ST GEORGE'S ACADEMY

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Named personnel with responsibility for Safeguarding in our Academy

Principal:	Amanda Money
Chair of Governors:	Rebecca Courtaux
Designated Safeguarding Lead Academy:	**Samantha Jerman**
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Academy:	**Nicole Roberts**
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Sleaford:	Tracey Dickinson
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Ruskington:	Mandy Taylor
Senior Vice-Principal SEND	Claire Crawshaw
Senior Vice-Principal Culture and Behaviour	**Jeanette Steward**
Safeguarding Governor:	Sue Harvey
Designated teacher for Looked after Children:	Kim Thompson (Sleaford) Julie Laughtron (Ruskington)
Well-being hub support:	Lauren Franklin/Sonia Harrison/Steph McCabe

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputies (DDSL) have responsibility for ensuring that the safeguarding of children is central to the ethos of our school. They are suitably trained and experienced and carry out the duties of the DSL role as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2026 and summarised in this policy.
When the DSL is not on site, there are clear and robust systems in place to ensure that the role is deputized by another member of the team who is trained to the same level.

This policy is reviewed annually or following national or local safeguarding changes to policy and procedure throughout the academic year. Next Review Date: September 2027

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1. Who does this policy apply to?

This document applies to all young people under 18 at the Academy. Anyone coming into contact with the children in our school or visiting the school site must abide by this policy. Everyone working at the school as a member of staff, or volunteer, has a duty to safeguard and protect our children. They must read this policy and sign to say they agree to work to it. Visitors to the school, including temporary and supply staff and other workers who provide services to the Academy in any capacity including self-employed consultants or contractors who provide services on a personal basis and agency workers, must read our safeguarding statement.

In this policy, the term 'child' or 'children' refers to anyone under the age of 18 years. The term 'parent' refers to both parents and carers.

This policy does not form part of any member of staff's contract of employment and it may be amended at any time.

2. What is the purpose of this policy?

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of everyone within our school in relation to child protection and safeguarding
- Provide information on the range of safeguarding concerns

- Explain the clear procedures that are followed when a child is identified as needing more than universal services can provide

3. Our Commitment to Safeguarding

We aim to work in partnership and have an important role in the inter-agency safeguarding arrangements as set out by Working Together to Safeguard Children and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE). KCSIE applies to all school, colleges and providers who educate children up to the age of 18. Everyone working in, or for our school, shares an objective to help keep children and young people safe by contributing to:

Providing a safe environment for children and young people to learn and develop in our school setting Identify children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both within and outside of our school setting

Creating a whole school approach to safeguarding through a culture of care where children are listened to, and heard, with the knowledge that their concerns and worries will be taken seriously

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all our children. Each child's welfare is of paramount importance. We recognise that some children may be especially vulnerable to abuse e.g. those that are less mobile or have difficulty communicating, and that their needs are unique to them and that no one size fits all. We recognise that children who are abused or neglected may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world in a positive way. We will ensure that no child will feel that what they have to say is a problem or carries any shame. As a school we are committed to putting the child at the heart of any procedures that operate. We recognise that, safeguarding concerns do not adhere to school/home boundaries and that what happens at home and within the wider school environment including on social media, is as relevant as what happens within the classroom. Behaviour may be challenging and we recognise that, at times, this may impact on other children either directly or indirectly. We will always take a considered and sensitive approach in order that we can support all our children.

Safeguarding is at the heart of how we run our school. It is not only about high-level child protection but about how we prevent the need for this. It is considered, for example, in our:

- Anti-bullying Policy
- Child-on-Child Abuse Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Staff Disciplinary Policy
- Attendance Procedures
- Online Safety Policy
- Curriculum Design
- Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Arrangements
- Safer Recruitment Practices

Equality

We recognise our obligations under the Equality Act 2010: advice for schools that we must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, or sexual orientation (protected characteristics). In relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children our governing body will carefully consider how we are supporting our pupils with regard to particular protected characteristics - including disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender questioning and race.

4. Our guidance and training

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Working Together to Safeguard Children

It is important every agency knows what to do if they are worried about a child. We follow the national guidance for schools as set out within the Working Together to Safeguard Children and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 documents so we are clear what to expect and can explain this to our children and their families. Where there are additional risks we will refer to other specific guidance which is listed in Appendix D

Our Governing Body is responsible for ensuring school staff read the appropriate parts of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 depending on their role in school. Staff who have direct contact with students are required to read Part 1 and 5 whilst those with no direct contact will read Part 1. This is the current recommendation within the KCSIE document. We will follow this guidance and the DSL will review regularly to ensure that staff are appropriately informed.

In our school relevant staff follow a six-year training pathway which ensures that our safeguard team receive suitable training to undertake their role. To guide us we follow the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP) pathway and guidance and access the expertise from the partnership.

Full staff training also takes place via mandatory online training, bulletins and training days to ensure we keep abreast with initiatives.

The DSL (and any deputies) will undergo additional specific training at least every two years to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. If we recruit a new DSL or Deputy, we will ensure they are fully trained and undertake the Safeguarding Essentials course provided by the local authority.

In addition to the formal training, the knowledge and skills of the DSL (and any deputies) will be refreshed at regular intervals to allow them to understand and keep up to date with any developments relevant to their role. This will be done by attending the termly local authority DSL Safeguarding Updates, of which we attend a minimum of 3 per year, accessing DSL drop-in sessions and by attending appropriate LSCP inter-agency training and other relevant training and/or conference opportunities.

The School will ensure that, when recruiting staff, all interview panels have at least one member trained in Safer Recruitment.

The DSL will ensure all Governors are given appropriate safeguarding training.

5. Whistleblowing and Professional Resolution and Escalation

Anyone worried about a child must continue to raise the concern until they have a reason not to be worried about the child anymore

It is essential that our school expect good practice and professional conduct from ourselves, and others involved in the safeguarding of our children. Staff must be committed to providing a high standard of service and children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so.

All staff are aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues.

In the event that an individual is concerned about a decision or practice involving a child or young person they should raise the concern immediately with the Principal/ DSL.

Staff will follow the procedures for reporting low level concerns in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy and raise with the Principal/ DSL and involve the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO if required. If a member of staff notices anything that gives them cause for concern including and "nagging doubt", it is vital that this is raised. Acting upon staff concerns is fundamental to ensuring good practice and support for staff. Resolving issues must be viewed by all staff as a positive action and not a breach of trust between colleagues or an attack on the school. We value an atmosphere of openness and honesty and welcome suggestions, complaints and criticisms in addition to compliments.

Our staff are encouraged to use the procedures set out in the Academy Whistleblowing policy as appropriate to raise or pass on concerns about any of the following:

- Poor standards of service
- Issues of bad practice
- The conduct of colleagues or managers
- Anything which is not in the best interest of the children or the school
  Anything which is illegal or unacceptable behaviour

We will always listen to any concerns and try to resolve them but should staff, volunteers or contractors feel unable to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally or have concerns about the way a concern is being handled in the school, they can use the NSPCC helpline Whistleblowing Advice Line | NSPCC or call 0800 028 0285 - line is available from 8am-8pm, Mon-Fri or email: help@nspcc.org.uk

6. Child Protection Procedures

All staff follow the school's Child Protection Procedures which are consistent with:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Keeping Children Safe in Education and
- the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Policy and Procedures Manual.

Teachers and other adults in school are well placed to observe any physical, emotional or behavioural signs which indicate that a child may be suffering significant harm. For definitions of abuse, please refer to Appendix A.

The relationships between staff, children, parents and the public which foster respect, confidence and trust can lead to disclosures of abuse, and/or school staff being alerted to concerns.

All staff will have an awareness of and receive training on specific safeguarding issues, as referred to in Appendix B. Domestic Abuse, Child Exploitation (CE), Radicalisation and the Prevent Duty, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Attendance and Children

Missing from Education (CME) and Contextual Safeguarding are some of these areas.
All staff will also be aware that safeguarding concerns can manifest themselves via child-on-child abuse. This is most likely to include, but is not limited to: bullying (including cyber bullying), gender-based violence/sexual assaults and the making and sharing of nude/semi- nude images. Staff are clear as to the school's procedures with regards to child-on-child abuse.

It is *not* the responsibility of the school staff to investigate welfare concerns or determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation. All members of staff however, have a duty to recognise concerns and maintain an open mind. Accordingly, all concerns regarding the welfare of children will be recorded and discussed with the DSL (or the deputy DSL in their absence) prior to any discussion with parents. DSLs and deputy DSLs will need to consider whether informing parents poses further risk to the child's emotional, physical or mental wellbeing, in line with the guidance published in KCSIE 2026

7. Concerns that staff must act on immediately and report

Concerns that staff must act on immediately and report include:

- Any suspicion that a child is injured, marked, or bruised in a way which is not readily attributable to the expected knocks or scrapes received in play
- Any explanation given to the above which appears inconsistent or suspicious
- Any behaviours which give rise to suspicions that a child may have suffered harm (e.g. worrying drawings or play)
- Any concerns that a child may be suffering from inadequate care, ill treatment, or emotional maltreatment
- Any concerns that a child is presenting signs or symptoms of abuse or neglect
- Any significant changes in a child's presentation, including non-attendance
- Any hint or disclosure of abuse from any person
- Any concerns regarding person(s) who may pose a risk to children (e.g. living in a household with children present)
- Any potential indicators of Child Exploitation
- Any potential indicators of FGM
- Any potential indicators of Radicalisation
- Any potential indicators of living in a household with Domestic Abuse

8. Responding to disclosures

Staff will not investigate nor ask any leading questions but will, wherever possible, elicit enough information to pass on to the DSL (or designated deputy) in order that she can make an informed decision of what to do next. Any disclosure will immediately be shared with the DSL (or designated deputy), this is irrespective of the level of information received/ obtained. Involvement of DSL/DDSL should be as soon as possible.

