



Haven High Academy Site Specific Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

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Introduction

This document sets out the arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Haven High Academy.

Haven High Academy is committed to Safeguarding and encourages a strong culture of vigilance in this area.

This document forms part of the integrated safeguarding portfolio and should be read alongside:

- Voyage Education Partnership- Safeguarding Policy;
- Voyage Education Partnership: Managing Allegations Policy;
- DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education – September 2021;
- Working Together to Safeguard Children – July 2018
- Local arrangements for managing allegations issued through the relevant Local Safeguarding Partnership;
- The Children Act 1989 and 2004;
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017;
- The Education Act 2002;
- Covid-19 safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers 2020

For the purpose of this document the following terminology should be considered:

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

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

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

DSL refers to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the Academy.

Child includes everyone under the age of 18.

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

Key Staff and Contacts

Academy Based Contacts

Name	Role
Matthew Van Lier	Headteacher
Joao Amaral	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Alan Thompson (Tollfield Campus) Fiona Williams (Marian Campus) Matthew Van Lier (both campuses)	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
David Bruce	e-Safety Officer
Joao Amaral	Prevent Duty Lead
Joao Amaral	Designated Teacher for Looked After Children now known as Designated Teacher for Children in Care
Joao Amaral	Designated Teacher for Previously Looked After Children
Chelsea Ironmonger	Attendance Officer
All of the above can be contacted via the Academy office on 01205 311979	

Other Useful Contacts

Agency / Contact	Contact Details
Voyage Education Partnership- Central Office	01205 331900
Mr J McGarel, Safeguarding Trustee via Clerk to the Board	01205 331900
Dina Parla, Partnership Safeguarding Lead	01205 319904
Children's Social Care Contact Centre Lincolnshire County Council	01522 782111
Children's Social Care – Emergency Duty Team Lincolnshire County Council	01522 782333
Designated Officer (LADO) Lincolnshire County Council	01522 554674
Child Line	0800 1111

NSPCC Information Service	0808 800 5000
NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line	0800 028 0285

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

- is a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- has the status and authority within the Academy to carry out the duties of the post, including committing resources and supporting and directing other staff
- is appropriately trained, with regular updates
- acts as a source of support and expertise to the Academy community
- has a working knowledge of local procedures
- makes staff aware of training courses and the latest policies on safeguarding
- keeps detailed written records of all concerns using My Concern
- refers cases of suspected abuse to children's social care or police as appropriate
- ensures that when a learner leaves the Academy, their child protection file is passed to the new school (separately from the main learner file and ensuring secure transit) and confirmation of receipt is obtained
- attends and/or contributes to child protection conferences
- coordinates the Academy's contribution to child protection plans
- develops effective links with relevant statutory and voluntary agencies including the LSP
- liaises with the 'case manager' and the Designated Officer (LADO) for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member
- liaises with other relevant staff (Academy and multi-agency) on matters of safety and safeguarding
- ensures that the child protection policy and procedures are reviewed and updated annually, liaises with the Trust Inclusion Lead and Headteacher (where the role is not carried out by the Headteacher) as appropriate
- makes the child protection policy available publicly, on the Academy's website or by other means.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Are trained to the same level as the DSL and, in the absence of the DSL, carry out those functions necessary to ensure the ongoing safety and protection of learners. In the event of the long-term absence of the DSL, the deputies will assume all of the functions above.

Children and Young People who may be particularly vulnerable

Any child may benefit from Early Help, but some children may have an increased risk of abuse. Many factors can contribute to an increase in risk, including prejudice and discrimination, isolation, social exclusion, communication issues, reluctance on the part of some adults to accept that abuse can occur and contextual safeguarding issues. To ensure that all of our learners receive equal protection, we will give special consideration to children who:

- are subject to Child In Need or Child Protection Plans or have other social care involvement
- are disabled or have special educational needs

- have special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan)
- are young carers
- show signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
- are frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- are at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, criminal exploitation or sexual exploitation
- are affected by parental substance misuse, domestic violence or parental mental health needs
- are misusing drugs or alcohol
- have returned to the family home after a period in care
- are asylum seekers
- are living away from home / are privately fostered
- are vulnerable to being bullied, or engaging in bullying
- are living in temporary accommodation
- are living transient lifestyles
- are living in chaotic and unsupportive home situations
- are homeless
- are vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, disability or sexuality
- do not have English as a first language
- are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM)
- are at risk of forced marriage
- are within the court system
- have a family member in prison
- are at risk of being drawn into extremism or being exploited.
- are persistently absent from education, including persistent absence from part of the day
- has a mental health need

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

Children with special educational needs or disabilities

Haven High Academy recognises that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect such as:

- 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 SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

Allegations against Adults

When an allegation is made against any adult (paid and voluntary) working within the Academy, our set procedures must be followed. The full procedures for dealing with allegations against adults can be found in the Partnership's Managing Allegations Policy.

