

Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy

Lancing College



Lancing College

1 Policy statement

- 1.1 This policy applies to the Lancing College Senior School (Years 9 to 13). The core of the policy is also shared with and the Preparatory Schools (Nursery to Year 8) who have their particular, but overlapping, policies.
- 1.2 Any reference in this policy to **the College** encompasses the Senior School. Where *staff* are referenced in this policy this covers all staff, including ancillary and support staff and volunteers working with children.
- 1.3 This policy has been authorised by the Governors, is addressed to all members of staff and volunteers, and is available on the College website and to parents on request. It applies wherever staff or volunteers are working with pupils even where this is away from the College, for example at an activity centre or on an educational visit.
- 1.4 This policy is also in compliance with the requirements of the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (April 2015), and is in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures established by Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.
- 1.5 The policy is appropriate for children in the Senior School from age 13 to 18.
- 1.6 The College aims to promote good behaviour amongst all of its pupils, with support, encouragement and guidance from all staff. As part of a happy and positive community, we expect all pupils to be diligent, honest and considerate in their relationship with others and we expect staff to treat pupils with kindness and fairness. In so doing we aim to create an environment in which all members of the College community can thrive and feel respected and valued.
- 1.7 Every pupil should feel safe and protected from any form of abuse (including that perpetrated by the use of technology i.e. cyberbullying) which, in this policy, means any kind of neglect, non-accidental physical injury, sexual exploitation or emotional ill-treatment.

The College recognises that children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities may be particularly vulnerable to bullying and abuse, and can face additional safeguarding challenges, which may include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
 - the potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
 - communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.
- 1.8 The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The College's key duties are defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes;
- being alert to and aware of any child with a disability and taking appropriate action to ensure that he/she is not subject to any bullying in relation to the disability.

These aspects of safeguarding are cumulative and are pertinent with regard to various criteria by which the Senior School is assessed by ISI during inspections. Related criteria include the following:

- The staff provide effective support and guidance for the pupils in accordance with the school's aims and consider at all times what is in the best interests of the child.
- Relationships are positive between staff and pupils and among the pupils themselves.
- The school is effective in promoting good behaviour and guarding against harassment and bullying, and it deals constructively with any unacceptable behaviour, taking due account of any related difficulty or disability.
- The safeguarding arrangements have regard to official guidance [in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Gov July 2018); in *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE September 2021); in *The Revised Prevent Duty - Departmental Advice for Schools and Childcare providers* (HM Gov June 2015); *The Use of Social Media for On-Line Radicalisation* (HM Gov June 2015) in *What to do if you are worried that a child is being abused – Advice for Practitioners* (HM Gov March 2015) in *Information Sharing: Advice to practitioners providing safeguarding services* (HM Gov July 2018) and in *Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges* [DfE September 2021]. These arrangements also have regard to the advice in *Promoting Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing* (HM Gov March 2015); *Preventing and Tackling Bullying* (DfE July 2017) and *Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools* (DfE Nov 2018). In so doing they take proper account of any particular circumstance or context of the school which may indicate a need for protocols greater than the minimum legal requirements.
- Arrangements are effective in ensuring compliance with the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools, particularly in matters of safeguarding boarders' welfare, staffing, management of behaviour and prevention of bullying.

The following extract is from the College's separate and full Anti-Bullying Policy.

College Anti-Bullying Policy statement:

The College will aim to “**provide a safe, welcoming, supportive and tolerant environment in which each pupil feels valued as an individual, and, in turn, learns the importance of tolerance and consideration towards others**”.

The whole College community has a responsibility to ensure that this is achieved and should not fail to address any issues relating to bullying/abuse when they are encountered.

The College will therefore:

- take all practicable steps to ensure all staff will reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment, nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report;
- ensure that we practise safe recruitment (including DBS checks) in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers (including staff employed by another organisation) to work with children and young people in accordance with regulations and statutory guidance given in *Working together to Safeguard Children* (HM Gov July 2018) and *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE September 2021), the *Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations* (HM Gov, revised January 2015), and the *National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools* (April 2015);
- ensure that where staff from another organisation are working with our pupils on another site, we have received assurances that appropriate child protection checks and procedures apply to those staff;
- ensure that we carry out all necessary checks on the suitability of people who serve on the College's Governing Body in accordance with regulations and guidance given in *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE September 2021);
- ensure that induction training is in place for all staff and volunteers and that all staff are familiar with the contents of this policy, with the *Lancing College Staff Code of Conduct* and with *Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE September 2021) and that all staff who work directly with children are familiar with *Annex B of KCSIE* (September 2021);
- Ensure all staff receive appropriate online safety training at induction, and that online safety training is provided as part of regular updates with an emphasis on impact of technology on increasing risks to children.
- ensure that any temporary or voluntary staff are made aware of the arrangements for Child Protection and Safeguarding;
- ensure, in accord with *The Prevent duty - Departmental Advice for Schools and Childcare providers* (June 2015), that all visiting speakers are vetted as being suitable and are appropriately supervised;
- ensure that where the College ceases to use the services of any person (whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or student) because that person was considered

unsuitable to work with children, a detailed report is made to the Disclosure and Barring Service promptly, and in any event, within one month;

- ensure that all staff who work at any time with children under the age of 8, or who are directly concerned in the management of early or such later years provision as is covered by the Regulation, are not disqualified under the *Childhood (Disqualification) Regulations 2009* (updated 2018);
- ensure that all of our pupils have a choice of members of staff that they can talk to if they are worried about something;
- follow the local inter-agency procedures of the West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships;
- ensure that staff understand that they have the responsibility to identify children who may be in need of additional support or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm and that staff further recognise their responsibility then to take appropriate action (to include working with other services, as necessary);
- protect each pupil from any form of abuse, whether from an adult or another pupil, being alert to the possibility of peer-on-peer abuse [eg sexual violence or sexual harassment between young people, sexting, an imbalance of power in a relationship, initiation rituals or 'banter'];
- be alert to signs of abuse both in the College and from outside; ensuring all staff members are aware that mental health problems can be an indication of abuse, exploitation or neglect and maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here', and feel able to raise concerns either about a child at risk, or a member of staff whose behaviour may present a risk to a child;
- deal appropriately with every suspicion or complaint of abuse;
- design and operate procedures which promote this policy;
- design and operate procedures which, so far as possible, ensure that teachers and others who are innocent are not prejudiced by false allegations;
- support children who have been abused in accordance with their agreed child protection plan;
- be alert to the medical needs of children with medical conditions;
- be alert to the needs of pupils at risk of emotional or mental ill-health;
- operate robust and sensible health & safety procedures;
- take all practicable steps to ensure that College premises are as secure as circumstances permit;
- operate clear and supportive policies on drugs, alcohol and substance misuse;
- educate and guide children on measures to keep themselves safe, including the safe use of the internet and digital technologies;

- be alert to the possibility of sexual violence and sexual harassment occurring between children
- consider and develop procedures to deal with any other safeguarding issues e.g. the risk or radicalisation, of FGM or of going missing from education which may be specific to individual children in our school or in our local area, including cared for children;
- have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in accordance with section 157 *Education Act 2002* and associated regulations;
- ensure that any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to Child Protection arrangements are remedied without delay.