The DSL (or designated deputy) will ensure that the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. Child Protection processes will operate with the best interests of the child at their core.

Staff will (Appendix A):

- Listen to and take seriously any disclosure or information that a child may be at risk of harm
- Try to ensure (wherever possible) that the person disclosing does not have to speak to another member of school staff
- Clarify the information
- Try to keep questions to a minimum and of an 'open' nature e.g. using TED technique - 'Tell me, Explain to me,

Describe to me '

- Try not to show signs of shock, horror or surprise
- Try not to express feelings or judgements regarding any person alleged to have harmed the child
- Explain sensitively to the person that they have a responsibility to refer the information to the DSL, children need to know that staff may not be able to uphold confidentiality where there are concerns about their safety or someone else's
- Reassure and support the child as far as possible Explain that only those who 'need to know' will be told
- Explain what will happen next and who will be involved as appropriate
- Record in writing details including date, what the child has said, in the child's words on to the school's safeguarding recording system BROMCOM and ensure that the DSL is made aware immediately. Bromcom is used as a way to ensure referrals are instantly logged but big concerns are reported verbally. This should be done in person. Any written records should be shared with the DSL as soon as practicable and where possible by the end of the same day. Referrals to the DSL should not be sent by email or left on an answer machine
- Record any visible signs, injuries or bruises on a Body Map (see Appendix C)
- Record the context and content of their involvement, clearly distinguishing between fact, opinion and hearsay
- Not contact parents without first seeking the advice of the DSL (or an appropriate deputy in the absence of the DSL)

Action by the DSL (or deputy DSL in their absence):

Following any information raising concern, the designated safeguarding lead will consider:

- Any urgent medical needs of the child
- Whether the child is subject to a child protection plan
- Discussing the matter with other agencies involved with the child/family
- Consulting with appropriate persons e.g. Duty and Advice Team
- The child's wishes

Then decide:

- To talk to parents, unless to do so may place a child at risk of significant harm, impede any police investigation and/or place the member of staff or others at risk
- Whether to make a child protection referral to Children's Social Care-Duty and Advice Team because a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm and if this needs to be undertaken immediately

OR

- Not to make a referral at this stage
- If further monitoring is necessary
- If it would be appropriate to undertake an assessment (e.g. Early Help Assessment - EHA)

All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented. All referrals to Lincolnshire's Customer Service Centre will be followed up in writing and these referrals will always be kept on file irrespective of the outcome.

Action following a child protection referral:

The DSL (or deputy DSL in their absence) will:

- Make regular contact with the social worker involved to stay informed
- Wherever possible, contribute to the strategy discussion
- Provide a report for, attend and contribute to any subsequent child protection conference

  If the child or children are made the subject of a child protection plan, contribute to the child protection plan and attend core group meetings and review conferences

Where possible, share all reports with parents prior to meetings and ensure that they understand the content Where in disagreement with a decision and concerns remain with the child firstly:

- Talk in the first instance to the social worker/customer service centre
- Check the referral including all the relevant information and clearly document the concerns about the child

Where a child subject to a child protection plan moves from the school or goes missing, immediately inform the social worker and/or Children's Social Care Customer Service Centre

9. Recording and monitoring

Accurate records will be made as soon as practicable and will clearly distinguish between observation, fact, opinion and hypothesis.

All records will:

- State who is providing the information
- State the date and time
- Record information in the child's words where possible
- Where possible note the location and description of any injuries seen. Photographs of injuries will not be taken

If a paper record is taken, this should be signed. Safeguarding logs are completed by staff onto BROMCOM. An example of how this is done can be found in Appendix C.

The DSL ensures that the method for other members of staff or volunteers passing on concerns or information is always adhered to as consistency is paramount in ensuring that nothing gets missed. All records of concerns are followed up and clearly show what action is being taken as a result of the concern and the outcomes of this action.

All documents will be retained in a 'Child Protection file', separate from the child's school file. It is kept secure with appropriate level of limited access.

10. Supporting the child and partnership with parents

Our school recognises that the child's welfare is paramount and that good child protection and safeguarding practice and outcomes rely on a positive, open and honest working partnership with parents.

Whilst we may, on a rare occasion, need to make referrals without consultation with parents, we will make every effort to maintain a positive working relationship with them whilst fulfilling our duties to protect any child.

We will also provide a secure, caring, supportive and protective relationship for the child. Children will be given a proper explanation (appropriate to age and understanding) of what action is being taken on their behalf and why.

We will endeavour always to preserve the privacy, dignity and right to confidentiality of the child and parents. The DSL will determine which members of staff need to know personal information and what they need to know for the purpose of supporting and protecting the child.

11.Child information

To keep children safe and provide appropriate care for them, we require accurate and up to date information about:

- Names, contact details and relationship to the child of any persons with whom the child normally lives

- Names and contact details of all persons with parental responsibility (if different from above)
- Emergency contact details (if different from above). We need to know that if the person(s) with parental responsibility is unable to collect their child, there is someone known to us who can collect the child and keep them safe until either the person(s) with parental responsibility is available or a more suitable arrangement is made. We need more than one emergency contact so we have additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when there is a welfare and/or safeguarding concern
- Any relevant court order in place including those which affect any person's access to the child (e.g. Residence Order, Contact Order, Care Order, Injunctions etc.)
- If the child is or has been subject to a Child Protection Plan
- If the child is or has been subject to an Early Help Assessment (EHA) or Child In Need (CIN) processes
- If the child is a Child In Care or a child previously in care
- Name and contact details of the child's GP
- Any other factors which may impact on the safety and welfare of the child

The school will collate, store and agree access to this information, ensuring all information held electronically is stored securely with due regard to meeting data protection and safeguarding requirements. Schools need to make sure this information is accurate. We encourage parents to keep us informed of any changes to the basic contact information that we hold at any time but in addition to this our school will check information for all children at least on an annual basis.

12. Transfer of files and sharing of information

A child protection file is kept separate to a main child record. When a child leaves the school, the child protection file will be transferred to the child's chosen destination. It is transferred separately in a sealed envelope clearly labelled by recorded delivery. A record of transfer is kept and signed by the safeguarding team and the signed and dated receipt of transfer is retained by our school.

This is the information that is added to a record of transfer which we keep until your child reaches their 25th birthday:

- Name & DOB of child
- Name & address of receiving school
- Date file(s) transferred with name and role of person who received it
- Date our school received confirmation of receipt of files from receiving school
- Summary of safeguarding concerns at the time of transfer e.g. Child Protection Plan: Neglect

In addition to the child protection file, the DSL will consider if it is appropriate to share any information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving. This will allow the new school to have support in place for when a child arrives.

The full child record is transferred to the next school unless there are any records with a short retention period. It is important that full information is transferred to ensure a vital piece of information is not missing that could contribute at a later stage.

We do not keep any copies of records except where there is an on-going legal action. Once safeguarding records are transferred, they are the custody and responsibility of the new school.

A child's last school is responsible for retaining the main child record until they reach the age of 25 years. These files are stored securely. Any record relating to child protection concerns is placed on the main child file, in a sealed envelope and then retained for the same period of time as the child file (DOB+ 25 years). After this point the files will be destroyed securely.

Where a setting requests information about a child who has made an application to their school, the DSL will share appropriate information in order to safeguard the applicant and any others who may be affected by the move.

13. Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

It is the responsibility of our Governing Body to ensure that everyone in the setting understands their role in safeguarding children. It is accountable for the strategic overview and to make sure that safeguarding runs through every policy and procedure that operates within the school. The Governing Body will ensure that the safeguarding measures reflect the specific needs of the children in our school and consider any additional risks related to this. They will do this by ensuring that:

- There is a named Safeguarding Governor who is appropriately trained
- A senior member of the school's leadership team is appointed to the role of DSL who will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection
- The school has one or more deputy DSL's who are trained to the same standard as the lead DSL
- The school has an effective Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and procedures in place that are in accordance with local authority guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures
- The policy is available publically via the school website or other means and that the policy is reviewed and updated on an annual basis or sooner if there are national or local changes to procedures or guidance
- Our school staff know who are required to read all or parts of the Department for Education statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 and that this is recorded for evidence and reviewed regularly
- The school has a staff disciplinary policy/code of conduct and that this is provided to all staff and volunteers on induction. These documents include acceptable use of technology, staff/pupil relationships and communications including the use of social media
- The school operates safer recruitment procedures and makes sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on staff and volunteers who work with children; and that any panel involved in the recruitment of staff has at least one member who has undertaken the Safer Recruitment Training
- The school has procedures for dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers that comply with guidance from the local authority and locally agreed inter-agency procedures
- The school has procedures for dealing with low level concerns in relation to staff behaviour and that there is a culture of openness in reporting and dealing with these concerns and a process of escalation if any allegation reaches or contributes to a risk of harm to children
- Online safety policy and procedures are in place and training and support is provided for staff and children to ensure that there is a good understanding of child protection issues related to electronic media. Parental engagement is also considered as part of this.
- The school has appropriate electronic filtering and monitoring systems in place to ensure that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material; whilst recognising that "over blocking" should not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught.
- Children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety as part of providing a broad and balanced

curriculum. This may include covering relevant issues through Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education, and/or where delivered, through Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education

- Staff, including the Principal, undertake appropriate safeguarding training and that there is a training plan that reflects the national, local and school requirements
- They remedy, without delay, any deficiencies or weaknesses regarding child protection arrangements and reflect on incidents, or near misses, to consider lessons learnt

- The chair is nominated to be responsible for liaising with the LA and /or partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Principal.
- Where services or activities are provided on the school premises by another body, the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place regarding safeguarding children and child protection and that they are reviewed annually. There should be arrangements in place to liaise with the school about safeguarding matters where appropriate and inspections should take place if required. Any transfer of control or lease or hire arrangements will include safeguarding arrangements. Failure to comply with these arrangements will result in termination of the agreement. (see section below on using school premises)
- The school appoints an appropriately trained designated teacher with responsibility for "promoting the educational achievement of children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales" in addition to Children In Care.

