



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Academic Year 2021-22

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS POLICY	MICHAEL HODGSON (DSL) JASON LEWIS (PRINCIPAL) HANNAH ROONEY (DEPUTY DSL) WILLIAM DAVISON (DEPUTY DSL) CRAIG WILSON (BOARD MEMBER)
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Reviewed	August 2021
Next Review Date	August 2022
Lead for Review	DSL

At *Bosworth Independent College*, the named personnel with designated responsibility for safeguarding are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Board Member (Executive Principal) acting on behalf of Proprietors (Bright Scholar UK Holdings) Ltd
<p><u>MICHAEL HODGSON</u> MHodgson@bosworthcollege.com 07780 102907</p>	<p>HANNAH ROONEY HRooney@bosworthcollege.com 07980 308348 WILLIAM DAVISON WDavison@bosworthcollege.com 07780 474037 JASON LEWIS jason.lewis@bosworthcollege.com 07780 102770</p>	<p><u>CRAIG WILSON</u> crwilson@catscambridge.com 07860 407641</p>

The named personnel with Designated Responsibility regarding allegations against staff are:

Designated Senior Manager Principal	Chair of the Board and Chair of Governors (for concerns about the Principal)
<p><u>JASON LEWIS</u> JLewis@bosworthcollege.com 07432 793666</p>	<p><u>CHRIS STACEY</u> cstacey@catsglobalschools.com</p>

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1. Aim of policy

Bosworth Independent College recognises our statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students. We will endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where students are respected and valued. We will be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that students receive effective support, protection and justice.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We recognise that our school is part of a wider safeguarding system and work closely with the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and other agencies to promote the welfare of students. We maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' and will consider the wishes of, and at all times, what is in the best interests of each child.

We understand that students can be abused by adults or by other students. We are committed to creating a culture of safety, that minimises the opportunity for any form of abuse (including all forms of peer on peer abuse) through training, education and robust response procedures.¹

The aim of this policy is to;

- promote safeguarding and child protection and to provide information about how we work to keep students safe;
- ensure that all staff are aware of and clearly understand their statutory safeguarding responsibilities;
- provide all members of staff with the information required to meet their safeguarding duty and protect students from harm;
- provide stakeholders with clear information relating to the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures; and to
- ensure that we are protecting students from maltreatment or harm.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff, governors, volunteers and trustees working in or on behalf of the College. All references in this document to 'staff' or 'members of staff' should be interpreted as relating to the aforementioned unless otherwise stated.

3. Definitions

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students is defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2021 as;

- protecting children from maltreatment;

¹ For full details about how we work to prevent and respond to peer on peer abuse, please see Appendix B.

- 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.

For the purposes of this policy, the term ‘safeguarding’ refers to everything that the school does to keep students safe and promote their welfare, including (but not limited to):

- Supporting students’ health, safety and well-being, including their mental health.
- Meeting the needs of students with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The use of reasonable force.
- Meeting the needs of students with medical conditions.
- Providing first aid.
- Educational visits.
- Intimate care and emotional wellbeing.
- Online safety and associated issues.
- Appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the local context.
- Keeping students safe from risks, harm and exploitation.
- Child protection.

Child protection is part of safeguarding and refers to activities undertaken to prevent students suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm.

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a student, and may involve inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. It can be perpetrated by an adult or adults known or unknown to a student, or a student or students known or unknown to the student. It can happen in person or online. Where abuse is perpetrated by another student, it is known as ‘peer on peer’ or ‘child on child’ abuse.

Neglect is a form of abuse and is the persistent failure to meet a student’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the student’s health or development².

Peer on peer abuse refers to the abuse of a student or students perpetrated by another student or students. Peer on peer abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse);
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence);
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party;

² See Appendix C for more information about abuse and neglect.

- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nude images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery);
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm; and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).³

Children/students includes everyone under the age of 18, however we will also follow the guidance for students attending Bosworth Independent College who are over the age of 18 although different agencies may need to be included.

Within this policy:

- **'Parent'** refers to birth parents and other adults in a parenting role for example adoptive parents, step parents and foster carers.
- **'Staff'** or **'members of staff'** refers to all teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff, governors, volunteers and **trustees** working in or on behalf of the College.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) may be abbreviated to 'KCSIE'.

4. Legislation and statutory guidance

The school adheres to all relevant safeguarding legislation, statutory guidance and guidance from the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. This includes:

Statutory Guidance

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation (July 2020)

Legislation

- The Children Act 1989 and The Children Act 2004
- Section 5B(11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015
- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (and the Prevent Duty guidance)
- The Education Act 2002
- The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009
- Part 3 of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.
- Part 1 of the schedule to the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015.
- The Equality Act (2010)
- The Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 (and 2018 amendment)
- The Childcare Act 2006 (all schools with students aged under 8)

³ Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021)

Guidance from the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) can be found here: <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/>.

The school also has regard relevant to non-statutory guidance relating to safeguarding, including:

- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (2015)
- Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings (2019 and the addendum added April 2020)
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges (2021)

This policy links with other school policies and procedures, including:

- **Behaviour Policy**
- **Staff Code of Conduct**
- **Complaints policy**
- **Health and safety policy**
- **Attendance policy**
- **Online safety policy**
- **SEND policy**
- **Equality policy**
- **Sex and relationship education policy**
- **First aid policy**
- **Curriculum policy**
- **Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children policy**
- **Privacy notices**
- **Whistle-blowing**
- **Anti-bullying**
- **IT acceptable use**

Our public health emergency (COVID-19) procedures can be found at Appendix A.

5. Equality Statement

We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise students' diverse circumstances. Some students are at an increased risk of abuse, and additional barriers can exist for some with respect to recognising or disclosing it. We ensure that all students have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

Please see Section 11 for further details about how we work to support students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

6. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect, and in promoting students' welfare, including their educational outcomes. Schools and colleges

have clear powers to share, hold and use information for these purposes. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) does not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping students safe. Lawful and secure information sharing between schools, Children's Social Care, and other local agencies, is essential for keeping students safe and ensuring they get the support they need.

The school adheres to the Data Protection Act (2018) and the General Data Protection Regulation (2018). **Please see the Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice for more information.**

6.1 Sharing information with parents

Bosworth Independent College will ensure the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available publicly via the College website and by request to the College Reception.

Where appropriate, we will discuss any concerns about a student with the student's parents. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will normally do this in the event of a concern, suspicion or disclosure. Other staff will only talk to parents about any such concerns following consultation with the DSL.

If we believe that notifying the parents would increase the risk to the student, we will discuss this with the local authority children's social care team before doing so (see Section 6.2 for more details). In the case of allegations of abuse made against other students, we will normally notify the parents of all the students involved.

6.2 Consent

The Data Protection Act 2018 introduced 'safeguarding' as a reason to be able to process sensitive, personal information, even without consent (DPA, Part 2, 18; Schedule 8, 4). All relevant information can be shared without consent if to gain consent would place a student at risk. Fears about sharing information **must not be allowed** to stand in the way of promoting the welfare and protecting the safety of students. All professionals responsible for students should not assume that someone else will pass on information that they think may be critical to keeping a student safe.

As with all data sharing, appropriate organisational and technical safeguards are in place and will be adhered to when processing safeguarding and student protection information.

When considering whether, or not, to share safeguarding information (especially with other agencies), Bosworth Independent College will record who they are sharing that information with and for what reason. If we have taken a decision not to seek consent from the data subject and/or parent that should also be recorded within the safeguarding file.

All staff in school will be made aware of their duties in relation to Data Protection and safeguarding, particularly in respect of confidentiality. This includes the following:

- Staff should never promise a student that they will not tell anyone about an allegation, as this may not be in the student's best interests.
- Staff who receive information about students and their families in the course of their work should

share that information only within appropriate professional contexts.

- Timely information sharing is essential to effective safeguarding.
- Information must only be shared on a 'need-to-know' basis, but consent is not required to share information if a student is suffering, or at risk of, serious harm.⁴

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 Governing bodies and proprietors

Governing bodies and proprietors have a strategic leadership responsibility for the College's safeguarding arrangements. The governing body will appoint a senior board level (or equivalent) Governor Safeguarding Lead to monitor the effectiveness of this policy in conjunction with the full governing board. This is always a different person from the DSL. The Governor Safeguarding Lead is Craig Wilson.

Governors/proprietors will ensure that there are mechanisms in place to assist staff in understanding and discharging their statutory safeguarding roles and responsibilities. Governors will ensure that the school is working with local safeguarding partners and that the school contributes to multi-agency working, adhering to Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). All governors will read KCSIE (2021) and a record will be kept of this.

Part 2 of KCSIE (2021) sets out the responsibilities of governing bodies and our College governors will adhere to this guidance at all times. As part of these responsibilities the governors will;

- ensure that they comply with their duties under statutory guidance and legislation;
- work to facilitate a whole College approach to safeguarding, by ensuring that safeguarding and child protection underpin all relevant aspects of policy and process;
- ensure that policies, procedure and training at the College are effective and comply with the law at all times and that they allow concerns to be responded to in a timely manner;
- ensure that safeguarding training for staff, including online safety training, is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole school or college safeguarding approach and wider staff training and curriculum planning;
- ensure that the College takes into account local criteria for action and protocol for assessment and supply information as requested by the three safeguarding partners;
- ensure that the College has an effective child protection policy, which is published on the College website and/or available by other means and review this annually;
- ensure that the school has systems in place to allow students to raise concerns, which are well-promoted, well-understood and easily accessible;
- ensure that the school takes safeguarding concerns seriously and takes the wishes and feelings of students into account;
- ensure that there are systems in place for young people to safely express their views and give feedback on safeguarding practice;
- ensure that the College has a suitable behaviour policy for students and a staff behaviour policy or Code of Conduct;
- ensure that all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training on induction;
- consider a whole-school approach to online safety, including the use of mobile technology in school;

⁴ See Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), pages 18-22 for more information.

- ensure that there are clear systems and processes in place for identifying when students may be experiencing mental health problems;
- ensure that students are taught about safeguarding, including online safety. See section 10.6 and Appendix F of this policy for further information;
- ensure that an appropriate safeguarding response for students who go missing from education is in place;
- appoint an appropriate member of staff from the senior leadership team to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to keep students safe online;
- ensure that there are appropriate procedures in place to manage safeguarding concerns, or allegations against staff; and
- respond to allegations of abuse against the Principal. The Chair of Governors will act as the 'case manager' in the event that an allegation of abuse is made against the head teacher, where appropriate (see Appendix E).

7.2 The Principal

The Principal is responsible for the implementation of this policy. The Principal will:

- ensure that this policy is reviewed annually and ratified by the governing body;
- ensure that this policy and associated procedures are adhered to by all staff and take action as necessary if not;
- ensure that staff (including temporary staff) and volunteers are informed of our systems that support safeguarding, including this policy, as part of their induction.
- ensure that all staff are made aware of the named governor for safeguarding and the Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- ensure that the role of 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' is explicit in the role-holder's job description, that they have appropriate time, funding, training and resources and that there is always adequate cover if the DSL is absent;
- decide whether to have one or more deputy safeguarding leads and ensure they are trained to the same standard as the Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- organise appropriate cover for the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead for any out of hours/out of term activities;
- appoint a 'Designated Teacher for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children' to promote the educational achievement of children looked after and previously looked after;
- appoint a lead for online safety (usually the DSL – see Annex C KCSIE);
- ensure that all recruitment follows the safer recruitment guidance (see Part 3 of KCSIE) and a single, central record is maintained with details of all members of staff who are in contact with students;
- respond to allegations of abuse against all other members of staff and act as the 'case manager' in the event of an allegation of abuse made against another member of staff or volunteer, where appropriate;
- refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a student to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required;
- ensure that College works with social care, the police, health services and other services to; promote the welfare of students; provide a co-ordinated offer of early help when need is identified; contribute to inter-agency plans for students subject to children protection plans and to protect students from harm;
- safeguard students' wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties (Teaching Standards, 2012);
- ensure that students' social care (from the host local authority or placing authority) have access to the College to conduct, or to consider whether to conduct a section 47 or section 17 assessment, as

per Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021);

7.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The full responsibilities of the DSL are set out in Annex C, KCSIE (2021).