All child protection issues will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures detailed in this policy and in line with the guidelines regarding staff/pupil relationships, both of which are detailed in the relevant Staff Handbook.

1.9 All senior pupils at the Senior School (School Prefects/Heads of House/House Captains) who are given responsibility over other pupils are given Child Protection training each year in line with Standard 19 of the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (NMS19). This briefing includes the appropriate action to be taken should they receive any allegation of abuse; i.e. senior pupils should:

- have a clear awareness of the Safeguarding structures of the school and that child protection concerns should always be referred to the DSL;
- always respond to any incident that concerns them: if it does not feel right then they should do something about it;
- encourage actively the passing on of concerns and the culture of a 'telling' school
- assist younger pupils who may well seek their advice;
- assist a pupil who has a known disability who may seek their support;
- endeavour to calm any pupil who is in distress and assure him/her that they will assist them in any way they can, but must not give a guarantee of absolute confidentiality;
- seek assistance when the situation is calm;
- always pass on information relating to pupil distress to their respective Housemaster /Housemistress however minor or insignificant it may appear;
- be aware that additional support is available from other members of staff including: House tutors, School Chaplain, School Counsellor, Head Master, Senior Deputy Head, Deputy Head, Assistant Head (Pastoral), Assistant Head (Safeguarding).

1.10 **Opportunities to teach safeguarding**, including online safety.
We consider teaching safeguarding to be part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Pupils are taught about keeping themselves and others safe, including online safety,

through the curriculum, through PSHE, and through assemblies, discussions, presentations (including sessions for parents) and individual advice and guidance.

Unfortunately, some adults and other children use social media technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts or emails, to grooming and enticing children to engage in extremist or sexual behaviour. Pupils may also be distressed or harmed by accessing inappropriate material such as pornographic websites or those which promote extremist behaviour, criminal activity, suicide or eating disorders.

At Lancing College, Relationships and Sex Education in 3F to UVI (Y9-Y13) is aimed at giving pupils the information necessary for them to develop healthy, respectful and loving relationships (including intimate relationships) that help them to flourish, and how to identify and resist unhealthy relationships; delivering information about human sexuality, contraception and sexual health in a fact-based and non-judgemental manner that emphasises the critical importance of consent and mutual respect.

A wide variety of teaching and learning resources are available both locally and nationally. These include:

- a. West Sussex Education for Safeguarding (E4S) – we are already working within this structure, enabling us to identify the specific risks faced by children in our school so we can develop our safeguarding curriculum accordingly
- b. UKCCIS have recently published their Education for a connected world framework. Online safety is a whole school and college issue. The framework aims to support the development of the curriculum and is of particular relevance to PSHE education. It is designed, however, to be usable across the curriculum and beyond and to be central to a whole school or college approach to safeguarding and online safety. It covers early years through to age 18. That is accessed [here](#)
- c. The PSHE Association provides guidance to schools on developing their PSHE curriculum including online safety –Accessed [here](#)

The Lancing College [Online Safety Policy](#) provides further information and guidance.

1.11 Voice of The Child

Lancing College recognises the findings of *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)* where children expressed the wish for the following from Safeguarding systems:

- Vigilance – that adults notice when things trouble them
- Understanding and action – to be heard and understood and to have that understanding acted upon
- Stability – to be able to develop ongoing stable relationships of trust with those helping them
- Respect – to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not
- Information and engagement – to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans
- Explanation – to be informed in the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response
- Support – to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family

- Advocacy – to assist them in putting forward their views
- Protection – against all forms of abuse and discrimination, and the right to special protection and help if a refugee

1.12 Every complaint or suspicion of abuse from within or outside the College will be referred to the appropriate external agency: the Children’s Social Care Services department of the local authority, or the child protection unit of the police (**CPU**), within 24 hours.

2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead

2.1 The College has appointed a member of the Senior Management Team with the necessary status and authority (Designated Safeguarding Lead) to have overall responsibility for matters relating to child protection and welfare for the Senior School. The current Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the Assistant Head, Safeguarding, Mr Richard Dolan, who may be contacted on 01273 465774 or rpd@lancing.org.uk The DSL and/or a deputy will always be available in term time for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns and appropriate cover arrangements are put in place for any out of term activities. The main responsibilities of the DSL are:

- to co-ordinate the child protection procedures for the College;
- to be the first point of contact for/with external agencies in all matters of child protection for the College;
- to manage referrals, referring all cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children’s social care and to the LADO (if the case concerns a staff member); the DBS (where a person is dismissed due to risk/harm to a child) and/ or the Police (where a crime may have been committed);
- to be the first point of contact for parents, pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff at the Senior School;
- to arrange and maintain an ongoing training programme, including induction training (which includes online safety), in safeguarding matters for all College employees, volunteers and Governors, ensuring that all staff are familiar with the content of, and act upon, key statutory guidance;
- to act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety and safeguarding;
- to ensure the management and effective and proactive approach to online safety, working closely with the IT Department and other staff, including ensuring that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to ensure that children are, as far as is practicable, protected from risks posed by negative digital **content, contact, conduct and commerce** and ensure through the PSHE programme and other areas of the curriculum that children are taught how to stay safe online.
- to ensure that the school’s acceptable use policies for mobile devices; policies for access to mobile devices and guidance to parents, staff and children are regularly reviewed and careful consideration is given to the management of pupil mobile devices and degrees of access via the internet and 3G ,4G and 5G;
- to monitor the keeping, confidentiality and storage of records in relation to child protection; to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and

referrals, to request child protection files from the previous school of those pupils joining the College and to ensure that the child protection file of those pupils leaving Lancing is securely transferred to their new school or college as soon as possible;

- to be the nominated member of staff responsible for looked-after children, including those who are fostered;
- to consider the context within which safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours occur – i.e. contextual safeguarding, ensuring that assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare;
- to help promote educational outcomes by sharing information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children, including children with a social worker, are experiencing or have experienced with teachers and senior management, linking up safeguarding and academic support for pupils, particularly those identified as having increased risk or in need of additional support;
- to liaise with the child protection officer appointed by the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (Local Authority Designated Officer);
- to liaise with staff (especially teachers, pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians, senior mental health leads and special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs)) 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;
- to have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and to attend and contribute to these and any other appropriate strategy meetings as required;
- to receive refresher training in this role every two years and to keep knowledge and skills updated at least annually, undertaking such training as is required in inter-agency working, in participation in child protection case conferences, in supporting children in need, in the *Prevent* strategy in identifying children at risk of radicalisation, in record keeping and in promoting a culture of listening to children;
- to encourage a culture of listening to children and prioritising of their wishes and feelings among all staff, ensuring that each member of staff has access to and understands the school's child protection policy and procedures.

