

St. Sebastian's R.C. Primary School



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Names and Designation of Policy Author(s)	Caroline Doyle, Headteacher Jannine Platt, Deputy Headteacher	Is this a Statutory Document?	
		Yes	
Approved by:	FGB		
Date Approved	March 2024	Is this to be published publicly on the school website?	Yes
Review Date	September 2024		
Target audience	Staff, parents, governors		
Links to other strategies, policies, procedures etc.	Attendance Policy, Behaviour Policy, Anti-bullying Policy, Child-on-child Abuse Policy, Online Safety and Mobile Technology, Prevent Duty, Transgender Policy, Pupils with Medical Needs Policy, Children Missing Education, Child Criminal Exploitation, Emotional and Mental Health Policy, Self-Harm, Staff Behaviour/Code of Conduct, Safer Recruitment, Safer Working Practice, Educational Visits Policy, Low Level Concerns Policy, Whistleblowing, School Security, Health and Safety Policy. This list is not exhaustive.		

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- Caroline Coffey (FLO) caroline.coffey@salford.gov.uk

- Jannine Platt (Deputy Head) Jannine.Platt@salford.gov.uk

The Bridge Partnership for child protection referrals – tel: 0161 603 4500 or e mail

worriedaboutachild@salford.gov.uk

GMP Public Protection Investigation Unit (PPIU) – for referrals/consultation about crime-related safeguarding concerns – tel: 0161 856 5171 or e mail parklane.ppiu@gmp.police.uk.

Managing allegations against an employee (or volunteer) - Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) tel: 0161 603 4350 / 4445

[Managing allegations against adults who work with children | Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

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Worried About a Child?

All reports or enquiries concerning the welfare or safety of a child must go straight to The Bridge Partnership on 0161 603 4500 as the first port of call. This applies to reports from council staff, the public, partners and outside agencies. All referrals and request for support concerning the welfare or safety of a child must go through the Bridge Partnership via the online Salford City Council's portal and information hub for services to Children, Young People and Families at

<https://childrensportalehm.salford.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

If a child is in immediate danger of being harmed, or if a child is home alone, the police should be called on 999.

This policy should be considered alongside all relevant legislation, school's child protection procedures (Appendix 2) and other related policies and documents in school. These being:

- Core Values
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Anti-bullying (including cyber, homophobic and gender-based bullying)
- School Security
- Child on Child Abuse
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
- Special Education Needs and Disabilities
- Health & Safety
- Online Safety and Mobile Technology (including Monitoring and Filtering policy)
- Appropriate use of Technology
- DFE Guidance – Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes
- Safer Working Practice
- Prevent Duty
- Transgender
- Supporting School Pupils with Medical Needs
- Elective Home Education
- Children Missing Education
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Gang Activity/Serious Youth Violence
- Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Child Sexual Exploitation

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- Emotional Well Being/Mental Health/Suicide and Self Harm
- Self-Harm
- Female Genital Mutilation FGM
- Staff Behaviour / Code of Conduct Policy
- Safer Recruitment
- Safer Working Practice
- Educational Visits
- Handling Allegations of Abuse Against Staff
- Low Level Concerns
- Whistleblowing
- Healthy Relationships/SRE/PSHE
- Search and Confiscate
- Resolving Professional Disagreements, Effective Challenge and Escalation
- Domestic Abuse guidance for Educational Settings

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023), and the Governance Handbook. We comply with this guidance and the arrangements agreed and published by our 3 Local Safeguarding Partners. Home | Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership

The purpose of the policy is to make explicit an effective whole school commitment to the development of good practice and sound procedures. It also gives clear direction to staff and others about expected responses to child protection issues. This ensures that child protection concerns and referrals may be handled sensitively, professionally and in ways which always prioritise the needs of the child.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. St. Sebastian's Roman Catholic Primary School is located in Salford. This policy sets out St. Sebastian's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who attend the school.
- 1.2. Schools, colleges, early years and childcare settings, and other educational providers have a pivotal role to play in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. Our insight and co-operation are vital to the successful delivery of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The staff in our school, working in our education setting, play an important role in building relationships, identifying concerns and providing direct support to children. They may be the first trusted adult to whom children report safeguarding concerns.

There are three main elements to our Safeguarding Policy.

(a) **Prevention:**

By providing a positive school atmosphere, teaching and pastoral support to pupils.

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(b) **Protection:**

By following agreed procedures and ensuring staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to child protection concerns.

(c) **Support:**

To pupils and school staff and to children who may have been abused.

Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

This policy applies to **all** adults, including temporary staff, supply staff, volunteers, governors and contractors. The policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; Section 128 of the Education Act 2002; Education and Skills Act 2008. Also, in line with government publications: 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2023), Revised Safeguarding Statutory Guidance 2 'Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need, and their Families' (2000), Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners (2018), 'What to do if You are Worried a Child is Being Abused' (2015) and Behaviour in Schools non-statutory guidance (Sep 2022). The guidance reflects, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' September 2023.

The Governing Board takes seriously its responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm.

1.3. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge,
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online,
- 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,
- promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the children. (Kinship care arrangements are defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023-page 158/159),
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework

2. School Commitment

2.1. We recognise that high self-esteem, mental and physical health and wellbeing, confidence, peer support and clear lines of communication with trusted adults helps all children, and especially those at risk of or suffering harm from abuse or neglect.'

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Our school will therefore:

- a) Adopt the **Salford Standards for Listening** and establish/maintain an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and listened to through the development of clear codes of conduct and roles and responsibilities of all.
<https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/professionals/salford-standards-for-listening-to-families/>
- b) Ensure that children know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty by establishing and communicating clear child friendly procedures to them.
- c) Establish and maintain an ethos where children are supported with their emotional well-being and mental health by offering additional age-appropriate activities, a PSHE programme as well targeted intervention and access to relevant outside agencies.
- d) Establish a whole school approach to recognising and responding to potential incidents of child-on-child sexual abuse and harassment; both in and out of school hours. Comprehensive staff training will ensure a school culture that makes it clear that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and sexualised behaviour, and it should never be passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys”. There will be robust systems of recording incidents that ensure evidence-based review and response. This philosophy will be adopted and promoted by **everyone** in the school and inappropriate behaviours will be consistently challenged. We will proactively educate our pupils about relationships, respect and boundaries through the RSHE programme and all staff will reassure pupils that they will be taken seriously and supported.
- e) Include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for PSHE and Relationships, Health and Sex Education, to equip children with the skills they need to stay safe and/or communicate their fears or concerns about abuse and are taught about safeguarding, together with online safety, the risks of cybercrime and cyberbullying (including when they are online at home), stalking and mate crime, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.
- f) Include in the curriculum, material that will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly regarding childcare and parenting skills. *See PSHE programme and related policies. Relevant safeguarding issues will be covered through the Relationships, Health and Sex Education and PSHE programmes.
- g) Ensure local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are fully understood and rigorously applied by establishing effective working relationships with practitioners from other agencies and with parents and carers.
- h) Ensure that there are systems in place to ensure parents and carers are empowered to participate in decision-making to help to contribute to developments of the school within the community and support and protect children.

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- i) Ensure all staff are aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues and that children are at risk of abuse online as well as face to face in daily life. Technology, and risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly. At least annually, the school review the approach to online safety, supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks the children face.
- j) Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. At St. Sebastian's, we recognise that AI has many uses, including enhancing teaching and learning and helping to protect and safeguard pupils. However, AI may also have the potential to facilitate abuse, (e.g. bullying and grooming) and/or expose pupils to harmful content, for example, in the form of 'deepfakes', where AI is used to create images, audio or video hoaxes that look real.

We will treat any use of AI to access harmful content or bully pupils in line with this policy and our anti-bullying/behaviour policy.

Staff will be aware of the risks of using A.I. tools and will carry out risk assessments for any new A.I. tool being used by the school.

2.2. Safeguarding is a shared endeavour and everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. School staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children, to prevent concerns from escalating. The school staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. The school will work with social care, the police, health and other services to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This includes providing a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified and contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support to children subject to child protection plans.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 recognises schools as relevant agencies; therefore, we will act in accordance with the SSCP's safeguarding arrangements.

As part of this, the school will:

- have a clear understanding of our responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children in Salford, and how we will discharge them,
- co-operate with Safeguarding Partners to improve, implement, and monitor effectiveness of the local safeguarding arrangements,
- share information and data about safeguarding issues and concerns affecting the children involved in our school to contribute to local priorities,
- ensure local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are fully understood, and rigorously applied with our school.

2.3 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 states, '*all schools must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils.*' This Act also gives head teachers the ability to ensure that pupils behave when they are not on school premises or under the lawful control of school staff.

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2.4 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child centred and contextual. This means that they will always consider what is in the **best interests** of the child, including the wider environmental factors, influences and extra-familial harms that are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. The development of appropriate multi-agency procedures and the monitoring of good practice are the responsibilities of the Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP).

All staff, practitioners and adults working in St. Sebastian's school need to understand their role in identifying emerging problems. The staff at our school undertake whole school staff and governor safeguarding training that meets local and national safeguarding requirements so that they:

- know when to share information with other practitioners and what action to take to support early identification and assessment,
- are able to identify and recognise all forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation,
- have an understanding of domestic and sexual abuse, including controlling and coercive behaviour as well as parental conflict that is frequent, intense, and unresolved,
- are aware of new and emerging threats, including online harm, grooming, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, radicalisation, and the role of technology and social media in presenting harm,
- are aware that a child and their family may be experiencing multiple needs at the same time.

All staff will work to the following national multi-agency practice standards in recognising actual or likely significant harm.

- Practitioners are alert to potential indicators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and listen carefully to what a child says, how they behave, and observe how they communicate if non-verbal (due to age, special needs and/or disabilities, or if unwilling to communicate). Practitioners will try to understand the child's personal experiences and observe and record any concerns.
- Practitioners communicate in a way that is appropriate to the child's age and level of understanding and use evidence-based practice tools for engaging with children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.
- When practitioners have concerns or information about a child that may indicate a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, they share them with relevant practitioners and escalate them if necessary, using the referral or escalation procedure in place within their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. They update colleagues when they receive relevant new information.
- Practitioners never assume that information has already been shared by another professional or family member and always remain open to changing their views about the likelihood of significant harm.

The school will underpin multi-agency working by ensuring all staff:

- **COLLABORATE:** Practitioners working with the same child and family share information to get a complete picture of what life is like for the child. Collectively, they ensure the child's voice is at the centre and the right support is provided.
- **LEARN:** Practitioners learn together by drawing on the best available evidence from their individual fields and sharing their diverse perspectives during regular shared reflection on a child's development, experiences, and outcomes.
- **RESOURCE:** Practitioners build strong relationships across agencies and disciplines to ensure they support and protect the children with whom they work.
- **INCLUDE:** Practitioners recognise the differences between, and are confident to respond to, circumstances where children experience adversity due to economic and social circumstances and acute family stress, and situations where children face harm due to parental abuse and neglect.
- **MUTUALLY CHALLENGE:** Practitioners challenge themselves and each other, question each other's assumptions, and seek to resolve differences of opinion in a restorative and respectful way.

All staff will be alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- is disabled,
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care (EHC) plan),
- is a young carer,
- is bereaved,
- is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including being affected by gangs and county lines and organised crime groups and/or serious violence, including knife crime,
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home,
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual and/or criminal exploitation,
- is at risk of being radicalised,
- is viewing problematic and/or inappropriate online content (for example, linked to violence), or developing inappropriate relationships online.

All staff will be aware of:

- our systems which support safeguarding, including this child protection and safeguarding policy, the staff code of conduct, the role and identity of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies, the behaviour policy, and the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education,
- the early help assessment process and their role in it, including identifying emerging problems, liaising with the DSL, and sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment,
- the process for making referrals to local authority children's social care and for statutory assessments that may follow a referral, including the role they might be expected to play,

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- what to do if they identify a safeguarding issue or a child tells them they are being abused or neglected, including specific issues such as FGM, and how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality while liaising with relevant professionals,
- the signs of different types of abuse, neglect and exploitation, including domestic and sexual abuse (including controlling and coercive behaviour as well as parental conflict that is frequent, intense, and unresolved), as well as specific safeguarding issues, such as child-on-child abuse, grooming, child sexual exploitation (CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), indicators of being at risk from or involved with serious violent crime, FGM, radicalisation and serious violence (including that linked to county lines),
- new and emerging threats, including online harm, grooming, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, radicalisation, and the role of technology and social media in presenting harm,
- the importance of reassuring victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe,
- the fact that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of their home, at school and online,
- the fact that children who are (or who are perceived to be) lesbian, gay, bi or trans (LGBTQ+) can be targeted by other children,
- that a child and their family may be experiencing multiple needs at the same time,
- what to look for to identify children who need help or protection.

Details of the role and functions of the SSCP can be found on <https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk>

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1 All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to protect children. There are, however, key people within schools and the Local Authority who have specific responsibilities under Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures. The names of those carrying these responsibilities in school for the current year are listed in the key contracts section on page 2 of this document.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

- 3.2 The Governing Body and proprietors will ensure that an appropriate senior member of staff from the leadership team is appointed to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety). This will be explicit in the role-holder's job description (as outlined in Annex C of Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2023).