The DSL is a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Our DSL is Michael Hodgson, Assistant Principal: Pastoral. The DSL takes lead responsibility for child protection and wider safeguarding.

When the DSL is absent, the deputies – Hannah Rooney, Head of Boarding, and William Davison, Deputy Head of Boarding – will act as cover. If the DSL and deputies are not available, Jason Lewis, Principal, will act as cover (for example, during out-of-hours/out-of-term activities).

Any deputies will be trained to the same standard as the designated safeguarding lead.

Whilst the activities of the designated safeguarding lead can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate **lead responsibility** for child protection, as set out above, remains with the designated safeguarding lead; this **lead responsibility** should not be delegated.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will;

- Act as a source of support and expertise on matters relating to safeguarding and child protection to ensure that other members of staff can carry out their safeguarding duty;
- Advise on the response to safeguarding concerns;
- Liaise with the Local Authority and work with other agencies in line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018);
- Identify if students may benefit from early help;
- Refer suspected cases, as appropriate, to the relevant body (local authority children's social care, Channel programme, Disclosure and Barring Service, and/or police), and support staff who make such referrals directly
- Make referrals to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern and/or support staff that make a referral to Channel;
- Support the school with regards to their responsibilities under the Prevent duty and provide advice and support on protecting students from radicalisation;
- Refer cases to the police where a crime may have been committed;
- Be available during school or college hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. In the event that they are not available, a deputy will be made available;
- Undertake training to equip them with the skills to carry out the role and update this every two years;
- Ensure all staff that work directly with students have read and understood Part 1 and Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021);
- Ensure all staff that do not work directly with students have read either Part 1 or Annex A (as appropriate) of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021);
- Update their knowledge and skills regularly and keep up with any developments relevant to their role;
- Provide staff in school with the knowledge, skills and support required to safeguard students;
- Take responsibility for the accurate and timely recording of safeguarding and child protection concerns and take overall responsibility for safeguarding and child protection files;

- Take responsibility for the transfer of safeguarding files when a student leaves College;
- Attend or ensure an appropriate representative attends multi-agency safeguarding or child protection meetings;
- Work closely with other relevant education professionals (e.g. SENCO, Virtual School Head) to ensure students with additional vulnerabilities are safeguarded;
- Help to promote educational outcomes of students who have experienced or are experiencing safeguarding or child protection issues by sharing relevant information with teachers and the school leadership team;
- Promote a 'culture of safeguarding', in which every member of the College community acts in the best interests of the student;
- Regularly meet with the safeguarding link governor and/or Chair of Governors to review safeguarding at the College; and
- Liaise with the Principal regarding safeguarding cases and issues.

The DSL can also be contacted out of school hours if necessary by calling 07780 102907 or emailing MHodgson@BosworthCollege.com.

7.4 All staff

Staff play a particularly important role because they are in a position to identify concerns in order to provide help for students. All staff;

- have a responsibility to provide a safe environment, where students can learn;
- will be trained so that they know what to do if a student tells them that he/she is being abused or neglected, including specific issues such as FGM, and how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality while liaising with relevant professionals;
- will be able to identify indicators of abuse and neglect;
- will be made aware of systems in the College that support safeguarding and child protection;
- will be made aware of safeguarding issues that put students at risk of harm and behaviours associated with these risks;
- should ensure that they know what to do if a student makes a disclosure of abuse and never promise confidentiality when a student makes a disclosure;
- will be made aware of and should be clear on the school's or college's policy and procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse and the important role they have to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a student may be at risk from it;
- will be made aware of the early help process and understand their role in it;
- should be prepared to identify students who may benefit from early help and will discuss early help requirements with the safeguarding lead in the first instance;
- may be required to support social workers and other agencies following a referral;
- will be made aware of the process for making referrals to Children's Social Care (through the MASH), understand statutory assessments and the role that they may be expected to play in such assessments;
- should be prepared to make referrals to the MASH if they have concerns about a student's welfare and understand the role that they may be expected to play in such assessments;
- will receive regularly updated safeguarding and child protection training to cover all of the above, as well as online safety;
- will receive safeguarding updates throughout the year as part of continuous professional development;
- will be encouraged to contribute to the development of safeguarding policy and practice;
- should always seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Lead if they are unsure; and

- all teachers should safeguard students's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties (Teaching Standards, 2012).

All staff will be made aware of our systems and documents that support safeguarding, including this policy, the staff code of conduct, the role and identity of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and any deputies, the behaviour policy and the safeguarding response to students who go missing from education.

All staff that work directly with students will be provided with a copy of, and must read, Part 1 and Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) annually and will receive annually updated training on their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. Staff that do not work directly with students will be provided with a copy of either Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) and must read this document.

Although there are extensive mechanisms in place to support staff understanding in relation to safeguarding and child protection, there is an expectation that if staff are unclear on any aspects of school safeguarding policy or practice, they speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay, so that additional training can be put in place.

8. Recognising Abuse: Training

The school is committed to continuous professional development and all staff undergo rigorous and ongoing safeguarding training. We strive to ensure that staff fully understand their safeguarding responsibilities, that training promotes a culture of safeguarding and equips staff with the skills to identify any signs of abuse, neglect or harm.

8.1 All staff

- All staff members will undertake safeguarding and child protection training at induction (including online safety and whistle-blowing procedures) to ensure they understand the school's safeguarding systems, their responsibilities and can identify signs of possible abuse or neglect. This training will be regularly updated and will be in line with advice from the three safeguarding partners.
- All staff will have training on the government's anti-radicalisation strategy Prevent, to enable them to identify students at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.
- Staff will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings) as required, but at least annually.
- Contractors who are provided through a private finance initiative (PFI) or similar contract will also receive safeguarding training.
- Volunteers will receive appropriate training, as applicable.

Teachers will receive training to ensure that they can manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe educational environment and they should have a clear understanding of the needs of all students.

8.2 The DSL and Deputy DSLs

- The DSL and Deputy DSLs will undertake child protection and safeguarding training at least every 2 years.
- In addition, they will update their knowledge and skills at regular intervals and at least annually (for example, through e-bulletins, meeting other DSLs, or taking time to read and digest safeguarding

developments).

- They will also undertake Prevent awareness training and online safety training.

8.3 Governors

- All governors receive safeguarding training, to make sure they have the knowledge and information needed to perform their functions and understand their responsibilities.
- As the chair of governors or proprietor may be required to act as the 'case manager' in the event that an allegation of abuse is made against the Principal, they should receive training in managing allegations for this purpose.

8.4 Recruitment – interview panels

(Note: the following practice is a requirement for maintained schools and student referral units but is considered good practice for all schools.)

At least one person conducting any interview for a post at the school will have undertaken safer recruitment training. This will cover, as a minimum, the contents of the Department for Education's statutory guidance, KCSIE (2021), and will be in line with local safeguarding procedures.

8.5 Supervision

- All staff who have contact with students and families will have access to supervision which will provide them with support, coaching and training, promote the interests of students and allow for confidential discussions of sensitive issues.

8.6 Specific safeguarding issues

Staff will also receive specific training on the following issues and action will be taken if the school suspects that a student is at risk of or is the victim of;

- physical abuse;
- sexual abuse;
- child sexual exploitation;
- emotional abuse;
- neglect;
- child criminal exploitation (including involvement in county lines);
- domestic abuse;
- fabricated or induced illness;
- faith-based abuse;
- female genital mutilation;
- forced marriage;
- gangs or youth violence;
- gender-based violence;
- hate;
- online safety;
- peer on peer abuse;
- radicalisation;
- relationship abuse;
- serious violence;

- sexual violence or sexual harassment (including peer on peer abuse);
- sexting or sharing of youth produced sexual imagery;
- so-called 'honour-based' abuse;
- trafficking and modern slavery.

All staff will be made aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school or college and/or can occur between students outside of these environments. All staff will be expected to consider whether students are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families (extra-familial harm).

Staff will also be made aware of the additional safeguarding vulnerabilities of;

- students in the court system;
- students missing from education;
- students with family members in prison;
- students who are homeless;
- students who have or have had a social worker;
- students who are young carers;
- students looked after or previously looked after; and
- students with mental health problems.

9. Recognising and responding to abuse: How to take action

If a member of staff, parent or member of the public is concerned about a student's welfare, they should report it to the DSL as soon as possible. On occasions when the DSL is not available, it should be reported to the deputy safeguarding lead/s without delay. If in exceptional circumstances, the DSL (or deputy) is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Staff should consider speaking to a member of the senior leadership team and/or take advice from local students' social care.

Although any member of staff can make a referral to students' social care, where possible there should be a conversation with the DSL. All staff must follow the procedures set out below in the event of a safeguarding issue.

All staff will be alert to indicators of abuse (including peer on peer abuse) and will report any of the following to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately;

- any concern or suspicion that a student has sustained an injury outside what is reasonably attributable to normal play;
- any concerning behaviours exhibited by students that may indicate that they have been harmed or are at risk of harm, including unusual changes in mood or behaviour, concerning use of language and/or concerning drawings or stories;
- any significant changes in attendance or punctuality;
- any significant changes in a student's presentation;
- any indicators that a student may be experiencing peer on peer abuse;
- any concerns relating to people who may pose a risk of harm to a student; and/or
- any disclosures of abuse that students have made.

More information about our approach to peer on peer abuse (including sexual violence and sexual harassment) can be found at Appendix B.

The following procedures are in line with statutory guidance (see Section 4) and the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's Threshold Guidance (2018)⁵. Referral procedures can be found in section 9.5.

9.1 If a student discloses that they are suffering or at risk of suffering abuse

If a student discloses that he or she has been abused in some way, the member of staff/volunteer will:

- listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief;
- accept what is being said;
- allow the student to talk freely;
- reassure the student, but do not make promises which it might not be possible to keep;
- never promise a student that they will not tell anyone - as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the student;
- reassure him or her that what has happened is not his or her fault;
- stress that it was the right thing to tell;
- listen, only asking questions when necessary to clarify;
- not criticise the alleged perpetrator;
- explain what has to be done next and who has to be told;
- make a written record (see Record Keeping); and
- pass the information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead without using a safeguarding concern form on Shackleton and/or by speaking directly to the DSL. Alternatively, if appropriate, make a referral to children's social care and/or the police directly (see 9.2), and tell the DSL as soon as possible that you have done so.

All staff will reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment, nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

9.2 If a student is suffering or likely to suffer harm, or in immediate danger

If you think that a student is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm, you must report this to the designated safeguarding lead immediately. On occasions when the designated safeguarding lead is not available, it should be reported to the deputy safeguarding lead without delay or a senior member of staff.

Where possible, there should be a conversation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead but a referral must be made if a student may be suffering or at risk of suffering harm. **Anyone can make a referral to children's social care.** If anyone other than the DSL makes a referral to children's social care or to the police, they should inform the DSL as soon as possible.

9.3 If you have concerns about a student (as opposed to believing a student is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or is in immediate danger)

⁵ <https://www.nctrust.co.uk/help-and-protection-for-children/Documents/NSCB%20Thresholds%20Guidance.pdf>

Figure 1 on page 20 illustrates the procedure to follow if you have any concerns about a student's welfare. Where possible, speak to the DSL first to agree a course of action (see 9.2).

The DSL will decide on the most appropriate course of action and whether the concerns should be referred to children's social care, using the [Northamptonshire Thresholds Guidance](#). If it is decided to make a referral to children's social care the parent will be informed, unless to do so would place the student at further risk or undermine the collection of evidence. See Section 6.1 for more details.

All concerns, discussions and decisions will be recorded in writing.