He will:

- assist the Governing Body in fulfilling their responsibilities under section 175 or 157 of the Education Act 2002
- advise and act upon all suspicion, belief and evidence of abuse reported to him;
- keep the Head Master informed of all actions unless the Head Master is the subject of a complaint. In this situation, the DSL will report this to Mr Martin Slumbers, the Chairman of the Governing Body, or in his absence to Mrs Anne-Marie Edgell, the governing body safeguarding lead;

- liaise with the three safeguarding partners and work with other agencies in line with [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#). [NPCC- When to Call the Police - Guidance for Schools and Colleges](#) provides guidance on when a DSL/ DDSL should consider calling the police and what to expect when they do.
- be the lead for the school in engaging the relevant managing professional differences protocol when there is disagreement between the school and other agencies in respect of action to keep a child safe
- refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required
- liaise regularly with the DSLs at the Preparatory Schools.

2.2 Mrs Hilary Dugdale, Ms Anne McKane, Mr Gary Bird, Ms Kelly Edwards and Mr James Grime have been appointed to be the DSL's deputies for the Senior School.

They will:

- work alongside the Designated Person to assist in performing those responsibilities listed in 2.1 above;
- deputise in all matters of child protection in the absence of the DSL.

2.3 If the Designated Safeguarding Lead is unavailable or is himself the subject of a complaint (whereby the Head Master would be informed immediately as per procedures outlined in section 5.3), his duties will be carried out by the Deputy DSLs, who have received appropriate training.

2.4 The Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy DSLs have undertaken training in child protection and interagency working to the appropriate level (recorded at Annex A).

3 WHEN TO BE CONCERNED

All staff and volunteers should be aware of the main categories of abuse.

3.1 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.

3.2 **Abuse:** a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children. Forms of abuse come under four distinct headings: Physical, Sexual, Emotional and Neglect. They are defined in [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2021\)](#) as follows:

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

3.4 **Emotional abuse:** the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve

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

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

3.6 **Neglect:** the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy, for example, as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

3.7 Possible signs of abuse include (but are not limited to):

- the pupil says s/he has been abused or asks a question which gives rise to that inference;
- there is no reasonable or consistent explanation for a pupil's injury; the injury is unusual in kind or location; there have been a number of injuries; there is a pattern to the injuries;
- the pupil's behaviour stands out from the group or there is a sudden change in the pupil's behaviour;
- heightened anxiety (e.g. shying away from being touched/flinching at sudden movements) and/or low self-esteem;
- knowledge of sexual matters beyond what would normally be expected;
- property and work damaged or lost more than is usual for the age group;
- a pupil becoming withdrawn and reluctant to say why;

- the pupil's development is delayed;
- the pupil loses or gains significant weight;
- a pupil going missing or absent from school, particularly on repeat occasions;
- the pupil appears neglected, e.g. dirty, hungry, inadequately clothed;
- the pupil is reluctant to go home, or has been openly rejected by his/her parents or carers.

The above list does not cover every aspect of child abuse. Staff may observe or become aware of other things that worry them and should always share concerns with the DSL.

3.8 **Other Types of Abuse:** Staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking, alcohol abuse, deliberately missing education and sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery, sharing nudes or semi-nude images/videos) put children in danger.

3.9 All staff should be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including 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;
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers (teenage relationship abuse)
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery, sharing nudes or semi-nude images/videos); and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

Further detailed information may be found in the *Policy on Peer on Peer Abuse* and all staff should be clear as to the College's policy and procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse.

3.10 Other Safeguarding issues can also be linked to (for example); child sexual exploitation; domestic violence; fabricated or induced illness; faith abuse; female genital mutilation; forced marriage; gangs and youth violence; gender-based violence/violence against women and girls; radicalisation; relationship abuse and trafficking.

3.11 **Child Sexual Exploitation:** is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Consent cannot be given, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and can happen online.

So-called 'honour-based' abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage) So-called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast

ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving “honour” often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such.

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. There is a statutory duty on teachers to report personally 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. Other staff should report to the DSL.

Forced Marriage: Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some communities use religion and culture as a way to coerce a person into marriage. Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage. Staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 0207 008 0151 or Email fm@fco.gov.uk.

Domestic Abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional and a child witnessing domestic abuse against another/others will be emotionally harmed. Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse.

Child Abduction and Community Safety Incidents

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers. Further information is available at: <http://www.actionagainstabduction.org> and www.clevernevergoes.org

Children and the Court System

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two age appropriate guides to support children 5-11-year olds and 12-17 year olds. The guides explain each step of the process, support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained. Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. A helpful resource for parents and carers is a link to [child arrangement information tool](#).

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including: sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs. Further information on the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery, the support available to

victims and how to refer them to the NRM is available in the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance. [Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims](#) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Cybercrime

Children are at risk from Cybercrime, interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime. Advice and support can be found at: Cyber Choices, '[NPCC- When to call the Police](#)' and National Cyber Security Centre - NCSC.GOV.UK

Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. The DSL recognises in some cases 16 and 17 year olds could be living independently from their parents and guardians and this may require a different level of intervention and support. Children's social care will be the lead agency for such children and would ensure appropriate referrals are made and followed up. [Homelessness Reduction Act: policy factsheets](#) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Children with family members in prison

Children with a parent in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. The National Information Centre on Children of Offenders (NICCO) provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children to help mitigate negative responses for those children.

Youth-produced sexual imagery (sexting)

This refers to the consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth-produced sexual imagery). Any incident involving youth produced sexual imagery should immediately be reported to the DSL, who will follow the guidance set out in [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#) (UKCIS, December 2020).

Radicalisation: Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Extremism 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. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular have become major factors in the radicalisation of young people. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and refer concerns to the DSL.

a. Prevent

- From 1 July 2015 specified authorities, including all schools as defined in the summary of this guidance, are subject to a duty under section 26 of the *Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015* ("the CTSA 2015"), in the exercise of their functions,

to have “due regard¹ to the need prevent people being drawn into terrorism²” must have regard to statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the CTSA 2015 (“the Prevent guidance”). Paragraphs 57-76 of the Prevent guidance are concerned specifically with schools (but also cover childcare).