The role of the DSL carries a significant level of responsibility, and they will be given the additional time, funding, training, resources and support they need to carry out the role effectively. Their additional responsibilities include providing advice and support to other staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, taking part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings, and/or supporting other staff to do so, and

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contributing to the assessment of children. The DSL will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety and have an overview of the outcomes of the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place). Any deputies will be trained to the same standard as the DSL and the role will be explicit in their job description.

During term time, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a deputy) will always be available (during school hours) for staff in school to discuss any safeguarding concerns. If not available in person, the school will (in exceptional circumstances) inform staff of how the DSL can be contacted.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all new staff and governors receive safeguarding and child protection training at induction and make sure all staff and governors are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies on local safeguarding arrangements.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is expected to refer cases of suspected abuse and neglect to the local authority children's social care and to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern.

Strong multi-agency and multi-disciplinary working is vital to identifying and responding to the needs of children and families. The following expectations have been developed to underpin this multi-agency working and apply to our Head Teacher and the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

- **COLLABORATE:** Decisions are based on a shared practice approach and constructive debate and analysis of information from all services.
- **LEARN:** Managers ensure their teams have time to engage in peer learning and knowledge exchange, peer audit, group supervision and observation.
- **RESOURCE:** Managers ensure children receive the holistic support they need, drawing in expertise from a wide range of agencies.
- **INCLUDE:** Managers support staff to identify and challenge discrimination, disparity, and negative stereotypes.
- **MUTUALLY CHALLENGE:** Constructive challenge within and across agencies and disciplines is actively encouraged, independent judgements are valued and given space alongside collective decision-making to avoid groupthink.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will:

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and statutory intervention, including local criteria for action and local authority children's social care referral arrangements.
- Understand and know how to use the SSCPs recommended tools for assessing and identifying need/risk. For example, [Thriving Families Tool](#) [Think Child Toolkit](#) [DASH](#) [Think Family](#)

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- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- Decide upon the appropriate level of response to specific concerns about a child, e.g. discuss with parents/carers, or refer case as required of suspected abuse and neglect to the Bridge Partnership; to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern, or where a crime has been committed to the police and support all staff who make referrals to children's social care and to the Channel programme.
- Ensure that the Head Teacher is kept fully informed of any concerns – especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children's Act 1989 and police investigations. This will include being aware of the requirement for children to have an Appropriate Adult. Further information can be found in the statutory guidance - [PACE Code C 2019 \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Act as a point of contact with the safeguarding partners.
- Ensure that the SSCP Challenge and Escalation Policy is shared with all staff and clarify how it is used by the school, when professional disagreements about a child safeguarding or child protection matter cannot be resolved.
- Liaise with staff (especially teachers, pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians, SENDCOs and Senior Mental Health Leads on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies so that children's needs are considered holistically.
- Liaise with the Mental Health Lead and, where available, the Mental Health Support Team within the school, where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health.
- Work with the headteacher and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on children's attendance, engagement and achievement at school. This includes:
 - ensuring that the school knows who its cohort of children who have or have had a social worker are,
 - understanding their academic progress and attainment, and maintaining a culture of high aspirations for this cohort, and
 - supporting teaching staff to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help children who have or have had a social worker reach their potential, recognising that even when statutory social care intervention has ended, there is still a lasting impact on children's educational outcomes.

- Ensure that accurate safeguarding records relating to individual children are kept up to date and separate from the academic file in a secure place, marked 'Strictly Confidential' and are passed securely should the child transfer to a new provision. The originating school should consider whether it needs to retain a copy of the records (for example, if a sibling continues to attend the school). If a copy is retained, the reason for this should be recorded.
- Ensure that the school effectively monitors children about whom there are concerns, including notifying the Early Help School Coordinator. It is important to notify Social Care, when there is an unexplained absence of more than two days for a child who is the subject of a child protection plan.
- Understand the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have including on children's behaviour, mental health and emotional well-being and academic attainment and what is needed in responding to this in promoting educational outcomes. Ensure all staff are provided with training to understand and recognise Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and the negative impact they can have.
- Understand and support the school with regards to the requirements of the Prevent Duty and be able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation, including meeting the DFE filtering and monitoring standards.
- Undertake more in-depth Prevent awareness training including extremist and terrorist ideologies.
- Recognise the additional risks that children with SEN and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support SEND children to stay safe online.
- Understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at school or working on-line at home.
- Ensure the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place on school devices and school networks are effective.
- Ensure ALL staff have received appropriate training regarding the filtering and monitoring processes in place in the school.
- Work in collaboration with the school's IT provider to monitor and review filtering reports.
- Promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances.

- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, and in any measures the school may put in place to protect them.
- Understand the difficulties that children may have in approaching staff about their circumstances and consider how to build trusted relationships which facilitate communication.

Designated Cared for Children Lead (*Salford have adopted the term Cared for Children. KCSIE refers to this cohort as Looked After Children*)

3.3 Governing Bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academy schools must appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after and to ensure that this person has appropriate training (refer to the Looked After Children Policy and Procedures for more detail).

3.4 The Designated Cared for Children Lead will work in partnership with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, the Mental Health Lead and the Virtual School Head to ensure the safeguarding vulnerabilities for cared for children are appropriately met. In addition, the Virtual School Head receives pupil premium plus additional funding based on the latest published numbers of children looked after in the authority. In maintained schools and academies, the Cared for Children Designated Lead will work with the Virtual School Head to discuss how that funding can be best used to support the progress of cared for children in the school and meet the needs identified in the child's personal education plan.

Governing Bodies

3.5 Governing bodies, management committees and proprietors must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must have regard to the Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 guidance, ensuring that safeguarding policies, procedures and training in the school are effective and comply with the law at all times including the DfE filtering and monitoring standards. The governing body will ensure that monitoring and filtering processes are in place and that they receive reports of the outcomes of monitoring and filtering.

3.7 Governing bodies and proprietors will ensure that all governors and trustees receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training will equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in school are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole school approach to safeguarding. All governor safeguarding training will be regularly updated.

3.8 Governing bodies and proprietors will be aware of their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 21, the Equality Act 2010 22, (including the Public Sector Equality Duty 23), Data Protection Act 2018, and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

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Named Governor for Child Protection

3.9 Governing bodies and proprietors should have a senior board level (or equivalent) lead to take **leadership** responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements.

Governing bodies (and proprietors) will ensure online safety is an interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing their whole school approach to safeguarding and related policies and procedures, planning the curriculum and parental/carer engagement. They will ensure the school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place which are regularly reviewed for their effectiveness.

The role of the Named Governor is key to ensuring that the Governing Board fulfils its responsibilities in respect of safeguarding children. The Named Governor should therefore ensure that the school:

- Has an effective safeguarding children policy in place that follows local procedures. This must include procedures to minimise the risk of child-on-child sexual harassment and abuse. Policies are reviewed annually.
- Completes and records the outcome of a Section 128 check for all Governors in non-regulated activity.
- Recruits staff and volunteers in line with safer recruitment processes.
- Has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against staff, including supply staff and volunteers.
- Has a designated senior member of staff for dealing with safeguarding children issues.
- Ensure that **all** staff receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including online (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings) as required, but at least annually. This will provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively, both on-line and in their daily life.
- Ensure that those staff who work directly with children read at least Part One and Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 and have the mechanisms in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in Part One of the KCSIE guidance.
- Provides regular quality assurance reports to the Governing Board in relation to policy, procedures, audits and Section 11 statutory requirements.
- Liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that deficiencies in safeguarding arrangements are remedied without delay.

Headteacher

- 3.10 The Headteacher has prime responsibility for leading the school in fulfilling the ethos and policies set down by the Governing Board, including those set out above in the responsibilities for the Named Governor.
- 3.11 In such a role, the Headteacher will ensure that safeguarding is central to whole school policy and practice, embedded in the delivery of the curriculum and in all systems for managing the school.
- 3.12 Part of the means of demonstrating such leadership is in attending SSCP training on a regular basis and at least every 2 years. Such leadership is also demonstrated by embedding safeguarding awareness into the school's organisational development and training programmes.
- 3.13 The Headteacher will have clear policies and procedures for dealing with all levels of allegations against staff. These will be in line with SSCP/ Local Authority policies and will be disseminated to all staff and governors.

The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, including ensuring that staff (including temporary staff) and volunteers:

- are informed of our systems which support safeguarding, including this policy, as part of their induction,
- understand and follow the procedures included in this policy, particularly those concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect,
- communicating this policy to parents/carers when their child joins the school and via the school website.

Furthermore,

- ensuring that the DSL has appropriate time, funding, training and resources, and that there is always adequate cover if the DSL is absent,
- acting as the 'case manager' in the event of an allegation of abuse made against another member of staff or volunteer, where appropriate (see appendix 3),
- making decisions regarding all low-level concerns, though may wish to collaborate with the DSL Team on this.
- ensuring the relevant staffing ratios in the Early Years Foundation Stage are met, where applicable.

Professional Curiosity

All staff will be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited or neglected or/and that they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or are being threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. This will not prevent staff from using professional curiosity and speaking to the Designated Safeguarding Lead if they have concerns about a child. Exercising professional curiosity and knowing what to look for is vital for the early identification of abuse and neglect

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4. Procedures – Early Intervention

Policies - We follow the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Procedures adopted by SSCP. The procedures provide a framework within which all agencies and professionals can work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people across Greater Manchester.

[Welcome \(proceduresonline.com\)](http://proceduresonline.com)

The school [registers for alerts](#) to automatically receive notification when the manual is updated. The school has an option to [subscribe](#) to receive free Policy Briefings or Practice Guides.

We take account of local supporting pathway guidance and additional policies from Salford Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

<https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/>

- 4.1 It is very important that practitioners intervene as early as possible if a child or young person has additional needs and services can help in meeting these needs. All staff will be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Such action can help prevent problems becoming child protection concerns. DSL staff are given access to training around Early Help and Early Help Assessments to help them to identify the correct support for families and children. For more information regarding the Early Help Service and Assessment go to [Early Help | Partners in Salford](#)
- 4.2 The Anti-Bullying Policy ensures that we foster a culture of safety throughout the school where children and young people can alert us to any incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying and be confident that they will be dealt with effectively. The Anti Bullying Policy also enables us to prevent issues escalating to safeguarding concerns.

5. Procedures – Child Protection

- 5.1 Where it is identified that a child is suffering from, or is at risk of significant harm, we will follow the child protection procedures set out by the Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- 5.2 In implementing St. Sebastian's school policies and procedures on Safeguarding and Child Protection, the following points will be considered:
 - The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that the policies relating to safeguarding will be implemented and monitored on an on-going basis with annual (as a minimum) evaluation of effectiveness and review and that procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly. The review will be presented as an annual item to the Governing Board.

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- All staff will be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff will consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and serious youth violence. All staff and governors will be kept informed about the Contextual Safeguarding approaches the school is deploying to safeguard and protect **all** pupils, and especially the most at risk and vulnerable pupils within the school.
- All staff and governors will be kept informed about child protection procedures using a variety of means such as staff meetings, Inset Days, one-to-ones, updated documentation and briefings in various forms.
- At induction, new and/or temporary staff will be made aware of and provided with copies of the following policies and procedures within school, with clarity about how safeguarding fits into whole school policy:
 - the child protection and safeguarding policy,
 - the behaviour policy,
 - the staff policies related to code of conduct, low level concerns, allegations against staff and whistleblowing,
 - the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education,
 - the role of the DSL (including the identity of the DSL and any deputies),
 - Part One and Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- All existing staff including teachers, teaching assistants, administrators, welfare, ancillary staff and contractors, will be made aware of and have access to copies of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 Part 1 and Annex B as well as any updated school policies and procedures. Although KCSIE suggests that staff who do not work directly with children MAY only be required to read Annex A, at St. Sebastian's, we believe all staff should have the same understanding of safeguarding statutory duties.
- As well as teachers (including supply teachers) all other staff in school, such as teaching assistants, administrators, welfare staff, kitchen staff, etc, will receive the core training on safeguarding and an induction that is specific to their role; including knowing what to do if there are child protection concerns.
- Parents/carers will be informed of the school's duties and responsibilities under the policy and procedures in a range of ways that reflects diverse ability to use methods of communication. Therefore, as well as the use of general methods (the school handbook; website specific features; one-to-one conversations; use of audio facilities and online technology, etc) consideration is also given to the ability of parents/carers to access these and appropriate support will be offered, including interpreters.

6. Training and Support

- 6.1 Our school will ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Safeguarding Leads, all staff working in the school and all governors receive Safeguarding and Child Protection training at induction and continue to attend regular updates relevant to their role on at least an annual basis. This includes an understanding of the roles and responsibilities in relation to the online filtering and monitoring systems in the school. Updates may include email, e-bulletins, staff meetings, whole school safeguarding training, Prevent training, online safety and Multi Agency Child Protection training within this timescale.

