due to exclusion, illness or bullying.
- They fail to find a suitable school place after moving to a new area.
- The family move home regularly.
- Problems at home. Where children have poor attendance or are regularly missing then the school works in close liaison with the Local Authority CME officer and admissions team.

We will follow our procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, and to help prevent the risks of going missing in future. This includes informing the local authority if a child leaves the school without a new school being named, and adhering to requirements with respect to sharing information with the local authority, when applicable, when removing a child's name from the admission register at non-standard transition points.

Staff will be trained in signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns which may be related to being missing, such as travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.

If a staff member suspects that a child is suffering from harm or neglect, we will follow local child protection procedures, including with respect to making reasonable enquiries. We will make an immediate referral to

the local authority children's social care team, and the police, if the child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or in immediate danger.

Further information can be found in 'Children Missing Education: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities' – September 2016.

Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (with involvement of the local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18 if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. (A close family relative is defined as a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt and includes half – siblings and step-parents; it does not include great aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins) Given the 'hidden' nature of much private fostering, local authorities have a duty to raise awareness and needs to notify the local Children's Care department. Each party involved in a private fostering arrangement has a legal duty to inform the local authority 6 weeks before the arrangement is due to start. Not to do so is a criminal offence. It is important to note that although schools have a duty to inform the local authority, there is no duty for anyone, including the private foster carer or social workers to inform the school. However, the school will be clear on who has parental responsibility

Prevent Strategy (Radicalisation and Extremism)

Bromley Pensnett Primary School is actively involved in the Prevent strategy. The school has a part to play in fostering shared values and promoting cohesion. Extremist ideology runs counter to the school and British values. Therefore our community aims to successfully promote respect and tolerance for others, the rights of all to live and study free from persecution of any kind, freedom of speech, democracy, the rule of law and equality of opportunity and treatment. Extremism promotes fear and division and actively seeks to cause destructive relationships between different communities. Our school strategy for preventing extremism has five key objectives:

1. To promote and reinforce school and British values; to create space for free and open debate; listen and support the learner voice and enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
2. To promote social cohesion by supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to engage all students in playing a full and active role in wider engagement in society.
3. To ensure pupil safety and that the school is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.
4. To provide support for pupils who may be at risk and offer appropriate sources of advice and guidance.
5. To ensure that pupils and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing terrorism and radicalisation.

Our school, like all others, is required to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism: this will normally be the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The SPOC for Bromley Pensnett School is Hollie Shaw. The responsibilities of the SPOC are described on page 26.

For Prevent referrals, please liaise with Safe & Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) website - <https://www.dudleysafeandsound.org/prevent> .

Indicators of Vulnerability to Radicalisation

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:
Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
 - Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
 - Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
 - Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
 - Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.
4. There is no such thing as a "typical extremist": those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.
5. Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.
6. Indicators of vulnerability include:
 - Identity Crisis – the pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
 - Personal Crisis – the pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
 - Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the pupil's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
 - Unmet Aspirations – the pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
 - Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;

- Special Educational Need – pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.
7. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.
8. More critical risk factors could include:
- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
 - Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
 - Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
 - Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
 - Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
 - Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
 - Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
 - Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

Preventing Violent Extremism - Roles and Responsibilities of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

The SPOC is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware of who is the SPOC in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing pupils from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of the school in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the school's RE curriculum and assembly policy to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information from/ in relation to referrals of vulnerable pupils into the Channel** process;
- attending Channel** meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;

- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel** Co-ordinator; and
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

** Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It is led by the West Midlands Police Counter-Terrorism Unit, and it aims to

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

Web Links – Please be aware that web links are not guaranteed to work due to external providers.