If you have a concern about an adult working within the Academy, please contact:

Name	Role	Contact Number
Matthew Van Lier	Headteacher	01205 311979

If your concern relates to the Headteacher, please contact:

Name	Role	Contact Number
Emma Hadley	Chief Executive	01205 331900

Staff training

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

All staff will undertake training each September covering as a minimum:

- Signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect (including online safety)
- Local procedures for responding to concerns
- The Academy's behaviour policy
- Response to children that go missing in education
- The staff code of conduct
- Allegations management.

The level of additional training staff will receive is based on their role.

Safer recruitment

Our Academy complies with the requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2021) and the LSP by carrying out the required checks and verifying the applicant's identity, qualifications and work history.

- At least one member of each recruitment panel will have completed safer recruitment training within the last **2 years**.
- All relevant staff are made aware of relevant legislation and their obligations to disclose relevant information.
- The Academy obtains written confirmation from supply agencies or third party organisations that agency staff or other individuals who may work in the Academy have been appropriately checked.
- Trainee teachers will be checked either by the Academy or by the training provider, from whom written confirmation will be obtained.
- The Partnership maintains a single central record of recruitment checks undertaken.

Volunteers

All volunteers working with the Academy will be risk assessed by the Partnership's Health & Safety Officer and will undergo checks commensurate with their work in the Academy, their contact with learners and the supervision provided to them.

Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been appropriately checked be left unsupervised.

Contractors

The Academy checks the identity of all contractors working on site and requests DBS with barred list checks where required by statutory guidance. Contractors who have not undergone checks will not be allowed to work unsupervised whilst learners are on-site.

Site security

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

Extended school and off-site arrangements

All extended and off site activities are subject to a risk assessment to satisfy health and safety and safeguarding requirements. Where extended school activities are provided by and managed by the Academy, our own child protection policy and procedures apply. If other organisations provide services or activities on our site on behalf of our Academy we will check that they have appropriate procedures in place, including safer recruitment procedures.

When our learners attend off-site activities, including day and residential visits and work-related activities, we will check that effective child protection arrangements are in place.

Teaching our learners about safeguarding

At Haven High Academy, we use a preventative approach as learners are taught about safeguarding including online safety as part of a broad and balanced curriculum in PSHE lessons, SRE and group sessions. It is the aim of the Academy to ensure by investing in our learners they build up a resilience to risks and concerns that they may face. Such content will be age and stage of development specific and tackle issues such as the following:

- Healthy Relationships
- Respectful Behaviour
- Gender Roles/Stereotyping & Equality
- Body Confidence & Self-Esteem
- Prejudice Behaviour
- Sexual Violence & Sexual Harassment is always wrong
- Addressing cultures of sexual harassment

To prevent peer on peer abuse and address the wide societal factors that can influence behaviour, the Academy will educate learners about abuse, its forms and the importance of discussing any concerns and respecting others through the curriculum, assemblies, and PSHE lessons and registration. Learners will be allowed an open forum to talk about concerns and sexual behaviour. They are taught how to raise concerns and make a report, including concerns about their friends or peers and how a report will be handled.

The Stay Safe Partnership from Lincolnshire County Council deliver Stay Safe Days on an annual basis. In addition, the Academy has a dedicated Director of Aspirations (Careers) whose work is aimed at increasing aspirations of our learners and as a result our Neet

numbers are low as our learners are able successfully move onto the next step in their education. The Academy has also seen an increase in learners applying for level 3 qualifications.

Child Protection Procedures

Recognising abuse

To ensure that our learners are protected from harm, we need to understand what types of behaviour constitute abuse and neglect.

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, for example by hitting them, or by failing to act to prevent harm, for example by leaving a small child home alone.

Abuse may be committed by adult men or women and by other children and young people.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2021) refers to four categories of abuse. These are set out at Appendix One along with indicators of abuse.