All new staff will receive child protection and Prevent training at induction, given by the SSCP and Designated Safeguarding Lead and existing staff will receive an update at least annually from the DSL and Deputy or SSCP. All staff will be kept updated and informed of current issues through e-bulletins, briefings, staff meetings and training both internal and external. Minutes, presentations and records are kept of these. Policies are held centrally on a staff drive on the computer and within the CPOMS library. Learning from serious case reviews, learning reviews and audits is disseminated to all staff and embedded into staff practice. Concerns or queries can be raised with the school's Safeguarding Team or Children's Services.

Prescribed Whole School and Designated Safeguarding Lead Safeguarding Training Requirements

- 6.2 There is an agreed set of prescribed training requirements in Salford for school staff, as follows:

All school staff who do not have designated lead responsibility for child protection are required to undertake SSCP approved training to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young people every 18 months.

This is currently available through the Whole School Safeguarding Service Level Agreement (SLA) purchased through The School Workforce Development Officer in Children's Services.

As safeguarding is 'everybody's' responsibility, then all staff in the school will know who to contact if they are concerned about a child or young person. It is important therefore to ensure all new staff receive appropriate training and induction so that they clearly understand their roles and responsibilities.

- 6.3 **Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies** – As a minimum, the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies should attend the SSCP Working Together to Safeguard Children and the Multi Agency Level 3 Speaker (or equivalent) courses. This training will provide DSLs with a good understanding of their own role, and the processes, procedures and responsibilities of other agencies, particularly children's social care in the safeguarding continuum and the assessment process for providing early help and statutory intervention.

The training will be refreshed every two years with the SSCP Safeguarding Update and Developments (or equivalent) Course. Depending upon the circumstances of the school, Ofsted may require that the Designated Person(s) attend additional refresher training.

Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputy Lead(s) are required to keep their knowledge and skills up to date on an annual basis.

Whole School Safeguarding SLA delivers termly, SSCP approved, two-hour seminars which provide suitable updates for designated persons to refresh skills and knowledge. Our school has purchased the Whole School Safeguarding SLA to be eligible to attend these seminars.

The Salford Safeguarding in Schools Advisor and Whole School Safeguarding Team Manager jointly organise single agency training for Designated Safeguarding Leads and termly DSL Network Events. The Salford Safeguarding in Schools Advisor produces a half-termly Safeguarding Bulletin for Designated Safeguarding Leads to update skills and knowledge.

After attending the Working Together to Safeguard Children and the Multi Agency Level Speaker (or equivalent) the Designated Lead and Deputies will also consider accessing the following courses as relevant to the school's circumstances, in line with SSCP annual and national priorities so that they understand and respond to specific needs that can increase the vulnerability of children, as well as specific harms that can put children at risk.

- Attachment
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and Childhood Trauma
- Early Help Assessment
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Communicating with Children
- Core Group
- Online Safety and Mobile Technology – including online challenges and hoaxes
- Cyberbullying and Cybercrime
- Child Gambling
- Adolescent to Parent Violence
- Domestic abuse
- Self Harm
- Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence, Breast Ironing, Infant Oral Mutilation
- Neglect
- Parental Mental Health
- Parental Substance Use
- Rapid Response to a Child Death
- Sexual Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation

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- Preventing Radicalisation/WRAP Training
 - Equality and Diversity and Sexual Orientation
 - Gangs and Youth Violence, Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and County Lines
 - Violent Crime, including Gangs and Knife Crime
 - ‘Upskirting’ – a criminal offence under The Voyeurism Offences Act – April 2019
 - Witchcraft and Spiritual Possession
 - Trafficking and Modern Slavery
 - Illegal Money Lending
 - Safeguarding and Healthy Relationships
 - Child on Child Abuse
 - Sexually Harmful Behaviour, Sexual Harassment
 - Stalking and Mate Crime
 - Emotional Well Being and Positive Mental Health
 - The Role of the Appropriate Adult
 - Cultural Consciousness/competency and Anti-Racism
 - Any additional training or events relating to serious case reviews.
- The latest SSCP courses, seminars and e-learning courses can be found at:
<http://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/professionals/multi-agency-training/courses/>

7. Information Sharing and Confidentiality

- 7.1 It is important that governing bodies and proprietors are aware that among other obligations, the Data Protection Act 2018, and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) place duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure. See ICO guidance ico.org.uk - [ico Resources and Information](http://ico.org.uk), which includes information about the school’s obligations and how to comply, including protecting personal information, and providing access to official information.

The school and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will have due regard to the relevant data protection principals which allow them to share personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

- 7.2 Information sharing and confidentiality are issues which need to be discussed and fully understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of child protection.

Parents, carers, governors and every adult working in or with the school understand the basic principles and need for confidentiality, as conveyed through email/newsletters/verbally and via relevant training.

A teacher can never guarantee confidentiality to a child as they have a duty to report any concerns to the DSL.

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If a child discloses that he or she has been abused in some way, the member of staff or volunteer should respond by following this guidance.

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief.
- Only ask questions when necessary to clarify.
- Accept what is being said.
- Allow the child to talk freely – do not put words in the child’s mouth.
- Reassure the child that what has happened is not his or her fault.
- Do not make promises that you may not be able to keep.
- Do not promise confidentiality – it may be necessary to refer the child to Children’s Social Care.
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell.
- Do not criticise the alleged perpetrator.
- Explain what must be done next and who must be told.
- Inform the DSL without delay and only share necessary information with those who need to be involved in line with KCSIE.
- Dealing with a disclosure from a child and safeguarding issues can be stressful. Consider seeking support for yourself and discuss this with the DSL.

It is expected that DSLs share concerns with parents and seek their agreement prior to making a referral to Children’s Social Care, unless it is considered that this would place the child at increased risk of significant harm.

All staff are aware of the legal responsibility related to confidential information that should only be **shared with those who need to be involved**, in line with statutory requirements in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 and GDPR regulations.

The DSL is the first point of contact within school and subsequently the Bridge Team.

7.3 Practitioners work together best to safeguard children where there is an exchange of relevant information between them. Normally, personal information should only be disclosed to third parties (including other agencies) with the consent of the subject of that information (*Data Protection Act 2018, European Convention on Human Rights, Article 8*). However, fears about sharing information **cannot** be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children. The Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children Safe. Wherever possible, consent should be obtained before sharing personal information with third parties **but may be waived in the circumstances set out below**.

7.4 Understanding that ‘safeguarding of children and individuals at risk’ allows practitioners to share information without consent where there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner. The Governing Body will ensure relevant staff have due regard to the relevant data protection principles, which allow them to share (and withhold) personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR (Paragraph 119, Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2023).

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- 7.5 In some circumstances, achieving consent may not be possible or desirable but the safety and welfare of a child dictate that the information should be shared. The law permits the disclosure of confidential information necessary to safeguard a child or children. Disclosure should be justifiable in each case, according to the particular facts of the case, and legal advice should be sought if in doubt.
- 7.6 Where consent cannot be obtained to share information or consent is refused or where seeking it may undermine the prevention, detection, or prosecution of a crime, the practitioner must judge from the facts whether there is enough public interest to justify sharing information. A concern in relation to protecting a child from significant harm, promoting the welfare of children, protecting adults from serious harm, or preventing crime and disorder are all well within public interest.
- 7.7 The Public Interest test means that practitioners must decide whether sharing information is a necessary and proportionate response to the need to protect the child in question. The decision-making process must weigh up what might happen if the information is shared against what might happen if it is not shared. The school will identify our scheme of delegation for such decision-making. However, every practitioner has a professional responsibility to share information without delay when there are concerns about harm to a child and GDPR regulations should never be a barrier to safeguarding children and young people.
- Further guidance on information sharing and for staff who have to make decisions about sharing information can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>

8. Records and monitoring

- 8.1 Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. Staff are clear about the need to record any concerns held about a child or children within our school, the status of such records and when these records, or parts thereof, should be shared with other agencies. All records relating to individual Child Protection and Safeguarding concerns are held securely, kept confidential, with limited access to the DSL(s) as records will only be accessed by those who need to see them, and kept separate from the child / young person's academic file.

CPOMS is used by all teaching staff to report concerns electronically. Should there be any teacher held-notes, these are to be scanned into the CPOMS system promptly. Once incidents have been submitted, the DSL Team has permission to retrieve, view and monitor records.

All records will include:

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

These will be recorded systematically in the format *What happened? What I did? What next?*

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DSLs confirm follow up action, outcomes, close or keep a case active and take further action on repeated incidents of concern.

- Past concerns for children and what happened in response to those can be very important information for staff members who may have further concerns for the child at a later time.
- Record Retention – Child Protection records must be retained by all educational establishments until the child’s 25th birthday, unless the records are transferred to a new establishment when the child transfers to a new provision.
- Where children leave the school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school as soon as possible, and within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term to allow the new school to have support in place for when the child arrives. The DSL will ensure secure transit and confirmation of receipt will be obtained. This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file. Receiving schools should ensure key staff such as DSLs and the named person with oversight for special educational needs and disabilities (SENDCO) are aware as required.
- The school will consider whether it needs to retain a copy of the records (for example, if a sibling continues to attend the school). If a copy is retained, the reason for this will be recorded.
- Information related to attendance/exclusions of a child can be retrieved on SIMS, which is password protected. All concerns regarding pupils, including those related to behaviour or welfare, child on child sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexually inappropriate language and actions are recorded on CPOMS. These records of incidents and subsequent actions then provide the evidence base for review and response and become part of the pupil’s school record. The DSL Team are automatically alerted to all incidents and able to monitor pupils and patterns.
- Our Behaviour Policy is reviewed at least annually and reflects Behaviour in Schools Guidance (October 2022) and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 regarding children who are absent from education particularly on repeat occasions or prolonged periods.
- Should staff (e.g. supply staff) be unable to access CPOMS, then they are asked to provide a handwritten account of an incident and hand directly to the DSL, respecting confidentiality. This will then be scanned onto CPOMS.
- Any Child Protection paper records are scanned onto CPOMS where possible and saved with restricted and permitted access. Confidential records may also be kept separate from other school records in a locked filing cabinet in the Headteacher’s office with only the DSL/backup DSP having access to them.

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- Security protection procedures are in place in order to safeguard the school's systems, staff and learners and the DSL, Computing Lead and IT Services Provider review the effectiveness of these procedures periodically to keep up with evolving cyber-crime technologies. The school is currently aspiring to meet the Cyber Security Standards for Schools.
- When it becomes apparent from monitoring that there are significant concerns, then the school may seek professional advice from the Salford School's Partnership Early Intervention Team. Depending on the level of support/action needed, school may request more targeted assistance from the Early Help Team or make a referral to the Bridge Team for more specialist risk assessment support and child protection. A caseload register of children/families is kept and reviewed at least half termly by the DSL Team. Governors are kept informed of the numbers of cases on record via termly headteacher reports.
- Parents and carers are notified that a child is being monitored and the family is offered pastoral support if needed. This is recorded as a chronology log on CPOMS.
- If a child transfers or leaves the school, the linked social worker or family support worker is informed. All child protection and relevant documents are transferred and signed off by the receiving school. Schools may request information transfer via CPOMs. If a child moves, the school will ask for a forwarding address. If necessary, the CME guidelines will be followed should a child leave without forwarding information.
- Parental access to records and information sharing with receiving schools is consistent with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

8.2 Bullying, including cyberbullying, sexual harassment and sexual violence, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying incidents are recorded and reviewed and the information is used to inform and enhance the whole school approach to all forms of anti-bullying strategies and responses within the school.

The school's Safeguarding Team audit the recording of safeguarding concerns and any common themes are addressed appropriately.

9. Child protection conferences

9.1 The Child Protection conference is a meeting to discuss concerns about the care of a child. Its main purpose is to see whether the child is at risk of harm and, if so, to agree what needs to be done to reduce this risk. Conference can decide to make the child the subject of a Child Protection Plan.

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- 9.2 Children are made the subject of a Child Protection Plan when they are thought to be at risk of harm. This might be from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect. It helps to keep a check on the work being done with these children. The Plan contains basic details of the children and their families. It is held securely by Children's Social Care and information from it is only given to authorised people.
- 9.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will advise school staff on the preparation of reports for child protection conferences, participation in core groups and carrying out specific tasks with the child and family as identified in the child protection plan.
- 9.4 Further advice and support for school staff on participating in child protection meetings is also available from the Salford Children's Services Safeguarding Unit on 0161 603 4350.