The Principal will ensure that:

- The policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body are fully implemented, and followed by all staff
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the DSL and other staff to discharge their responsibilities including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings and contributing to the assessments of children
- There are arrangements in place for safeguarding supervision for the DSL and the deputy DSL's
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice regarding children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle blowing policies
- The DSL is supported in providing a contact for the school to provide a report and attend Initial Child Protection Case Conferences, Reviews and Children in Care Reviews
- Allegations regarding staff or any other adults in the school are referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), as set out in the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
- Low level concerns in relation to staff behaviour are dealt with through disciplinary policy and a culture of openness and transparency is developed
- Individuals are referred to the Disclosure and Barring Service or/and the Secretary of State via the Teaching Regulation Agency where a person is dismissed or has left due to a safeguarding concern or serious misconduct

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputies as stated in KCSIE (2026)

The DSL takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection including on-line safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place.

A DSL or DDSL will always be available during school hours for staff in the school to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

Arrangements will be made for appropriate cover for any out of hours/out of term activities.

Their role will include ensuring that the school, and staff, know who their vulnerable or potentially vulnerable children are, understand their additional needs, academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort by supporting teaching staff to identify the challenges that children in this group might face and the additional support and adjustments, both pastoral and academic that could be made to best support them.

As part of their role, the DSL and deputies will:

Manage referrals by:

- Referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care (Customer Service Centre) Supporting staff who make referrals to Customer Service Centre
- Seeking advice from Prevent Team regarding radicalisation concerns & refer cases to the Channel programme when necessary
- Supporting teachers to report any cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as outlined in the duty
- Supporting the Head to refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required
- Referring cases to the Police where a crime may have been committed

Work with others by:

- Liaising with the Principal to inform them of issues especially on-going enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations
- As required, liaising with the "case manager" (as per Part four of KCSIE) and the designated officer (LADO) for child protection concerns (all cases which concern a staff member or volunteer)
- Liaising with staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies
- Acting as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff
- Liaising with mental health team or lead where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health
- Helping promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children, including children with a social worker, are experiencing, or have experienced, with teachers and school and college leadership staff

Undertake training

The DSL (and any deputies) will undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. In Lincolnshire we have a 6-year Safeguarding Training Plan and the DSL will undertake training around their specific role at least every two years. New DSL's or Deputies will need to be familiar with the content of the LSCP's procedures manual and to keep up to date with bi-annual updates.

The DSL and/or deputies will attend the LCC DSL Safeguarding Updates and/or drop-ins, LCC support forums and appropriate LSCP inter-agency training to ensure that they are sufficiently trained and informed to:

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as early help assessments
- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child

protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so

- Ensure each member of staff, especially new and part-time staff, has access to and understands the school's
- child protection policy and procedures
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
- Be able to understand the unique risks associated with online safety and keep up to date with knowledge to keep children safe whilst they are online at school
- Understand the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have on children's behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, and know what is needed in responding to this in promoting educational outcomes
- Understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners
- Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals
- Understand and support the school with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and can provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalization
- Maintain access to resources and receive information about additional relevant course

Raise Awareness by:

- Ensuring the school's child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures are known, understood and used appropriately
- Ensuring the school's child protection and safeguarding policy is reviewed at least annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly
- Working with the Governing body in particular, the Safeguarding Governor
- Ensure all Academy staff, governors and volunteers are given the appropriate safeguarding training. Through safeguarding awareness the DSL will signpost to staff those young people who are vulnerable to abuse and radicalisation
- Ensuring that the latest version of the child protection and safeguarding policy is available publicly and parents know that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school in this
- Linking with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding

All staff and volunteers will:

- Read and sign to say that they understand and will fully comply with the school's policies and procedures relating to safeguarding and child protection. This will be completed at induction and thereafter on an annual basis
- Read the appropriate parts of Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept 2026) in accordance with the Governors direction and sign to say that they have read and understood them
- Identify concerns and inform the DSL as early as possible to prevent concerns from escalating and identify children who may need extra help or who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm
- Report any concerns about the safety or potential abuse of a child to the DSL (or Deputy DSL) **immediately.** This should be done in person. There must always be a written record to accompany or follow this
- Ensure there is a culture of listening to children and always considering their thoughts and wishes
- Recognising the difficulties that some children have in approaching and sharing concerns with adults, putting in place measures to build relationships
- Complete online and face to face safeguarding training on commencement in post as part of their induction.

Where applicable this will include Safer Recruitment training

- Complete online refresher safeguarding training every three years and attend annual whole school safeguarding training/ briefings and other appropriate training identified as and when required
- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- Be aware that they may be asked to support a Social Worker to make decisions about individual children Inform the Principal and DSL of any safeguarding concerns regarding an adult within school at the earliest opportunity
- Inform the Chair of Governors of any concerns regarding the Principal at the earliest opportunity
- Inform the Principal and DSL of any behaviour of staff that is deemed as low level concerns (see section on Allegations against staff)
- Act on the concern and make the referral themselves if they feel the concern is not being taken seriously
- Make a direct and immediate referral to children's social care and/or the police if they are concerned that a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of immediate harm. Lincolnshire Customer Service Centre (Children's Services) - 01522 782111 (or 'Out of Hours' number - 01522 782333). Where referrals are not made by the DSL (a Deputy DSL), the DSL should be informed as soon as possible that a referral has been made.

14. Child Abuse, Neglect and Specific Safeguarding Situations

Abuse or neglect of a child can happen by someone inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Young people may be abused in a family, an institutional or community setting by those known to them or by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. Sometimes they tell us about abuse, sometimes they don't.

Abuse is categorised in Working Together to Safeguard **Children** into four areas Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Physical Abuse and Neglect. Further information can be found in Appendix A.

Children also face risks within several safeguarding situations, these are detailed in Appendix B.
In our school, we ensure that staff training focuses on the situations that are relevant to our children in our school environment, recognising also that children are part of a wider community and that a 'it may happen here' culture allows early intervention. We also ensure that children themselves develop skills in recognising risks and keeping themselves and others safe within these situations.

15. Child on Child Sexual Violence and Harassment

We will create a culture where sexual harassment including online sexual abuse is not tolerated. We will ensure this is a whole school approach assuming that sexual abuse is, to some extent, happening in our school. This will allow us to identify issues and intervene early to better protect our children. Further specific details of this type of abuse can be found in Appendix B.

This is also referred to in our child-on-child abuse policy which can be found on the Academy website.

16. Safer Recruitment

Safer recruitment ensures that every new member of staff understands their duties to safeguard young people from the outset starting from the advertisement, through the interview, to their induction, and start at the school. It is

essential that no one gets to work with children who cannot keep them safe.

At least one member of the recruitment panel, including appointment of volunteers and contracted services, will have received safer recruitment training in the last 3 years.

We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works in the school who is likely to be perceived by the children as a safe and trustworthy adult including e.g. volunteers and staff employed by contractors.

For information on recruitment of staff and Safer Recruitment practices employed by the Academy, please refer to the Academy Recruitment and Selection and Disclosure and Barring Service and Vetting Policies.

The school maintains a Single Central Record (SCR), which is a statutory document that holds relevant information including safer recruitment checks on:

- all staff (including agency and third-party supply staff, and teacher trainees on salaried routes) who work at the school, even if they work for one day; and

The information that must be recorded in respect of all staff members mentioned above is whether the following checks have been carried out or certificates obtained, **and** the date on which each check was completed/certificate obtained:

- An identity check
- A standalone barred list check (where applicable)
- An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (with children's barred list check) A prohibition from teaching check (where applicable to the role)
- A section 128 check (for management positions as set out in paragraph 99 for independent schools, including free schools and academies) and governors in maintained schools
- Further checks on people who have lived or worked outside the UK: this would include criminal record checks for overseas applicants and where applicable, obtaining a letter (via the applicant) from the professional regulating authority in the country (or countries) in which the applicant has worked confirming that they are not aware of any reason why they may be unsuitable to teach
- A check of professional qualifications where required; and
- A check to establish the person's right to work in the United Kingdom

Governors

All governors/Trustees/proprietors are required to have an enhanced check (with a check of the barred list if in regulated activity e.g. they accompany an overnight visit). The Secretary of State also undertakes these checks in respect of the Chair of Governors. In addition, all governors will be required to present evidence of their ID and Right to Work in the UK.