Taking action

Any child, in any family in any school could become a victim of abuse. Staff should always maintain an attitude of “it could happen here”. Key points for staff to remember for taking action are:

- in an emergency take the action necessary to help the child, if necessary, call 999
- report your concern as soon as possible to the DSL, definitely by the end of the day
- do not start your own investigation
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends, or family
- complete a record of concern
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed.

Early information sharing is vital for the effective identification, assessment, and allocation of appropriate services. This includes when problems first emerge or where a child is already known to the local authority.

If you are concerned about a learner’s welfare

There will be occasions when staff may suspect that a learner may be at risk. The learner’s behaviour may have changed, their artwork could be bizarre, they may write stories or poetry that reveal confusion or distress, or physical signs may have been noticed. In these circumstances, staff will try to give the learner the opportunity to talk and ask if they are OK or if they can help in any way.

Staff should record these early concerns following the agreed Academy process. If the learner does reveal that they are being harmed, staff should follow the advice below. Following an initial conversation with the learner, if the member of staff has concerns, they should discuss their concerns with the DSL.

If a learner discloses to you

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

If a learner talks to a member of staff about any risks to their safety or wellbeing, the staff member will, at the appropriate time, let the learner know that in order to help them they must pass the information on to the DSL. The point at which they tell the learner this is a matter for professional judgement. During their conversations with the learners, staff will:

- allow them to speak freely
- remain calm and not overreact
- give reassuring nods or words of comfort – ‘I’m so sorry this has happened’, ‘I want to help’, ‘This isn’t your fault’, ‘You are doing the right thing in talking to me’
- not be afraid of silences
- under no circumstances ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings, or what does the learner’s mother think about it
- at an appropriate time tell the learner that in order to help them, the member of staff must pass the information on and explain to whom and why
- not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort
- avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing earlier. Saying things such as ‘I do wish you had told me about this when it started’ may be interpreted by the child to mean that they have done something wrong
- tell the learner what will happen next
- report verbally to the DSL even if the child has promised to do it by themselves
- Speak to the DSL as soon as possible and then add a ‘concern’ to ‘MyConcern’ if advised to do so.
- seek support if they feel distressed.

Notifying parents

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

Our focus is the safety and wellbeing of the learner. Therefore, if notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, advice will first be sought from children’s social care and/or the police before parents are contacted.

Confidentiality and sharing information

All staff will understand that child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the learner and staff involved but also to ensure that information being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence.

Staff should only discuss concerns with the DSL (or Deputies in their absence). That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a ‘need-to-know’ basis.

However, following a number of cases where senior leaders in school had failed to act upon concerns raised by staff, Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) emphasises that any member of staff can contact children's social care or the dedicated NSPCC helpline if they are concerned about a child.

Child protection information will be stored and handled in line with the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

Information sharing is guided by the following principles. The information is:

- necessary and proportionate
- relevant
- adequate
- accurate
- timely
- secure.

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

Child protection information will be stored on My Concern and not on the learner's educational file.

The DSL will normally obtain consent from the learner and/or parents to share sensitive information within the Academy or with outside agencies. Where there is good reason to do so, the DSL may share information without consent, and will record the reason for not obtaining consent.

Child protection records are normally exempt from the disclosure provisions of the Data Protection Act, which means that children and parents do not have an automatic right to see them. If any member of staff receives a request from a learner or parent to see child protection records, they will refer the request to the Headteacher to consider in line with the Trust Data Governance Policies.

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

Early Help

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Lincolnshire's Early Help Pathway will be followed in order to initiate and support Early Help within a multi-agency arena.

"School and college staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for children, promote children's welfare and prevent concerns from escalating" Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021.

Our Academy is committed to ensuring that Early Help begins as soon as a problem emerges. We ensure that learners are at the heart of everything we do, and we fully promote every child holistically. We follow Lincolnshire's Early Help Pathway - see appendix 3.

Worries may have been identified by the Academy, parents/carers, learners, other professionals or members of our community. Through the curriculum learners are taught about keeping safe and being happy and what to do if they have a worry, find something difficult or feel sad.

It is a desire that learners, parents/carers/family members are able to feel comfortable in talking to the Academy about any worries or concerns and the Academy has an "open door" "non-judgemental" approach in this regard. The Academy values the importance of the learners' welfare and wellbeing to their parents/carers and the need to listen and support. Open and honest communication with parents/carers about concerns raised can often help resolve matters swiftly.