The DSL will provide guidance on the appropriate action. Options will include:

- managing any support for the student internally via the school's own pastoral support processes;
- seeking advice from the local early help co-ordinator/s;
- an Early Help Assessment; or
- a referral for statutory services where the student is or might be in need or suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

9.4 Early help

All staff should be prepared to identify students who may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a student's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.⁶ If early help is appropriate, the DSL will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead practitioner. Any such cases should be kept under constant review and consideration given to a referral to children's social care for assessment for statutory services if the student's situation does not appear to be improving or is getting worse. Timelines of interventions will be monitored and reviewed.

All staff will be made aware of the early help process, and understand their role in identifying emerging problems, sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment of a student's needs. It is important for students to receive the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating. This also includes staff monitoring the situation and feeding back to the Designated Safeguarding Lead any ongoing/escalating concerns so that consideration can be given to a referral to children's social care if the student's situation does not appear to be improving.

We recognise that any student can be the victim of abuse and may benefit from early help. However, we will be particularly vigilant to potential need for early help if a student;

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs;
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan);
- has a mental health need;
- is a young carer;
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement

⁶ For more information about Early Help, please see: <https://www.nctrust.co.uk/help-and-protection-for-children/protecting-children-information-for-professionals/Pages/early-help.aspx>

- and association with organised crime groups or county lines;
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual or criminal exploitation;
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- has a family member in prison, or is affected by parental offending;
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the student, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse;
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- has returned home to their family from care;
- is at risk of so-called 'honour'-based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage;
- is a privately fostered student; and
- is persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day.

9.5 Referrals

If it is appropriate to refer the case to local authority children's social care or the police, the DSL will make the referral or support you to do so. If you make a referral directly (see Section 9), you must tell the DSL as soon as possible. Children's social care assessments should consider where students are being harmed in contexts outside the home, so the College will provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and enable a contextual approach to address such harm.

The local authority will make a decision within 1 working day of a referral about what course of action to take and will let the person who made the referral know the outcome. The DSL or person who made the referral must follow up with the local authority if this information is not made available, and ensure outcomes are properly recorded.

If the student's situation does not seem to be improving after the referral, the DSL or person who made the referral must follow local escalation procedures to ensure their concerns have been addressed and that the student's situation improves.⁷

The DSL should refer all cases of suspected abuse or neglect to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), police (cases where a crime may have been committed) and to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern. Safeguarding Referrals must be made in one of the following ways:

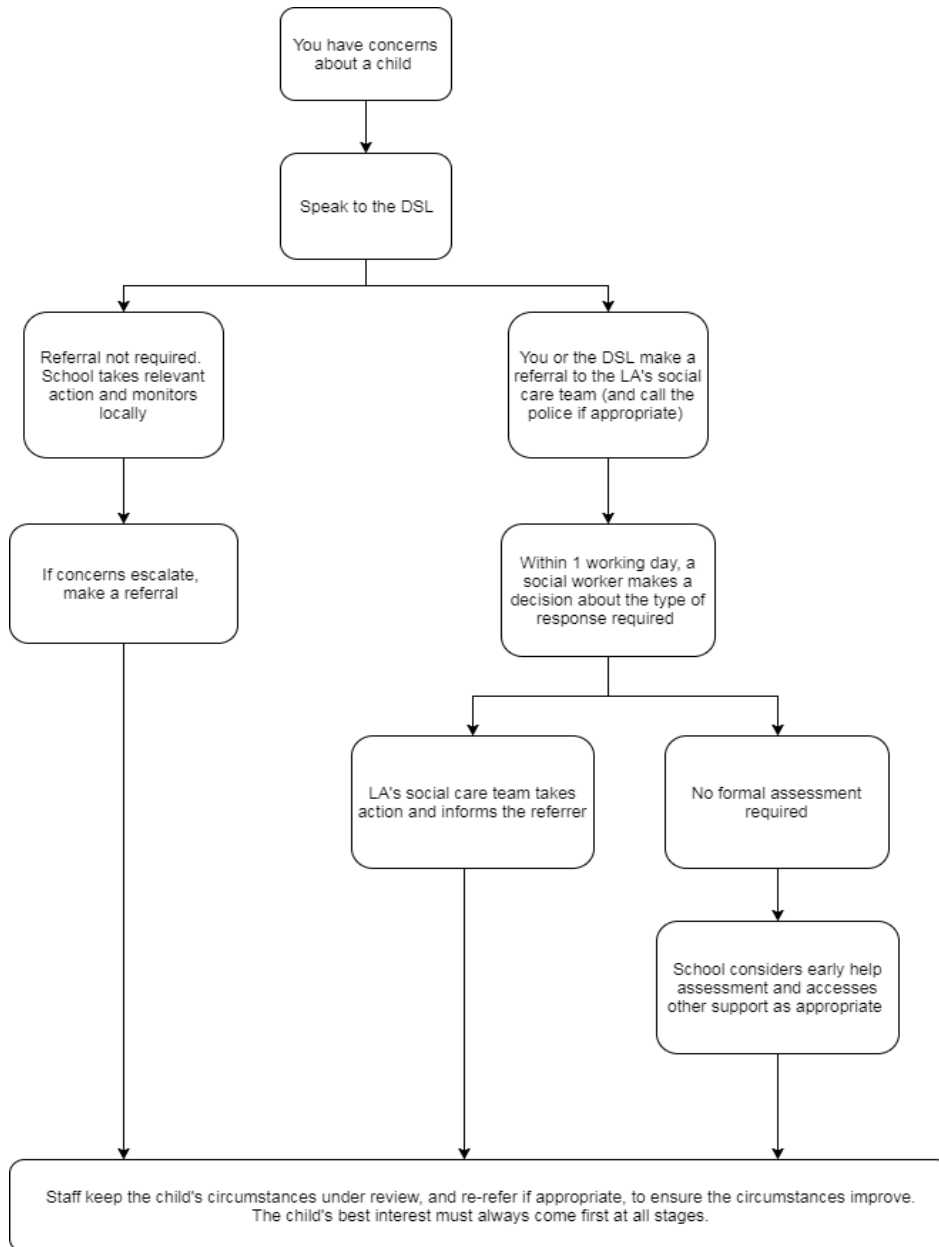
- By telephone contact to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): **0300 126 7000** (Option 1).
- By using the online referral form found at: [MASH ONLINE REFERRAL](#)⁸
- In an emergency outside office hours, contact children's social care out of hours team on 01604 626938 or the Police⁹
- If a student is in immediate danger at any time, left alone or missing, you should contact the police directly and/or an ambulance using 999.

⁷ The NSCP Case and Conflict Resolution Protocol can be found here: <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/schools/case-conflict-resolution-protocol/>

⁸ <https://www.nctrust.co.uk/Pages/home.aspx>

⁹ The Designated Safeguarding Lead may make use of the NPCC guidance '[When to call the police](#)'.

9.6 Figure 1: Reporting and responding to concerns flowchart



10. Specific safeguarding issues

For more information relating to specific safeguarding issues, please see Appendix C. For more information about peer on peer (child on child abuse), please see Appendix B.

10.1 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Any teacher who discovers (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a student under 18 must immediately report this to the police, personally. This is a statutory duty, and teachers will face disciplinary sanctions for failing to meet it. Unless they have good reason not to, they should also discuss the case with the DSL and involve children's social care as appropriate. Any other member of staff who discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a student under 18 must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures.

The duty for teachers mentioned above does not apply in cases where a student is *at risk* of FGM or FGM is suspected but is not known to have been carried out. Staff should not examine students.

Any member of staff who suspects a student is *at risk* of FGM or suspects that FGM has been carried out **[if relevant, insert: or discovers that a student age 18 or over appears to have been a victim of FGM]** must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures.

10.2 Radicalisation and extremism

All schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 in the exercise of their functions to have "due regard" to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. In the event that concerns are raised relating to radicalisation and extremism, the DSL should be informed immediately.

10.3 Students potentially at greater risk of harm

The school/college recognises that some students need a social worker due to abuse, neglect or family circumstances and that abuse and trauma can leave students vulnerable to further harm, as well as educational disadvantage.

The DSL will hold information relating to social workers working with students at the school/college. This information will inform decisions about safeguarding and promoting welfare (including the provision of pastoral and/or academic support).

We will also take action to promote the educational outcomes of and to protect;

- Students missing education;
- Students missing from home or care.

There are other familial issues that can have a detrimental impact on students. We work with other agencies in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) to support students and families in the following circumstances:

- Students facing the court procedures and/or students in the court system.
- Students with family members in prison.
- Students who are homeless.
- Students who need a social worker.

10.4 Mental health

Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a student has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Staff will be alert to behavioural signs that suggest a student may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. Where students have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these students' experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.

If staff have a mental health concern about a student we will respond to the concern, inform and discuss our concerns with parents/carers and seek ways to support the student in and out of school.

If you have a mental health concern about a student that is also a safeguarding concern, take immediate action by following the steps in Section 9.

If you have a mental health concern that is not also a safeguarding concern, speak to the DSL to agree a course of action.

Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health concern. However, this College will provide information and signposting services to students and parents and assist with the teaching of emotional health and wellbeing to students in our curriculum

If members of the College community identify a possible mental health need they will refer to the DSL who will initiate an escalation to external agencies and medical professionals as appropriate and in conjunction with parental consent.

Refer to the Department for Education guidance on [mental health and behaviour in schools](#)¹⁰ for more information.

10.5 Peer on peer abuse

The school/college takes all reports and concerns about peer on peer abuse, including student on student sexual violence and harassment, very seriously. This includes any reports or concerns that have occurred outside of the school or college premises, or online.

In order to ensure that our policy on peer on peer abuse is well-promoted, easily understood and accessible, we have included information about our approach to minimising and responding to peer on peer abuse as an appendix. Full details of how the school prevents, responds to and supports victims of peer on peer abuse can be found at Appendix B.

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>

10.6 Online safety

Our Online Safety Policy is set out in a separate document and more information can be found in Appendix F of this policy. We ensure that we have effective mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any incident where appropriate. Online safety is included in our curriculum at all levels and information is also provided to parents/carers.

All staff are made aware of the school policy on Online Safety which sets our expectations relating to:

- creating a safer online environment – including training requirements, filters and monitoring;
- giving everyone the skills, knowledge and understanding to help students and young people stay safe on-line;
- inspiring safe and responsible use and behaviour;
- safe use of mobile phones both within school and on school trips/outings;
- safe use of camera equipment, including camera phones; and
- what steps to take if you have concerns and where to go for further help.

Staff must read the *Online Safety Policy* in conjunction with our Code of Conduct in relation to personal online behaviour.

Student mobile phones

Students' mobile phones should be muted and in their bags during timetabled sessions and when moving around the buildings.

11. Students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

We recognise that students with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group, including;

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the student's disability without further exploration;
- students being more prone to peer group isolation than other students;
- the potential for students with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and/or
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

We offer extra pastoral support for students with SEN and disabilities. This includes:

- Hannah Priest, SENCO
- Michael Hodgson, DSL
- Heads of Year
- Head of Boarding / Deputy Head of Boarding

More information can be found about local support for students with SEND here:

- [Directory of Services for Children with Disabilities: Specialist support for SEND¹¹](#)
- [Northamptonshire's Local Offer: SEND Local Offer¹²](#)

12. Students with a social worker and those that have previously needed a social worker

Students may need a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs. We recognise that a student's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm as well as potentially creating barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health. We work with the local authority to ensure that we are providing effective support for this group of students.

The DSL and all members of staff will work with and support social workers to help protect vulnerable students.

Where we are aware that a student has a social worker, the DSL will always consider this fact to ensure any decisions are made in the best interests of the student's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. For example, it will inform decisions about;

- responding to unauthorised absence or missing education where there are known safeguarding risks; and
- the provision of pastoral and/or academic support.