- The statutory Prevent guidance summarises the requirements on schools in terms of four general themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies.
- Schools are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them. Schools and colleges should have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures may be set out in existing safeguarding policies. It is not necessary for schools and colleges to have distinct policies on implementing the Prevent duty.
- The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements. For example, governing bodies and proprietors of all schools should ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.
- The Prevent guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. Individual schools are best placed to assess the training needs of staff in the light of their assessment of the risk to pupils at the school of being drawn into terrorism. As a minimum, however, schools should ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- Schools must ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. Schools should ensure that suitable filtering is in place. It is also important that schools teach pupils about online safety more generally.
- The Department for Education has issued advice and social media guidance to schools and childcare providers to help them keep children safe from the risk of radicalisation and extremism.
- The Prevent duty also requires educational settings to ensure that preventing radicalisation and violent extremism is embedded within the curriculum. Staff are

¹ According to the Prevent duty guidance ‘having due regard’ means that the authorities should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions

² “Terrorism” for these purposes has the same meaning as for the Terrorism Act 2000 (section 1(1) to (4) of that Act).

also expected to feel confident and competent in using appropriate pedagogical approaches to facilitate this learning. **Prevent duty advice**

b. Channel Programme – for those at risk of radicalisation

School staff should understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme.³ Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

- **Prevent and Channel Duty – A Toolkit for Schools**
- **Making a Channel Referral in West Sussex**
- **Prevent Channel Referral Form**

Further advice and guidance regarding the Prevent duty and preventing radicalisation and violent extremism can be accessed on the West Sussex Service for Schools website, accessed [here](#)

Additional Support

The Department of Education has published further advice for schools on the [Prevent duty](#). The advice is intended to complement the Prevent guidance and signposts to other sources of advice and support.

Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities: Pupils with SEND may not outwardly show signs of abuse and/or may have difficulties in communication about abuse or neglect. Staff will support such pupils in expressing any concerns they may have and will be particularly vigilant to any signs or indicators of abuse, discussing this with the DSL as appropriate.

Children who go missing from school: A child going missing from school is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. The School will report to the local authority and the local authority where the child is normally resident if a pupil fails to attend school regularly or has been absent from school without the School's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more. The School shall inform the local authority of any pupil who is going to be added to or deleted from the School's admission register at non-standard transition points in accordance with the requirements of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. For further information see the College's policy [on Children Missing from Education](#).

Upskirting: The *Voyeurism (Offences) Act* came into force on 12 April 2019. 'Upskirting' is where someone takes a picture under a person's clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission and or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks

³ Guidance issued under section 36(7) and section 38(6) of the CTSA 2015 in respect of Channel is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

(with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.

Children at risk from/ involved with serious violent crime: All staff should be aware of indicators which may signal pupils are at risk from, or are involved with, serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from School, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, 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.

Staff understand that such cases are often difficult to identify so the school is committed to doing all it can to hearing the voice of the child, enabling pupils to share concerns and to feel empowered to ask for help.

Advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office's [Preventing youth violence and gang involvement](#) and its [Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines](#) guidance.

All staff should be aware of the associated risks and understand the measures in place to manage these. If staff have any concerns about a child (as opposed to a child being in immediate danger), they should speak with the School's DSL to agree a course of action.

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

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

They can also be forced or manipulated into shoplifting, pickpocketing, committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others.

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

All staff should be aware that 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 (such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator.

- The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, 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.
- It should be noted that Victims can be still be exploited even when activity appears consensual

Mental Health: All staff should 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.

- Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Staff in schools are however, particularly 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 and education.
- If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern they should take immediate action in referring this concern to the DSL or one of his deputies.

Further advice and guidance can be found in the DfE documents **Preventing and Tackling Bullying**, and **Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools** In addition, Public Health England has produced a range of resources to support secondary school teachers to promote positive health, wellbeing and resilience among young people including its guidance **Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing**.

The issues listed above, along with gang and youth violence, fabricated or induced illness and faith abuse are all extremely serious matters and are covered in *Keeping Children Safe In Education* (2021), with which all staff should be familiar. In addition, further guidance can be found in specific documents (which are also available on the VLE):

- [Guidance on Forced Marriage](#)
- [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)
- [Children Missing Education](#)
- [CSE Guidance](#)
- [Prevent Duty Advice for Schools](#)

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues, some of which are listed above and in KCSIE 2021 (Annex B: Further Information). Staff should be aware that behaviours linked to incidents, for example, of drug taking, alcohol abuse, deliberately missing education and sharing nudes/semi-nude images (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery) put children in danger.

When staff have **any** safeguarding concern then it should be raised with the DSL immediately. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider whether there has been or

is a likelihood of harm and whether there is a need for additional support from one or more agencies; the former will be reported to the Children's Social Care immediately, the latter would lead to multi-agency assessment using the local processes.

4 Duty of employees, Governors and volunteers

4.1 Every employee and Governor of the College as well as every volunteer who assists the College is under a general legal duty:

- to identify concerns early, provide help for children, and prevent concerns from escalating;
- to provide a safe environment in which children can learn;
- to protect children from abuse;
- to be aware of the College's child protection procedures and to follow them;
- to have read and understood at least Part 1 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE September 2021) and, if working closely with children to have read and understood Annex B.
- to have read and to follow the staff *Code of Conduct* (including the *Whistleblowing Policy*) as detailed in the relevant Staff Handbook. This includes guidance on staff/pupil relationships and communications, including the use of social media;
- to be aware of systems within their school or college which support safeguarding and which will be explained to them as part of staff induction. This should include: the *child protection (safeguarding) policy*; the *promoting good behaviour policy*; the *peer-on-peer abuse policy*; the *low-level concerns policy*; the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and the role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies).
- to know how to access and implement the Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures, independently if necessary. These procedures are available as an electronic copy at
<https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/>
- to be aware of the early help process and understand their role in this. This includes identifying emerging problems, liaising with the DSL and sharing information with other professionals in undertaking an early help assessment;
- to be aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments that may follow such referral, along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments;
- to know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected. Staff should know how to manage the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality whilst keeping a sufficient record of any significant complaint, conversation or event and passing this on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead within the same day as the concern arises. This means only involving those who need to be involved, such as the designated safeguarding lead (or the Deputy DSLs) and children's social care. Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell

anyone about a report of abuse, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.