Our Academy has a dedicated pastoral team who are well trained staff and who can ensure that our learners and families get the right support at the right time working with their parent/carer and anyone else who the child or family may think is important as part of their support network.

Within the Academy this could be individual support to the learner, whole class support, whole Academy support, support to parents/carers, evidenced based programmes such as Mental Health & Wellbeing, Healthy Minds, Behaviour Outreach Support Service and many more. The Academy has dedicated staff including our therapy dog, who can help including very experienced Early Help and Well Being Support Workers.

All children and families need a bit of support at some time during their school life for many reasons, and to help us work out together how best to support the learner and family, the Academy could complete an Early Help Assessment (EHA) with the learner/family. Following completion of an EHA the Academy will endeavour to provide support for the learner and or the family to overcome the concerns raised and this may involve external agencies as well to support. Once consent is given by the learner/family the Academy will organise a Team Around the Child (TAC), where the Academy, external agencies, learner and family work together as a team to create a plan to help improve matters. The plan is owned by the family through consent given to empower family to overcome the issues they face. At any time, the Academy may seek advice from:

- Voyage Education Partnership Inclusion Team for advice and guidance and access to support dina.parla@voyage-education.org 01205 319904
- earlyhelpconsultants@lincolnshire.gov.uk for any cases that are open to Team Around the Child (TAC)

Referral to children's social care

The DSL will make a referral to children's social care if it is believed that a learner is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm. The learner (subject to their age and understanding) and the parents will be told that a referral is being made, unless to do so would increase the risk to the child.

Any member of staff may make a direct referral to children's social care if they genuinely believe independent action is necessary to protect a child.

Reporting directly to child protection agencies

Staff should follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy. However, they may also share information directly with children's social care, police or the NSPCC if:

- the situation is an emergency and the designated safeguarding lead, their deputies, the Headteacher and the Partnership Safeguarding Team are all unavailable
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the learner's safety
- for any other reason they make a judgement that direct referral is in the best interests of the child.

Escalating concerns

Staff need to be aware of those times when concerns may look as though they are not progressing to an outcome or some form of action. This may be indicated by:

- difficulty in getting hold of a DSL
- staff not being satisfied about the decision of the DSL or Headteacher
- staff aware that a colleague has not passed on a concern
- external agencies not accepting a referral from an Academy when it is felt one is needed
- staff not aware of what has happened to their concern because of a lack of feedback.

It is important that staff do not close down a concern because they feel "stuck" or "they can't do anymore". It is important to escalate concerns to the DSL, the DDSLs, the Headteacher, other senior staff or if necessary, to the Partnership Safeguarding Team.

If there are concerns about the work of an external agency the Academy will follow the escalation steps outlined in the locally agreed procedures documents.

The important principle is not to allow a concern to be "closed down" without it having received the necessary attention, assessment and resolution.

If the options above have been explored fully and the concern still isn't being handled effectively and therefore placing the child or young person at risk, it is important that you continue to escalate your concerns by contacting the Safeguarding Trustee via the Clerk to the Board or by contacting the NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line on 0800 028 0285.

Specific Safeguarding and Child Protection Issues

Mental Health

Mental Health problems can in some cases be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem, however, academy staff are well placed to identify where a child's behaviour suggests they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood.

All staff are made aware of the indicators of potential mental health concerns and will share these with the DSL.

Child abduction and community safety incidents

Child abduction is the removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. It can be committed by parents or other family members, by people known but not related to the victim and by strangers.

Staff should be vigilant regarding community safety incidents within the vicinity of the academy and ensure that all information is passed to the DSL in a timely manner.

Children are also provided with information in order to ensure they are able to keep themselves safe.

Children and the court system

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. The families of children may also be subject to child arrangements processes through the family court system.

We recognise that both circumstances may be stressful for children and appropriate support will be provided in line with local and national guidance.

Children missing education

Attendance, absence and suspensions are closely monitored. A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and sexual exploitation as well as criminal exploitation including involvement in county lines. It may also indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation or risk of forced marriage. The Academy will monitor unauthorised absence and take appropriate action including notifying the Local Authority, particularly where children go missing for extended periods of time, on repeated occasions and/or are missing for periods during the Academy day.