Supply teachers and agency staff

We obtain information in writing from our supply staff agencies that relevant checks have been carried out on the supply staff and that appropriate certificates have been obtained. We also seek confirmation that an enhanced DBS check certificate has been provided and the date that confirmation was received. Individuals will also be asked to present their original DBS certificate and ID to the Reception staff on their first day with the Academy. All dates will be recorded on the SCR and removed once the assignment has come to an end
Where an agency has obtained an enhanced DBS certificate which has disclosed any matter of information, the

Academy must see a copy of the certificate before the individual commences an assignment with the Academy in order for an appropriate risk assessment to be completed and a decision made as to whether it is appropriate for the individual to work with the Academy

Where appropriate, we will recognise the safer recruitment process within an organisation as proof that all staff who work for the organisation have been recruited safely e.g., for Lincolnshire County Council staff and other partner organisations that have been assessed by the LSCP as being section 11 compliant

If at any point we are concerned about whether safer recruitment procedures have been implemented to employ a member of staff who is intending to work in our school, we will immediately contact the organisation to check. We will also feedback any concerns we have about the staff and expect the agency to action this

Volunteers

- Volunteers play an important role in our school and we value the work they do. We will ensure that appropriate checks will be carried out and recorded and that no volunteer will be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity with a child without checks

If required, we will carry out a risk assessment based on the nature of the work with children, what we know about the volunteer, whether the volunteer has other employment or volunteering where referees can be acquired and if the role is eligible for a DBS check and at what level.

17. Use of school premises

We will ensure that adequate checks are carried out when the school premises are used by others not employed by the school. We will (where considered appropriate):

- Seek assurance that the provider concerned has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place (including inspecting these as needed);
- Ensure that there are arrangements in place for the provider to liaise with the school or college on these matters where appropriate. This applies regardless of whether or not the children who attend any of these services or activities are children on the school roll.
- Ensure that safeguarding requirements are included in any transfer of control agreement (i.e. lease or hire agreement), as a condition of use and occupation of the premises; and that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement. The Academy will also follow the guidance on Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings, when considering and setting out the safeguarding arrangements and expectations these providers should have in place
- With the person's consent, apply for a DBS using the online system
- Check for any updates to the DBS every 3-6 months
- Check if the person involved is with a regulated body and if so, contact the body to see if there are any concerns
- Ask the person involved for names of other schools that they have worked in and contact these schools to see if any concerns have been raised

18. Home-stays {Exchange Visits)

Where children from overseas are staying with UK parents as part of an exchange organised by the school, those parents will be deemed to be in 'Regulated Activity' for the duration of the stay and as such will be required to submit an enhanced DBS check including barring check. As a volunteer, all checks will be processed free of charge by the DBS. Where additional people in the host family are aged over 16 (i.e. elder siblings) the school will consider on a case by case risk assessment basis whether such checks are necessary

If the stay is more than 28 days we will consider if the child is being privately fostered and report to the Local Authority as

per guidance in Appendix B.

19. Safe working practice

Parents need to be confident that the environment they send their children to daily is safe and secure. Children also need to know that school is a protective environment where their health and wellbeing is a priority.

Following the Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those Adults who work with children and young people all staff in our school:

- Are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions
- Work in an open and transparent way
- Work with other colleagues, where possible, in situations open to question
- Discuss and/or take advice from school management over any incident which may give rise to concern; Record any incidents or decisions made
- Apply the same professional standards regardless of gender, sexuality or disability Comply and are aware of the confidentiality policy
- Are aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in criminal or disciplinary action being taken against them

If our staff have any concerns about the conduct of another member of staff they will report these to the Principal and DSL. If staff members have concerns about the head teacher, these will be reported to the chair of governors. The Head teacher/Chair of Governors will then consider if the concerns need to be reported to the LADO. Where the Head teacher/principal is the proprietor then the concern should be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

20. Risk Assessments

We will carry out risk assessments to help us promote safety in our school. They can be carried out for all aspects of school work including use of equipment, off site activities, transport as well as for individual or groups of children. An action plan will be produced out of the assessment to help us manage any of the risks identified.

We also use individual risk assessments when deciding a response to a child demonstrating potentially harmful behaviour such as sexually harmful behaviour or when identifying whether a child may be particularly vulnerable, such as a child at risk of sexual exploitation.

21. Teaching about Safeguarding

All children in our school are regularly reminded that they can approach any member of staff if they have a concern. The school is committed to ensuring that children are aware of behaviour towards them that is not acceptable and how they can keep themselves safe. All children know that we have a senior member of staff (DSL) with responsibility for child protection and safeguarding and know who this is. We inform children of whom they might talk to, both in and out of school, their right to be listened to and heard and what steps can be taken to protect them from harm. We use a wide range of organisations and resources as part of our PSHE and Relationships Education to help children learn

how to keep safe. Our learning journey's include cross-curricular links throughout the curriculum.

We recognise that some children may find it difficult to talk about abuse that is happening within the school especially sexual abuse and harassment. We will ensure all children feel confident that their concerns will be taken seriously and any disclosure will not be judged or seen to be minor. We will not wait until incidents occur but will be proactive in ensuring our children understand behaviours that are unacceptable and feel confident to report and be part of the solution to eradicate the behaviour within the school.

22. Partnership with Parents

The school shares a purpose with parents to educate and keep children safe from harm.

If you are visiting our school and you are worried about the safety of a child, you need to do something about it:

- If the child is in immediate danger, make sure the child is safe, inform a member of staff and if necessary call the Police on 999 or Lincolnshire Customer Services on 01522 782111
- If you are worried about the behaviour in the school, talk to the SPM or DSL or the Principal
- If you have other worries, talk to your child's form tutor or SPM who will share these with the DSL/Principal • We will contact you as soon as possible but at least by the next school day to inform you of any actions taken. We may not be able to give you details if it is concerning another child/family but we will assure you that your concerns have been heard and dealt with
  If you do not hear from us, then speak to the Principal

We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission or it is necessary to do so in order to protect a child. We make safeguarding information available in a variety of formats, e.g. for families with English as an additional language (EAL) etc.23. Partnerships with others

It is essential that we establish positive and effective working relationships with other agencies who are partners in Lincolnshire's Safeguarding Children Partnership in order for us to effectively safeguarding our children. We have a joint responsibility to share information when it will help a child/children to stay safe. Key partners include Lincolnshire County Council, Police and Health but we also engage with a wide network of local and national organisations in our mission to protect the children in our school.

23. Children placed in Alternative Provision

Some of our children may be placed in alternative provision for a period of time. In order to fulfil our duty to keep all our children safe, we will seek written reassurance from the provider that they have acceptable safeguarding practices in place including; their response to concerns about a child, safer recruitment processes, attendance and child missing education procedures, appropriate information sharing procedures and an educational safeguarding programme for children. The Academy will also obtain a written statement from the provider that they have completed all the vetting and barring checks that are necessary on their staff.

When organising work placements the school will ensure that the placement provider has policies and procedures in place to safeguard children.

24. Allegations regarding Person(s) Working in or on behalf of School (including Volunteers)

As per the guidance in section 4 of KSCIE 2026, our school recognises two levels of concerns:

- Allegations that **may** meet the harms threshold - further details outlined in our Allegations of Abuse Against Staff policy
- Allegation/concerns that do not meet the harms threshold referred to as 'low level concerns'. Our staff Code of Conduct and Staff Disciplinary policy outline our expectations of staff and how they should behave. Further details on the process to be followed are also outlined in Annex A of the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff policy

Any concerns may impact on a staff member's employment, therefore we also refer to the LCC School Employment Manual.

Allegations that meet the harms threshold:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child and/ or
  Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/ or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children and/ or
  Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children. This is to take account of situations where a person's behaviour outside school may suggest 'transferable risk'. For example, where a member of staff or volunteer is involved in an incident outside of school which did not involve children but could have an impact on their suitability to work with children'

We will apply the same principles as in the rest of this document and we will always follow the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures that can be accessed at Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Policy and Procedures Manual.

The Principal will be the case manager who will take the lead in any investigation with support from the DSL. If the Principal is the subject of the allegation, then the chair of governors will manage the case. If there is any doubt as to the procedure to follow, we will contact the Lincolnshire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO} for advice.

The priority in any allegation is the safety of the child. The DSL will follow normal safeguarding procedures if there is risk of harm to a child.

Following our procedures, the case manager will undertake basic enquiries to obtain facts being careful not to jeopardise any potential police investigation. All investigations will be carried out by:

- Applying common sense and judgement
- Dealing with the allegation quickly, fairly and consistently
- Providing effective protection for the child, whilst at the same time supporting the person who is subject to the allegation

We will inform the person subject to the allegation when it is right to do so based on advice from LADO and if appropriate Social Care and the Police.

Following the initial investigation and discussions with LADO there may be an outcome of:

- No further action - record of decision and rationale is made as well as decision of information to be shared with the individual

- Further enquiries - following discussion with LADO, these are carried out by a senior member of staff or an independent investigator depending on the nature of the investigation. Please refer to the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff and Staff Disciplinary policies

If the allegation is in relation to a **supply teacher,** the school will seek guidance from the LADO and the agency as to the appropriate actions in relation to employment or deployment of the individual within the school and across other schools. The agency should then fully cooperate with the school in any investigations that need to take place. The allegations management meeting arranged by LADO will take into consideration any previous concerns in relation to the individual.