- to report any matters of concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a Deputy DSL;
- to call the police (999) if a child is at immediate risk of significant harm;
- if a teacher, to report to the police (a mandatory duty) any case where they discover that an act of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out - discussing such a case with the DSL who will involve Children's Social Care as appropriate.
- to undertake appropriate training, including induction training within their first days at the College and/update training at regular intervals (recorded at Annex A), in addition to receiving and noting informal updates (e.g. via email and staff meetings) which will occur at least annually;
- to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, all staff should always act in the interests of the child;
- to be active in reinforcing the anti-bullying policy and active in challenging unacceptable behaviour e.g. 'banter', discriminatory or derogatory language and attitudes and online behaviour which may occasion harm
- to support the teaching and guidance that takes place pastorally as well as through the PSHE and ICT curriculum on keeping safe and e-safety. Details of this provision can be found in the *Anti-Bullying* and *PSHE* policies.

4.2 **Whistleblowing:** All College staff are required to report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, a Deputy DSL or the Head Master any concern or allegations about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the College's safeguarding regime. They should expect that such concerns be taken seriously. In exceptional cases such reports should be made to ISI. There will be no retribution or disciplinary action taken against a member of staff for making such a report provided that it is done in good faith. The College's [Whistleblowing Policy](#) is contained in the relevant Staff Handbook and the importance of this policy and of a culture of safety where concerns are raised and unsafe practice is challenged is highlighted in child protection training. The *NSPCC whistleblowing helpline* is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failure internally, tel. 0800 028 0285; email help@nspcc.org.uk.

4.3 **Safer Recruitment:** The College's recruitment and selection policy and procedures, including required checks for all staff, is in accord with the requirements of Part 3 of *KCSIE* (September 2021). Lancing College seeks to create a culture that safeguards and promotes the welfare of our pupils. As part of this culture, we adopt robust recruitment procedures that deter and prevent people who are unsuitable to work with children from applying for or securing employment.

4.4 **Early Help:** Any child may benefit from early help, but all school and college staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- is disabled and has specific additional needs;

- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan);
- is a young carer;
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups;
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse;
- has returned home to their family from care;
- is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect;
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- is a privately fostered child.

5 Procedures

5.1 **Initial complaint:** An employee, Governor or volunteer suspecting or hearing a complaint of abuse:

- must listen carefully to the child and keep an open mind. Staff should not take a decision as to whether or not the abuse has taken place;
- should refrain from asking questions as far as possible and must not ask leading questions, that is, a question which suggests its own answer;
- must reassure the child but not give a guarantee of absolute confidentiality. The member of staff should explain that they need to pass the information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy DSLs who will ensure that the correct action is taken;
- must keep a sufficient written record of the conversation. The record should include the date, time and place of the conversation and the essence of what was said and done by whom and in whose presence. The record should be signed by the person making it and should use names, not initials. The record must be kept securely and handed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy DSLs;
- must report any allegation of alleged abuse by a member of staff, including supply staff, volunteers, school governors and contractors immediately to the Head Master (or the Senior Deputy Head in his absence), or the Chairman of the Governing Body if the allegation is about the Head Master. The DSL must, in addition, refer all cases of child abuse relating to staff, including supply staff, volunteers, school governors and contractors to the LADO (*KCSIE, Part 4, Annex C, 2021*). The LADO will provide advice and then, if necessary, preside over the investigation or suspicion of abuse directed against anyone working in the school. All allegations are reported to the LADO immediately and within one working day at the latest.

5.2 **Preserving evidence:** All evidence (for example, scribbled notes, text messages, clothing, tablets or computers) must be safeguarded and preserved.

5.3 **Reporting:** All suspicion or complaints of abuse must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or in their absence a Deputy DSL immediately. If the complaint involves a member of staff, this must be reported to the Head Master.

If a child is in immediate danger, the police must be called by dialling 999

If at any point there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child, a referral should be made to children’s social care immediately. Anyone can make this referral in the absence of being able to make contact with the DSL or his deputies. If the child’s situation does not appear to be improving, a staff member with concerns should press for re-consideration. Concerns should always lead to help for the child at some point.

If anyone other than the DSL makes the referral, they should inform the DSL as soon as possible.

Staff should not assume a colleague or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe. They should be mindful that early information sharing is vital for effective identification, assessment and allocation of appropriate service provision.

Information Sharing: *Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers* supports staff who have to make decisions about sharing information. This advice includes the seven golden rules for sharing information.

5.4 Action by the Designated Safeguarding Lead: The action to be taken will take into account:

- the local inter-agency procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships of West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, or other LSCPs as appropriate;
- the nature and seriousness of the suspicion or complaint. A complaint involving a serious criminal offence will always be referred to children’s social care and/or the police without further investigation within the College;
- the wishes and feelings of the pupil who has made a disclosure, provided that the pupil is of sufficient understanding and maturity and properly informed. However, there may be times when the situation is so serious that decisions may need to be taken, after all appropriate consultation, that override a pupil's wishes;
- the wishes and views of the complainant's parents, provided they have no interest which is in conflict with the pupil's best interests and that they are properly informed. Again, it may be necessary, after all appropriate consultation, to override parental wishes in some circumstances. If the DSL is concerned that disclosing information to parents would put a child at risk, he will take further advice from the relevant professionals before making a decision to disclose. NB Referral can be made without parental permission if a pupil is at risk of harm;
- duties of confidentiality, so far as applicable;
- the lawful rights and interests of the College community as a whole including its employees and its insurers;
- if there is room for doubt as to whether a referral should be made, or to which body a referral should be made (e.g. to *Channel* or Children’s Social Care for a child at risk of radicalisation) the DSL may consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer or other appropriate professionals on a no names basis without identifying

the family. However, if sufficient concern exists that a child may be at risk of significant harm, or if there is suspicion of abuse and/or a disclosure is made, a referral will be made without delay and within 24 hours. If the initial referral is made by telephone, the Designated Person will confirm the referral in writing to children's social care also within 24 hours. If no response or acknowledgment is received within three working days, the Designated Person will contact children's social care again.

- **Child in Need.** If a child is not deemed to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm but is deemed to be in need of additional support from one or more agencies, they should be referred to the DSL and will be assessed via the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and the Team around the Child (TAC) approaches, in line with local inter-agency procedures.

5.5 **Referral guidelines:** It is key that children receive the right help at the right time to address risks and to prevent issues escalating. A referral to children's social care or police should be made when a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, harm and/ or where a criminal offence has taken place. If necessary anyone can make such a referral. (See Annex B).

5.6 **External agencies:** In the event that the College decides not to refer a particular incident to the police, the parents and pupil will be informed of their right to make their own complaint or referral. Pupils and their parents have access to a complaints procedure in relation to issues affecting their welfare which provides contact details for ISI.