Expert and professional organisations are best placed to provide up-to-date guidance and practical support on specific safeguarding issues. For example NSPCC offers information for schools and colleges on its own website www.nspcc.org.uk. Schools can also access DSPBB guidance on the issues listed below via the website <https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/safeguarding/child/>

Abuse or Safeguarding issue	Link to Guidance/Advice	Source
Abuse	What to do if you're worried a child is being abused	DfE advice
	Domestic abuse: Various Information/Guidance	Home Office
	Faith based abuse: National Action Plan	DfE advice
	Relationship abuse: disrespect nobody	Home Office website
Bullying	Preventing bullying including cyberbullying	DfE advice
Children and the courts	Advice for 5-11-year olds witnesses in criminal courts	MoJ advice
	Advice for 12-17 year old witnesses in criminal courts	MoJ advice
Children missing from education, home or care	Children missing education	DfE statutory guidance
	Child missing from home or care	DfE statutory guidance
	Children and adults missing strategy	Home Office strategy
Children with family members in prison	National Information Centre on Children of Offenders	Barnardo's in partnership with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)
Child Exploitation	County Lines: criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults	Home Office guidance

	Child sexual exploitation: guide for practitioners	DfE
	Trafficking: safeguarding children	DfE and HO guidance
Drugs	Drugs: advice for schools	DfE and ACPO advice
	Drug strategy 2017	Home Office strategy
	Information and advice on drugs	Talk to Frank website

Abuse or Safeguarding issue	Link to Guidance/Advice	Source
	ADEPIS platform sharing information and resources for schools: covering drug (& alcohol) prevention	Website developed by Mentor UK
“Honour Based Violence” (so called)	Female genital mutilation: information and resources	Home Office
	Female genital mutilation: multi agency statutory guidance	DfE, DH, and HO statutory guidance
	Forced marriage: information and practice guidelines	Foreign Commonwealth Office and Home Office
Health and Well-being	Fabricated or induced illness: safeguarding children	DfE, Department for Health and Home Office
	Rise Above: Free PSHE resources on health, wellbeing and resilience	Public Health England resources
	Medical-conditions: supporting pupils at school	DfE statutory guidance
	Mental health and behaviour	DfE advice
Homelessness	Homelessness: How local authorities should exercise their functions	HCLG
Online	Sexting: responding to incidents and safeguarding children	UK Council for Child Internet Safety
Private fostering	Private fostering: local authorities	DfE - statutory guidance
Radicalisation	Prevent duty guidance	Home Office guidance
	Prevent duty advice for schools	DfE advice
	Educate Against Hate Website	DfE and Home Office
Violence	Gangs and youth violence: for schools and colleges	Home Office advice

Ending violence against women and girls 2016-2020 strategy	Home Office strategy
Violence against women and girls: national statement of expectations for victims	Home Office guidance
Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools	DfE advice
Serious violence strategy	Home Office Strategy

Implementation, Review and Monitoring

Implementation will take place by ensuring this policy is discussed at the full governing body meeting and ensuring all staff are made aware of its existence.

This Policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis and whenever significant changes to legislation, guidance or changes to local procedures require it.

The cover page of this policy states the dates of review ratification by the Executive Governing Group.

Supporting Documents

DSPBB Safeguarding Children Procedures <http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/>

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019)

Keeping Children Safe in Education: Information for all Schools and College Staff (2019)

Safer Working Practice Guidance (October 2015)

Useful Numbers (Relevant contact details are displayed on posters around the school)

Out of Hours - Emergency Duty Team	0300 555 8574
Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit Halesowen Police Station <i>If the child is in immediate danger – call 999.</i>	101 Extension 79026071 or 79026072
Local Authority Designated Officer	01384 813061
Stourbridge Family Centre	01384 818780
Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH)	0300 555 0050

APPENDIX 1

Dealing with a Disclosure of Abuse

When a child tells me about abuse s/he has suffered, what must I remember?