If the allegation is in relation to a governor, we will follow our local procedures; removing the person from office should the allegation be substantiated.

Suspension is not an automatic response when an allegation is reported. The Principal or where appropriate the Chair of Governors will make a decision on this and review regularly throughout any investigation. The Principal or where appropriate the Chair of Governors will consider all possibilities to avoid suspension including temporary redeployment. Suspension will be implemented if there is cause to suspect a child is at risk of any harm or if the case is so serious that it might be grounds for dismissal. The authority to suspend sits with the Principal/Chair of Governors. However, where a strategy discussion or initial evaluation concludes that there should be enquiries by the Local Authority Children's Social Care Services and/or an investigation by the Police, the LADO should canvass Police and the Local Authority Children's Social Care Services for views about whether the accused member of staff needs to be suspended from contact with children and to inform them of the Academy's consideration of suspension.

We recognise that this process can be very stressful for all involved; the school are committed to provide support as outlined in our Allegations of Abuse Against Staff policy.

Information sharing is crucial in this process. This includes all relevant information about the person subject to the allegation to aid investigations as well as information about the child involved to determine the level of protection required. Our policy outlines conditions related to the confidentiality of this information.

The outcomes from an allegation are:

Substantiated: where there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation;

Malicious: where there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive or cause harm to the person subject of the allegation;

False: where there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation;

Unsubstantiated: where there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence; or,

Unfounded: where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made. This will also be used in circumstances where the allegation related to a misinterpretation of an incident or where the witness was unaware of the circumstances

Following the decision, the case manager, with support from LADO will determine the next actions. If an allegation was found to be malicious, the school must consider whether the person/child who made the allegation is in need of help themselves and whether a referral to customer services is required.

It is important that the following is kept in the personnel file of the member of staff concerned:

- A clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation;
- Details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved; and
- A note of any action taken and decisions reached (and justification for these). A copy of this information will also be given to the member of staff concerned.

Non-recent allegations

If an adult wishes to raise an allegation to the school that they were abused as a child, the adult will be strongly advised to contact the police. Any non-recent allegation made by a child must be reported to the LADO who will follow the local authority procedures for dealing with historic reporting of incidents.

Allegations that do not reach the harm threshold

Our school fosters a culture in which all allegations and concerns about adults are taken seriously and responded to promptly and appropriately. By being open and transparent about addressing 'low level concerns' we can respond early and reduce the escalation of situations and potential risk of harm to children.

Low Level Concerns will be dealt with in accordance with the process set out within Annex A of our Allegations of Abuse against Staff and Disciplinary policies.

A low level concern is defined as behaviour that:

- Is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work and other relevant policies and procedures
- Does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO

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

- Being over friendly with children;
- Having favourites;
- Taking photographs of children on their mobile phone;
- Engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door; or,
  Using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language

Our school will ensure that staff are very clear about what appropriate behaviour is and are confident to share any low level concerns with the Principal/ DSL. All unprofessional behaviour will be addressed at early stage with sensitivity and proportionality. Any weakness in the school safeguarding system that has allowed this behaviour to exist will be addressed.

All low level concerns will be reported to the Principal / DSL who will follow the procedures as set out within the Allegations of Abuse against Staff and Staff Disciplinary policies. Low level concerns will be recorded and kept safe. They will be reviewed regularly to see if there are any emerging patterns in relation to an individual so that a decision can be made as to whether to escalate to an allegation that meets the harm threshold.

Appendix A- Definitions and possible signs of safeguarding abuse and neglect

('Working Together' 2023 and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2026)

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

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
  Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Development means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development;

Health includes physical and mental health; maltreatment includes sexual abuse and other forms of ill-treatment which are not physical.

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children. The following should be taken as accepted definitions of the four types of 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 (Fabricated Induced Illness).

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

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

children.

Neglect 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.

Possible signs of abuse: Many of the following symptoms may occur for reasons other than abuse and inevitably some students who have been abused will not display any of these symptoms. The distinctions between the different aspects of abuse are manifestly not rigid, but they should be useful as a guide.

Possible signs of Neglect:

- Constant hunger
- Student looks extra thin
- Poor personal hygiene (repeatedly unwashed, smelly)
- Constant tiredness
- Poor state of clothing
- Frequent lateness and non-attendance
- Has repeated accidents, especially burns
- Is left alone at home inappropriately
- Untreated medical problems
- Kept away from medicals
- Low self esteem
- Neurotic behaviour
- Poor social relationships (unable to make friends)
- Deterioration in school performance
- Is unusually 'hard' or 'detached' when told off
- Running away/reluctant to go home (particularly at the weekend)
- May appear distressed with no explanation when asked

Possible Signs of Emotional Abuse:

- Domestic violence
- Disclosure of punishment which appears excessive
- Over -reaction to making mistakes or fear of punishment
- Continual self-deprecation
- Sudden speech disorders
- Fear of new situations
- Inappropriate responses to painful situations
- Neurotic behaviour
- Self-harm
- Fear of parents being contacted
- Extremes of passivity or aggression

- Drug or solvent abuse
- Told they are useless, stupid, wicked, unlovable, clumsy, unattractive, weak

Possible Signs of Physical Abuse:

- Unexplained injuries, bites, bruises or burns, particularly if they are recurrent
- Improbable excuses given to explain injuries
- Refusal to discuss the causes of injuries
- History of accidents and bruising
- Injuries getting progressively worse, or occurring in a time pattern (every Monday morning)
- Untreated injuries
- Disclosure of punishment which appears excessive
- 'Grip' marks on arms or 'slap' marks on cheeks, arms, legs
- Long marks which could be from a belt or cane
- Stub marks from a cigarette
- Bruising on both sides of the ear
- Teeth marks
- Withdrawal from physical contact/aggressive behaviour
- Arms and legs kept covered in hot weather (excluding for reasons of cultural dress)
- Fear of returning home
- Fear of medical help
- May appear distressed with no explanation when asked
- Eating disorders
- Self-destructive tendency
- Running away

Possible Signs of Sexual Abuse:

- Sudden change in behaviour
- Displays of affection that are inappropriate
- Alleged promiscuity of sexualised behaviour
- Acting in a sexually provocative way
- Openly masturbating
- Fear of undressing
- Regression to younger behaviour
- May appear unhappy or isolated
- May have aggressive eruptions
- May be reluctant to go home
- Inappropriate internet use and possible grooming concerns
- Genital itching or genital pain
- Distrust of familiar adults
- May be kept away from medicals
- Unexplained gifts
- Depression and withdrawal
- Wetting or soiling
- Sleep disturbance, nightmares, bedwetting
- May present eating disorders (anorexia, bulimia, or excessive 'comfort eating'
- Chronic illness, especially throat infections and sexually transmitted diseases

Appendix B - Definitions and procedures for specific safeguarding situations

In addition to the situations below the LSCP policy and procedures manual maintains an extensive section on **'Children in Specific Circumstances'**- (section 5) that DSL and any deputy DSLs should be familiar with.

Child Exploitation

A child or young person can be groomed or coerced into an exploitative situation. This could be in the form of sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation.

Exploitative relationships are characterised by an imbalance of power. The use of controlling behaviours are used to keep the child or young person in a dependent position.

Criminal Exploitation: County Lines and Cyber Crime

School recognises that criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that can affect children both in a physical and virtual environment. We recognise that experienced of boys and girls being exploited may be very different; appropriate support will be given to address the individual needs of our children.

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. A key indicator to identifying potential involvement in county lines is missing school episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs. School will consider whether a referral to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) should be undertaken in order to safeguard that child and/or other children. First responders' organisations e.g., the local authority can complete the referral, on the school's behalf, online. If school feels that the threshold is not met for an NRM referral then any relevant information will be shared using a Partnership information report (Operation Insignia).

Cybercrime Involvement: Organised criminal groups or individuals exploit children and young people due to their computer skills and ability, to access networks/data for criminal and financial gain.
There are a number of signs that may indicate a child is a victim or there are increasing concerns for a child which include;

- missing from school
- showing signs of other types of abuse/aggression towards others
- having low self-esteem, and feelings of isolation, stress, or fear
- lacking trust in adults and appearing fearful of authorities
- having poor concentration or excessively tired
- becoming anti-social
- displaying symptoms of substance dependence
- excessive time online computer/gaming forums
- social Isolation in school with peers
- high functioning with an interest in computing.

This is not an exhaustive list, and our school are aware of other factors which may also impact on the child. Like with all other safeguarding concerns, if our children are in this situation, support will be provided through the school or partner agency. Further advice and support regarding concerns of this nature can be found in the contact's section. We will follow relevant local policies and procedures found within the LSCP Policies and Procedures Manual.

Modern Slavery

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. (Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation (2017)

School staff are trained in recognising the key indicators of all forms of Child exploitation and understand their role in the prevention and disruption of Child Exploitation including the importance of awareness within the curriculum.