Children with family members in prison

Children who have family members that are sent to prison are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. The Academy recognises that these children may need support. Support will be provided in line with guidance from the National Information Centre on Children of Offenders and local agencies.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or c) through violence or threat of violence.

Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

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

This list is not exhaustive, staff should remain vigilant and any concerns should be raised immediately with the DSL.

Child Sexual Exploitation

CSE occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child 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. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

CSE can affect any young person, male or female, under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to sexual activity.

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

Indicators of CSE (in addition to those indicators for CCE) can include:

- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant.

The Academy includes the risks of sexual exploitation in the PSHE and SRE curriculum. A common feature of sexual exploitation is that the child often does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim. The child may initially resent what they perceive as interference by staff, but staff must act on their concerns, as they would for any other type of abuse.

All staff are made aware of the indicators of sexual exploitation and all concerns are reported immediately to the DSL.

County Lines

County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines".

It involves Child Criminal Exploitation as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move and store drugs and money across the country.

County Lines activity and the associated coercion, intimidation, violence, weapons and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities. Children can be targeted and recruited in any setting and are easily trapped as the gangs create 'debts' and can threaten serious violence and kidnap of family members if they attempt to leave the network.

Academy staff will remain vigilant to those children and concerns will be shared with the DSL.

Domestic abuse

All children can witness and be adversely affected by exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence between family members. This can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Domestic abuse affecting young people can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life.

Where Academy children reside where a domestic abuse incident takes place, Lincolnshire Police will notify the DSL through “Operation Encompass” protocol.

Homelessness

Being homeless, or being at risk of becoming homeless, presents a real risk to a child’s welfare.

In most cases the Academy and staff will be considering homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it should also be recognised in some cases 16- and 17-year-olds could be living independently from their parents or carers, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support.

The DSL will be able to support learners facing homelessness in supporting and signposting through appropriate agencies and support networks within the locality.

So-called ‘honour-based’ abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)

So-called ‘honour-based’ abuse (HBA) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation).

FGM is the collective name given to a range of procedures involving the partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is a criminal offence under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. The practice can cause intense pain and distress and long-term health consequences, including difficulties in childbirth.

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

Teachers must personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. This should be done with the support of the DSL so that wider concerns for the child or young person are also considered. This will also enable the Academy to support the staff member through this process.

A forced marriage is a marriage entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties. Coercion may include physical, psychological, financial, sexual, and emotional pressure. It may also involve physical or sexual violence and abuse. In England and Wales the practice is a criminal offence under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

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

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

Preventing Radicalisation

The government defines extremism 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. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

Some children are at risk of being radicalised: adopting beliefs and engaging in activities which are harmful, criminal or dangerous. Islamic extremism is the most widely publicised form and schools should also remain alert to the risk of radicalisation into white supremacy and other forms of extremism.

Academy staff receive training to help to identify signs of extremism. Opportunities are provided in the curriculum to enable learners to discuss issues of religion, ethnicity and culture and the Academy follows the DfE advice Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC (spiritual, moral, social, and cultural education) in Schools (2014).

The Academy has an identified Prevent Lead who will co-ordinate all concerns, and necessary referrals related to extremism, radicalisation, and terrorism.

Children with sexually harmful behaviour

Children may be harmed by other children or young people. Staff will be aware of the harm caused by bullying and will use the Academy's anti-bullying procedures where necessary. However, there will be occasions when a learner's behaviour warrants a response under child protection rather than anti-bullying procedures.

Young people who display such behaviour may be victims of abuse themselves and the child protection procedures will be followed for both victim and perpetrator. Staff who become concerned about a learner's sexual behaviour, including any known online sexual behaviour, should speak to the DSL as soon as possible.

Peer-on-Peer / child-on-child abuse

The Academy recognises that learners may become victims of abuse from other learners and has a zero-tolerance approach to this form of abuse. It is recognised that girls are more likely to be the victim of this type of abuse, however abuse of this kind will be dealt with in the same way regardless of gender.

The academy recognises that although there may not be any reported incidents of peer-on-peer abuse, this does not mean that it is not happening. Academy staff are vigilant of this at all times.

There are various forms this type of abuse can take, including:

- Bullying (cyber, discriminatory and prejudice based)
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers
- Physical abuse which can include kicking, punching, hitting, biting
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and videos

- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- Upskirting
- Initiation/ hazing type violence and rituals

Sexual violence and harassment can occur between 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.