We have contact plans for students with a social worker, and other students who we have safeguarding concerns about, for circumstances where they won't be attending school (for example in a local lockdown during Covid) or they would usually attend but have to self-isolate.

Each student has an individual plan, which sets out:

- How often the school will make contact – this will be at least once a week
- Which staff member(s) will make contact – as far as possible, this will be staff who know the family well
- How staff will make contact – this will be over the phone, doorstep visits, or a combination of both.

We have agreed these plans with children's social care where relevant, and will review them at least every 4 weeks. If we can't make contact, we will contact children's social care or the police.

13. Looked after and previously looked after children

We will ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep looked-after children and previously looked-after students safe. In particular, we will ensure that:

¹¹ <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/SEND/specialist-support-for-send/Pages/default.aspx>

¹² <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/SEND/local-offer>

Appropriate staff have relevant information about students' looked after legal status, contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility, and care arrangements. The DSL has details of students' social workers and relevant virtual school heads.

- We have appointed a designated teacher, Michael Hodgson, Assistant Principal Pastoral, who is responsible for promoting the educational achievement of looked-after students and previously looked-after students in line with [statutory guidance](#).¹³
- The designated teacher is appropriately trained and has the relevant qualifications and experience to perform the role.

As part of their role, the designated teacher will:

- Work closely with the DSL to ensure that any safeguarding concerns regarding looked-after and previously looked-after students are quickly and effectively responded to.
- Work with virtual school heads to promote the educational achievement of looked-after and previously looked-after students, including discussing how student premium plus funding can be best used to support looked-after students and meet the needs identified in their personal education plans.

We will ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep looked-after students and previously looked-after students safe. In particular, we will ensure that:

- Appropriate staff have relevant information about students' looked after legal status, contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility, and care arrangements
- The DSL has details of students' social workers and relevant virtual school heads
- We have appointed an appropriately trained teacher, [insert name/role], to take the lead on promoting the educational achievement of looked-after and previously looked-after students.

As part of their role, they will:

- Work closely with the DSL to ensure that any safeguarding concerns regarding looked-after and previously looked-after students are quickly and effectively responded to
- Work with virtual school heads to promote the educational achievement of looked-after and previously looked-after students

14. Record-keeping

All safeguarding concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for those decisions must be recorded in writing. If in doubt about recording requirements staff should discuss this with the DSL.

When a student has made a disclosure, the member of staff/volunteer should;

- record as soon as possible after the conversation. Using the College record of concern sheet wherever possible;
- not destroy the original notes in case they are needed by a court;
- record the date, time, place and any noticeable non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the student;
- draw a diagram to indicate the position of any injuries if relevant; and
- record statements and observations rather than interpretations or assumptions

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

All records need to be given to the DSL promptly. No copies should be retained by the member of staff or volunteer.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all safeguarding records are managed in accordance with the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005. All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. Information should be kept confidential and stored securely.

Records will include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved; and
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

Non-confidential records will be easily accessible and available. Confidential information and records will be held securely and only available to those who have a right or professional need to see them. We will hold records in line with our records retention schedule.

If a student for whom the school has, or has had, safeguarding concerns moves to another school, the DSL will ensure that their child protection file is forwarded promptly and securely, and separately from the main student file. In addition, if the concerns are significant or complex, and/or social services are involved, the DSL will speak to the DSL of the receiving school and provide information to enable them to have time to make any necessary preparations to ensure the safety of the student.

Appendix D sets out our policy on record-keeping specifically with respect to recruitment and pre-employment checks. Appendix E sets out our policy on record-keeping with respect to allegations of abuse made against staff.

15. Relationships, sex and health education (RSHE)

Promoting safeguarding and welfare in the curriculum

Students will have access to knowledge and understanding of how to stay safe through their normal classroom learning where teachers will seize the opportunity to discuss SMSC, PSHE and British Values links relevant to the topic being studied. In addition student have a discrete PSHE lesson once per week and Assemblies take place throughout the year to address local contextual and national concerns.

16. Safer working practice

We work to create and embed a culture of openness, trust and transparency, in which the college's values and expected behaviour (as set out in the staff code of conduct) are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff.

We expect all staff to act with professionalism at all times. To reduce the risk of unsafe or harmful practice, all staff should receive training on safer working practice and should be familiar with the guidance contained in the College code of conduct and Safer Recruitment Consortium document [Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings \(September 2019\)](#).¹⁴

Governors/proprietors and senior leaders will ensure that this policy is adhered to by:

- ensuring staff are clear about what appropriate behaviour is, and are confident in distinguishing expected and appropriate behaviour from concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour, in themselves and others through effective training;
- empowering staff to share any low-level safeguarding concerns;
- addressing unprofessional behaviour and supporting the individual to correct it at an early stage; and
- providing a responsive, sensitive and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised.

Governors/proprietors will help to identify any weakness in the College's safeguarding system.

Staff are expected to adhere to the staff Code of Conduct at all times. In the event of any concerns or allegations, the school will deal with them promptly, in line with local guidance and KCSIE (2021).

16.1 Staff use of mobile phones

Staff are allowed to bring their personal phones to school for their own use, but will limit such use to non-contact time when students are not present. Staff members' personal phones will remain in their bags or cupboards during contact time with students. Staff will not take pictures or recordings of students on their personal phones or cameras.

We will follow the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 when taking and storing photos and recordings for use in the school.

17. Safeguarding concerns about and allegations against members of staff

17.1 Allegations that may meet the harms threshold

In the event that there is an allegation of abuse against a member of staff, we will adhere to Part 4, Section 1 of KCSIE (2021) and Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership guidance. See Appendix E for more details.

Allegations that may indicate that a person would pose a risk of harm if they continue to work in their present position or in any capacity with students in a school or college include:

- staff having behaved in a way that has harmed a student, or may have harmed a student;
- staff possibly committing a criminal offence against or related to a student;
- staff behaving towards a student or students in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work

¹⁴ <https://www.saferrecruitmentconsortium.org/>

- with students; and/or
- staff behaving or possibly behaving in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with students.

This includes behaviour or incidents that have occurred both in College and outside of College.

Allegations against the Principal

If an allegation is made against the Principal, it must be reported to Chris Stacey, Chair of the Board and Chair of Governors by emailing him on cstacey@catscambridge.com.

In the event of concerns/allegations about the Principal, where the Principal is also the sole proprietor of an independent school, or a situation where there is a conflict of interest in reporting the matter to the Principal, this should be reported directly to the local authority designated officer(s) (LADOs).

Allegations against staff

If a concern or allegation of abuse arises against any member of staff, supply teacher or volunteer other than the Principal, it must be reported to the Principal without delay. This includes supply staff, volunteers and anyone working in or on behalf of the school, whether paid or unpaid. Allegations of abuse against staff must be reported to the Principal or Chair of Governors as appropriate and not discussed directly with the person involved.

The Principal or Chair of Governors should consider if the concern or allegation meets the threshold for Designated Officer intervention.

Allegations against staff relating to a position of trust issue will be referred to the Local Authority designated officer within 24 hours. If a student has suffered or may have suffered abuse or harm, a MASH referral will also be made and the police will be contacted if necessary.

A referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service will be made if a member of staff is dismissed or removed from their post as a result of safeguarding concerns, or would have been removed if they had not have resigned.

17.2 Safeguarding concerns that do not meet the harm threshold (low level concerns)

In the event that there is a safeguarding concern about a member of staff, we will adhere to guidance outlined in Part 4, Section 2 of KCSIE (2021) and Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership guidance.

The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a student does not meet the harms threshold. A low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' - that an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college may have acted in a way that:

- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and

- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

It is essential that low level concerns are reported. Such behaviours can exist on a wide spectrum, from the inadvertent or thoughtless, or behaviour that may look to be inappropriate, but might not be in specific circumstances, through to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse. We will act quickly, proportionately and appropriately in the event of a low level concern, to prevent abuse or harm of a student and to promote a culture of safeguarding. Dealing with low level concerns also protects those working in or on behalf of schools and colleges from potential false allegations or misunderstandings.

Staff will receive training about what may constitute a low-level concern. More information can be found in Part 4 of KCSIE (2021).

Reporting low level concerns

Low level concerns should be reported to the Principal.

All low-level concerns should be recorded in writing. The record should include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, and action taken. The name of the individual sharing their concerns should also be noted, if the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible. These records will be kept confidentially on file.

The Principal may:

- Speak directly to the person who raised the concern (unless it has been raised anonymously).
- Speak to the individual involved and/or witnesses.

The Principal will then categorise the type of behaviour and decide on an appropriate course of action. This will be recorded, along with rationale for any decisions made and details of action taken.

Records will be reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified. In the event that patterns and/or wider cultural issues within the College are identified, the College will either:

- take action through our disciplinary procedures;
- refer behaviour to the local authority designated officer/s where a pattern of behaviour moves from a concern to meeting the harms threshold; and/or
- revise policies or implement extra training as appropriate, to minimise the risk of behaviour happening again.

We will retain low level concerns information for at least until the person is no longer employed by the College.

17.3 Supply staff

Although the school/college does not directly employ supply teachers, we will ensure that any concerns or allegations against supply teachers are handled properly. We will never cease to use a supply teacher for safeguarding reasons without finding out the facts and liaising with the Local Authority Designated Officer to reach a suitable outcome.

The Governing body will liaise with the supply agency to determine whether to suspend or redeploy the supply teacher whilst they carry out their investigation.

The College will inform supply agencies of its process for managing allegations and will take account of the agency's policies and their duty to refer to the DBS as personnel suppliers. Informing supply agencies of our process for managing allegations includes inviting the agency's human resource manager (or equivalent) to meetings and regularly updating agencies on relevant school policies.

18. Complaints and concerns about school safeguarding policies

18.1 Complaints against staff

Complaints against staff that are likely to require a student protection investigation will be handled in accordance with our procedures for dealing with low level concerns or allegations of abuse made against staff (see Section 17).

18.2 Other complaints

Complaints related to students who pose a safeguarding concern will be dealt with in accordance with the Behaviour policy, KCSIE Guidance and other guidance documentation from the Government.

Complaints relating to premises and safeguarding against health and safety concerns are managed under the Health and Safety Policy.

18.3 Whistle-blowing

The procedures for raising concerns about the school's safeguarding are:

- Any concerns about a member of staff's conduct, including visitors and supply staff, should be raised immediately to the Principal or the Local Area Designated Officer
- The College will respond to whistleblowing allegations swiftly in accordance with standard investigations procedures
- Staff who report another member of staff will be protected from recourse from their peers through a staged approach so they are able to continue to work in a professional environment.

20. Policy implementation, monitoring and review

The policy will be reviewed annually by the governing body. It will be implemented through the College's induction and training programme, and as part of day to day practice. Compliance with the policy will be monitored by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and through staff performance measures.

Appendix A: Public health emergency (COVID-19) arrangements

This revised addendum of Bosworth College Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements during any time of closure or partial closure due an outbreak of COVID-19, to protect all students, whether attending school or remaining at home, from harm and abuse.

Bosworth Independent College are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all their students and will ensure compliance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) which remains in force throughout the response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

The following safeguarding principles therefore remain unchanged:

- The best interests of students must always continue to come first;
- If anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any student they should continue to act and act immediately;
- A DSL or deputy should be available;
- It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to students;
- Students should continue to be protected when they are online.