If staff identify children for whom Child Exploitation may be a concern, they will apply the usual referral process and Child Protection procedures and pass this information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will make referrals to LCC Customer Service Centre as appropriate and following local policies and procedures found within the LSCP Policies and Procedures Manual to ensure relevant services are made aware. The school also appreciates that they have a role to play in sharing soft intelligence in relation to people of concern linked to Child Exploitation, and therefore if such information should come to light within school the DSL will share these concerns appropriately through the same local procedures identified within the LSCP Policies and Procedures Manual.

Child on Child Abuse

All staff are aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as child- on-child abuse). This is most likely to include, but not limited to:

- bullying (including online bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- abuse in intimate relationships
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, distress or alarm
- the making and sharing of nude/semi- nude images (the term images refers to all visual content including photographs, videos and livestreams) and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.
- Threats of harm including threats to harm others with a weapon

LGBTQ+ AND Gender Questioning

All staff are trained to be aware of the challenges that students of the LGBTQ+ community may face and support that they may require
Students are educated on the protected characteristics and a zero-tolerance culture is promoted regarding bullying and negative comments
Where these instances occur students will be educated and sanctioned in accordance with the school behaviour policy
Students who are gender questioning will be supported in line with the KCSIE 2026 guidance
Gender questioning students will not be permitted to use any single sex spaces, such as toilets and changing rooms, which do not match their birth gender, in line with KCSIE guidance.
Any student may use the unisex toilets
Gender questioning students will be given access to use the accessible toilets and changing spaces
Students who are gender questioning may take part in PE lessons where the activity is suitable for mixed sex groups.
Where a decision has been made by the PE department, that the activity needs to be taught as a single sex group, as a result of safety concerns or physical capabilities, students will need only be able to participate with the group which matches their birth gender. There are to be no exceptions to this, in line with the KCSIE guidance.
Where this would cause the students distress, alternative activities will be offered, where possible.
School will work with students and families to address any of these issues and create a plan which supports the student whilst still adhering to the guidance.

Children and the court system

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts. There are two age appropriate guides to support children Going to Court 5-11year olds and 12-17 year olds.

Children in care

All staff recognise that Children in care and Children previously in care are more vulnerable than other children, often having poorer educational outcomes. Therefore, it is important to ensure their wellbeing, safety and welfare as well as help them to reach their potential. This includes the child in care who is moving out of care. The school will also ensure that Children previously in care are supported with pathways including liaison with the local authority where a personal advisor will be appointed and that a full working relationship is maintained with the Lincolnshire Virtual School

We have a member of staff who is dedicated to supporting Children in care. This member of staff liaises with the Lincolnshire Virtual School in respect of all children at the school who have 'in care' status. virtualschool@lincolnshire.gov.uk Schools address any queries directly to the child's social worker until they are 17 years 6 months after which they are transferred to Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service.

Children who are absent from Education

Children being absent from education for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may involve sexual abuse or exploitation and child criminal exploitation. 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. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child missing school in the future. It is the school's duty to notify the local authority of any children who are absent from school for a prolonged period of time and/or on repeat occasions and cannot be found at the known place of residence.

Staff will be informed of the schools procedures for CME in the annual safeguarding update, and information will be readily available for all staff at all times.

Children with family members in prison

Schools understand that children with a parent(s) in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. They may require specific services and support. Families and children of people in prison will be seen as families first and school will work to ensure their needs are appropriately met. This will include providing support to ensure the voice of the child is considered when seeking contact with a family member in prison. Further support is available from the National Information Centre of children of offenders NICCO who provide information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

Domestic Abuse and Operation Encompass

The Home Office 2021 definition of domestic violence and abuse now states: Behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is "domestic abuse" if A and Bare each aged 16 or over and are personally connected* to each other, and the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is "abusive" if it consists of any of the following: a) physical or sexual abuse;
b) violent or threatening behaviour;
c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
d) economic abuse;
e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;

It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

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

If staff identify children for whom Domestic Abuse may be a concern, they will apply the usual referral process and Child Protection procedures and pass this information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL can then refer cases where relevant, to Lincolnshire Customer Services. Where domestic abuse notifications are received from the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), this information will be added to a child's chronology and child protection record to ensure that appropriate support can be provided where necessary. A coding system will be in place.

Further guidance is available in the
Domestic abuse resources - Professional resources (lincolnshire.gov.uk) domesticabuse@lincolnshire.gov.uk; https://edanlincs.org.uk/ email: info@edanlincs.org.uk Tel: 01522 510041

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a national police-led initiative to notify schools, when a child or young person has experienced, any domestic abuse. The police officer attending a domestic abuse incident will request to record at the scene the names and school of any children in the household. This will result in an email notification to the DSL and Deputy DSL in our school in readiness for the start of the next school day. This will not be discussed with the parent/carer/other family members. This information sharing will enable us to take any appropriate action we see fit. We will not discuss the domestic abuse notification with the parent. Notifications are intended to provide information about the child in the school the following contact/day so extra support can be given. The information is limited and therefore does not safely allow any such discussion and we could increase the risk by discussing with the child, or parents of the child. We

will however talk to parents about the situation should they wish to raise this with the school.

Staff who receive notifications on the Operation Encompass process will receive training If the DSL is unsure whether our concerns need to be reported to Children's Services, we will contact 01522 782111 and request a consultation with a social worker, which will be arranged for the following working day. If we notify the parents that we wish to discuss the situation with Children's Services, the consultation can be recorded on the child's record and the so worker can review any relevant history beforehand. If we do not notify the parents, a hypothetical consultation will be held and the social worker will only have the information available during the discussion.

Homelessness

Being homeless or at risk of homelessness presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The DSL {and deputy) is aware of contact details and referral routes into the Lincolnshire Housing Authority so they can raise /progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. We refer to the Homeless Reduction Act Factsheets which summarises the new duties that focus on early intervention and encourage those at risk to seek support as soon as possible, before they are facing a homelessness crisis.

'Honour-based' violence (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)

So called 'honour-based violence' {HBV) encompasses incidents or 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 abusive and should be handled and escalated as such. Our staff are alert to the possibility of a child being at risk from HBV, or have already suffered HBV and understand the duty on them to protect the welfare of these children.

Female Genital Mutilation/FGM

Our school understands that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. Staff know that FGM is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.
The reporting of FGM is a mandatory duty for teachers.

Our teachers are aware that Section SB of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 {as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon them (and those employed or engaged to carry out teaching **work)** to report to the police where they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18 years of age. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining children.

We refer to the DfE guidance Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information and LSCP policy Female Genital Mutilation.

Teachers must personally report to the police, cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should still consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve children's social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases. In these cases, teachers will follow usual safeguarding and child protection procedures reporting to DSL.

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is one in which one or both individuals do not consent to the marriage, or where they are unable to consent due to lacking the mental capacity to do so, and where coercion, pressure, or abuse is used. This includes physical, emotional, psychological, financial, or sexual abuse.
Forced marriage is a criminal offence in the UK and is recognised as a form of domestic abuse, child abuse, and a serious violation of human rights. Since February 2023, it is also an offence to cause a child to marry before their 18th birthday, even if coercion is not used.
All staff understand that forced marriage is a safeguarding concern and must be treated as such. Any concerns must be reported immediately using the school's usual referral process and Child Protection procedures and passed on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) without delay.

We refer to the following national statutory guidance and local policy-

Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with Forced marriage and multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced marriage.

LSCP- Forced Marriage

Preventing Radicalisation, The Prevent Duty and Channel

Children are susceptible to extremist ideology and radicalisation. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection and report concerns to the DSL. Under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, our school is aware that we must have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, and that this is known as the Prevent Duty.

In order to fulfil the Prevent Duty, staff have received information/trainingto help them to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and the school is committed to accessing further training to ensure that all staff are up to date and aware of this duty.

If a staff member identifies children for whom this may be a concern they should apply the usual referral process and Child Protection procedures and pass this information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). If the individual is at immediate risk of harm or immediate risk of terrorist related activity then the Police should be contacted on 999. If there is no immediate risk, the DSL will contact the Lincolnshire Prevent team (Lincolnshire Police, Prevent Officer 01522 558304 prevent@lincs.pnn.police.uk or LCC, Prevent Officer 01522 555367 prevent@lincolnshire.gov.uk) to seek further help. The Prevent officer may be able to support the school or may decide that a referral into the Channel process is required. Channel guidance. It may be decided that there are no Prevent related concerns but a referral into Lincolnshire Customer Services is required.

Our School will also incorporate the promotion of fundamental British Values into the Safeguarding Curriculum and/or PSHE in order to help build children's resilience and enable them to challenge extremist views. The school will provide a safe space in which children and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

Radicalisation will also be considered within current Online Safety policies, procedures and curriculum in terms of having suitable filtering and monitoring in place and raising awareness with staff, parents and children about the increased risk of online radicalisation, through the use of the internet, Social Media and Gaming.

We refer to the Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales which contains information for schools. For further local guidance we refer to the Lincolnshire LSCP document, Supporting Children and Young People Vulnerable to Violent Extremism

Child on Child Abuse

All staff are aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer on peer abuse). This is most likely to include, but not limited to:

- Bullying, including cyber bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- Abuse in intimate relationships
- Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, distress or alarm
- The making or sharing of Nudes/semi-nudes; and
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals

Our policy that can be found on the Academy website specifically looks at this behaviour.

Body Shape

Young people come under increasing pressure to conform to so-called ideals by peers, adults, sometimes parents, the mass media, through social media and through their own view of themselves. Research shows more than half of young people worry about the way they look, and this can lead to withdrawal, isolation, emotional and at its extremes serious physical harm. We work assertively to tackle these values, support individuality and teach body confidence at the school and encourage young people to work together to present a positive and healthy view of body shape.