10. Supporting pupils at risk

- 10.1 Our school recognises that children who experience harm or trauma through abuse, neglect or through experiencing domestic abuse may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth and to view the world in a positive way.
- 10.2 Our school fosters a culture of safety through the development of an Anti-Bullying Policy and Equality Policy where children and young people feel confident to report any incidents of bullying including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying, sexual harassment, or inappropriate sexualised behaviour, homophobic, biphobic and transgender bullying.
- 10.3 Our school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Whilst at school, their behaviour may still be challenging and dysregulated. In response there may be steps taken to consider suspension or exclusion from school. Such steps will be taken in the context of considering the needs of the child and school will adopt a safeguarding first approach to addressing behavioural issues. Where appropriate, an Early Help Assessment will be carried out (with the consent of the parent/carer and/or young person), as an approach to understand the strengths and needs of the family and to create a supportive plan. The most effective way to create a support plan with the family is through collaboration with the Salford School Partnership (SSP). The Partnership approach involves a multi-agency partnership discussion, building trust and improving communications across the agencies so that information sharing is effective and appropriate, and the emerging needs identified. School Coordinators are available for consultations and will advise and support our school on implementing the next steps for Early Help support.
- 10.4 It is also recognised that some children who have experienced abuse may in turn abuse others. This requires a considered, sensitive approach in order that the child can receive appropriate help and support and that other children are protected from harm.
- 10.5 Our school will endeavour to support pupils through:
- (a) The curriculum, to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
 - (b) The school ethos, which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and which gives all pupils and adults a sense of being respected and valued.

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- (c) The implementation of school behaviour management policies.
- (d) The implementation of a Child-on-Child Abuse policy.
- (e) A consistent approach, which recognises and separates the cause of behaviour from that which the child displays. This is vital to ensure that all children are supported within the school setting.
- (f) Regular liaison with other practitioners and agencies that support the pupils and their families, in-line with appropriate information sharing protocols.
- (g) A commitment to develop productive, supportive relationships (i.e. to work in partnership) with parents/carers whenever possible and so long as it is in the child's best interests to do so.
- (h) The development and support of a responsive and knowledgeable staff group trained to respond appropriately in child protection situations.

10.6 Children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or certain medical or physical health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges both online and offline. This policy reflects the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse amongst this group of children. These can include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- these children being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children;
- the potential for children with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs, and
- communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges.
- cognitive understanding – being unable to understand the difference between fact and fiction in online content and then repeating the content/behaviours in school or the consequences of doing so.

10.7 Children who are lesbian, gay, bi, or trans (LGBTQ)

The school recognises that a child or a young person may be LGBTQ+ is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm. However, children who are LGBTQ+ can be targeted by other children. In some cases, a child who is perceived by other children to be LGBTQ+ (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as children who identify as LGBTQ+. Risks can be compounded where children who are LGBTQ+ lack a trusted adult with whom they can be open. School staff will therefore endeavour to reduce the additional barriers faced and provide a safe space for them to speak out or share their concerns with members of staff. At our school, we will proactively challenge any discriminatory culture or individual instances of transphobia.

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10.8 It must also be stressed that in a home environment where there is domestic abuse, drug or alcohol misuse, children may also be particularly vulnerable and in need of support or protection. Our school has adopted Operation Encompass and processes and procedures can be found in Annex 7.

10.9 We are committed to actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Through the implementation of our school Statement of Core Values the pupils are encouraged to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

There is a current threat from terrorism in the UK and this can include the exploitation of vulnerable young people, aiming to involve them in terrorism or to be active in supporting terrorism. All staff have due regard to the need to prevent people from being radicalised and drawn into terrorism and extremism, including INCEL, Anti-Semitism and Right Wing Extremism. To achieve this, we will draw upon The Prevent Duty Guidance, DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023" and specifically Home Office Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK" and DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People" and 'Education Against Hate' on-line resources.

When operating this policy, we will use the following accepted governmental definition of extremism which is:

'Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs; and/or calls for the death of members in our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.'

Staff will have training that gives them knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideologies. Being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent but non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views that terrorists can exploit.

All staff seek to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including but not restricted to those linked to Islam ideology, Far Right/Neo Nazi/White Supremacist ideology/Incel/Anti-Semitism, etc.

Concerns will be referred to the Designated Child Protection Person who has local contact details for Prevent and Channel referrals. They will also consider whether circumstances require the police to be contacted. <http://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk> provides further information.

Safeguarding concerns about a person who may be vulnerable to radicalisation or being drawn into terrorism will be referred through the Prevent referral form at <https://contactus.salford.gov.uk/?formtype=PREVENTREF>

The Department for Education has launched a helpline for anyone concerned about a **child who may be at risk of extremism**, or about extremism within an organisation working with children and young people. Email: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk. Telephone: 020 7340 7264.

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10.10 Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon **teachers** along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they will not be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies. Information on when and how to make a report can be found at [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information](#).

Teachers **must** personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, discuss any such case with the school’s DSL and involve children’s social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to ‘at risk’ or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers will follow local safeguarding procedures.

10.11 Children and young people who are privately fostered can also sometimes require additional support. For more information about this see:
<http://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/professionals/private-fostering/>

10.12 Mental Health

All staff will be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. All staff are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic 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 children’s experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour, attendance and progress at school.

All staff at St. Sebastian’s understand the importance of positive mental health and emotional well-being. Through the work of the Mental Health Leads and Champions, the school has a co-ordinated approach to both supporting vulnerable pupils and developing a whole school approach to mental well-being. The Mental Health Leads work closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure that if staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action will be taken and a referral will be made to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will follow up with appropriate internal/external agencies as necessary.

10.13 Elective Home Education (EHE)

Many home-educated children have an overwhelmingly positive learning experience. However, this is not the case for all, and home education can mean some children are less visible to the services that are there to keep them safe and supported in line with their needs. Where a parent/carer has expressed their intention to remove a child from school, with a view to educating at home, the school will work together with the LA and other key professionals to, where possible, coordinate a meeting with parents/carers. Ideally, this would be before a final decision has been made, to ensure the parents/carers have considered what is in the best interests of each child; including where a child has SEND, is vulnerable, and/or has a social worker. Where a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan, the parents/carers will need to work with the local authority to identify how the needs of the plan will be met and regularly reviewed.

10.14 Other specific safeguarding issues are:

- child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- child criminal exploitation (CCE)
- bullying including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying
- domestic abuse
- drug and alcohol
- fabricated or induced illness
- faith abuse
- honour based abuse
- child and early forced marriage
- female genital mutilation (FGM)
- breast ironing
- infant oral mutilation
- illegal money lending and debt bondage
- child gambling – including on-line
- gangs, youth violence and county lines
- gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- voyeurism – including ‘upskirting’
- stalking and mate crime
- mental health
- online safety and the sharing of nude and semi-nude images
- teenage relationship abuse
- trafficking
- nitrous-oxide and vaporised alcohol misuse.

10.15 Knowing where children are during school hours is an extremely important aspect of safeguarding. Young people being absent from school particularly repeatedly and/ or for prolonged periods can indicate potential safeguarding concerns, such as sexual abuse, exploitation, or criminal exploitation. Our responses to persistently absent pupils will focus on identifying causes/abuse and preventing children/young people from becoming children missing education in the future.

Our school monitors attendance carefully and addresses poor or irregular attendance without delay. Staff responsible for attendance always follow up with parents/carers when pupils are not in school. This means we need to have at least two up to date contact numbers for parents/carers. Parents are asked to update the school as soon as possible if numbers change.

In response to the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, the school has:

1. Staff who understand what to do when children do not attend regularly.
2. Appropriate policies, procedures and responses for pupils who go missing from education (especially on repeat occasions).
3. Strategies in place to actively encourage disaffected and disengaged young people to re-engage with education opportunities within the school.
4. Staff who know the signs and triggers for travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage including knowing that in the UK since February 2023 it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 years of age to marry even if violence, threats or coercion are not used.
5. Procedures to inform the local authority when we plan to take pupils off-roll when they:
 - a) leave school to be home educated
 - b) move away from the school's location
 - c) remain medically unfit beyond compulsory school age
 - d) are in custody for four months or more (and will not return to school afterwards):
or
 - e) are permanently excluded.

We will ensure that pupils who are expected to attend the school, but fail to take up the place will be referred to the local authority.

When a pupil leaves the school, we will record the name of the pupil's new school and their expected start date.

- 10.16 Staff in our school will be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via child on child abuse. This is most likely to include, but not limited to:
- bullying (including racial bullying and cyberbullying), prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
 - physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
 - sexual violence and sexual harassment;
 - gender-based violence
 - sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
 - initiation-type violence and rituals.

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Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'. Different gender issues can be prevalent when dealing with child on child abuse. This could, for example, include girls being sexually touched/assaulted or boys being subject to initiation-type violence.

Our school believes that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other pupils. At St. Sebastian's, we will support the victims of child on child abuse following the guidelines set out in our Child on Child Abuse Policy.

11. Safer schools, safer staff

- The school will complete and ensure that the School Security Guidance Checklists and Templates meet the requirements of the [Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings guidance](#)
- School staff will be advised about ensuring safe practice. All staff will be directed to consider the information at <https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/professionals/safe-working-practices/> This includes information about the importance of safer recruitment and best practice in providing a safe environment for children and young people.
- The school will make available to school staff information about 'counselling' and/or giving advice to children/young people about sexual matters.
- The school will ensure opportunities for staff to share perspectives and experiences with practitioners from other agencies.
- The school will recruit and select safe staff in compliance with DfE guidance and with the procedures set down by the Independent Safeguarding Authority.
- The disqualification by association rules no longer apply to school staff. However, staff will be reminded that their relationships and associations both within and outside of the workplace (including online) may have implications for the safeguarding of children in school and that school will be informed of any changes in their circumstances that may have implications for the safeguarding of the children. Staff will also be reminded that they may be considered to pose a risk of harm to children if, even out of school, they have behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.
- Staff will be made aware of the current SSCP procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff.
- The school will make staff aware of the arrangements via policies and training in respect of the following issues:

Steps the school has taken to reduce the possibility of abuse by school staff and anyone else working within the school setting.

What to do if they have concerns about the behaviour/conduct of the Head Teacher or other members of staff, supply staff, contractors and volunteers, including low level concerns which do not meet the safeguarding thresholds but are still a cause for concern.

Any organisational, personal or professional difficulties that could potentially get in the way of protecting children.

Policy and procedural guidance about physical contact with pupils and working in a one-to-one situation with a pupil.

The ongoing implications of this policy in terms of working with all parents/carers in school maintaining the best interests of the child.

If staff are concerned about the way safeguarding is carried out in the school, they should refer to the Whistle-blowing Policy and know that a whistleblowing disclosure must be about something that affects the general public such as:

- a criminal offence has been committed, is being committed or is likely to be committed
- a legal obligation has been breached
- there has been a miscarriage of justice
- the health or safety of any individual has been endangered
- the environment has been damaged
- information about any of the above has been concealed.

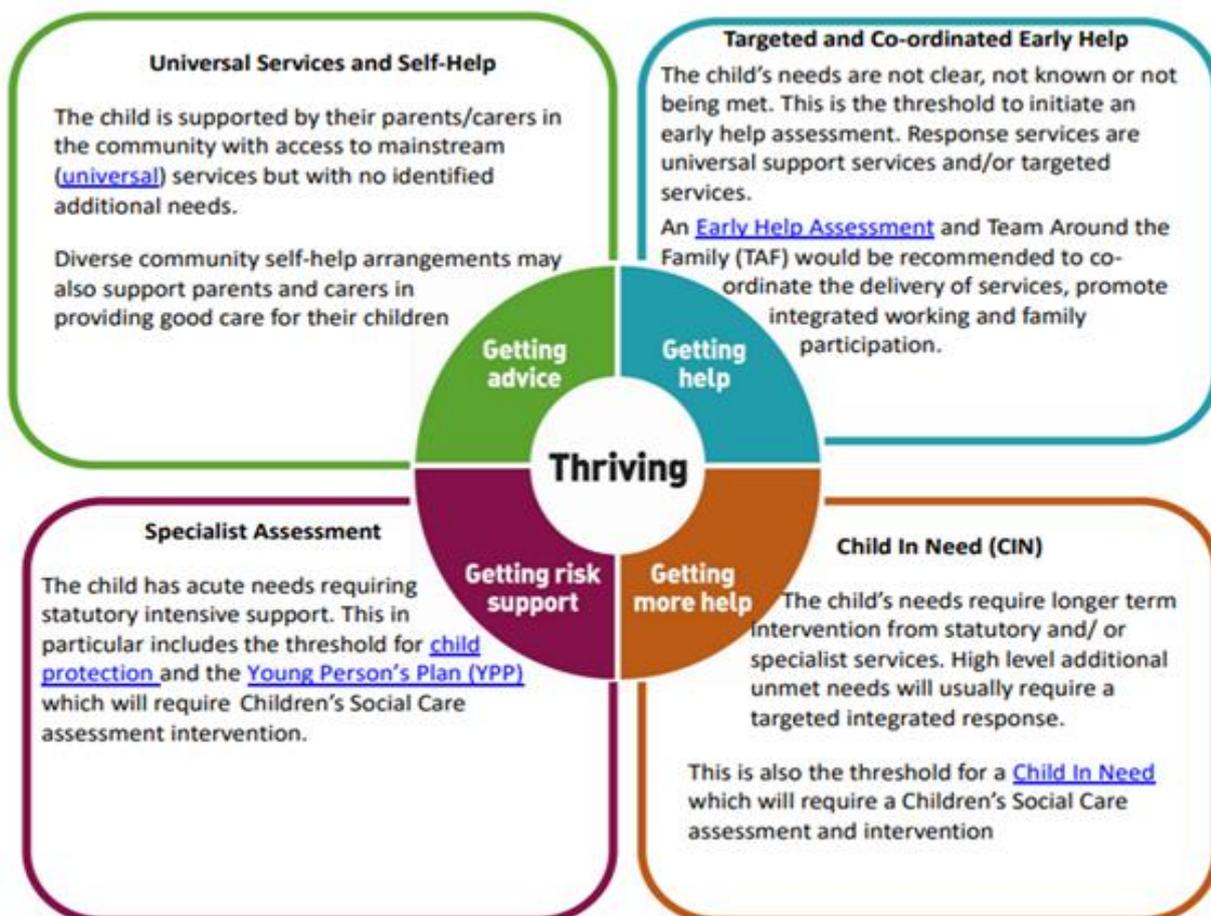
Even when our school is not the employer of a member of staff (including supply teachers, contractors and volunteers) we will ensure allegations are dealt with appropriately and will liaise with all relevant parties, employers and agencies including the local authority designated officer (LADO) to determine a suitable outcome.