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Michael Hodgson	07780 102 907	MHodgson@bosworthcollege.com
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Hannah Rooney	07980 308348	HRooney@bosworthcollege.com
	William Davison	07780 474037	WDavison@bosworthcollege.com
	Jason Lewis	07780 102770	JLewis@bosworthcollege.com
	Caroline Adams (College Nurse)		CAdams@bosworthcollege.com
Principal	Jason Lewis	07780 102770	JLewis@bosworthcollege.com
Chair of Governors	Christopher Stacey	07912 575 790	cstacey@catsglobalschools.com

Supporting Students in School

Bosworth Independent College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Bosworth Independent College will continue to be a safe space for all students to attend and flourish. The Principal will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to student ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Bosworth Independent College will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing: [implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)

Bosworth Independent College will continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Bosworth Independent College will continue to be a safe spaces for all students to attend and flourish. We recognise that for some students the return to school after an extended period of time at home will be challenging and staff will support students to adjust to the necessary changes to the school environment and routines. Supporting pupil wellbeing will be at the forefront of our approach and school staff will seek to provide reassurance to pupils as we manage the transition period. Staff will talk to the students about the changes to the school day in an age appropriate manner, acknowledge and listen to pupil anxieties and support students to understand the altered routines.

Bosworth Independent College recognise that the current circumstances may adversely affect the mental health of students and their parents. School staff have been briefed to look out for changes in behaviour or in a student's emotional state, which could range from being excessively clingy, fearful, withdrawn or aggressive as more students return to school. As always, pupil wellbeing is at the heart of our work, and school staff will seek to provide appropriate support for pupils both in school and where required from specialist services.

Supporting students not in school

Bosworth Independent College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and young people.

Bosworth Independent College recognise that some students will not be eligible to return to school immediately due to the phased nature of re-opening, potential travel and visa limitations and that some parents/carers of students eligible to attend may choose not to send them to school at this time.

Bosworth Independent College recognises that school is a protective factor for students and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at school name need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Where the DSL has identified a student about whom there have been concerns but not currently open to social care, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that student or young person.

Details of this plan will be recorded, as should a record of all contact made.

Bosworth Independent College and their DSLs will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The College Counsellor and members of the Pastoral Team will continue to contact those students who have been identified as requiring extra support. Where appropriate, those students will continue to be offered support sessions online.

If we are unable to contact a student about whom there have been concerns after a reasonable number of attempts, we may need to seek further advice about safe and well checks.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages. Bosworth Independent College will ensure that where we care for students of critical workers and vulnerable students on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Vulnerable students

Vulnerable students include those who have a Social Worker and those students and young people up to the age of 25 with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).

Those who have a Social Worker include students who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A student may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable students are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those about whom there have been concerns but not currently open to Social Care.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Currently Bosworth Independent College do not have any students who are classified as Vulnerable Students. We will however continue to work with and support students' Social Workers to help protect vulnerable students when needed. This includes working with and supporting students' Social Workers and the Local Authority Virtual School Head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after students. The lead person for this will be: Michael Hodgson.

There is an expectation that vulnerable students who have a Social Worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at increased risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the Social Worker and Bosworth Independent College will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the student contracting COVID19, Bosworth Independent College or the Social Worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Bosworth Independent College will encourage our vulnerable students and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance monitoring

Local Authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

Students who are unable to attend due to self-isolation or as a result of a College or community 'lockdown' will be able to access online lessons and attendance to these lessons will be monitored and recorded as though students are in the physical College. Students in this situation will also have the provision of a welfare call once per week, or more regularly, if necessary, to monitor their wellbeing.

The students who are in our boarding houses, will continue to be monitored in boarding. Morning registers and evening curfew checks will continue to be completed daily. Full details of the

Bosworth Independent College will follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

How Will This Look in Bosworth Independent College?

To support the above, Bosworth Independent College will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable student does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Bosworth Independent College will notify their Social Worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead Arrangements

Bosworth Independent College have Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL's) and Deputy DSL's.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Michael Hodgson

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Hannah Rooney, William Davison and Jason Lewis, with additional DDSL support available from the College Nurse, Caroline Adams

We will endeavour to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not possible, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or email or through our electronic recording system, Shackleton.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

It is important that all Bosworth Independent College staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, the staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them.

The DSL will continue to engage with Social Workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which are being held remotely.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a student, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the College's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Bosworth Independent College uses an electronic recording system, Shackleton, which staff are able to access from home.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with students in the school, they should report the concern to the Principal according to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Principal whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Principal.

Concerns around the Principal should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Christopher Stacey.

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training will continue in modified form whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

The Local Authority Education Safeguarding Team is providing advice and guidance, where needed, to schools through a dedicated helpline.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021). All staff will receive updates as appropriate and will follow the guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021. The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a student.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Bosworth Independent College, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, guidance on local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the students' workforce or gain access to students. When recruiting new staff, Bosworth Independent

College will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

If staff are deployed from another education or students' workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding students during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with students
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Where Bosworth Independent College is utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 183 to 188 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Bosworth Independent College will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a student or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 179 of KCSIE.

Bosworth Independent College will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 143 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing: Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Bosworth Independent College will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 164 to 171 in KCSIE.

Online safety in schools and colleges

Bosworth Independent College will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Students and online safety away from school and college

It is important that all staff who interact with students, including online, continue to look out for signs a student may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to students' social care and as required, the police.

School closures bring lots of challenges for both school staff and parents, and both are increasingly looking to the benefits of technology to continue delivering some form of learning experience for students.

As always, there are huge benefits to be gained from the appropriate use of technology, and accessing learning resources whilst at home is a great example of this. However, parents (and teachers) need to be aware of the potential risks that go along with this.

Bosworth Independent College will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. All staff will continue to follow the guidance for communicating with students online as outlined in the College's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Guidance for Safer Working Practice, Addendum April

2020. <https://www.saferrecruitmentconsortium.org/GSWP%20COVID%20addendum%20April%202020%20final-1.pdf>

Peer on Peer Abuse

Bosworth Independent College recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

Students moving schools

As always, where students join our school from other settings we will seek confirmation from the DSL whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided securely before the student begins at our school and a call made from our DSL or a deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the student safe.

In some unusual circumstance this may not be possible. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed Social Worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head.

Safeguarding information about students placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the student's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the student.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

Appendix B: Peer on peer (child on child) abuse

Peer on peer abuse is any abuse of a student or students that is perpetrated by another student or students. This includes all forms of sexual harassment, sexual violence and abuse. We strive to create a culture of safety, where students are free from harassment or abuse of any kind. We take a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment – it is never acceptable and it will not be tolerated.

We know that even if we do not receive any reports relating to peer on peer abuse, it does not mean that it is not happening. We support and encourage anyone – especially our students – to come forward to share any concerns about peer on peer abuse so that we can take action to keep all students safe.

Peer on peer abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse);
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence);
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party;
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nude images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery);
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm; and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).¹⁵

All students are capable of abusing their peers and we recognise that girls are more likely to be the victims of peer on peer abuse and boys' perpetrators. All peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Staff training

All staff are made aware that students can abuse other students, that this can happen online or in person, at school or outside of school. All staff will receive training so that they can confidently recognise the indicators and signs of peer on peer abuse in order to identify it and respond appropriately to reports. All staff will be made aware of the College's policy and procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse and the crucial role that they play in preventing it and responding to it as necessary. It will be made clear that addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

¹⁵ Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021)

Procedures for minimising opportunities for peer on peer abuse

We recognise that a crucial part of our safeguarding responsibility is to minimise the opportunity for peer on peer abuse to occur. In order to do this, and to establish a safe environment for all students, we:

- have a robust behaviour policy, which makes it clear that we have a zero tolerance approach to any kind of peer on peer abuse;
- ensure staff understand what is meant by peer on peer abuse and the school policy on peer on peer abuse by annual training at the start of the academic year for all staff and induction training for in-year starters;
- train staff thoroughly so that they challenge inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous);
- train staff thoroughly so that they are confident to challenge inappropriate behaviours between peers, that are actually abusive in nature;
- never downplay certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as “just banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys”, as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for students and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to students accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it; and
- recognise that sexual harassment and sexual violence, as well as other forms of peer on peer abuse, may be happening even if they are not reported.

Boarding schools and residential settings should include additional information here about the possible additional risk relating to peer on peer abuse in this setting.

How we address peer on peer abuse within the curriculum and across the school

We ensure that our systems for reporting all safeguarding concerns are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for students to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously. We ensure that students are aware of our safeguarding and child protection procedures, including how to raise concerns about peer on peer abuse, by regular updated presented through tutor time, assemblies, PSHE curriculum and in 1:1 discussions with students.

Additional Vulnerabilities

We recognise that some students may be more vulnerable to peer on peer abuse than others. For example, students who have already experienced abuse, those that have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), students living in care and students who are LGBTQ+, may be more likely to face peer on peer abuse than other students. We recognise that girls are more likely to be the victims of peer on peer abuse than boys. Some students may face additional barriers to telling anyone about abuse because of their vulnerability, disability, sex, ethnicity and/or sexual orientation. We work to protect students with additional vulnerabilities by

- 1:1 time with Personal Tutors
- Targeted support through the Pastoral / Safeguarding Team
- Mentoring from key staff
- Sign-posting to relevant external agencies

How to report concerns

Our students

If a young person witnesses or experiences any form of peer on peer abuse, we strongly encourage them to speak to a trusted member of staff, parent or trusted adult about it. If a student discloses to an adult outside of school, the adult should contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay to report the issue.

All victims will be taken seriously, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward and they will be supported and kept safe. Abuse that occurs online or outside of the school will be treated equally seriously. A victim will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence or sexual harassment. A victim will never be made to feel ashamed for making a report or have their experience minimised.

In school, students can:

- Speak to any member of staff who will sign-post them to the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Outside of the College day, students can contact the NSPCC or Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership or by calling the Designated Safeguarding Lead mobile phone number

All of these methods can be used to report any form of harm or abuse, or can be used by students to share worried or concerns about any issue, including peer on peer abuse.

In the event that a student reports or discloses peer on peer abuse, we will take their report seriously, take prompt action to respond and to safeguard the student or students involved and we will ensure that we are listening to the voice of the student when deciding on the best course of action to take. We will always act in the best interests of students. Following any disclosures or reports of peer on peer abuse, we will review our school systems, training and policies to determine if any learning can be derived from the situation to further strengthen our approach to this issue. We will always encourage our students to safely express their views and give feedback on how they have been supported following a safeguarding concern.

Our staff

Any member of staff that has concerns about peer on peer abuse should follow the procedure set out in Section 9 and must report concerns immediately.

Others

We encourage everyone to report any form of abuse or harm perpetrated by or against our students. Any concerns should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, using the details on the front page of this policy.

Wider concerns

We strive to create a safe and welcoming environment for all students. If you have any concerns about our culture of safeguarding, policy or procedures, please direct these to the safeguarding lead immediately, or follow our school Complaints Policy.

What happens when an allegation of peer on peer abuse is made?

We will adhere to Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) and the DfE guidance document 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between students in schools and colleges' (2021) (where applicable) when responding to incidents of peer on peer abuse. The school takes peer on peer abuse seriously and will respond to all concerns or disclosures of peer on peer abuse, including those that have occurred outside of school and online, immediately.

Upon receiving a concern, report or disclosure of abuse, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide what further action is necessary.

Our starting point regarding any report of peer on peer sexual harassment or violence should always be that there is a zero tolerance approach, it is never acceptable and it will not be tolerated. It is especially important not to pass off any sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for students.

The subsequent action taken will vary depending on the type of peer on peer abuse and the severity of the incident/s disclosed. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will take contextual factors into account when managing the report.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will always consider the following;

- the wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed. The victims will be given as much control as is reasonably possible over decisions regarding how any investigation will be progressed and any support that they will be offered;
- the nature of the alleged incident(s), including: the level of coercion or threat, whether a crime may have been committed and consideration of harmful sexual behaviour;
- both the chronological ages and developmental stages of the students involved;
- any power imbalance between the students, including consideration of the age of students and whether students have special educational needs or disabilities;
- the impact on the victim;
- **that sexual violence and sexual harassment can take place in intimate personal relationships between peers;**
- if the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse;
- if there are ongoing risks to the victim, other students, adult students or school or college staff; and
- Other related issues and wider context, such as links to child criminal or child sexual exploitation.