Bullying

Bullying is a form of abuse and can cause serious anxiety and distress leading to poor attendance at school and further safeguarding risks. It comes in many different forms which are detailed in this appendix. All bullying including cyber bullying and prejudice-based bullying must be reported and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. The school will make a child protection referral if required. Staff are fully trained to deal with bullying within the school and support children who are being bullied. Staff recognise the different levels of bullying and the seriousness of racist, homophobic and gender related bullying. We recognise that, whilst those who are bullying may need sanctions put in place, they may also be in need of support and we will engage with appropriate services to address this.

Serious Violence

All staff are aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal network or gangs.

All staff are aware of the associated risks and understand the measures in place to manage these. We refer to the Home Office publication for advice and guidance. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-to-schoolsand-colleges-on-gangs-and-youth-violence and https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Staff are aware of sexual violence and sexual harassment and that children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way. Sexual violence refers to Rape, Assault by Penetration and Sexual Assault as described in the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Sexual harassment means 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline. Staff understand that when we reference sexual harassment we do so in a context of child on child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

Neither is acceptable and will not be tolerated by the school. The school will take all such reports seriously and they will receive the same high standard of care that any other safeguarding concern receives. A multi-agency approach will be undertaken when responding to all such complaints; however the school will always take immediate action to protect children despite the actions of any other agency. These actions may include an immediate risk assessment in respect of the needs of the child victim and will address any risks identified to any child in respect of an alleged perpetrator of sexual violence or sexual harassment to ensure children are protected from harm. Any risk assessment will be fluid and may change to reflect any developments during the management of the case.

All such reports will be managed by the DSL. There are a number of options the school may consider in respect of the management of a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment between children and each case will receive an appropriate bespoke response once all the facts are known. Irrespective of any potential criminal outcome, the school have a duty to safeguard all children and may deal with any such report on a balance of probability basis when considering the outcomes for children involved.

Any report of sexual violence will trigger the school to do a risk assessment to consider:

- The needs of the victim and their support and protection
- Any other potential victims
- The perpetrators and
- All other children, and if appropriate, students and staff if protection is required against the perpetrator

This risk assessment does not replace those assessments carried out by professionals but helps the school decide on the next course of action particularly in relation to keeping the victim and other potential victims safe from harm or distress. The assessment may result in reorganisation of classes or transport arrangements, for example to ensure that the victim and perpetrator and not in close proximity. It may be necessary to consider a move to an alternative school or educational setting based on the risk assessment or the decision of the court. Where a managed move is being considered, we may contact the local authority Pupil Reintegration Team for further advice. Any decisions will be made based on the wishes of the victim, the nature of the incident and the safety of others. Actions will be taken immediately to reduce risk and undue distress and assessments will be reviewed regularly.

The outcome of a report of sexual violence may be that we will manage the situation within our own processes, request early help from the local authority, report the incident to social care or report to the Police. All reports will be reviewed

and potential lessons to be learnt by the school will be considered.

We recognise in our school that reporting of the above can be difficult for children and therefore we provide a range of ways in which children can let us know of their concerns and we will promote these regularly. We will adopt an understanding that it could and is most likely happening in our school and not depend on reporting to dictate actions. We will develop a 'zero tolerance' approach and not judge any disclosure as 'low level' or acceptable. We understand that peer on peer abuse does not only happen in school but also outside of the setting and online. The way we respond to a concern is likely to have a long lasting impact on how others react if they wish to disclose therefore we are very aware of ensuring appropriate support is in place. We will continue to reflect on our approachesusing the experiences of children and families to guide this. If we find the information to be false, unfounded or malicious, we will also reflect and act on if necessary, why this disclosure was made and any potential 'cry for help' that could escalate into a safeguarding concern. Support will also be considered for the perpetrator in order to reduce harmful behaviour and potential risk to others.

All staff have received the appropriate level of training to be able to respond to sexual abuse and harassment incidents.

Our behaviour policy provides further information on the process followed by the school and **all staff** have read and understood this policy.

Upskirting

'Upskirting' typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is now a criminal offence. Staff will always act in the best interests of a child and follow usual safeguarding and data protection procedures.

Consensual and non-consensual making and sharing of nudes and semi-nude images
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settingsworking-with-children-and-young-people

Where there is a disclosure or the school becomes aware that a child may have been involved in the sharing of such content, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will refer to the guidance in:

Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK

This guidance outlines how to respond to incidents, including:

- Risk assessment and safeguarding considerations.
- Managing disclosures and recording concerns.
- Searching, screening, and confiscation protocols.
- Working with parents, carers, and external agencies.
- Supporting the child or young person involved.

All incidents will be handled sensitively, in line with the school's safeguarding procedures, and with a focus on the best interests of the child.

Contextual Safeguarding

School recognises that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside the school. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead will consider 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. The school will provide as much information as possible to children's social care as part of any referral undertaken.
https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/

Carrying Knives/offensive weapons and gang culture

Bringing and carrying a knife/offensive weapon onto school/college premises is a criminal Offence and immediate action will be taken by calling the police and informing all relevant personnel. The guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation for Head teachers, schools and Governors January 2018 will be consulted and the school will consider and may apply the disciplinary procedure. If a member of staff suspects a child of being involved in gang culture, this is a Safeguarding concern and will require a discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will seek advice from agencies and professionals including reference to the Safeguarding procedures as outlined by the local authority. The child may be an exploited child and victim to which the school will offer support

Children who may require Family Help

All Staff (Governors and Volunteers) working within the school are aware safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm, neglect, and failure to act.

'Early Help is defined as anything that supports children, young people, and their families to achieve their potential and improve their resilience and outcomes, by either preventing difficulties, or reducing the chances of them getting worse.'

Family Help is about providing the right help, at the right time, in the right place. Our belief is that children and young people are best supported by people they know and trust.

All children and young people may need extra help and support at some point in their lives. All of us are committed to continuing to identify and provide support to children and young people who are at risk of poor health and wellbeing.

The school will identify who their vulnerable children are, ensuring all staff and volunteers know the processes to secure advice, help and support where needed.

We refer to the guidance for Early Help at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/taf
TAFadmin@lincolnshire.gov.uk or earlyhelpconsultants@lincolnshire.gov.uk

The Family Services Directory is a useful tool when discussing early help, it can be accessed here.
https://lincolnshire.fsd.org.uk/kbS/lincs/fsd/home.page

Children with special educational needs and disabilities or physical health issues

Lincolnshire SEND Offer is available for every child and family in Lincolnshire. Special consideration should be given to safeguarding and protecting children who may have additional vulnerabilities. Additional barriers can exist to the recognition of abuse and neglect which can include assumptions that indicators of abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration. It is common to see a disability first and abuse second which may delay support required. Vulnerable children can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying and abuse, without outwardly showing any signs. There may also be communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

These additional challenges are addressed through a high level of pastoral care and communication and interaction with our young people. These communication tools may include Makaton, communication in print and Colourful Semantics to ensure the child's voice is heard despite their additional needs. Our communication with parents will be frequent and informative allowing on-going risk assessments to be carried out to avoid any assumptions being made in relation to any change in behaviour or physical appearance.

Children in Care

All staff recognise that Children In Care and Care Leavers are more vulnerable than other children, often having poorer educational outcomes. Therefore it is important to ensure their wellbeing, safety and welfare as well as help them to reach their potential. This includes the looked after child who is moving out of care. The school will also ensure *that* care leavers are supported with pathways including liaison with the local authority where a personal advisor will be appointed and that a full working relationship is maintained with the Lincolnshire Virtual School

We have a member of staff who is dedicated to supporting Children In Care. This member of staff liaises with the Lincolnshire Virtual School in respect of all children at the school who have 'Children In Care' status. virtualschool@lincolnshire.gov.uk Schools address any queries directly to the child's social worker until they are 17 years 6 months after which they are transferred to Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service.

Young Carers

We recognise that there may be children within our school who act as young carers for someone they are related to or know. To provide support to them with this we will contact and work with the Lincolnshire Young Carers Service to ensure that the young carer is recognised, valued and supported to have good health and wellbeing and to achieve their full potential. youngcarers@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Online safety

Children and young people are growing up in a digital world where online activity is a seamless part of their lives. While technology offers many benefits, it also presents risks such as exposure to harmful content, online abuse, grooming, and misinformation.

Our school is committed to embedding a whole-school approach to online safety, in line with the Online Safety Act 2023

and the Department for Education's guidance on teaching online safety in schools. More information about online safety can be found in our school Online Safety policy.
Online safety is taught as part of statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) and Computing. We use the UKCIS Education for a Connected World framework to ensure age-appropriate progression in digital literacy and online safety skills. Online safety is addressed across the curriculum and reinforced through assemblies, PSHE, and themed events.

Through our curriculum pupils are taught; how to recognise and report harmful or inappropriate content and contact, what respectful and healthy online relationships look like, and how to critically evaluate online information and manage their digital footprint.

All staff receive annual training on online safety, including their roles in filtering and monitoring. Staff follow the school Staff Code of Conduct regarding digital communication and social media use. Staff report concerns about online harm immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
Our school uses appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to protect pupils from harmful and inappropriate content, while avoiding over-blocking. Systems are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain effective and proportionate.