- Stay calm.
- Do not communicate shock, anger or embarrassment.
- Reassure the child. Tell her/him you are pleased that s/he is speaking to you.
- Never enter into a pact of secrecy with the child. Assure her/him that you will try to help but let the child know that you will have to tell other people in order to do this. State who this will be and why.
- Tell her/him that you believe them. Children very rarely lie about abuse; but s/he may have tried to tell others and not been heard or believed.
- Tell the child that it is not her/his fault.
- Encourage the child to talk but do not ask "leading questions" or press for information.
- Listen and remember.
- Check that you have understood correctly what the child is trying to tell you.
- Praise the child for telling you. Communicate that s/he has a right to be safe and protected.
- Do not tell the child that what s/he experienced is dirty, naughty or bad.
- It is inappropriate to make any comments about the alleged offender.
- Be aware that the child may retract what s/he has told you. It is essential to record all you have heard.
- At the end of the conversation, tell the child again who you are going to tell and why that person or those people need to know.
- As soon as you can afterwards, make a detailed record of the conversation using the child's own language. This should be completed on the electronic CPOMS system. However, should this be unavailable use the form in Appendix 3. Include any questions you may have asked. Do not add any opinions or interpretations. *(See Appendix 3 Reporting form – printed on yellow for a general concern, red for urgent /serious concern)*

NB It is not education staff's role to seek disclosures. Their role is to observe that something may be wrong, ask about it, listen, be available and try to make time to talk.

NB At no time should an individual member of staff consider taking photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person.

Immediately afterwards

You must not deal with this yourself. Clear indications or disclosure of abuse must be reported to children's social care without delay, by the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Headteacher.

Complete a detailed record of the conversation on the electronic CPOMS system or on the reporting form (*Appendix 3*) available in your safeguarding box / staff room noticeboard and hand it directly to the appropriate person. **Do not** leave it in their pigeon hole or on their desk for them to 'find'. It may be urgent and require an immediate response.

Children making a disclosure may do so with difficulty, having chosen carefully to whom they will speak. Listening to and supporting a child/young person who has been abused can be traumatic for the adults involved. Support for you will be available from your Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher.

APPENDIX 2

What to do if you are concerned:

(Concerns outside the immediate environment (e.g. a parent or carer))

- Report your concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who should contact Social Care Team or the Police as soon as possible.
- If the Designated Safeguarding Lead is not available, then the Head Teacher or the person currently responsible for the school should be informed. (This is to ensure there is no delay in seeking advice or making a referral).
- Social Care Team and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide how to involve the parents/carers. Parents should not be informed if to do so would increase risk to the child'.
- Maintain confidentiality on a **need to know** basis only.

Information for social care or the police about suspected abuse

To ensure that this information is as helpful as possible, a detailed record should always be made at the time of the disclosure/concern, which should include the following:

- The reasons for your concern
- Full name and date of birth of the child
- Names and dates of birth of the child's family/household members
- Other agencies/professionals involved with the family
- The child's first language and any special needs
- The child's developmental needs, family and environmental factors and parenting capacity
- Any work you may have already undertaken with the child and family

All incidents will be reported on an Inter-Agency Referral form, by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, to the Single Point of Access Team at spateam@dudley.gov.uk

Responding to allegations or suspicions (about someone working with children or young people)

It is not the responsibility of anyone working within Bromley Pensnett Primary School in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns by reporting these to the appropriate officer or the appropriate authorities.

Bromley Pensnett Primary School will ensure all staff/volunteers that it will fully support and protect anyone, who in good faith reports his or her concern that a colleague is, or may be, abusing a child.

All allegations or suspicions of abuse will be taken seriously and treated in accordance with these procedures. They will be applied when there is an allegation or concern that any person, who works with children, in connection with their employment, voluntary or personal activity, has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to a child;

- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they are likely to pose a risk of harm to children

These behaviours will be considered within the context of the four categories of abuse (i.e. physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect). This includes concerns relating to inappropriate relationships between members of staff and children or young people, for example:

- Having a sexual relationship with a child under 18 if in a position of trust in respect of that child, even if consensual (s16-19 *Sexual Offences Act 2003*);
- 'Grooming', i.e. meeting a child under 16 with intent to commit a relevant offence (s15 *Sexual Offences Act 2003*);
- Other 'grooming' behaviour giving rise to concerns of a broader child protection nature (e.g. inappropriate text/email messages or images, gifts, socialising etc.);
- Possession of sexual images of children/pseudo-photographs of children.