5.7 (A) **Allegations against a member of staff that may meet the harms threshold** (including volunteers, supply staff, school governors and contractors): The College has procedures for dealing with allegations against staff, governors (contractors and volunteers who work with children) that aim to strike a balance between the need to protect children from abuse and the need to protect staff and volunteers from false or unfounded allegations. These procedures follow the guidance in [Keeping Children Safe in Education \[Part 4\] \(2021\)](#).

The following process must be followed:

- Make an immediate written record of the allegation using the informant's words including: time, date and place where the alleged incident took place, brief details of what happened, what was said and who was present
- This record should be signed, dated and immediately passed on to the Head Master or Chair of Governors (if the allegation relates to the Head Master)
- The recipient of an allegation must not unilaterally determine its validity and failure to report it in accordance with procedures is a potential disciplinary matter. The Head Master or Chair will not investigate the allegation themselves, or take written or detailed statements, but will assess and decide whether to refer the concern to the LADO. If there is any doubt as to whether to refer, advice should be taken from the LADO.
- Where a conflict of interest in reporting the matter to the Head exists, the LADO should be contacted directly and the allegation shared with them.
- If there are concerns that a child is at risk, the matter must be immediately reported to MASH.
- Any records generated in the course of such matters must be retained securely, away from other child protection and personnel records and only be accessed by those who need to for investigation / review purposes.

- Guidelines contained within the Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures in respect of managing allegations made against people who work or volunteer with children, found [here](#) , must be followed on each occasion. If there is any doubt then advice must be taken from the LADO

The College will not undertake its own investigations of an allegation without prior consultation with the LADO, or in the most serious cases the police, in order not to jeopardise statutory investigations.

Where an allegation relates to a member of supply staff, provided by an agency, the school at the direction and advice of the LADO and/or police will involve and work with the agency.

Suspension will not be an automatic response to an allegation. Full consideration will be given to all the options, subject to the need to ensure:

- the safety and welfare of the pupils or pupil concerned; and
- the need for a full and fair investigation.

If a member of boarding staff is suspended pending a child protection investigation, arrangements will be made for alternative accommodation away from children.

Where an allegation or complaint is made against the Head Master of the Senior School or Head of the Preparatory Schools, the person receiving the allegation should, without first notifying the Head Master/ Head, immediately inform the Chairman of the Governing Body (Mr Martin Slumbers), or in his absence the Board-level Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Anne-Marie Edgell [contact details for both may be gained from Mrs Sharon Miles, the Bursar's PA, or in her absence from Miss Annie Bargione, the Head Master's Assistant], who will consult with the relevant LADO.

Detailed guidance is given to staff to ensure that their behaviour and actions do not place pupils or themselves at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to a pupil. This guidance is contained in the [Staff Code of Conduct](#) and the Staff Handbook.

If the College ceases to use the services of a member of staff (or a Governor or volunteer or supply teacher) because they are unsuitable to work with children, a compromise agreement will not be used and there will be a prompt and detailed report to the DBS. The College will consider whether to make a referral to the Teaching Regulatory Agency where the criteria are met. Any such incidents will be followed by a review of the safeguarding procedures within the College with a report being presented to the Governing Body without delay.

(B) Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold (including volunteers, supply staff, school governors and contractors):

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

- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and
- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

Low-level concerns which are shared about supply staff and contractors will be shared with their employers, so that any potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified. The Head Master or his delegated representative will communicate with their employers. We reserve the right to remove supply staff and contractors from the premises, if required. The [Lancing College Low-Level Concerns policy](#) details the actions in relation to low level concerns which do not meet the 'harm' threshold.

It is important to create and embed a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the College's values and expected behaviour which are set out in the staff code of conduct are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff.

Safeguarding concerns about a member of staff should be referred to the Head Master.

Non recent allegations: Where an adult makes an allegation to a school or college that they were abused as a child, Lancing College would advise the individual to report the allegation to the police. Non recent allegations made by a child, will be reported to the LADO who will coordinate with children social care and the police. Abuse can be reported no matter how long ago it happened.

5.8 **School complaints:** Complaints by parents about any aspect of school MUST be reviewed to ensure there are no allegations against staff, including volunteers, contained within the complaint which require referral to LADO

5.9 **Allegations against pupils:** A pupil against whom an allegation of abuse has been made may be suspended from the College during the investigation and the College's policy on behaviour, discipline and sanctions will apply.

In the instance where there is the allegation of abuse by one or more pupils against another pupil where there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm' then any such abuse will be referred to local agencies as a child protection concern. In the event of disclosure about pupil on pupil abuse, all children involved, whether perpetrator or victim, will be treated as being 'at risk'.

5.10 **Peer on Peer Abuse:** This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; initiating/hazing type violence and rituals; abuse within intimate partner relationships; consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos; causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent.

It is important to recognise that even if there are no reported cases of peer-on-peer abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and simply not being reported. Everyone should be alert to building trust of the children and ensuring systems are in place for them to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously.

The College seeks to ensure that the risk of Peer on Peer abuse is minimised by:

- Challenging inappropriate behaviours;
- Providing a developmentally appropriate PSHE programme which develops pupils' understanding of consent, acceptable behaviour and healthy relationships;
- Developing robust risk assessments and providing targeted work and support for pupils identified as being a potential risk to other pupils;

- Having systems in place for any pupils to raise concerns with staff knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued;
- Clarity about how allegations of peer on peer abuse will be recorded, investigated and dealt with
- Recognition that all peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously, including clarity that it should never be passed off as ‘banter’ or ‘having a laugh’ or ‘part of growing up’
- Ensuring that staff are suitably trained to manage a report of child on child sexual violence.
- Clear processes through which all children (victims, perpetrators and others affected by peer on peer abuse) will be supported

The College’s *Policy on Peer on Peer Abuse* details this guidance in full.

5.11 **Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges**

Context: Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable. Sexual violence and sexual harassment can take place within intimate personal relationships between peers. It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at greater risk. Staff should be aware of the importance of:

- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and
- challenging behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

5.12 **Managing reports of peer on peer sexual violence and harassment**

A. Responding to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment

- Children making a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment will be taken seriously, kept safe and will be well supported. Staff taking a report must never promise confidentiality and inform the DSL immediately.
- If a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger, or has been harmed, a referral will be made without delay.
- Parents or carers should be informed at an early stage (unless this would put the child at greater risk).