Depending on the nature of the incident/s, the Designated Safeguarding Lead may

- Seek further information from those involved and witnesses.
- Undertake a risk assessment and needs assessment to ascertain steps necessary to safeguard the victim, alleged perpetrator, adults and other students.
- Decide to manage the concern internally.
- Organise a meeting with relevant staff and agencies to assess risk and agree a safety plan.
- Refer the victim and/or the perpetrator to local services for Early Help.
- Refer the case to Children's Services via a MASH referral.
- Liaise with social workers working with students involved (if applicable).
- Make a report to the police.
- Liaise with specialist services.

In the event of a disclosure of peer on peer sexual violence, we will make an immediate risk and needs assessment. The risk and needs assessment will consider:

- the victim, especially their protection and support;
- whether there may have been other victims,
- the alleged perpetrator(s); and
- all the other students, (and, if appropriate, adult students and staff) at the school or college, especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them from the alleged perpetrator(s), or from future harms.

More information about these options in relation to sexual violence and sexual harassment can be found in Part 5 of KCSIE (2021).

Recording procedures

Records of Peer on peer abuse are made by logging a safeguarding concern from on Shackleton. Incidents of peer on peer are reported to governors termly. Risk assessments to protect both the victim and perpetrator are generated before students are permitted to return to normal circulation of the College campus.

Members of staff will follow the procedures for recording a disclosure as outlined in Section 9 of this policy.

How we support victims of peer on peer abuse

The school recognises that peer on peer abuse has a significant impact on young people and victims are likely to need ongoing support. Students who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment wherever it happens, will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. Appropriate support will be put in place for victims of peer on peer abuse whilst investigation is taking place and following the initial response. Support will continue for as long as it is needed and will be reviewed regularly to ensure the victim is receiving appropriate care. The school will do everything we can to maintain the victim's normal routine. We will do everything we can to protect the victim from further bullying, harassment or abuse as a result of their disclosure.

A full package of support to the victims of peer on peer is available and this is tailored to the needs of the individual. Support may include:

- In-college mentoring;
- Welfare support through College counsellor;
- Referrals to external agencies

If a victim of peer on peer abuse moves to a new setting, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will share the necessary information to ensure that support for the student continues.

How we will support alleged perpetrators and perpetrators of peer on peer abuse

We have a responsibility to safeguard and support all students. We will adhere to KCSIE (2021) when managing reports of peer on peer abuse and decide on action and support on a case by case basis.

The school has a responsibility to ensure that an alleged perpetrator continues to receive a suitable education and will consider a range of options in continuing educational provision if they are unable to attend school. Options may include

- In-college mentoring;
- Welfare support through College counsellor;

- Referrals to external agencies;
- Transfer to another College in the group

We recognise that students who perpetrate peer on peer abuse may be being abused themselves. The school will continue to safeguard the alleged perpetrator and provide them with support.

A plan to reduce the risk posed by the alleged perpetrator will be put in place as part of the risk assessment made following the alleged abuse. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will take advice from children's social care, specialist services and the police as necessary.

The school may choose to impose a sanction or punishment on the alleged perpetrator following an incident of peer on peer abuse. In this case, we will follow the school Behaviour Policy in determining the level and severity of sanction.

Where a student is cautioned or receives a conviction related to an incident of peer on peer abuse, the school will refer to KCSIE Part 5 for guidance on SVSH.

If the alleged perpetrator moves to another setting, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will share information as necessary to safeguard the individual and other students at the new setting.

How we will support other students who may have been affected by peer on peer abuse

We will support other students (other than victim and perpetrator) affected through pastoral support, mentoring, counselling and by bringing in external support as appropriate and necessary.

Local Safeguarding Arrangements and making referrals

The school adheres to local safeguarding arrangements, as outlined by the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

For further details of how the school works with partner agencies in responding to safeguarding incidents (including incidents of peer on peer abuse), please see the main body of this policy.

Parents

Parents will be informed of incidents unless sharing information puts a student at greater risk of harm. Students will always be encouraged to speak to parents about peer on peer abuse unless it puts them at greater risk of harm.

Whole school response

We will keep detailed records of any incidents of peer on peer abuse and will look out for potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour. Where a pattern is identified, we will take appropriate action. Consideration will be given to whether there are wider cultural issues that enabled the inappropriate behaviour to occur and in order to minimise it happening again, we may:

- Dedicate more teaching time to a particular issue or topic;
- Deliver additional staff training

Appendix C: Types of abuse

Abuse, including neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap.

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

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a student such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the student's emotional development. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a student, although it may occur alone.

Emotional abuse may involve:

- Conveying to a student that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person
- Not giving the student opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate
- Age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on students. These may include interactions that are beyond a student's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the student participating in normal social interaction
- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another
- Serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing students frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of students

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a student or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the student 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
- Non-contact activities, such as involving students in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging students to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a student 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 students.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a student's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the student's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

Once a student 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 student from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a student's basic emotional needs.

Students missing from education

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

There are many circumstances where a student may become missing from education, but some students are particularly at risk. These include students who:

- Are at risk of harm or neglect
- Are at risk of forced marriage or FGM
- Come from Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller families
- Come from the families of service personnel
- Go missing or run away from home or care
- Are supervised by the youth justice system
- Cease to attend a school
- Come from new migrant families

We will follow our procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with students who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of going missing in future. **We will always follow up with parents/carers when students are not at school. This means we need to have at least two, up to date, contacts for parents/carers. Parents/carers should remember to update the school as soon as possible where these contact details change.** This includes informing the local authority if a student leaves the school without a new school being named, and adhering to requirements with respect to sharing information with the local authority, when applicable, when removing a student's name from the admission register at non-standard transition points.

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

If a staff member suspects that a student is suffering from harm or neglect, we will follow local student protection procedures, including with respect to making reasonable enquiries. We will make an immediate referral to the local authority children's social care team, and the police, if the student is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or in immediate danger.

Child criminal exploitation

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

The abuse can be perpetrated by males or females, and children or adults. It can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse.

The victim can be exploited even when the activity appears to be consensual. It does not always involve physical contact and can happen online. Some specific forms of CCE can include students being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others.

Students can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence, or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As students involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older students), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to.

It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same, however professionals should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.

Indicators of CCE can include a student:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs and alcohol
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late
- Regularly missing school or education
- Not taking part in education

If a member of staff suspects CCE, they will discuss this with the DSL. The DSL will trigger the local safeguarding procedures, including a referral to the local authority's children's social care team and the police, if appropriate.

County Lines

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line".

Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with students and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims.

Students can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

Serious violence

Signs that a student is at risk from, or involved with serious violent crime include:

- 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;
- signs of assault or unexplained injuries; and/or
- unexplained gifts or new possessions, which could also indicate that students have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

There are a range of risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, such as

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

If a member of staff suspects a student is involved in or at risk of serious violent crime, they will discuss this with the DSL. The DSL will trigger the local safeguarding procedures, including a referral to the local authority's children's social care team and the police, if appropriate.

Child sexual exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a student into sexual activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. It may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

The abuse can be perpetrated by males or females, and students or adults. It can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse.

CSE can affect any student, who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some students may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.

Students and young people often trust their abuser and may be tricked into believing they are in a loving, consensual relationship.

CSE can include both physical contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity. It can also happen online. For example, young people may be persuaded or forced to share sexually explicit images of themselves, have sexual

conversations by text, or take part in sexual activities using a webcam. CSE may also occur without the victim's immediate knowledge, for example through others copying videos or images.

In addition to the CCE indicators above, indicators of CSE can include a student:

- Having an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant

If a member of staff suspects CSE, they will discuss this with the DSL. The DSL will trigger the local safeguarding procedures, including a referral to the local authority's children's social care team and the police, if appropriate.

Child abduction and community safety incidents

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the student. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers. Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst students and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging students in conversation.

In order to keep students safe at school we have supervision when moving between College buildings and along the roads connecting them. In addition students are briefed on road awareness and the risk of community based incidents including how to keep themselves and others safe by never walking alone. Furthermore, students who are at risk of abduction by a parent or family member are advised to seek the support of a member of staff who can alert the DSL and/or Principal for support.

In the event that anyone has concerns about child abduction or community safety incidents, they should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.

Cybercrime

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

Cyber-dependent crimes include;

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

Students with particular skill and interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime. If we have concerns about a student and possible risk of being drawn into cyber crime, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will consider referring into the Cyber Choices programme. This is a nationwide police programme supported by the Home Office and led by the National Crime Agency, working

with regional and local policing. We will also include positive interventions and early help to focus a students' interest safely and will refer to children's social care if we think a student is suffering or is at risk of suffering harm.

Domestic abuse

Domestic Abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological; physical; sexual; financial; and emotional.

All students can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on students. In some cases, a student may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Students can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse and/or violence at home where it occurs between family members. In some cases, a student may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Older students may also experience domestic abuse and/or violence in their own personal relationships. See Appendix B: Peer on peer abuse for more details.

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long-lasting emotional and psychological impact on students.

At Bosworth Independent College we are working in partnership with North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire Police to identify and provide appropriate support to students who have experienced domestic abuse in their household; nationally this scheme is called Operation Encompass. In order to achieve this, North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council will share police information with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) of all domestic incidents where one of our students has been affected. On receipt of any information, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide on the appropriate support the student requires, this could be silent or overt.

All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the ['NSCP Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools'](#). We will record this information and store this information in accordance with the record keeping procedures outlined in this policy.

The DSL will provide support according to the student's needs and update records about their circumstances.

Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a student's welfare.

The DSL [and deputy/deputies] will be aware of contact details and referral routes in to the local housing authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity (where appropriate and in accordance with local procedures).

Where a student has been harmed or is at risk of harm, the DSL will also make a referral to children's social care.

So-called ‘honour-based’ abuse (including FGM and forced marriage)

So-called ‘honour-based’ abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including FGM, forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing.

Abuse committed in this context often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators.

All forms of HBA are abuse and will be handled and escalated as such. All staff will be alert to the possibility of a student being at risk of HBA or already having suffered it. If staff have a concern, they will speak to the DSL, who will activate local safeguarding procedures.

Female Genital Mutilation

The DSL will make sure that staff have access to appropriate training to equip them to be alert to students affected by FGM or at risk of FGM.

Section 10 of this policy sets out the procedures to be followed if a staff member discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out or suspects that a student is at risk of FGM.

Indicators that FGM has already occurred include:

- A student confiding in a professional that FGM has taken place
- A mother/family member disclosing that FGM has been carried out
- A family/student already being known to social services in relation to other safeguarding issues
- A girl:
 - Having difficulty walking, sitting or standing, or looking uncomfortable
 - Finding it hard to sit still for long periods of time (where this was not a problem previously)
 - Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating
 - Having frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems
 - Avoiding physical exercise or missing PE
 - Being repeatedly absent from school, or absent for a prolonged period
 - Demonstrating increased emotional and psychological needs – for example, withdrawal or depression, or significant change in behaviour
 - Being reluctant to undergo any medical examinations
 - Asking for help, but not being explicit about the problem
 - Talking about pain or discomfort between her legs

Potential signs that a student may be at risk of FGM include:

- The girl’s family having a history of practicing FGM (this is the biggest risk factor to consider)
- FGM being known to be practiced in the girl’s community or country of origin
- A parent or family member expressing concern that FGM may be carried out
- A family not engaging with professionals (health, education or other) or already being known to social care in relation to other safeguarding issues
- A girl:
 - Having a mother, older sibling or cousin who has undergone FGM
 - Having limited level of integration within UK society
 - Confiding to a professional that she is to have a “special procedure” or to attend a special occasion to “become a woman”

- Talking about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent, or parents stating that they or a relative will take the girl out of the country for a prolonged period
- Requesting help from a teacher or another adult because she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk of FGM
- Talking about FGM in conversation – for example, a girl may tell other students about it (although it is important to take into account the context of the discussion)
- Being unexpectedly absent from school
- Having sections missing from her 'red book' (child health record) and/or attending a travel clinic or equivalent for vaccinations/anti-malarial medication

The above indicators and risk factors are not intended to be exhaustive.