The definition of working with children includes paid and unpaid staff, volunteers and carers (including foster and adoptive carers). It may include everyone who works Bromley Pensnett Primary School including administrative and other support staff.

Action if there are concerns

Concerns about poor practice:

- If, following consideration, the allegation is clearly about poor practice; the Head Teacher will deal with it as a misconduct issue.
- If the allegation is about poor practice by the *Designated Safeguarding Lead*, or if the matter has been handled inadequately and concerns remain, it should be reported to the Head Teacher/Chair of Governors who will decide on whether disciplinary action should be taken and the next steps to take.

Concerns about suspected abuse

- Any suspicion that a child has been abused by either a member of staff or a volunteer must be reported to the Head Teacher, who will take such steps as considered necessary to ensure the safety of the child in question and any other child who may be at risk.
- The Head Teacher will refer the allegation to the Social Care Team who may involve the Police. All allegations against people who work with children must be passed onto the DO (Designated Officer for Managing Allegations).
- The parents or carers of the child will be contacted as soon as possible following advice from the Social Care Team.
- If the Designated Safeguarding Lead is the subject of the suspicion/allegation, the concern must be shared with the Head Teacher. If the Head Teacher is the subject of the concern/ allegation, the concern must be shared with the Chair of Governors. The Chair of Governors will liaise with the Designated Officer for Managing Allegations and HR.

Internal Enquiries and Suspension

- The Head Teacher will liaise with the Chair of Governors and make an immediate decision about whether any individual accused of abuse should be temporarily suspended pending further police and social care inquiries. Advice can also be sought from the Human Resources Section and the DO (Designated Officer for Managing Allegations).
- Irrespective of the findings of the Social Care Team or Police inquiries the Head Teacher/Chair of Governors will assess all individual cases to decide whether an individual can be reinstated and how this can be sensitively handled. This may be a difficult decision; particularly where there is insufficient evidence to uphold any action by the police. In such cases, the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher must reach a decision based upon the available information which could suggest that on a balance of probability; it is more likely than not that the allegation is true. The welfare of the child should remain of paramount importance throughout.

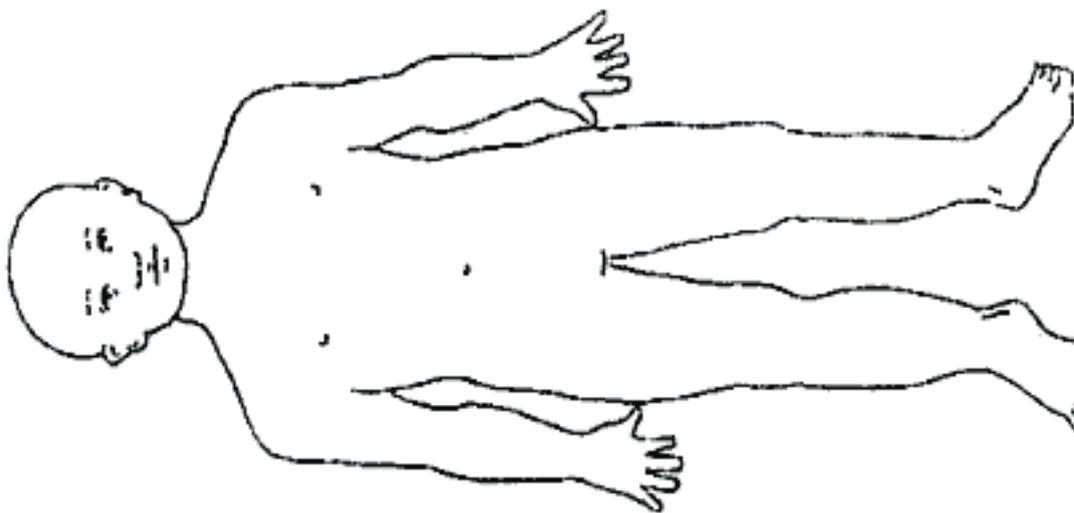
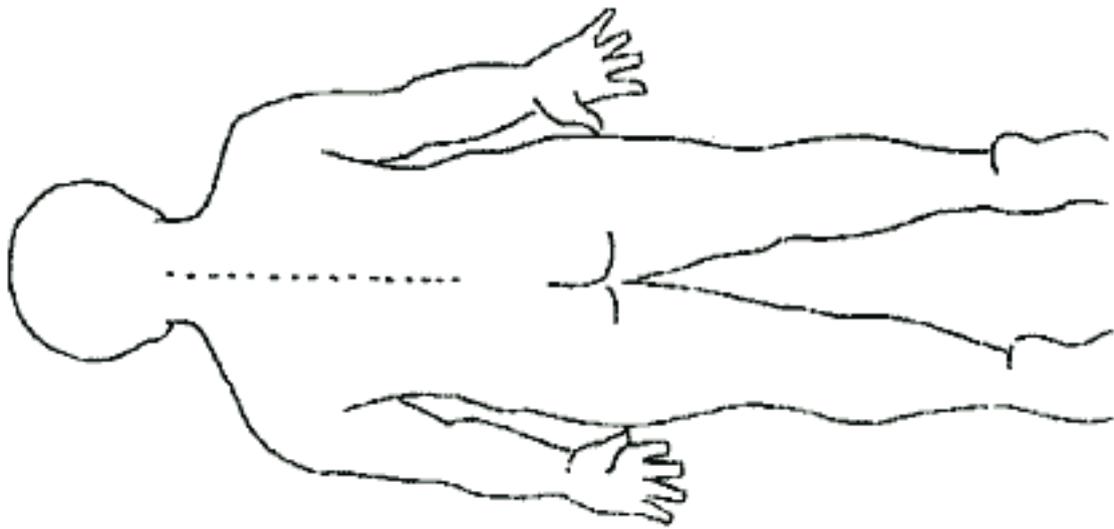
Appendix 3