If the school receives an allegation related to an incident that happened when an individual or organisation was using our school premises for the purposes of running activities for children, we will follow our safeguarding policies and procedures, including informing the LADO.

Appendix 1 Salford’s Support and Safeguarding (formerly the ‘Thresholds of Need and Response’)

[support-and-safeguarding-january-2022.pdf \(salford.gov.uk\)](#) guidance is for anyone who has concerns about a child. It is designed to be used as a foundation to enable the correct level of support to be provided, whilst embedding strengths-based, community approaches into practice. It is important that this guidance is understood by DSLs and DDSLs to ensure children get the right support at the right time. It introduces a model of help and support, providing information on the levels of need and gives examples of some of the indicators that mean a child or young person may need additional support.

There are four types of support which families are entitled to ensure they meet their children’s needs and help them to thrive. Practitioners will reflect on each stage with the family whenever possible but recognise there may be times this is not safe to do so. Examples of this are serious safeguarding concerns that require immediate intervention. Where staff are unsure, the Bridge will be contacted for consultation. 0161 603 4500.



Appendix 2 School Child Protection Procedures

1. What Should Staff/Volunteers Do If They Have Concerns About A Child or Young Person in School?

Practitioners in schools who are concerned about a child's welfare or who believe that a child is or may be at risk of harm from abuse or neglect should pass any information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in school; this should *always* occur as soon as possible and certainly within 24 hours (see Flowchart at Appendix 3): The Designated Safeguarding Lead or a deputy should always be available to discuss safeguarding concerns. If in exceptional circumstances, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a 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 children's social care. In these circumstances, any action taken should be shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a deputy) as soon as is practically possible.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead) is: Caroline Doyle

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection are: Jannine Platt and Caroline Coffey.

It is these senior colleagues who are responsible for taking action where the welfare or safety of children or young people is concerned. If staff are uncertain about whether their concerns are indeed 'child protection', then a discussion with their Designated Lead will assist in determining the most appropriate next course of action. The multi-agency Bridge Partnership team can also be consulted, where you will be able to speak to a qualified social worker if necessary, for support and advice.

Staff should never:

- Do nothing/assume that another agency or practitioner will act or is acting.
- Attempt to resolve the matter themselves alone.

What should the Designated Safeguarding Lead consider right at the outset?

- Am I dealing with 'risk' or 'need'? (By definition, a child at risk is also a child in need. However, what is the *priority / level and immediacy* of risk / need?)
- Can the level of need identified be met:
 - ♦ In or by the school or by accessing universal services?
 - ♦ By undertaking an Early Help Assessment without referral to the Bridge Partnership?
 - ♦ By working with the child, parents and colleagues?
- What resources are available to the practitioner and the school and what are their limitations?
- Is the level of need such that a referral needs to be made to the Bridge Partnership which requests that an assessment of need be undertaken? (Section 17 Child in Need referral)

- Is the level and/or likelihood of risk such that a child protection referral needs to be made i.e. a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm? (Section 47 Child Protection referral)
- What information is available re: Child, Parents/Carers, Family & Environment?
- What information is inaccessible and, potentially, how significant might this be? For example, has the parent/carer denied that there is a problem and failed to co-operate with the school in resolving the issue?
- Who do I/don't I need to speak to now and what do they need to know?
- Where can I access appropriate advice and/or support?
- If I am not going to refer, then what action am I going to take? (e.g. time-limited monitoring plan, discussion with parents or other practitioners, recording etc)

2. Feedback to Staff Who Report Concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead

Rules of confidentiality mean that it may not always be possible or appropriate to feedback to staff who report concerns to them. Such information will be shared on the statutory 'need to be involved' basis only and the Designated Lead will decide which information needs to be shared, when and with whom. The primary purpose of confidentiality in this context is to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

3. Referrals to the Bridge Partnership

There are four types of support which families are entitled to ensure they meet their children's needs and help them to thrive. Practitioners will reflect on each stage with the family whenever possible but recognise there may be times this is not safe to do so. Examples of this are serious safeguarding concerns that require immediate intervention. Where unsure, the Bridge will be contacted for consultation. 0161 603 4500

Universal Services and Self-Help The child is supported by their parents/carers in the community with access to mainstream (universal) services but with no identified additional needs. Diverse community self-help arrangements may also support parents and carers in providing good care for their children.

Targeted and Co-ordinated Early Help The child's needs are not clear, not known or not being met. This is the threshold to initiate an early help assessment. Response services are universal support services and/or targeted services. An Early Help Assessment and Team Around the Family (TAF) would be recommended to coordinate the delivery of services, promote integrated working and family participation.

Child In Need (CIN) The child's needs require longer term intervention from statutory and/or specialist services. High level additional unmet needs will usually require a targeted integrated response. This is also the threshold for a Child In Need which will require a Children's Social Care assessment and intervention.

Specialist Assessment The child has acute needs requiring statutory intensive support. This in particular includes the threshold for child protection and the Young Person's Plan (YPP) which will require Children's Social Care assessment intervention.

(i) Is this a Child in Need?

Under section 17 (s.17(10)) of the Children Act 1989, a child is in need if:

- (a) He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development, without the provision for him/her of services by a local authority;
- (b) His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services;
- (c) He/she is disabled.

(ii) Is this a Child Protection Matter?

Under section 47(1) of the Children Act 1989, a local authority has a duty to make enquiries where they are informed that a child who lives or is found in their area:

- (a) is the subject of an Emergency Protection Order;
- (b) is in Police Protection; or where they have
- (c) reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm.

Therefore, it is the 'significant harm' threshold' that justifies statutory intervention into family life. A practitioner making a child protection referral under s.47 must therefore provide information which clearly outlines that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will make judgements around 'significant harm', levels of 'need' and when to refer. As part of the referral process, when children are being harmed in contexts outside the home, as much information as possible will be provided so that all the evidence is available to enable a contextual approach to address such harm.

4. Making Referrals to CSC (Guidance for Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads)

via the online Salford City Council's portal and information hub for services to children, young people and families at <https://childrensportalehm.salford.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

All referrals and requests for support concerning the welfare or safety of a child must go through the Bridge Partnership via the online portal.

- When making a referral the DSL will need to identify if they are referring a:
 - Child Protection Matter
 - Child Needing Support
- Child Protection referrals will be for a child(ren) at risk of significant harm. Consent will be gained where it is appropriate. The school/DSL will be asked to advise what measures are in place to increase the child(ren)'s safety ahead of The Bridge Partnership contacting the family.
- Child(ren) requiring support will be gained in advance of making the referral.

- **Child Protection** - make a referral if you are concerned a child is at risk. If you have concerns that a child is at immediate risk of harm, you should call 999. When is a child at risk of harm? Some children may be suffering, or are at risk of suffering, significant harm and need protection and care because of neglect, sexual, physical, or emotional abuse. There are other areas of concern that could leave a child in acute need such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence, radicalisation, domestic abuse, modern slavery, gang involvement, criminal activity (e.g., county lines) and/or sexual exploitation.

Where there is not a safeguarding concern, a **Child Needing Support referral** will be made: where a child may be in need, or needs Early Help.

A child can be in need if: They are unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him/her of services by a local authority, their health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired without the provision for him/her of such services, they are disabled.

Questions that are considered when completing the referral form:

What has prompted the referral?

What are the identified needs?

What are the positives for the family?

What are the concerns for the child/family?

What the school has done to ensure the safety of the child before making this referral?

Every referral into the Bridge Partnership is screened by Bridge social workers or Bridge Early Help screeners to determine the level of support to be provided so referrals will be evidence based, contain; what life is like for that child at home, what is likely to happen without intervention and for targeted Early Help and for Children In Need, parental consent will be obtained.

- Referrals will also contain the voice of the child regarding:

What is their lived experience?

What is it they want to happen?

(i) Child Needing Support

- Where an Early Help Assessment already exists, the DSL will send this with the referral to the Bridge Partnership assessment to The Bridge along with any Team around the Family minutes.
- This is a request for assessment/support/services and, as such, consent of the parent(s)/carer(s) and child/young person will be obtained where appropriate.
- Where a parent/carers/young person refuses to consent, you will make clear ongoing plans and responsibilities in respect of support, monitoring etc, and the possibility of a child protection referral at some point in future if things deteriorate or do not improve. This is about openness and transparency in dealings with parents and carers.

(iii) Child Protection Matter

- A telephone call will be made to the Bridge Partnership and the referral form submitted straight after the conversation.
- If an Early Help Assessment exists this should be forwarded to the Bridge Partnership as soon as possible, and certainly within 48 hours along with any Team around the Family minutes.
- **Consent** of a parent or child/young person **is not required** to make a child protection referral.
- A parent/carer will, **under most circumstances, be informed** that a child protection referral is to be made. **The criteria for not informing parents are:**
 - (a) Because this would increase the risk of significant harm to a child(ren); or
 - (b) Because, in the referrer's professional opinion, to do so might impede an investigation that may need to be undertaken;
 - (c) Because there would be an undue delay caused by seeking consent which would not serve the child's best interests.

Fear of jeopardising a working relationship with parents/carers because of a need to refer is **not** sufficient justification for not making a referral nor for not telling them that you need to refer. Lack of openness will do little to foster ongoing trust, particularly as the source of referrals will be disclosed to parents except in a limited number of circumstances. If you feel that your own or another adult's immediate safety would be placed at risk by informing parents, then you should seek advice and/or make this clear on the Early Help Assessment and in any telephone contact with the Bridge Partnership.

5. Bridge Partnership Responses to Referrals and Timescales

In response to a referral, the Bridge Partnership may decide to:

- Provide advice to the referrer and/or child/family;
- Refer on to another agency who can provide services;
- Convene a Strategy Meeting;
- Provide support services under Section 17;
- Undertake a social work assessment (completed within 45 working days);
- Convene an Initial Child Protection Conference (within 15 working days of a Strategy Meeting)
- Accommodate the child under Section 20 (with parental consent);
- Make an application to court for an Order;
- Take no further action.

6. Feedback from the Bridge Partnership

The Bridge Partnership has 24 hours within which to make a decision about a course of action in response to a referral. A Designated Safeguarding Lead should expect to receive written confirmation about action following any referral within 7 days. If the school does not receive any (same day) verbal feedback following an urgent child protection referral, and where this places school/a child or children in a vulnerable position, the school will ask to speak to a Duty Social Worker, or the relevant Team Manager.