Forced marriage

Forcing a person into marriage is a crime. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats, or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological.

Staff will receive training around forced marriage and the presenting symptoms. We are aware of the 'one chance' rule, i.e. we may only have one chance to speak to the potential victim and only one chance to save them.

If a member of staff suspects that a student is being forced into marriage, they will speak to the student about their concerns in a secure and private place. They will then report this to the DSL.

The DSL will:

- Speak to the student about the concerns in a secure and private place
- Activate the local safeguarding procedures and refer the case to the local authority's designated officer
- Seek advice from the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151 or fm@fco.gov.uk
- Refer the student to an education welfare officer, pastoral tutor, learning mentor, or school counsellor, as appropriate

Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a student under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

A close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.

Parents and private foster carers both have a legal duty to inform the relevant local authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is due to start; not to do so is a criminal offence.

Whilst most privately fostered students are appropriately supported and looked after, they are a potentially vulnerable group who should be monitored by the local authority, particularly when the student has come from another country. In some cases, privately

fostered students are affected by abuse and neglect, or be involved in trafficking, child sexual exploitation or modern-day slavery.

Schools have a mandatory duty to report to the local authority where they are aware or suspect that a student is subject to a private fostering arrangement. Although schools have a duty to inform the local authority, there is no duty for anyone, including the private foster carer or social workers to inform the school. However, it should be clear to the school who has parental responsibility.

School staff should notify the designated safeguarding lead when they become aware of private fostering arrangements. The designated safeguarding lead will speak to the family of the student involved to check that they are aware of their duty to inform the LA. The school itself has a duty to inform the local authority of the private fostering arrangements.

On admission to the school, we will take steps to verify the relationship of the adults to the student who is being registered.

Preventing radicalisation

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

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

Terrorism is an action that:

- Endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people;
- Causes serious damage to property; or
- Seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system

The use or threat of terrorism must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. Schools have a duty to prevent students from being drawn into terrorism. The DSL will undertake Prevent **awareness training** and make sure that staff have access to appropriate training to equip them to identify students at risk.

We will assess the risk of students in our school being drawn into terrorism. This assessment will be based on an understanding of the potential risk in our local area, in collaboration with our local safeguarding partners and local police force.

We will ensure that suitable internet filtering is in place, and equip our students to stay safe online at school and at home.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Radicalisation can occur quickly or over a long period.

Staff will be alert to changes in students' behaviour. The government website [Educate Against Hate](#)¹⁶ and charity [NSPCC](#)¹⁷ say that signs that a student is being radicalised can include:

- Refusal to engage with, or becoming abusive to, peers who are different from themselves
- Becoming susceptible to conspiracy theories and feelings of persecution
- Changes in friendship groups and appearance
- Rejecting activities they used to enjoy
- Converting to a new religion
- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- Talking as if from a scripted speech
- An unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- Increased levels of anger
- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet use
- Expressions of sympathy for extremist ideologies and groups, or justification of their actions
- Accessing extremist material online, including on Facebook or Twitter
- Possessing extremist literature
- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and joining, or seeking to join, extremist organisations

Students who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or may be victims of bullying or discrimination. It is important to note that these signs can also be part of normal teenage behaviour – staff should have confidence in their instincts and seek advice if something feels wrong.

If staff are concerned about a student, they will follow our procedures set out in Section 9 of this policy, including discussing their concerns with the DSL. Staff should always take action if they are worried.

Missing students

Our procedures are designed to ensure that a missing student is found and returned to effective supervision as soon as possible. If a student goes missing, we will:

1. Call the student on their personal mobile phone, and/or ask parent to contact the student
 2. Send a search party to search the boarding accommodation, College grounds, and local area
 3. Alert the Police of the missing student
 4. Once the student is found and returned to College, they will be supervised by a member of the College staff until a meeting with the parent can take place
 5. If the Student has not returned following an exeat or College holiday, and contact with parents is not made, a referral to the Local Authority following CME procedure will be made
 6. The incident will be recorded on Shackleton under Pastoral Notes
- [See link to NNC/WNC procedures for Children Missing Education](#)¹⁸

Non-collection of students

If a student is not collected at the end of the session/day, we will:

1. Contact the parent

¹⁶ <https://educateagainsthate.com/signs-of-radicalisation/>

¹⁷ <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/>

¹⁸ <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/information-for-school-staff/pupil-support-and-inclusion/attendance-and-behaviour/Pages/children.aspx>

2. Supervise the student in College with a member of the pastoral team
3. Record the incident on Shackleton under Pastoral Notes

Appendix D: Safer recruitment

We adhere to Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education at all times. We consider safeguarding throughout the recruitment process, including when defining and advertising roles.

We will record all information on the checks carried out in the school's single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals' personnel files. We follow requirements and best practice in retaining copies of these checks, as set out below.

Pre-appointment safer recruitment

We will include the following in all job advertisements:

- our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students;
- clear confirmation that safeguarding checks will be undertaken;
- the safeguarding responsibilities of the post as per the job description and personal specification; and
- whether the post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020.

Where a role involves engaging in regulated activity relevant to students, we will include a statement in the application form or elsewhere in the information provided to applicants that it is an offence to apply for the role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to students.

All applicants will be provided with:

- a link on our website to a copy of the school's or college's child protection policy and practices.

Applicants

We require applicants to provide:

- personal details, current and former names, current address and their national insurance number;
- details of their present (or last) employment and reason for leaving;
- full employment history, (since leaving school, including education, employment and voluntary work) including reasons for any gaps in employment;
- qualifications, the awarding body and date of award;
- details of referees/references; and
- a statement of the personal qualities and experience that the applicant believes are relevant to their suitability for the post advertised and how they meet the person specification.

We will not accept copies of curriculum vitae in place of an application form.

Shortlisting and selection

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with students. For more details of what this will contain, please see Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021).

At least two people will carry out shortlisting and they will explore any potential concerns, including inconsistencies and/or gaps in unemployment.

We will seek references on all shortlisted candidates, including internal candidates, before interview. We will scrutinise these and resolve any concerns before confirming appointments. The references requested will ask specific questions about the suitability of the applicant to work with students.

When asked to provide references, we will ensure the information confirms whether we are satisfied with the applicant's suitability to work with students and provide the facts of any substantiated safeguarding allegations.

New staff

When appointing new staff, we will:

- verify a candidate's identity. This includes demonstrating an awareness for the potential for individuals changing their name. Best practice is checking the name on their birth certificate, where this is available;
- obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS check (including children's barred list information, for those who will be engaging in regulated activity with students);
- obtain a separate children's barred list check if an individual will start work in regulated activity with students before the DBS certificate is available;
- verify the candidate's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities;
- verify the person's right to work in the UK, including EU nationals;
- If the person has lived or worked outside the UK, make any further checks the school or college consider appropriate;
- verify professional qualifications, as appropriate; and
- ensure that an applicant to be employed to carry out teaching work is not subject to a prohibition order.
- **Check that candidates taking up a management position are not subject to a prohibition from management (section 128) direction made by the Secretary of State.**

Regulated activity means a person who will be:

- Responsible, on a regular basis in a school or college, for teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising students; or
- Carrying out paid, or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school or college where that work provides an opportunity for contact with students; or
- Engaging in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once and regardless of whether they are supervised or not

Existing staff

If we have concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with students, we will carry out all the relevant checks as if the individual was a new member of staff. We will also do this if an individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is.

We will refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a student or vulnerable adult where:

- We believe the individual has engaged in [relevant conduct](#);
or
- The individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence, or there is reason to believe the individual has committed a listed relevant offence, under the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 \(Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions\) Regulations 2009](#); or
- The 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e. they may harm a student or vulnerable adult or put them at risk of harm); and
- The individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left

Agency and third-party staff

We will obtain written notification from any agency or third-party organisation that it has carried out the necessary safer recruitment checks that we would otherwise perform. We will also check that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

Contractors

We will ensure that any contractor, or any employee of the contractor, who is to work at the school has had the appropriate level of DBS check (this includes contractors who are provided through a PFI or similar contract). This will be:

- An enhanced DBS check with barred list information for contractors engaging in regulated activity
- An enhanced DBS check, not including barred list information, for all other contractors who are not in regulated activity but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with students
- We will obtain the DBS check for self-employed contractors.
- We will not keep copies of such checks for longer than 6 months.
- Contractors who have not had any checks will not be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity under any circumstances.
- We will check the identity of all contractors and their staff on arrival at the school.

Trainee/student teachers

Where applicants for initial teacher training are salaried by us, we will ensure that all necessary checks are carried out.

Where trainee teachers are fee-funded, we will obtain written confirmation from the training provider that necessary checks have been carried out and that the trainee has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with students.

Volunteers

We will:

- Never leave an unchecked volunteer unsupervised or allow them to work in regulated activity.
- Obtain an enhanced DBS check with barred list information for all volunteers who are new to working in regulated activity.
- Carry out a risk assessment when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check without barred list information for any volunteers not engaging in regulated activity. We will retain a record of this risk assessment.

Governors

- All governors will have an enhanced DBS check without barred list information.
- They will have an enhanced DBS check with barred list information if working in regulated activity.

All proprietors, trustees, local governors and members will also have the following checks:

- A section 128 check (to check prohibition on participation in management under [section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008](#)). [Section 128 checks are only required for local governors if they have retained or been delegated any management responsibilities.]
- Identity
- Right to work in the UK
- Other checks deemed necessary if they have lived or worked outside the UK

All governors will also have the following checks:

- Identity
- Right to work in the UK
- Other checks deemed necessary if they have lived or worked outside the UK

Staff working in alternative provision settings

Where we place a student with an alternative provision provider, we obtain written confirmation from the provider that they have carried out the appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working there that we would otherwise perform.

Checking the identity and suitability of visitors

All visitors will be required to verify their identity to the satisfaction of staff and to leave their belongings, including their mobile phone(s), in a safe place during their visit.

If the visitor is unknown to the setting, we will check their credentials and reason for visiting before allowing them to enter the setting. Visitors should be ready to produce identification. Visitors are expected to sign the visitors' book and wear a visitor's badge.

Visitors to the school who are visiting for a professional purpose, such as educational psychologists and school improvement officers, will be asked to show photo ID and the organisation sending the professional, such as the LA or educational psychology service, will provide annually written confirmation that an enhanced DBS check with barred list information has been carried out.

All other visitors, including visiting speakers, will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times. We will not invite into the school any speaker who is known to disseminate extremist views, and will carry out appropriate checks to ensure that any individual or organisation using school facilities is not seeking to disseminate extremist views or radicalise students or staff.

Adults who supervise students on work experience

When organising work experience, we will ensure that policies and procedures are in place to protect students from harm.

We will also consider whether it is necessary for barred list checks to be carried out on the individuals who supervise a student under 16 on work experience. This will depend on the specific circumstances of the work experience, including the nature of the supervision, the frequency of the activity being supervised, and whether the work is regulated activity.

Students staying with host families

Where the school makes arrangements for students to be provided with care and accommodation by a host family to which they are not related (for example, during a foreign exchange visit), we will request enhanced DBS checks with barred list information on those people. In addition the family will be required to be registered.

Appendix E: How the school responds to allegations that may meet the harms threshold

This section of this policy applies to all cases in which it is alleged that a current member of staff, including a supply teacher or volunteer, has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a student, or may have harmed a student, or
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a student, or
- behaved towards a student or students in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to students, or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with students.

It applies regardless of whether the alleged abuse took place in the school or elsewhere. Allegations against a teacher who is no longer teaching and historical allegations of abuse will be referred to the police.