Recording and Reporting

This form is only to be used if CPOMS is unavailable.

Form for recording and reporting concerns about a child (double sided with body map)

<u>Form for recording and reporting concerns about a child</u>		
Full name of child:	Class:	Year:
Date of birth (if known):		
Your name:	Position:	
Date and time of incident/disclosure/concern:		
Please provide details of the incident/disclosure/concern, including times, dates, description of injuries (body map included yes/no), and, if applicable, exact words spoken by the child (please continue on additional numbered pages if needed):		
Signed:	Time and date of reporting:	
Name of staff member reported to:	Further action taken by staff member:	
Signed:	Date:	
Any other information helpful for referral (to be completed and discussed with pastoral team/ designated safeguarding lead). Include academic progress, attendance, behaviour, presentation, peer relationships and parental knowledge:		



Appendix 4

Role of the designated safeguarding lead

Governing bodies, proprietors and management committees should ensure an appropriate senior member of staff, from the school or college leadership team, is appointed to the role of designated safeguarding lead.¹⁰⁹ The designated safeguarding lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety). This should be explicit in the role holder's job description. This person should have the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post. They should be given the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters, to take part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings, and/or to support other staff to do so, and to contribute to the assessment of children.

Deputy designated safeguarding leads

It is a matter for individual schools and colleges as to whether they choose to have one or more deputy designated safeguarding leads. Any deputies should be trained to the same standard as the designated safeguarding lead and the role should be explicit in their job description. Whilst the activities of the designated safeguarding lead can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for child protection, as set out above, remains with the designated safeguarding lead, this lead responsibility should not be delegated.

Manage referrals

The designated safeguarding lead is expected to:

- refer cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care as required;
- support staff who make referrals to local authority children's social care;
- refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required;
- support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme;
- refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required;
- and refer cases where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required.