We support families with guidance on home filtering, parental controls, and safe use of devices. We signpost families to trusted resources such as Internet Matters.

We work with external agencies, including Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership, to stay informed of emerging risks and best practices.

Photography and Images

The vast majority of people who take or view photographs or videos of young people do so for entirely innocent, understandable, and acceptable reasons. However, we know some people abuse young people through taking or using images, so we must ensure that the following safeguards are in place.

While parents are permitted to bring in a camera to events, no staff member should use their personal equipment to take photographs of young people. The school provides equipment for this purpose.

Where a staff member has concerns someone is taking photographs in breach of this policy, they should contact the Principal.

To protect young people, we need to:
a) seek parental consent for photographs to be taken or published (for example, on our website or in the newspapers or other publications).
b) ensure that the child is appropriately dressed.
c) encourage young people to tell us if they are worried about any photographs that are taken of them.

Staff should be aware that many indecent images in current circulation were taken by the child themselves or peers. Sex, sexuality, and relationships should be an age-appropriate topic in the home and include what to do if young people are worried about an image they see. At school, children will be taught about healthy relationships and the dangers of inappropriate images and the sharing of these.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is when a child or young person under 16 years old (or 18 if they have a disability) is to be looked

after for a period of 28 days or more by someone who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility. Close relatives include parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents.

By law, the local authority must be told about all private fostering situations. The child's parents, private foster carer and anyone else (including the school) involved in the arrangement are legally required to inform the local authority.

It is then the local authority's legal duty to make sure all private fostering arrangements are safe for the child or young person. Once informed of the arrangement the local authority will check the suitability of private foster carers, make regular visits to the child or young person and ensure advice, help and support is available when needed.

In the event that a professional believes a child or young person may be subject to a private fostering arrangement this should be communicated to Children's Services through the Academy.

Pre-Birth Protocol

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requires agencies to have in place mechanisms to ensure that they are able to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

All practitioners whether adult or children services, have a responsibility to protect and safeguard children and work collaboratively with Children's Services and other childcare professionals in contributing to assessments and interventions. Therefore, the professional who is first made aware of the pregnancy should initiate the prebirth protocol and complete an Early Help Assessment, or make a referral for unborn to Social Care.

A young person of statutory education age is entitled to 18 weeks of maternity leave. Either side of this period there is an expectation that the young person continues to attend school or alternative provision. The educational establishment is required to make all reasonable adjustments to allow the young person to have appropriate access to the curriculum whilst they attend the establishment including timetable and learning environment adjustments. It is important that the provision participate in the Team Around the Child) in order for them to fully support the continued education of the young parent. Education establishments should have a clear strategy for engaging with the young person while they are away from the provision so as to limit the disruption to their education and make appropriate arrangements that work for the young person and educational establishment. Where there is robust medical evidence that indicates that the young person is unfit to attend, the educational establishment can make a referral to the pupil reintegration team on 01522 554525 who will assess and consider alternative arrangements if appropriate. The Lincolnshire Pre-Birth Protocol link to the full document is below;

Pre-Birth Protocol

Substance Misuse

The school takes a serious view of substance misuse while recognising that young people may get caught up in misusing substances through vulnerability or exploitation. All cases of substance misuse should be brought to the attention of the DLS who will consider both the student behaviour policy and any factors that may indicate a young person is in need of help or protection.

Trafficking and exploitation

The two most common terms for the illegal movement of people - 'trafficking' and 'smuggling', are very different. In

human smuggling, immigrants and asylum seekers pay people to help them enter the country illegally; after which there is no longer a relationship. Trafficked victims are coerced or deceived by the person arranging their relocation. On arrival in the country of destination the trafficked child or person is denied their human rights and is forced into exploitation by the trafficker or person into whose control they are delivered.

Young people are a special case, any child transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim, whether or not they have been deceived. This is partly because it is not considered possible for young people to give informed consent.

Even when a child understands what has happened they may still appear to submit willingly, to what they believe to be the will of their parents.

Any concerns about trafficking and exploitation will be reported by the school to Customer Services immediately.

Appendix C- Body Map Guidance

Body Maps should be used to document and illustrate visible signs of harm and physical injuries.
Where possible support from our medical staff should be obtained via the medical room/contact with DSL/DDSL will also be made at this point.

Always use a black pen (never a pencil) and do not use correction fluid or any other eraser.

Do not remove clothing for the purpose of the examination unless the injury site is freely available because of treatment.

At no time should an individual teacher/member of staff or school take photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person, the body map below should be used. Any concerns should be reported and recorded without delay to Customer Service Centre or the child's social worker if already an open case to social care.

When you notice an injury to a child, try to record the following information in respect of each mark identified e.g. red areas, swelling, bruising, cuts, lacerations and wounds, scalds and burns:

- Exact site of injury on the body, e.g. upper outer arm/left cheek
- Size of injury - in appropriate centimetres or inches
- Approximate shape of injury, e.g. round/square or straight line
- Colour of injury - if more than one colour, say so
- Is the skin broken?
- Is there any swelling at the site of the injury, or elsewhere?
- Is there a scab/any blistering/any bleeding?
- Is the injury clean or is there grit/fluff etc.?
- Is mobility restricted as a result of the injury?
- Does the site of the injury feel hot?
- Does the child feel hot?
- Does the child feel pain?
- Has the child's body shape changed/are they holding themselves differently?

Importantly the date and time of the recording must be stated as well as the name and designation of the person making the record. Add any further comments as required.

Ensure First Aid is provided where required and then recorded appropriately.

A copy of the body map should be kept on the child'sconcern/confidential file.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
Customer Service Centre for referrals and advice Tel: 01522 782111

Appendix D: Guidance

- Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Multi-Agency Procedures
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Information Sharing advice for Safeguarding Practitioners
- Child abuse concerns: Guidance for practitioners
- Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004
- Education Act 2002
- Teaching Standards
- Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those Adults who work with Children and Young People
- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people
- The Domestic Abuse Act (2021)
- Behaviour in Schools: advice for Headteachers and school staff
- The Equality Act 2010: Advice for Schools

Elective Home Education (EHE) ehe@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Children Missing Education (CME) cme@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Child in Entertainment or Employment cee@lincolnshire.gov.uk

School Attendance Queries attendance@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Online Safety incidents

Saferinternet Helpline

Appendix E - Safeguarding Contacts

Advice on any aspect of Child Protection and Safeguarding may be sought from the Safeguarding Team;

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	**Samantha Jerman (Academy)** **samantha.jerman@st-georges-academy.org**
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)	**Nicole Roberts (Academy)** **Nicole.roberts@st-georges-academy.org**
	Tracey Dickinson(Sleaford) **tracey.dickinson@st-georges-academy.org**
	Amanda Taylor (Ruskington) **amanda.taylor@st-georges-academy.org**
Our local contact numbers are:	
Safeguarding of children concerns *(Children living in Lincolnshire)*	**01522 782111** ***Lincolnshire's Children's Services Customer Service Centre for reporting concerns and Early Help Team for Advice Emergency Duty Team*** **01522 782333** (6pm-8am + weekends and Bank Holidays)
Safeguarding of children concerns *{Children living in other Authorities)*	**Samantha Jerman (Academy)** **samantha.jerman@st-georges-academy.org**
Allegations against /concerns about adult(s) working with children Staff must report concerns to the Principal or in the event of concerns about the Principal concerns must be reported to the Chair of Governors.	**Amanda Money Principal** **amanda.money@st- georges-academy.org** **Rebecca Courtaux, Chair of Governors** **governance@st-georges-academy.org**
	Lincolnshire Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) **Kim Murray, Ildiko Kiss, Amy Beacham, Renita Lancaster, Matt Cannon, Julie Adams and Lyndsay Hewitt.** **01522 554674 LSCP_LADO@lincolnshire.gov.uk** **The Head/Chair must contact LADO to discuss concerns and course of action.**
Police *(Emergency)* **Police** *(Non-Emergency)*	**999** **101**
LCC Safeguarding in Schools *for advice around safeguarding policy, audits, training etc.*	**safeguardinginschools@lincolnshire.gov.uk**
	Josh Woodcock Stefanie Knox Rebecca Vaugan

Appendix F- Safeguarding procedures during exceptional circumstances

In the event of exceptional circumstances, e.g. Academy closure, partial opening or in the absence of the safeguarding team, staff should adhere to the following procedure:

1. If staff have any concerns with regards to the welfare of a student, no matter how small, please make contact with the DSL or Deputy DSL.
2. If staff cannot reach a Designated Safeguarding Officer then they should contact a member of SLT.
3. If staff are unable to reach a Designated Safeguarding Officer or a member of SLT then the responsibility for safeguarding defaults to the Principal.
    a. If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, staff members should make a referral to children's social care and/or the police immediately.
    b. Lincolnshire Children's Services 01522 782111
4. If staff have concerns about another member of staff then this should be referred to the Principal or, if staff wish, they may discuss this with and make a referral to the DSL.

Concerns cannot be left, referrals should not be made by e-mail and you should never leave a message.

Policy Developed by: Samantha Jerman, Vice Principal

Date Adopted: September 2026

Reviewing Committee: Finance and General

Frequency of Review: 2 Years

Date last reviewed: September 2026

To be reviewed by: September 2028

Name REBECCA GILLIATT Signature

Committee: Full Governing Board