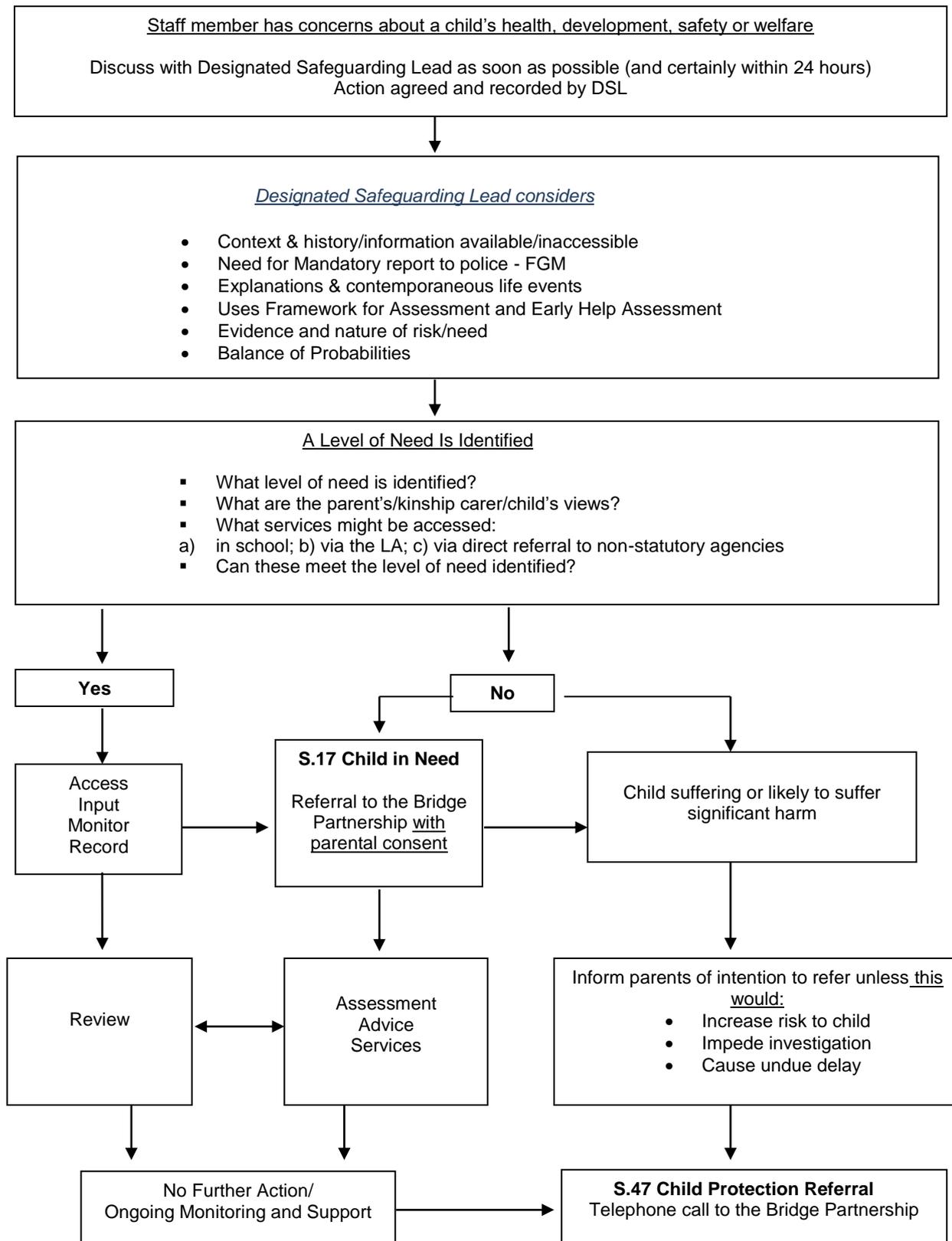
7. Risk Assessment 'Checklist'

- Does/could the suspected harm meet the Working Together 2023 definitions of abuse?
- Are there cultural, linguistic or disability issues?
- Am I wrongly attributing something to SEND need?
- Does the chronology indicate any possible patterns which could/do impact upon the level of risk?
- Are any injuries or incidents acute, cumulative, episodic?
- Did any injuries result from spontaneous action, neglect, or intent?
- Explanations consistent with injuries/behaviour?
- Severity and duration of any harm?
- Effects upon the child's health/development?
- Immediate/longer term effects?
- Likelihood of recurrence?
- Use of Thriving Families Tool to assess neglect
- Child's reaction?
- Child's perception of the harm?
- Child's needs, wishes and feelings?
- Parent's/carer's attitudes/response to concerns?
- Are there any barriers to parental/carer engagement?
- How willing are they to cooperate?
- What does the child mean to the family?
- What role does the child play?
- Possible effects of intervention?
- Protective factors and strengths of/for child (i.e. resilience/vulnerability)
- Familial strengths and weaknesses?
- When and how is the child at risk?
- How imminent is any likely risk?
- How grave are the possible consequences?
- How safe is this child?
- What is the safety plan?
- What are the risk assessment options?

Updated – March 2024

- ❑ What are the risk management options?
- ❑ What is the interim plan?

Appendix 3: Taking action on child welfare/protection concerns in school



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Appendix 4: Responding to a disclosure

If a child wants to confide in you, you *SHOULD*

- Be accessible and receptive;
- Listen carefully and uncritically, at the child's pace;
- Take what is said seriously;
- Reassure children that they are right to tell;
- Tell the child that you must pass this information on;
- Make sure that the child is ok;
- Make a careful record of what was said.

You should *NEVER*

- Investigate or seek to prove or disprove possible abuse;
- Make promises about confidentiality or keeping 'secrets' to children;
- Assume that someone else will take the necessary action;
- Jump to conclusions, be dismissive or react with shock, anger, horror etc;
- Speculate or accuse anybody;
- Investigate, suggest or probe for information;
- Confront another person (adult or child) allegedly involved;
- Offer opinions about what is being said or the persons allegedly involved;
- Forget to record what you have been told;
- Fail to pass this information on to the correct person (the Designated Child Protection Person).
- Involve those who do not need to be involved. Only those such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a Deputy) and children's social care need to be involved.

Children with communication difficulties, or who use alternative / augmentative communication systems

Practitioners should be aware that children may find it difficult to always speak about what they need, what is happening to them or what has happened to them. This might include children with SEND, unaccompanied children, refugees, children who are victims of modern slavery and/or trafficking and those who do not speak English or for whom English is not their first language.

- While extra care may be needed to ensure that signs of abuse and neglect are interpreted correctly, any suspicions should be reported in exactly the same manner as for other children;
- Opinion and interpretation will be crucial (be prepared to be asked about the basis for it and to possibly have its validity questioned if the matter goes to court).
- Use of signers or interpreters

Recordings should

- State who was present, time, date and place;
- Be written in ink and be signed by the recorder;
- Be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Head Teacher immediately (certainly within 24 hours);
- Use the child's words wherever possible;
- Be factual/state exactly what was said;
- Differentiate clearly between fact, opinion, interpretation, observation and/or allegation.

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What information do you need to obtain?

- Schools have **no investigative role** in child protection (Police and the Bridge Partnership will investigate possible abuse very thoroughly and in detail, they will gather evidence and test hypotheses – leave this to them);
- Never prompt or probe for information, your job is to listen, record and pass on;
- Ideally, you should be clear about what is being said in terms of **who, what, where and when**;
- The question which you should be able to answer at the end of the listening process is 'might this be a child protection matter?';
- If the answer is yes, or if you are not sure, record and pass on immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead /Head Teacher/line manager or consult directly with the Bridge Partnership.

If you do need to ask questions, what is and isn't OK?

- **Never** ask closed questions, i.e. ones which children can answer yes or no to, e.g. 'Did he touch you?'
- **Never** make suggestions about who, how or where someone is alleged to have touched, hit, etc e.g. top or bottom, front or back?
- If we must, use only '**minimal prompts**' such as 'go on ... tell me more about that ... tell me everything that you remember about that '
- Timescales are very important: '**When was the last time this happened?**' is an important question.

What else should we think about in relation to disclosure?

- Is there a place in school which is particularly suitable for listening to children e.g. not too isolated, easily supervised, quiet, etc;
- We need to think carefully about our own body language – how we present will dictate how comfortable a child feels in telling us about something which may be extremely frightening, difficult and personal;
- Be prepared to answer the 'what happens next' question;
- We should never make face-value judgements or assumptions about individual children. For example, we 'know that [child.....] tells lies';
- Think about how you might react if a child DID approach you in school. We need to be prepared to offer a child in this position exactly what they need in terms of protection, reassurance, calmness and objectivity;
- Think about what support **you** could access if faced with this kind of situation in school.

Appendix 5: What is abuse and neglect?

All school and college staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another. **Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child.** Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse, including where they see, hear, or experience its effects. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or extra-familial contexts by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Definitions of child abuse

There are four main types of child abuse.

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse/Child Sexual Exploitation
- Neglect

Physical abuse

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

Emotional Abuse

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

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Sexual Abuse

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

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- provide suitable education.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs. The Thriving Families Tool is Salford's recommended tool for assessing neglect.

[Thriving Families Tool](#)

Signs of abuse

Recognising child abuse is not easy. Sometimes the signs are not obvious and sometimes signs that appear to be indicative of abuse can be due to other causes. Therefore, it is very important that all staff use these signs to help them think about the concerns they have and how they will describe these when making a referral or consulting with the Bridge Partnership Team.

These definitions and indicators only serve as a guide to assist. Remember that children may exhibit some of these indicators at some time, and that the presence of one or more is not necessarily proof that abuse is occurring. There may be other reasons for changes in behaviour such as bereavement, significant changes in family relationships, including the birth of a new baby in the family or problems between parents/carers.

It is not school staff's responsibility to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place or if a child is at significant risk of harm from someone. Staff do, however, have a responsibility and duty to act in order that the appropriate agencies can investigate and take any necessary action to

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protect a child. The social worker or police officer will always want to understand staff concerns about the child in the context of the child's development and relationships.

The following information should help staff to be more alert to the signs of possible abuse and to provide the necessary information when reporting concerns.

Abuse

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

Physical Abuse

Most children in daily life will collect cuts and bruises. But each child is different, and any perceived injuries should be interpreted in light of:

- the child's medical and social history
- the child's developmental stage
- the explanation given for the injury.

Most accidental bruises are seen over bony parts of the body, e.g. elbows, knees, shins, and often on the front of the body.

Important indicators of physical abuse are bruises or injuries that are either unexplained or inconsistent with the explanation given, or visible on the 'soft' parts of the body where accidental injuries are unlikely, e.g. cheeks, abdomen, back and buttocks.

The physical signs of abuse may include:

- Bruising, marks or injuries on any part of the body that are unexplained or not consistent with the explanation given for them
- Injuries which occur to the body especially in clusters and in places which are not normally exposed to falls or rough games
- Injuries which have not received medical attention or there has been a delay in getting medical attention (although note that burn injuries are often delayed in presentation due to blistering taking place some time later)
- Cigarette burns
- Human bite marks
- Broken bones
- Scalds or multiple burns.

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Changes in behaviour that can also indicate physical abuse:

- fear of parents/carers being approached for an explanation
- fear of further enquiries being made
- aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts
- flinching when approached or touched
- reluctance to get changed, for example in hot weather, or to participate in games or swimming
- depression
- withdrawn behaviour
- running away from home or school.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse can be difficult to identify, as there may be no outward physical signs.

There may be a developmental delay due to a failure to thrive and grow – but this will usually only be evident if the child puts on weight in other circumstances, for example when hospitalised or away from their parent/carers' care.

Children who appear well-cared for may nevertheless be emotionally abused by being taunted, put down or belittled. They may receive little or no love, affection or attention from their parents or carers.

Emotional abuse can occur when domestic abuse happens in the presence of children. Hearing or seeing domestic abuse can have a traumatic effect on children.

Emotional abuse can also take the form of children not being allowed to mix or play with other children.

Changes in behaviour or presentation which can indicate emotional abuse include:

- Depression, aggression, extreme anxiety, changes or regression in mood or behaviour, particularly where a child withdraws or becomes clingy
- Neurotic behaviour, e.g. sulking, hair twisting, rocking
- Obsessions or phobias
- Sudden underachievement or lack of concentration
- Seeking adult attention and not mixing well with other children
- Sleep or speech disorders
- Negative statements about self
- Extreme shyness or passivity
- Running away, stealing and lying
- Being unable to play
- Fear of making mistakes

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- Sudden speech disorders
- Self-harm
- Fear of parent/carer being approached regarding their behaviour
- Developmental delay in terms of emotional progress
- Reporting parental violence or discord (i.e. exposure to domestic abuse)

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is known to take place against children and young people of all ages, including infants and toddlers.

Usually, in cases of sexual abuse it is the child's behaviour that may cause you to become concerned, although physical signs can also be present.

Children who tell about sexual abuse do so because they want it to stop. It is important, therefore, that they are listened to and taken seriously.

Children and young people are frequently sexually exploited by individuals or groups who ignore the fact that the individual child or young person does not have the legal capacity to consent – either because of age or, with older young people, the cognitive capacity to consent. The young person is groomed into believing a relationship is genuine and then made to believe they have willingly entered into a sexualised relationship. They are then blackmailed and threatened and forced into being sexually exploited against their will.

It is not just adult men who sexually abuse children – there are increasing numbers of allegations of sexual abuse of children against women and sexual abuse can also be perpetrated by other children or young people.

The physical signs of sexual abuse may include:

- pain or itching in the genital area
- bruising or bleeding near genital area
- sexually transmitted disease
- vaginal discharge or infection
- repeated urinary infections
- stomach pains
- discomfort when walking or sitting down
- pregnancy.

Changes in behaviour or presentation which can also indicate sexual abuse include:

- any allegation by the child of sexual abuse
- sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour, e.g. dysregulated behaviours or withdrawn
- fear of being left with a specific person or group of people
- having nightmares and severe or persistent sleep disturbance

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- running away from home
- sexual knowledge beyond their age or developmental level; preoccupation with sexual matters
- sexual activity through drawings, language, or play
- bedwetting
- eating problems such as overeating or anorexia
- self-harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts
- saying they have secrets they cannot tell anyone about
- substance or drug abuse
- suddenly having unexplained sources of money
- not being allowed to have friends (particularly in adolescence)
- acting in a sexually explicit way towards adults

Neglect

Neglect can be a difficult form of abuse to recognise but it has some of the most lasting and damaging effects on children.