In order to minimise the risk of peer-on-peer abuse, the academy takes the following steps:

- Regular and appropriate training to staff which includes indicators of abuse, reporting concerns about children, responding to concerns, supporting children and next steps if staff are unsure what to do
- Challenge inappropriate behaviours by making it clear that sexual harassment and sexual violence is not accepted or tolerated or 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'
- Provides a preventative age-appropriate curriculum which covers healthy relationships, respectful behaviour, consent, gender roles, body confidence, prejudiced behaviour, sexual violence and sexual harassment

Staff will report instances of peer-on-peer abuse, sexual violence and harassment through the normal safeguarding concern process using My Concern and recognise that support must be provided to both the alleged victim and abuser. It will be made clear that no form of peer-on-peer abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment will be tolerated or accepted as an inevitable part of growing up or banter, any behaviour of this type will be challenged and not normalised.

Children are made aware of how to report concerns to adults in school and will understand how these concerns will be dealt with by the academy.

All staff will be aware that peer on peer abuse can be manifested in many different ways, including sexting and gender issues, such as girls or boys being sexually touched or assaulted and boys and girls being subjected to hazing/initiation type of violence which aims to cause physical, emotional or psychological harm. In addition, staff are made aware of the heightened vulnerability of learners with SEND who are three times more likely to be abused than their peers. Staff will not assume that possible indicators of abuse relate to the learner's SEND and will always explore indicators further. LGBTQ+ learners can be targeted by their peers. In some cases, children who are perceived to be LGBTQ+, whether they are or not can be just as vulnerable to abuse as LGBTQ+ children.

The Academy's response to boy on boy and girl on girl sexual violence and sexual harassment will be equally as robust as it is for incidents between learners of the opposite sex. Learners are made aware of how to raise concerns or make a report and how any report may be handled. This includes the process of reporting concerns about friends or peers.

Support available if a learner has been harmed, is in immediate danger or at risk of harm

- A referral will be made to the CSC
- Within one working day, a social worker will respond to the referrer to explain what action will be taken
- The Academy will follow up the action required

Support available if Early Help, Section 17 and or Section 47 statutory assessments are appropriate

- The DSL and DDSLs will support external agencies as required
- In some instances, other Academy staff maybe required to support external agencies

Support available if a crime may have been committed

Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assaults are crimes. Where a report may include such an act the following will occur

- Referral to the CSC, natural progression of making this referral is that police will be notified
- The DSL will liaise closely with the local police presence as well as social care

Support available if reports include online behaviour

The Academy recognises that there is a potential for an online incident to extend further than the local community and for a victim, or the alleged perpetrator, to become marginalised and to be excluded both online and offline. There is also strong potential for repeat victimisation if the content continues to exist. Online concerns can be especially complicated, therefore:

- If the incident involves sexual images or videos held online, the Internet Watch Foundation (<https://www.iwf.org.uk/>) will be consulted to have the material removed.
- Staff will not view or forward illegal images of a child. If they are made aware of such an image, they will contact the DSL.

Managing Disclosures

Victims at the Academy will always be taken seriously, reassured, supported and kept safe. Victims will never be made to feel that they are causing a problem or made to feel ashamed.

If a friend of a victim makes a report, or a member of staff overhears a conversation, staff will take action. They must never assume that someone else will deal with it. The basic principles remain the same as when a victim reports an incident; however, staff need to consider why the victim has not chosen to make a report themselves and the discussion will be handled sensitively and with the help of the CSC where necessary. The DSL must be contacted.

Where an alleged incident took place away from the school or online but involved learners from the school, the school's duty to safeguard learners remains the same.

All staff will be trained to handle disclosures. Effective safeguarding practice includes:

- Never promising confidentiality at the initial stage.
- Only sharing the report with those necessary for its progression.
- Explaining to the victim what the next steps will be and who the report will be passed to.
- Recognising that the person the learner chose to disclose the information to is in a position of trust.
- Being clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed.
- Not asking leading questions and only prompting the learner with open questions.
- Waiting until the end of the disclosure to immediately write a thorough summary. If notes must be taken during the disclosure, it is important to remain engaged and not appear distracted.
- Only recording the facts as the learner presents them – not the opinions of the note taker.

- Where the report includes an online element, being aware of searching, screening and confiscation advice and [UKCCIS sexting advice](#).
- Wherever possible, managing disclosures with two staff members present (preferably with the DSL or a deputy as one of the staff members).
- Informing the DSL or deputy as soon as possible after the disclosure if they could not be involved in the disclosure.