We will deal with any allegation of abuse against a member of staff or volunteer quickly, in a fair and consistent way that provides effective child protection while also supporting the individual who is the subject of the allegation. Our procedures for dealing with allegations will be applied with common sense and judgement.

For more information about how the school responds to low-level concerns (concerns do not meet the harms threshold) please see Section 17 of this policy.

Suspension of the accused until the case is resolved

Suspension will not be the default position, and will only be considered in cases where there is reason to suspect that a student or other students is/are at risk of harm, or the case is so serious that it might be grounds for dismissal. In such cases, we will only suspend an individual if we have considered all other options available and there is no reasonable alternative. We will seek views from our personnel adviser, the local authority designated officer/s, the police and/or Children's Social Care (as appropriate).

Based on an assessment of risk, we will consider alternatives such as:

- Redeployment within the school so that the individual does not have direct contact with the student or students concerned.
- Providing an assistant to be present when the individual has contact with students
- Redeploying the individual to alternative work in the school so that they do not have unsupervised access to students.
- Moving the student or students to classes where they will not come into contact with the individual, making it clear that this is not a punishment and parents have been consulted.
- Temporarily redeploying the individual to another role in a different location, for example to an alternative College or other work for the Group.

Definitions for outcomes of allegation investigations

- **Substantiated:** there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation
- **Malicious:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive
- **False:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation

- **Unsubstantiated:** there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation (this does not imply guilt or innocence)
- **Unfounded:** to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made

Procedure for dealing with allegations

In the event of an allegation that meets the criteria above, the Principal (or safeguarding governor where the Principal is the subject of the allegation) – the ‘case manager’ – will take the following steps:

- Immediately discuss the allegation with the designated officer at the local authority. This is to consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action, including whether further enquiries are necessary to enable a decision on how to proceed, and whether it is necessary to involve the police and/or children’s social care services. (The case manager may, on occasion, consider it necessary to involve the police *before* consulting the designated officer – for example, if the accused individual is deemed to be an immediate risk to students or there is evidence of a possible criminal offence. In such cases, the case manager will notify the designated officer as soon as practicably possible after contacting the police).
- Inform the accused individual of the concerns or allegations and likely course of action as soon as possible after speaking to the designated officer (and the police or children’s social care services, where necessary). Where the police and/or children’s social care services are involved, the case manager will only share such information with the individual as has been agreed with those agencies.
- Where appropriate (in the circumstances described above), carefully consider whether suspension of the individual from contact with students at the school is justified or whether alternative arrangements such as those outlined above can be put in place. Advice will be sought from the designated officer, police and/or children’s social care services, as appropriate.
- **If immediate suspension is considered necessary**, agree and record the rationale for this with the designated officer. The record will include information about the alternatives to suspension that have been considered, and why they were rejected. Written confirmation of the suspension will be provided to the individual facing the allegation or concern within 1 working day, and the individual will be given a named contact at the school and their contact details.
- **If it is decided that no further action is to be taken** in regard to the subject of the allegation or concern, record this decision and the justification for it and agree with the designated officer what information should be put in writing to the individual and by whom, as well as what action should follow both in respect of the individual and those who made the initial allegation.
- **If it is decided that further action is needed**, take steps as agreed with the designated officer to initiate the appropriate action in school and/or liaise with the police and/or Children’s Social Care services as appropriate.
- Provide effective support for the individual facing the allegation or concern, including appointing a named representative to keep them informed of the progress of the case and considering what other support is appropriate. Individuals can seek advice from: trade union representatives, or a colleague, and are advised to access the Employee Assist Program provided by the Group.
- Inform the parents or carers of the student/students involved about the allegation as soon as possible if they do not already know (following agreement with children’s social care services and/or the police, if applicable). The case manager will also inform the parents or carers of the requirement to maintain confidentiality about any allegations made against teachers (where this applies) while investigations are ongoing. Any parent or carer who wishes to have the confidentiality restrictions removed in respect of a teacher will be advised to seek legal advice
- Keep the parents or carers of the student/students involved informed of the progress of the case and the outcome, where there is not a criminal prosecution, including the outcome of any disciplinary

process (in confidence)

- Make a referral to the DBS where it is thought that the individual facing the allegation or concern has engaged in conduct that harmed or is likely to harm a student, or if the individual otherwise poses a risk of harm to a student
- If the school is made aware that the Secretary of State has made an interim prohibition order in respect of an individual, we will immediately suspend that individual from teaching, pending the findings of the investigation by the Teaching Regulation Agency.
- Where the police are involved, wherever possible the governing board will ask the police at the start of the investigation to obtain consent from the individuals involved to share their statements and evidence for use in the school's disciplinary process, should this be required at a later point.

Additional considerations for supply staff

If there are concerns or an allegation is made against someone not directly employed by the school, such as supply staff provided by an agency, we will take the actions below in addition to our standard procedures.

We will never cease to use a supply teacher for safeguarding reasons without first finding out the facts and liaising with the Local Authority Designated Officer to reach a suitable outcome. The governing board will discuss with the agency whether it is appropriate to suspend the supply teacher, or redeploy them to another part of the school, while the school carries out the investigation

We will involve the agency fully, but the school will take the lead in collecting the necessary information and providing it to the local authority designated officer as required.

We will address issues such as information sharing, to ensure any previous concerns or allegations known to the agency are taken into account (we will do this, for example, as part of the allegations management meeting or by liaising directly with the agency where necessary).

When using an agency, we will inform them of our process for managing allegations, and keep them updated about our policies as necessary, and will invite the agency's HR manager or equivalent to meetings as appropriate.

Timescales

- Any cases where it is clear immediately that the allegation is unsubstantiated or malicious will be resolved within 1 week.
- If the nature of an allegation does not require formal disciplinary action, we will institute appropriate action within 3 working days.
- If a disciplinary hearing is required and can be held without further investigation, we will hold this within 15 working days.

Specific actions

Action following a criminal investigation or prosecution

The case manager will discuss with the designated officer whether any further action, including disciplinary action, is appropriate and, if so, how to proceed, taking into account information provided by the police and/or children's social care services.

Conclusion of a case where the allegation is substantiated

If the allegation is substantiated and the individual is dismissed or the school ceases to use their services, or the individual resigns or otherwise ceases to provide their services, the case manager and the school's personnel adviser will discuss with the designated officer whether to make a referral to the DBS for consideration of whether inclusion on the barred lists is required. If they think that the individual has engaged in conduct that has harmed (or is likely to harm) a student, or if they think the person otherwise poses a risk of harm to a student, they must make a referral to the DBS.

If the individual concerned is a member of teaching staff, the case manager and personnel adviser will discuss with the designated officer whether to refer the matter to the Teaching Regulation Agency to consider prohibiting the individual from teaching.

Individuals returning to work after suspension

If it is decided on the conclusion of a case that an individual who has been suspended can return to work, the case manager will consider how best to facilitate this.

The case manager will also consider how best to manage the individual's contact with the student or students who made the allegation, if they are still attending the school.

Unsubstantiated or malicious allegations

If an allegation is shown to be deliberately invented, or malicious, the Principal, or other appropriate person in the case of an allegation against the Principal, will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the student(s) who made it, or whether the police should be asked to consider whether action against those who made the allegation might be appropriate, even if they are not a student.

Confidentiality

The school will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity while an allegation is being investigated or considered.

The case manager will take advice from the local authority's designated officer, police and children's social care services, as appropriate, to agree:

- Who needs to know about the allegation and what information can be shared.
- How to manage speculation, leaks and gossip, including how to make parents or carers of a student/students involved aware of their obligations with respect to confidentiality.
- What, if any, information can be reasonably given to the wider community to reduce speculation.
- How to manage press interest if, and when, it arises.

Record-keeping

The case manager will maintain clear records about any case where the allegation or concern meets the criteria above and store them on the individual's confidential personnel file for the duration of the case. Such records will include:

- A clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation.
- Details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved.
- Notes of any action taken and decisions reached (and justification for these, as stated above).

If an allegation or concern is not found to have been malicious, the school will retain the records of the case on the individual's confidential personnel file, and provide a copy to the individual.

Where records contain information about allegations of sexual abuse, we will preserve these for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), for the term of the inquiry. We will retain all other records at least until the individual has reached normal pension age, or for 10 years from the date of the allegation if that is longer. The records of any allegation that is found to be malicious will be deleted from the individual's personnel file.

References

When providing employer references, we will not refer to any allegation that has been proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious, or any history of allegations where all such allegations have been proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious.

Learning lessons

After any cases where the allegations are *substantiated*, we will review the circumstances of the case with the local authority's designated officer to determine whether there are any improvements that we can make to the school's procedures or practice to help prevent similar events in the future.

This will include consideration of (as applicable):

- Issues arising from the decision to suspend the member of staff
- The duration of the suspension
- Whether or not the suspension was justified
- The use of suspension when the individual is subsequently reinstated. We will consider how future investigations of a similar nature could be carried out without suspending the individual

For referrals regarding adults in education and other information on the role of the Designated Officer (formerly LADO) please visit:
<http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/schools/referrals-eha/designated-officer/>

The Safeguarding Lead of the Board Bosworth College is:

NAME:	CONTACT NUMBER:
Craig Wilson	crwilson@catsglobalschools.com

In the absence of the Safeguarding Lead, the CEO should be contacted:

NAME:	CONTACT:
Chris Stacey	cstacey@catsglobalschools.com

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: **0300 126 7000 (Option 1)**

If it is decided that the allegation does not meet the threshold for safeguarding, it will be handed back to the employer for consideration via the school's internal procedures.

Teaching students to stay safe online and keeping students safe online in school is a crucial part of safeguarding. It is essential that students are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. We take a whole College approach to online to protect and educate students, students, and staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.

Our approach to online safety runs through every aspect of our work with students, including (but not limited to):

- curriculum planning and RSHE;
- teacher training;
- the role and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead; and
- parental engagement.

This appendix complements and should be read alongside our Online Safety policy. Staff must read the Online Safety Policy in conjunction with our Code of Conduct in relation to personal online behaviour. All staff receive online safety training at induction, with regular updates and formal annual training thereafter.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) takes lead responsibility for online safety. The DSL attends training regularly to ensure that they understand the unique risks associated with online safety and to ensure that they are confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep students safe whilst they are online at Bosworth College.

Risks to students

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

- **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.
- **contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as students or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes’.
- **conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- **commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

We refer to these four areas of risk when planning our approach to online safety and ensuring that we are safeguarding students against a broad spectrum of potential online harms.

Filtering and monitoring

In order to keep students safe when using school IT equipment, we monitor IT equipment centrally and reports are sent to College weekly.

We are mindful that “over-blocking” can lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what students can be taught with regard to online teaching and safeguarding and mitigate against

this by central monitoring which is reported to College weekly to inform individual actions depending on context. The appropriateness of any filters and monitoring systems are a matter for will be informed in part, by the risk assessment required by the Prevent Duty.

Student mobile phones

Students are not allowed to use their mobile phones during lessons, scheduled sessions or while walking around the College Campus. During unstructured time students may use their phones. Online safety and the law are covered through the Personal Development Curriculum so students know how to keep themselves and other safe.

See Section 16 of this policy for more details about staff use of mobile phones.

Remote learning

Should students be learning online, their attendance to lessons is monitored. Should a student not attend lessons they are referred to the Pastoral team and families are contacted to ascertain the reason. Students are provided with the email address and phone number of the DSL so they can disclose safeguarding concerns should they wish to.

How to report online safety concerns

If students, parents or staff have any concerns about online safety, or need to make a disclosure, they should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy without delay. The contact details for these members of staff can be found on the front of this policy.

Regular review of our approach to online safety

We recognise that technology, and risks and harms related to it evolve and changes rapidly. We carry out an annual review of our approach to online safety, supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks students face. This is informed by local and national training and regular updates.

More information

For more information about online safety, please see Annex D of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021).