The physical signs of neglect may include:

- constant or frequent hunger, sometimes stealing food
- constantly dirty or 'smelly'
- loss of weight, or constantly underweight
- inappropriate clothing for the conditions.
- frequent diarrhoea
- untreated illnesses, injuries or physical complaints

Changes in behaviour or presentation which can also indicate neglect may include:

- frequent tiredness
- overeating
- not requesting medical assistance and/or failing to attend appointments
- having few friends
- mentioning being left alone or unsupervised.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage

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(such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator. The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual and it should be noted exploitation as well as being physical can be facilitated and/or take place online. More information including definitions and indicators are included in Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Indicators of child criminal and sexual exploitation may include:

- Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones, etc. without plausible explanation;
- Gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks;
- Exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work;
- Leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late;
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls;
- Returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol;
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age/sexually transmitted infections;
- Evidence of/suspicions of physical or sexual assault;
- Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups;
- Multiple callers (unknown adults or peers);
- Frequenting areas known for sex work;
- Concerning use of internet or other social media;
- Increasing secretiveness around behaviours;
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being;
- Suffering from changes in emotional well-being relating to CSE;
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant.

Potential vulnerabilities include:

Although the following vulnerabilities increase the risk of child sexual exploitation, it must be remembered that not all children with these indicators will be exploited. Child sexual exploitation can occur without any of these issues.

- Having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse;
- Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic abuse or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example);
- Recent bereavement or loss;
- Social isolation or social difficulties;
- Absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality;
- Economic vulnerability;
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status;
- Connections with other children and young people who are being sexually exploited;
- Family members or other connections involved in adult sex work;
- Having a physical or learning disability;
- Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories);
- Sexual identity.

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Serious violence

All staff will be aware of the indicators, which may signal children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime including:

- 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

Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

All staff will also be aware of the 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
- having experienced child maltreatment
- having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery

Domestic Abuse

In April 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent and introduced a statutory definition for the first time.

Definition

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Part 1) defines domestic abuse as any of the following behaviours, either as a pattern of behaviour, or as a single incident, between two people over the age of 16, who are 'personally connected' to each other:

- (a) physical or sexual abuse;
- (b) violent or threatening behaviour;
- (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
- (d) economic abuse (adverse effect of the victim to acquire, use or maintain money or other property; or obtain goods or services); and
- (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse.

People are 'personally connected' when they are, or have been, married to each other or civil partners; or have agreed to marry or become civil partners. If the two people have been in an intimate relationship with each other, have shared parental responsibility for the same child, or they are relatives.

Section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ('the 2021 Act') recognises children as victims of domestic abuse for the purposes of the Act if the child sees, hears, or experiences the effects of the abuse, and is related to, or falls under "parental responsibility" of, the victim and/or perpetrator of the domestic abuse. A child might therefore be considered a victim of domestic abuse under the 2021 Act where one parent is abusing another parent, or where a parent is abusing, or being abused by, a partner or relative. Domestic abuse has a significant impact on children and young people of all ages (up to 18 years old).

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Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of sexual identity, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home.

Annex B of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023' contains additional information about specific forms of abuse.

Appendix 6: Greater Manchester Safeguarding Children Procedures Manual

Information Sharing and Recording

- 1 [Policy for the Secure Handling of Protected Information](#)
- 2.2 [Child Protection Conferences: Guidance for Partner Agencies on the Use, Recording, Dissemination and Handling of Police Information \(Greater Manchester Police\)](#)
- 2.3 [Data Protection, Information Sharing and Confidentiality](#) Updated
- 2.4 [Retention of Records](#)
- 2.5 [Photographing Children](#)
- 2.6 [Electronic and Digital Recording of Meetings and Conversations](#)
- 2.7 [Use of Social Media Sites by Social Care and Safeguarding Staff](#)

3. Early Help and Multi Agency Working

- 3.1 [Early Help](#)
- 3.2 [The Early Help Assessment](#)
- 3.3 [Early Help Good Practice When Children and Families Cross Borders](#)
- 3.4 [Thresholds for Children's Social Care](#) Updated
- 3.5 [Resolving Professional Differences/Escalation Policy](#) Updated

NOTE: In Manchester, see also: [Complex Safeguarding Hub Operating Procedures and Complex Safeguarding Hub Memorandum of Understanding](#) in the Documents Library.

See also [Early Intervention: Policy and Provision \(House of Commons Library\)](#)

5. Children in Specific Circumstances

5.1 Safeguarding Children and Young People - General

- 5.1.1 [Bullying](#)
- 5.1.2 [Safeguarding Children as they Become Adults Guidance](#)

5.2 Babies and Pregnancy

- 5.2.1 [Concealed Pregnancies](#)
- 5.2.2 [Safer Sleep Guidance](#)
- 5.2.3 [Bruising Protocol for Immobile Babies and Children](#)

See also: [Pre-Birth Assessments Procedure](#)

5.3 Children at Risk Because of Concern About a Parent or Carer or the Home Environment

- 5.3.1 [Children of Alcohol and Substance Misusing Parents and Carers](#)
- 5.3.2 [Children of Parents with Learning Difficulties / Disabilities](#)
- 5.3.3 [Children of Parents with Mental Health Difficulties](#)
- 5.3.4 [Dealing with Persistent Non-Engagement with Services by Uncooperative Families](#)
- 5.3.5 [Safeguarding Children from Dangerous Dogs](#)

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5.3.6	<u>Domestic Abuse</u>	Updated
5.3.7	<u>MARAC</u>	
5.3.8	<u>Neglect</u>	Updated
5.4.1	<u>Institutional, Organised or Multiple Abuse</u>	
5.4.2	<u>Children Affected by Gang Activity or Serious Youth Violence</u>	Updated
5.4.3	<u>Child Criminal Exploitation</u>	New
5.4.4	<u>Threat to Life</u>	
5.4.5	<u>Children who are Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation</u>	
5.4.6	<u>Safeguarding Children and Young People Vulnerable to Violent Extremism</u>	Updated
5.5	Custodial Settings	
5.5.1	<u>Safeguarding Young People in the Secure Estate</u>	
5.5.2	<u>Guidance for Working with Children who have a Parent (or Significant Family Member) in Prison</u>	
5.5.3	<u>Children Visiting Custodial Settings</u>	
5.6	Education	
5.6.1	<u>Children Missing Education</u>	
5.6.2	<u>Elective Home Education and Unregistered Schools</u>	
5.6.3	<u>Safeguarding Children with a Social Worker, Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children in Educational Establishments</u>	New
5.7	E-Safety	
5.7.1	<u>Safeguarding Children and Young People Online</u>	Updated
5.7.2	<u>E-Safety Working Practices for Staff</u>	
	See also: <u>Manchester's Safeguarding Partnership, Online safety – Advice for Practitioners.</u>	
5.8	Harmful Practices Linked to Faith or Culture	
5.8.1	<u>Abuse Linked to Spiritual and Religious Beliefs</u>	Updated
5.8.2	<u>Female Genital Mutilation Multi-Agency Protocol</u>	
5.8.3	<u>Forced Marriage</u>	Updated
5.8.4	<u>So-Called Honour Based Abuse/Violence</u>	
5.8.5	<u>Breast Ironing</u>	
	See also: <u>Non-Therapeutic Infant Male Circumcision</u>	
5.9	Health and Hospitals	
5.9.1	<u>Supervision of Parents of Children and Young People in Hospital (including the new-born baby) - Multi-agency Protocol</u>	
5.9.2	<u>Hospital Discharge Guidelines for Vulnerable Children</u>	

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- 5.9.3 [Children Visiting Psychiatric Wards and Secure Psychiatric Hospitals](#)
- 5.9.4 [Fabricated or Induced Illness](#) - under review Updated
- 5.9.5 [Young People and Self-Harm](#) Updated
- 5.9.6 [Children with Disabilities and Complex Needs](#) Updated
- 5.9.7 [Mental Capacity](#)
- 5.9.8 [Deprivation of Liberty](#)
- 5.9.9 [Non-Therapeutic Infant Male Circumcision](#)

See also:

- [Children Living Away from Home](#);
- [Section 47 Enquiries Procedure, Arranging the Section 47 Medical Assessment](#);
- [Manchester Children's Safeguarding Partnership Self-Harm Pathway](#);
- [Fabricated or Induced Illness](#);
- [Female Genital Mutilation Multi-Agency Protocol](#);
- [Bruising Protocol for Immobile Babies and Children](#);
- [Part 9.2, Guidance - Health](#);
- [Rochdale Interagency Protocol for Children with Complex/Continuing Health Care Needs](#).

5.10 Children Living Away From Home/Missing

- 5.10.1 [Children Living Away from Home](#)
- 5.10.2 [Children Missing from Home and Care - A Standardised Approach to Dealing with Missing and Absent Children and Young People Across Greater Manchester](#) - under review
- 5.10.3 [Safeguarding Young People in the Armed Forces](#)

5.11 Sexual Abuse/Activity

- 5.11.1 [Safeguarding Children and Young People Abused Through Sexual Exploitation](#)
- 5.11.2 [Working with Sexually Active Young People Under the Age of 18](#)
- 5.11.3 [Harmful Sexual Behaviours Presented by Children and Young People](#) Updated
- 5.11.4 [Adults who Disclose Childhood Sexual Abuse](#)
- 5.11.5 [Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment](#)

Managing Individuals who Pose a Risk of Harm to Children

- 6.1 [Guidance for Safe Recruitment, Selection and Retention for Staff and Volunteers](#)
- 6.2 [Managing Allegations of Abuse Made Against Adults Who Work with Children and Young People](#) Updated
- 6.3 [Risks Posed by People with Convictions Against Children, including Bail Arrangements for Adults Charged](#)
- 6.4 [List of Offences](#)
- 6.5 [Release of Prisoners Convicted of Offences Against Children](#)
- 6.6 [Protocol between the Greater Manchester \(GM\) MAPPA Strategic Management Board \(SMR\) and the](#)

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[GM Local Safeguarding Children Partnership \(LSCP\)](#)

6.7 [Licensed Premises](#)

7. Complaints and Whistleblowing

7.1 [Complaints About Child Protection Conferences](#)

7.2 [Whistleblowing or Raising Concerns at Work](#)

Appendix 7: Operation Encompass – Processes and Procedures

Annex 7

Designated Safeguarding Lead/Key Adult: Caroline Doyle

Deputy Key Adult: Jannine Platt

Operation Encompass operates in the majority of police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident in which a child or young person has been involved in or been exposed to an incident of domestic violence or abuse, the police will inform the key adult (usually the designated safeguarding lead) in school prior to 9.00 am before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can enable silent or overt support to be given to the child according to their needs.

AIMS

Operation Encompass does not replace or supersede existing safeguarding processes or protocols, rather it seeks to support these operationally. The Protocol will be followed in conjunction with Salford's Safeguarding Children Board/Salford Safeguarding Partnership.

By sharing information under the Encompass model, children and young people who are experiencing domestic abuse will have access to responsive support after a domestic abuse incident. The school will receive information when:

- Police have been called out to a domestic abuse incident
- The child is present in the household at the time of the incident
- The child is of school age

Sharing this information in a timely manner via Operation Encompass enables the provision of immediate early intervention through silent or overt support, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.

SILENT SUPPORT EXAMPLES	OVERT SUPPORT EXAMPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible application of school rules for example uniform, homework etc. • Understanding and flexibility in expectations in terms of: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Behaviour - School Work • Opportunities for one-to-one time with teacher to provide opportunities to talk for example ‘helping with a job’ • Review lesson plans to ensure appropriateness for the child on the day • Systems for spare uniform, lunch etc. • Child knowing who they can talk to • Checking collection arrangements at the end of the school day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using tools to understand child experiences, for example 3 Houses. More resources are available here. https://www.salford.gov.uk/children-and-families/safeguarding-children/advice-for-professionals/early-help-assessment-and-taf/voice-of-the-child/ • Talking to parents/carers • Use the Early Help Assessment process to access additional support • Develop safety planning with the child • ‘Healthy Relationships’ class sessions (e.g. Real Loves Rocks) • Consult with the Early Help School Coordinator

[Operation Encompass](#) do not advocate the automatic response of telephoning home once an operation encompass notification has been received. This could potentially place either the adult or child victim in danger. The response should be assessed on a case-by-case basis and needs sensitivity and a real understanding of the risk. If the school is unsure of the level of risk, the Key Adult will contact The Bridge Partnership and take advice from them.

If the school receives a notification related to a young person who is Electively Home Educated we will contact The Bridge Partnership for a considered case by case approach on making contact with both the adult and child victim.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS - INFORMATION SHARING AND STORAGE

Section 11(2) of the Children Act, 2004 requires Local Authorities and the Police to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children. This enactment provides conditions under the Data Protection Act 2018 by which personal and sensitive personal data may be lawfully shared. Personal data sharing must be proportionate, necessary but not excessive, and must be balanced with the consideration of privacy rights under the Human Rights Act. It must take into account any duty of confidentiality owed. A public interest in disclosure must outweigh an individual's right to privacy.