B. Risk Assessment

- Following the report the DSL will make an immediate risk and needs assessment, which considers:
 - The victim, especially their protection and support;

- The alleged perpetrator, their support needs and any discipline action;
- All other children at the school;
- The victim and the alleged perpetrator sharing classes and space at school.
- The risk assessment will be recorded and kept under review.
- Where there has been other professional intervention and/or other specialist risk assessments, these professional assessments will be used to inform the College's approach to supporting and protecting pupils.

C. Actions

- The DSL will consider the following actions:
 - The wishes of the victim;
 - The nature of the incident including whether a crime has been committed and the harm caused;
 - Ages of the children involved;
 - Developmental stages of the children;
 - Any power imbalance between the children;
 - Any previous incidents;
 - Ongoing risks;
 - Other related issues or wider context.

D. Options

- The DSL, in consultation with the Safeguarding Team, will decide between the following options:
 - Manage internally
 - Early Help intervention
 - Refer to Children's Social Care
 - Report to the police (generally in parallel with a referral to Children's Social Care)

E. Ongoing Response

- The DSL will manage each case individually and ensure that the risk assessment is reviewed regularly with relevant partner agencies, for example the Police and Children's Social Care.
- Where there is a criminal investigation into a rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault, the alleged perpetrator would be removed from any classes they share with the victim.
- The DSL will consider how best to keep the victim and perpetrator a reasonable distance apart on school premises and on transport where appropriate.
- Where a criminal investigation into a rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault or leads to a conviction or caution, the College will take disciplinary action in line with its Rewards, Discipline and Sanctions Policy. Whether or not allowing the perpetrator to remain in the same school or college would seriously harm the education or welfare of the victim (and potentially themselves and other pupils) is one of several factors that will be considered.
- The victim, alleged perpetrator and any other affected children and adults will be offered appropriate support. The College recognises that taking disciplinary action and providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions and can occur at the same time if necessary.

A new NSPCC helpline 0800 136 663 went live on 1 April 2021 to support potential victims of sexual harassment and abuse in education settings. It aims to provide appropriate support and advice to children and adults who are victims of sexual abuse in schools,

including on how to contact the police and report crimes. The helpline also provides support to parents and professionals.

- 5.13 **Suspected harm from outside the College:** A member of staff who suspects that a pupil is suffering harm from outside the College should discuss this matter with the DSL, and consideration will be given as to who best should seek to elicit information from the child using sensitively "open", and not leading, questions. A sufficient record should be made of the conversation and, if there are concerns confirmed, the matter should be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or to one of his deputies.
- 5.14 **Missing pupil (boarder or day):** All staff should follow the procedures outlined in the policy (refer to the relevant Staff Handbook) for searching for, reporting and recording any pupil (boarder or day) missing from school. The procedure includes the requirement to record any incident, the action taken and the reasons given by the pupil for being missing.

6 Monitoring

- 6.1 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will monitor the operation of this policy and its procedures and make a termly report to the Governors.
- 6.2 The Governing Body will undertake an annual review of the College's child protection policies and procedures and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged. The member of the Governing Body taking leadership responsibility for the College's safeguarding arrangements is Mrs Anne-Marie Edgell.
- 6.3 The Governors will ensure that any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to child protection arrangements are remedied without delay.
- 6.4 The Governors, through the Bursar, will ensure appropriate child protection checks apply to all staff including supply staff, governors, volunteers, employees of other organisations spending extended time on the College premises, or working with the College's pupils on another site (for example in a separate institution).
- 6.5 The Governors, through the Bursar, will ensure appropriate checks are in place to keep children safe when hiring or renting out College facilities to external organisations or individuals. Failure of the external organisations or individuals to fully comply will lead to a termination of the hiring or rental agreement.
- 6.6 The Governors, through the Head Master, will ensure that where the College ceases to use the services of any person (whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or student) because that person was considered unsuitable to work with children, a report is made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) within one month of the person leaving the College. The Governors have noted that failure to make a report constitutes an offence.
- 6.7 Independent schools are also under a duty to report to the TRA where a teacher has been dismissed (or would have been dismissed had he/she not resigned) and a prohibition order may be appropriate. The reasons such an order would be considered are: 'unacceptable professional conduct', 'conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute' or a 'conviction, at any time, for a relevant offence'. In such circumstances the Head Master will consider making such a referral, following the guidance on the TRA website.

7 Safeguarding in a time of COVID-19

- 7.1 **Safeguarding in a virtual environment.** After the physical closure of school campus on 20 March 2020, the College moved to a period of remote teaching and pastoral care. It is envisaged that whilst most pupils will be able to be back on site in September, there will be some who may continue to require remote education. The risks present in a physical setting are generally equally present in a virtual setting. There are however potential additional risks associated with increased use of the internet which include online grooming, online radicalisation, harmful content, online bullying and peer-on-peer abuse. We have sought to mitigate these risks by ongoing education and awareness-raising and by the promotion of strong and robust communication between pupils and trusted adults in the school community. Children working from home and in social isolation are also under the care and supervision of parents/guardians who can mitigate these risks through awareness and through closer personal supervision.
- 7.2 There are also the risks particular to the environment of the COVID-19 emergency. These include the particular emotional vulnerability of children at a time of significant and unforeseen change; anxieties about their health and that of family and friends; new working structures; physical isolation from friends; familiar stresses in terms of illness, anxiety, economic impacts and work anxiety. The uniqueness of this situation, coupled with the new territory of virtual learning, requires that there is no slippage of established cultures of communication and behaviour: rules routinely applied in ordinary circumstances are all the more important in a crisis.
- 7.3 The school, therefore, has particular regard to government guidance: - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>
- 7.4 Staff, pupils and parents have received guidance about the conducting of remote learning. All pupils are required to subscribe to a Responsible User Agreement to participation in distance learning. [\[Distance Learning Responsible User Agreement\]](#) In all teacher/ pupil interactions a 'classroom standard' of behaviour is anticipated and required. Where pupils are being asked to learn online at home the DfE has provided advice to support schools and colleges do so safely: [safeguarding-in-schools colleges-and-other-providers](#) and [safeguarding-and-remote-education](#).
- 7.5 It is the school's usual practice to conduct tutorials one-to-one, and this continues whether a child is in school or accessing learning remotely temporarily.
- 7.6 Arrangements are in place and regularly reviewed for those pupils presenting with particular concerns or needs at this time and one-to-one communication with such pupils and parents is in place via HMMs and/or members of the Safeguarding team. The school lead Counsellor and the Senior Nurse have both remained available to pupils and parents across the period of site closure and have been active in making direct contact with pupils of concern as well as responding to requests.
- 7.7 Where applicable, individual pupils' IWPs (Individual Welfare Plans) have been reviewed and recirculated to take into account the particularities of the time and the school's actions and communications in response to this.
- 7.8 Where 'blended teaching' is required for pupils within the classroom and accessing lessons remotely, live teaching sessions are recorded so that those in different time zones are able

to engage, and Heads of Department have been enabled to 'drop in' to all remote lessons by being enrolled as a 'teacher' in any class team.