¹⁰⁹ When a school has a sole proprietor rather than a governing body, appropriate steps should be taken to ensure that the member of the senior leadership team who is appointed as designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is able to discharge that role with sufficient independence, particularly in relation to any allegations involving the proprietor or members of the proprietor's family. This may involve including in the appointment as DSL, written confirmation that part of the duties of the post involve contacting the Local Authority Designated Officer on any matter that the DSL considers cannot be properly dealt with internally. Consideration could also be given to providing the DSL with access to external advice from an appropriate company or legal service

Work With Others

The designated safeguarding lead is expected to:

- act as a point of contact with the three safeguarding partners;
- liaise with the headteacher or principal to inform him or her of issues- especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations;
- as required, liaise with the “case manager” (as per Part four) and the designated officer(s) at the local authority for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member;
- liaise with staff (especially pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians, and SENCOs or the named person with oversight for SEN in a college) on matters of safety and safeguarding (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies; and
- act as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff.

Training

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

In addition to the formal training set out above, their knowledge and skills should 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, and 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 statutory intervention, including local criteria for action and local authority children’s social care referral arrangements;
- have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so;
- ensure each member of staff has access to, and understands, the school’s or college’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;¹¹¹
- 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.
- are able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals;
- understand and support the school or college with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and are able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation;
- are able to 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 special educational needs 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.

¹¹⁰ Full details in Chapter one of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

¹¹¹ Section 17(10) Children Act 1989: those unlikely to achieve a reasonable standard of health and development without local authority services, those whose health and development is likely to be significantly impaired without the provision of such services, or disabled children.

Raise Awareness

The designated safeguarding lead should:

- ensure the school's or college's child protection policies are known, understood and used appropriately;
- ensure the school's or college's child protection policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies or proprietors regarding this;
- ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school or college in this; and
- link with the safeguarding partner arrangements to make sure staff are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies on local safeguarding arrangements.

Child Protection File

Where children leave the school or college the designated safeguarding lead should ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible. This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. Receiving schools and colleges should ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads and SENCOs or the named person with oversight for SEN in colleges, are aware as required.

In addition to the child protection file, the designated safeguarding lead should 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.

Availability

During term time the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should always be available (during school or college hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Whilst generally speaking the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) would be expected to be available in person, it is a matter for individual schools and colleges, working with the designated safeguarding lead, to define what "available" means and whether in exceptional circumstances availability via phone and or Skype or other such media is acceptable.

It is a matter for individual schools and colleges and the designated safeguarding lead to arrange adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities.

PROCESS FOR RECORDING AND REPORTING A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

Share in all staff training. Copy and place onto staff notice board. Add into your Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Name Of DSL And Dep DSLs:

Hollie Shaw
Amanda Garrish
Stuart Brown
Karen palmer
Jessica Sampson

Write the Concern Form or complete Online Monitoring System (DSL MUST receive a concern in writing)

Local Authority DO/Risk: (For concerns about an Adult/Person in Position of Trust)

Contact Details:

Yvonne Nelson Brown Tel: 01384 – 813110

Safeguarding Governor:

David Sheldon

Deliver/Report all concerns to:
Hollie Shaw

DSL reviews concern, identifies level of need and makes a decision about the Next Steps

Decision To <u>MONITOR</u> The Concern	Decision To <u>DISCUSS</u> The Concern With Parent/S Carer	Decision to <u>REFER</u> the concern to Early Help Level 2/3 or Childrens Social Care (CSC) Level 4
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MONITOR

DISCUSS

REFER



School worker asked to monitor pupil and feedback to the DSL within an agreed timescale

MONITOR



After discussion DSL decides to either, discuss further with parent/carer, monitor via school worker, make an Early Help Assessment, attends allocation meeting or make a referral into CSC Level 4