The basis on which sharing of information of this type may be justified by police is section 11(2) Children Act 2004 which requires that policing bodies (together with a number of other specified public bodies) discharge their functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This duty, however, will be considered in line with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the right to private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

This protocol has been developed taking into account the duty to safeguard children and the requirements of the most recent [Information Sharing – Advice for providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers 2018](#)

It is recognised that the handling of such confidential and sensitive information needs to be dealt with in a way that is proportionate and appropriate to the needs of the child or young person. To address this, the school has identified a Key Adult and a Deputy to handle the confidential and sensitive information.

The Encompass information is stored in accordance with the requirements for the storage of safeguarding/child protection files. Where a child already has such a record, Encompass information will be included within the record. The Key Adult will be the person available each day to receive the details of the incident and assess the type of support needed for the child.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

i. POLICE

Police officers will attend a domestic incident, manage the immediate risks, and complete the Domestic Abuse Stalking Harassment (DASH) risk assessment at the scene of the incident. The DASH risk assessment will not be shared with the school, rather a short summary will be provided by the police with respect to the child or young person and will include: -

- The name, age, date of birth, home address and school attended of the child.
- The time/ date/location of the incident and details of those involved in the incident, their relationship to the child and the child's involvement in the incident.

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- An overview of what happened during the incident and the outcome.

This information will be disseminated via email to the school by the officer attending the incident, prior to retiring from duty. The officer will then place a line on the DAB (Domestic Abuse) record within IOPS (Integrated Operating Police Operating System) acknowledging that the information has been sent.

Incidents occurring on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday will be reported to the school during these times and will be available on the next working morning for the Key Adult.

Notifications to the Key Adult will continue to be made during the school holiday periods, however, it is recognised that an immediate response cannot be made. This information will be used to understand any significant issues for the child on their return to school.

A disclosure will be made in respect of all children aged between 4 and 17 years who are in full-time education. Police will maintain a record of the log number, and the school to whom it has been disseminated and the date of dissemination.

i. SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITY

The School will identify the Key Adult and Deputy responsible for the OE information in the school. (This role is best placed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and their Deputy as both have received training in child safeguarding). The Key Adult will undertake the Online Key Adult Training prior to accessing the schools Operation Encompass inbox. [Online Key Adult Training: Operation Encompass](#)

The school's Key Adult or Deputy will check the notifications each morning before children arrive in school.

The Headteacher and Key Adult will ensure that there is a sufficiently trained Deputy to receive the information in the Key Adult's absence.

The School's Encompass mailbox will be checked every morning and reviewed as needed throughout the school day, as notifications of incidents can be made at any time, dependent on when a domestic abuse incident occurs.

The school will record the information received from the police using the same processes used to store child protection records within the school. The school will also record the outcomes and impact of any actions taken or put in place.

The school is aware that in the event of any domestic homicide or serious case review the documents may be required for disclosure purposes.

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Child Absence Following an Incident

Where a notification is made and a child is not in school, the school will consider the following:

- The school will review the information within the police notification in the context of what is already known about the child, giving consideration to any safety or welfare concerns that have been recorded prior to receiving the police information.
- The school's key adult will call home and follow up as per attendance protocols. Consideration should be given to undertake a home visit, with another member of staff.
- Where the key adult in the school cannot contact the parents or carer, and have not received notification why the child is absent, the next steps will be considered and actions may include: -
 - **Home Visit** – After undertaking a risk assessment, the school may consider, at the discretion of the Head Teacher, carrying out a home visit to see the child. Subsequently, if concerns or risks to the child's safety are identified during the home visit, referrals to Children's Social Care and the Police may need to be made.
 - **Referral to Children's Social Care** - Dependent upon the circumstances of the incident and the parental response to contact, the Key Adult (following discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead where required) will make a referral to the Bridge. When the child returns to school, the Key Adult will revisit the offer of parent/child support.

Supporting Children who are or have experienced Domestic Abuse

The school is aware that Harbour offers a range of support to young people in Salford aged 0-18 who have witnessed or are experiencing domestic abuse and young people who are showing signs of harmful behaviours in their own relationships. Their interventions focus on supporting children and young people to form positive relationships. The school is aware of the systems used for making a referral. [Access the domestic abuse toolkit | Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Working with Parents and Carers

The school is signed up to the protocol to raise parents' awareness of Encompass (see Appendix letter to parents and carers).

Many victims who experience domestic abuse want to tell someone about their experiences and are looking for help. Being involved with Encompass may mean that more parents who are experiencing domestic abuse are likely to contact the Key Adult as a source of support. The majority of support to parents will take the form of a listening ear and signposting to local Domestic Abuse services. There may be occasions however, when the information received by the

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Key Adult requires immediate direct action; either because the risk to the parent and child is immediate and high, or because the parent is asking for help to leave the violence. Where there is an immediate risk of harm to the parent and/or the child the police will be contacted, and **in an emergency, this will always be 999.**

Where a parent is seeking help and support to flee abuse or to take other measures to protect themselves, contact can be made with Safe in Salford, Victim Support or Women's Aid using the following details:

<https://www.salfordfoundation.org.uk/sisprofessionals/>

[Women's Aid; Home - Women's Aid \(womensaid.org.uk\)](https://www.womensaid.org.uk/)

<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

If there is uncertainty around a referral to Safe in Salford, Victim Support/Women's Aid, contact should be made with the Bridge Partnership 0161 603 4500

Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Encompass

MARAC is a victim-focused meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between criminal justice, health, children's services, education, housing practitioners, IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) as well as other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. The aim of MARAC is to share information, understand the level of risk to the individual and relevant others (including children) and develop a risk management plan. MARAC meets every week in Salford

There may be occasions where parents/carers of children notified to schools via the Encompass process have been referred to MARAC. Where the school identifies that they may have additional and relevant information to share with MARAC, the school will contact the Bridge Partnership.

Will the Police refer to Bridge Partnership every time they attend a DA callout where a child is present?

Police agreed referral criteria with Bridge Partnership

A referral to Children's Services needs to be actioned by the attending officer in respect of domestic abuse incidents (recorded as a DAB on IOPS - Integrated Operating Police Operating System) when:

A crime has been submitted and a child was present at/normally resides at the address

OR this incident is the 3rd reported incident in last 12 months

OR it is a child caller to Police/Emergency Services

OR when either the victim or perpetrator is known to be pregnant

OR when there is a child abuse marker (CA) on the address

OR the incident involves a perpetrator subject to licence or Community Order

OR if previous incidents were referred to the Bridge Partnership - even if the Police Officer did not consider that any of the above criteria were met.

The remaining DV incidents are DV incidents where no crime is alleged, i.e. verbal argument only and the other listed criteria are not realised. Therefore, once Encompass has become live, police will only be sending a notification through Encompass and not to the Bridge Partnership Social

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Care. Operation Encompass will notify schools of all incidents and therefore schools will be able to build up a picture of the context a child is living in.

Encompass Parents Awareness Letter (template)

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Operation Encompass

The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools and Greater Manchester Police.

Operation Encompass has been designed to provide early reporting to schools, i.e. prior to 9 .00 a.m. on the next school day, of any domestic abuse incidents that occur outside of school, but which might have an impact on a child attending school the following day. During the school term this information will be shared on school days. When incidents occur on a Friday, Saturday or a Sunday, the police will contact the relevant school the following Monday.

A nominated member of school staff, known as a Key Adult, will be trained to liaise with the police. At St. Sebastian's, our Key Adult is Mrs Caroline Doyle. The Key Adult will be able to use information that has been shared with them, in confidence, to ensure that the school is able to support children and their families. Information will be shared where it is identified that a child or young person was present, witnessed or was involved in a domestic abuse incident.

We always endeavour to offer the best support possible to our pupils and believe that Operation Encompass is going to be beneficial and supportive for all concerned, children and families

Some information about Encompass is included in this letter but if you would like more information about this new initiative, details can be viewed online on our home page or you can contact our Key Adult at school on 0161 921 1625.

Thank you for your continued support.

Chair of Governors Mrs Zoe Ogden

Head Teacher Mrs Caroline Doyle

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Operation Encompass Police Log Sheet

Police Reference Number (FWIN - Force Wide Incident Number)		Date	
Child's name and age & DOB			
Date and time of incident Address			
Circumstances of incident:			
Additional school information including other Encompass contacts:			
Actions taken and Impact:			

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Appendix 8

Related LA policy links for reference.

- **Core Values Policy**



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- **School Pupils with Medical Needs**

[IHCP](#)

[Medical Conditions Notification Form](#)

[Salford LA Medical Policy](#)

[Salford Model Policy- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions](#)

- **School Security**



Counter Terrorism
Protective Security A

- **Staff Behaviour / Code of Conduct Policy –August 2022 Update**

[\(Code of conduct - September 2021 \(salford.gov.uk\)\)](#)



Code-of-Conduct-Sc
hools_PRUs August20

- **Anti-bullying (including cyber, homophobic and gender based bullying)**

[5.1.1 Bullying \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)

[Anti-bullying Policy 2022](#)

- **Child-on-child Abuse – September 2022 Update**

[Child on Child Abuse Policy](#)

- **Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy - September 2022 Update–**



SexualViolence&Hara
ssmentSchoolPolicySe

- **Special Education Needs**

[Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)



GM_Partnership_5.9
.6_Children with Dis

- **Online Safety and Mobile Technology (including Monitoring and Filtering policy)**

[Safeguarding Children and Young People Online \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)

Updated – March 2024



GM_Partnership_5.7_1 Safeguarding Childr



e_safety_SaferWorkin g.pdf

[Online safety policy Mar 2022](#)

Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges

- **DFE Guidance - Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes>



DFE HarmfulOnlineChall

- **Handling Allegations of Abuse Against Staff**

[Managing Allegations of Abuse made against Adults who Work with Children and Young People \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)

- **Level Concerns Policy**



Low Level Concerns Policy.docx

- **Whistleblowing**

[Whistleblowing Policy.pdf](#)

- **Safer Recruitment**

[Guidance for Safe Recruitment, Selection and Retention for Staff and Volunteers \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)



GM_Partnership_6.1_SafeRecruitment.docx



Safer Recruitment Policy.docx

- **Safer Working Practice**

[Professional and Personnel Relationships \(cimpress.io\)](#)

- **Elective Home Education**



Salford EHE Good Practice Guidance 21



Salford EHE Guidance & Notes f

- **Children Missing Education**

[Children missing education • Salford City Council](#)

[Children Missing Education \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)

Updated – March 2024



GM_Partnership_5.6.
1_CME.docx



Children_Missing_Ed
ucation_StatutoryGuic



CME Guidance for
Schools 22-23.pdf

- **Child Criminal Exploitation**

- [Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm \(researchinpractice.org.uk\)](https://researchinpractice.org.uk)



GM_Partnership_5.4.
3_Child Criminal Expl (New Addition)

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- **Gang Activity/Serious Youth Violence (updated)**

[Safeguarding Children and Young People Who May be Affected by Gang Activity \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com)

- **Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (updated)**

[Children who are Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com)



GM_Partnership_5.4.
4_Modern SlaveryTrai

- **Child Sexual Exploitation**

[Safeguarding Children and Young People Abused Through Sexual Exploitation \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com)

[Child sexual exploitation and missing from home | Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)



GM_Partnership_5.11
.1_CYP_Sexual Exploit

- **Female Genital Mutilation FGM**

[Female Genital Mutilation Multi-Agency Protocol \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com)



GM_Partnership_5.8.
2_FGM_MultiAgencyP



FGM_Mandatory_Rep
orting_Procedural_Inf

- **Prevent Duty**

[Safeguarding Children and Young People Vulnerable to Violent Extremism \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com)



GM_Partnership_5.4. GM_Partnership_11.1
(Updated) 6_CYP&Violent Extrer LocalContacts.docx

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- **Emotional Well Being/Mental Health / Suicide/ Self Harm policies**

[Young People and Self-Harm \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com)

Updated – March 2024



GM_Partnership_5.9.
5 YoungPeople&Self-

- **Healthy Relationships/SRE**



RelationshipsEducati
on_&_RSE_&HealthEc



RSE_Primary_Schools
_guide_for_parents.pc

- **Self-Harm Policy**



SelfHarmPolicy&Appendices.zip

- **Search and Confiscate Policy**



Search Screen
Confiscation Policy :

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62d1643e8fa8f50bfefa55c/Searching_Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf

- **Resolving Professional Disagreements, Effective Challenge and Escalation Policies**



GM 3-.5 Resolving
Professional Disagre



EffectiveChallenge&E
scalationProcedure_A

- **Transgender Policy**



Salford
Safeguarding Childr

- **Domestic Abuse Guidance for Educational Settings**



Salford Domestic
Abuse Guidance for E

This policy was adopted on 26th March 2024

It will be reviewed on a regular basis in the light of Government, DfE and Local Authority Advice.

Signed:

Caroline Doyle
Headteacher

Zoe Ogden
Chair of Governors

Date: 26th March 2024

Updated – March 2024