The DSL will be informed of any allegations of abuse against learners with SEND. They will record the incident in writing and, working with the SENCO, decide what course of action is necessary, with the best interests of the learner in mind always.

Dealing with issues of images and videos being shared (Sexting)

Learners who are involved in a sexting incident might have:

- shared an image of themselves,
- received an image from someone else, and
- shared an image of someone else more widely.

This may have happened with or without consent of all the people involved. Learners may also have been coerced or pressured into giving consent. Sometimes a learner might tell a member of staff at the academy directly that they have been involved in sexting, or they might mention something which gives someone cause for concern. Other times members of staff might notice that a learner is behaving differently or is being bullied, and the sexting might become known when the member of staff tries to find out what is going on. Where members of staff have serious concerns regarding sexting, they must take immediate action and not wait for the learner to disclose that he/she has been involved in sexting. Staff must notify the DSL immediately if any concerns are raised regarding sexting.

The Academy will use the following procedures to gather information if sexting has occurred. The DSL or Deputy DSLs, in conjunction with the Heads of Year, will take the lead on responding to incidents of sexting. They will liaise with agencies such as the police or children's social care as appropriate.

The DSL or Deputy DSLs, in conjunction with the Heads of Year, will talk to the learner involved, to find out what has happened, how he/she is feeling and what support he/she needs. They should try to find out:

- if it is an image, video, or message
- who sent it
- who is featured in it
- if there were any adults involved
- if it is on an organisational or personal device.

Safeguarding and child protection will remain the main concern of any investigation into a sexting incident and all efforts will be made to ensure that criminalising young people unnecessarily (College of Policing, 2016) is avoided. If sexting is reported to the police, they will make a record but may decide not to take any formal action against the young person.

The Academy will endeavour to follow the following procedures regarding a sexting image:

- Academy staff must not view any sexting images in line with best practice. If the image is on a school device, the Academy's e-Safety Officer and/or the IT team will be contacted in order to isolate it so that the sexting image(s) are no longer available for viewing. This may involve temporarily blocking the network to all users.
- The Academy staff must never copy, print or share sexual images of a child or young person (Childnet, 2016; UKCCIS, 2017a and 2017b).
- The DSL, Deputy DSLs, in conjunction with the Heads of Year, may confiscate the device holding the sexting images to pass as evidence to the police if required. Devices will only be searched where it is deemed that the young person is at immediate risk of harm (staff to be made aware of searching, screening and confiscation advice and [UKCCIS sexting advice](#)). This will be undertaken in line with the Department for Education (DfE) guidance for head teachers, staff, and governing bodies in England on [searching electronic devices](#) (DfE, 2018).

The Academy will support the learners as follows:

- Any learners involved in sexting will be offered ongoing support. Parents and carers will be informed, unless it is deemed that doing so might pose a risk to their child.

Private fostering arrangements

A private fostering arrangement occurs when someone other than a parent or a close relative cares for a child for a period of 28 days or more, with the agreement of the child's parents. It applies to children under the age of 16, or aged under 18 if the child is disabled. By law, a parent, private foster carer, or other persons involved in making a private fostering arrangement must notify children's services as soon as possible.

Where a member of staff becomes aware that a learner may be in a private fostering arrangement, they will raise this with the DSL and the Academy should notify the Local Authority of the circumstances.

Looked after children/ Children in Care

The most common reason for children becoming looked after is because of abuse or neglect. The Academy ensures that staff have the necessary skills and understanding to keep looked after children safe. Appropriate staff have information about a child's looked after legal status and care arrangements, including the level of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after the child. At the Academy, the designated teacher for looked after children who is the DSL has details of the child's social worker and the name and contact details of the Local Authority's virtual head for children in care.

Work experience

The Academy has detailed procedures to safeguard learners undertaking work experience, including arrangements for checking people who provide placements and supervise learners on work experience which are in accordance with the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021).

Children staying with host families

The Academy may make arrangements for learners to stay with a host family during a foreign exchange trip or sports tour. Some overseas learners may reside with host families during school terms, and we will work with the Local Authority to check that such arrangements are safe and suitable. In such circumstances the Academy follows the guidance in Annex E of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) to ensure that hosting arrangements are as safe as possible.