REFER



DSL speaks with Head/Governor and agrees to refer into CSC



AT ALL TIMES RECORD



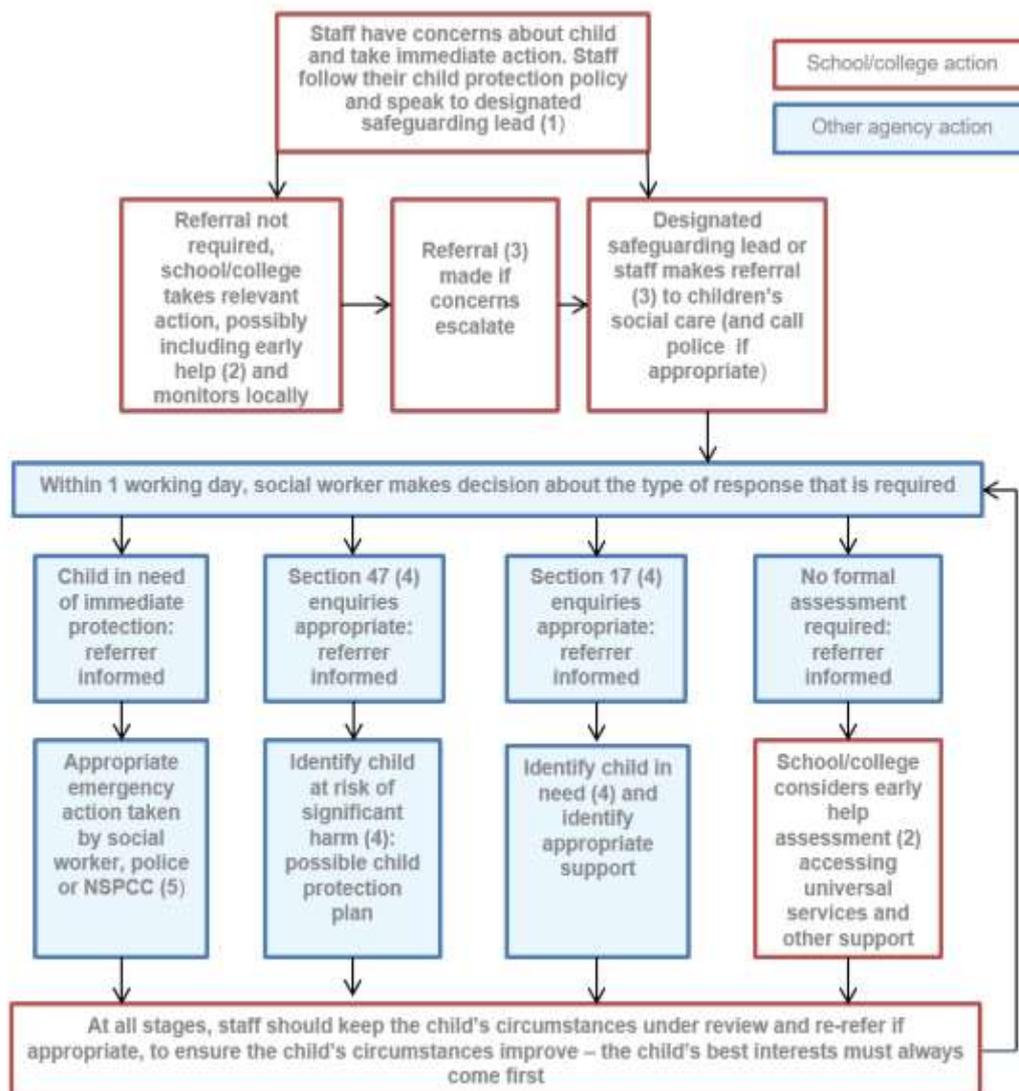
Remember:

ANYONE CAN MAKE A REFERRAL IN ADDITION, REPORT DIRECTLY INTO EARLY HELP or CSC.

DSL retains Concern Form/incident details in secure, confidential Safeguarding File

Contact details for:
Children’s Social Care referrals:
PREVENT/Channel referrals:

Actions where there are concerns about a child



(1) In cases which also involve an allegation of abuse against a staff member, see Part Four of this guidance.

(2) Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. Where a child would benefit from co-ordinated early help, an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter one of [Working together to safeguard children](#) provides detailed guidance on the early help process.

(3) Referrals should follow the local authority's referral process. Chapter one of [Working together to safeguard children](#).

(4) Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. This can include section 17 assessments of children in need and section 47 assessments of children at risk of significant harm. Full details are in Chapter One of [Working together to safeguard children](#).

(5) This could include applying for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).