Appendix One

Four categories of abuse

Physical abuse

Physical abuse is a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child (this used to be called Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, but is now more usually referred to as fabricated or induced illness).

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual Abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

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

Indicators of abuse

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

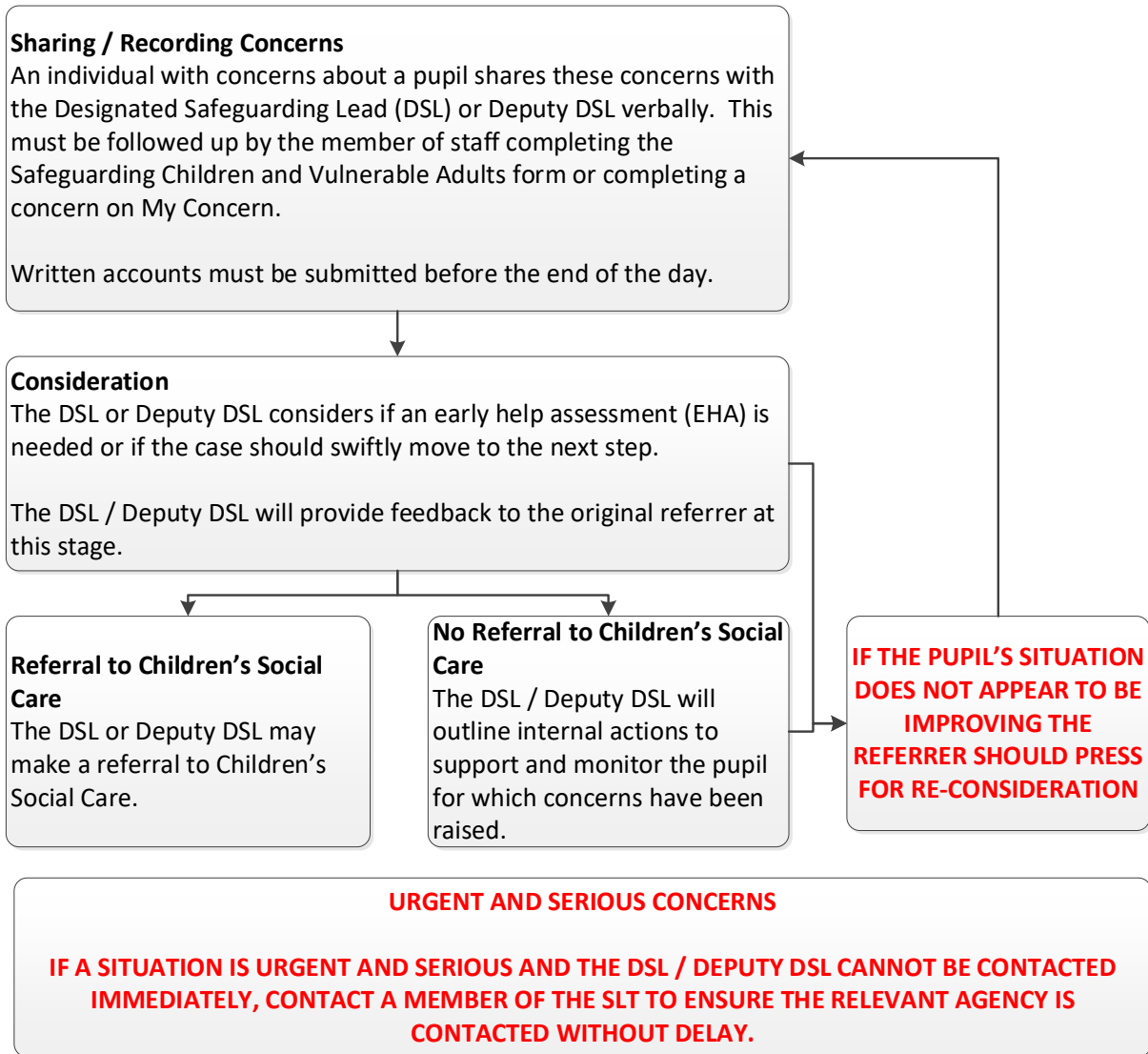
It is the responsibility of staff to report their concerns. It is not their responsibility to investigate or decide whether a child has been abused.

A child who is being abused, neglected or exploited may:

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

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

Appendix Two – Concerns Flowchart



Appendix Three- Early Help Pathway (Lincolnshire)