7.9 Pupils have received guidance on how to respond to any concerns for the wellbeing of themselves and others and who they can contact within the school for help or support.

7.10 **Mental health.** Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of children and their parents. As the school site reopens to all pupils from 2 September, the College is committed to ensuring appropriate support is in place for them. The DfE guidance on mental health and behaviour in schools will be referenced to identify children who might need additional support, and to put this support in place. The guidance sets out how mental health issues can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem. This can include for example being fearful or withdrawn; aggressive or oppositional; or excessive clinginess. This support will (depending on whether the pupil is present in school or remains at home) be delivered in different ways via our usual support structures and, where required, from support services and in liaison with external agencies. In being aware of the impact the current circumstances can have on the mental health of those students/pupils (and their parents) who are continuing to work from home, consideration needs to be given when setting expectations of childrens' work.

7.11 **Pupils returning to school:**

- a) As pupils return to school, staff may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual pupils as they see them in person after a sustained period away from the site. These will be communicated in the usual manner.
- b) The presence of all those in the safeguarding team resident on site enables easy access to them by staff and pupils.
- c) Arrangements have been put in place via risk assessments approved by the Governing Body to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those pupils. These risk assessments have been extended and modified for the return of all pupils and staff onto the school site from 1 September 2021. ([Lancing College Risk Assessment](#))
- d) The importance of ensuring that relevant safeguarding and welfare information remains up to date and accurate as pupils physically return to school is clear and communications to parents have requested that we be updated of any changes.

8 **Contact numbers**

8.1 West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership: 0330 222 5296
West Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: MASH@westsussex.gov.uk or
wschildrenservices@westsussex.gov.uk
01403 229 900 or 0330 222 6664 (out of hours)

West Sussex Local Authority Designated Officer
(Safeguarding in Education and Allegations Management):
Miriam Williams/Donna Tomlinson: 0330 222 6450
Email: LADO@westsussex.gov.uk

Assistant LADO: Sally Arbuckle: 0330 222 6450

Email: LADO@westsussex.gov.uk

West Sussex Safeguarding in Education Manager:
Jez Prior 0330 222 4030

8.2 Disclosure and Barring Service: 01325 953795

8.3 The following contact details may be useful for staff or pupils:
Richard Dolan (DSL, Lancing College) RPD@lancing.org.uk; Tel 01273 465774
Hilary Dugdale(Deputy DSL, Lancing College) HRD@lancing.org.uk
Anne McKane (Deputy DSL, Lancing College) AM@lancing.org.uk
Kelly Edwards (Deputy DSL, Lancing College) KVE@lancing.org.uk
Gary Bird (Deputy DSL, Lancing College) GDB@lancing.org.uk
James Grime (Deputy DSL, Lancing College) JAG@lancing.org.uk
School Lead Counsellor: Mrs Jacqui Painter 07748 179218

Childline	0800 1111
NSPCC	0808 800 5000
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre	www.ceop.police.co.uk
Independent Schools Inspectorate	0207 600 0100
Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA)	0207 5935393
DfE Support and Advice about Extremism	0207 340 7264
Office of the Children’s Commissioner	0207 783 8330
	info.request@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

9 Links to other policies

This policy is linked to and underpinned by a number of other policies sent to staff prior to their commencement of employ*, available to staff on the VLE and through the Staff Handbook or available in hard copy by request:

- [Policy for the Induction of New Staff in Child Protection*](#)
- [Staff Code of Conduct*](#)
- [Anti-bullying Policy](#)
- [Recruitment Policy](#)
- [Behaviour and Discipline Policy](#)
- [Promoting Fundamental British Values Policy](#)
- [Supervision Policy](#)
- [Whistleblowing Policy](#)
- [Access to School Premises Policy](#)
- [Child Missing From Education Policy](#)
- [Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy](#)
- [Complaints Procedure](#)
- [Distance Learning Responsible User Agreement](#)
- [Self-Harm Policy](#)
- [Suicide-Prevention Policy](#)
- [Bereavement Policy](#)
- [Relationships and Sex Education Policy](#)
- [Low Level Concerns Policy](#)
- [Online Safety Policy](#)

Authorised by	Resolution of the Governing Body
Date	1 September 2021 Review Date: June 2022
Effective date of the policy	Amended and updated with effect from 21 June 2019; effective from 2 September 2019. Further updated 21 November 2019, 3 February 2020, 14 April 2020, 14 June 2021, 01 September 2021
Circulation	Governors/all staff/volunteers automatically Available on website Parents on request
Status	Complies with paragraph 3(2)(b) of the <i>Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2015</i> , the <i>National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools</i> , <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> (HM Gov July 2018) and <i>DfE guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education</i> (September 2021)

Annex A

A1 Record of Designated Persons' recent Safeguarding / Child Protection training

- *West Sussex DSL Training* - 13 January 2022 (DSL, DDSLs, Safeguarding Governor, AMC and DTO)
- *West Sussex Self Harm Workshop* – 23 June 2021 (DSL)
- *West Sussex termly Network Meetings* – 09/20; 03/21; 06/21 (DSL)
- *West Sussex DSL Training* – 2 June 2020 (DSL-elect)
- *West Sussex DSL Training* - 16 January 2020 (DDSLs and DTO)
- *Responding to issues of Peer-on-Peer Abuse* – 16 January 2020 (DSL)
- *My Concern Online training for DSLs* – January 2020 (DSL and DDSLs)
- *Farrer & Co Training Day for Safeguarding Governors* – 8 November 2019 (GB Lead)
- *VWV Webinars: Safer Recruitment and Contextual Safeguarding* – November 2020 (DSL)
- *DSL Self-Care Workshop*, Wellington College – 2 October 2019 (DDSLs)
- *Farrer & Co Annual Safeguarding Conference* – 25 September 2019 (GB Lead)
- *West Sussex Advanced Safeguarding Training* – 17 June 2019 (DSL and DDSLs)
- *DSL Refresher Training* - 14 May 2019 (DSL and DDSL)
- *Child Sexual Abuse*, W Sussex – 4 April 2019 (DSL)
- *Transforming Young Lives*, Christ's Hospital – 6 March 2019 (DDSL)
- *Safe and Sound Safeguarding*, BSA Conference – 21 November 2018 (DDSL and GB Lead)
- *DSL Refresher Training*, W Sussex LSCB - 20 September 2018 (DSL);

A2 Record of recent Safeguarding/Child Protection training at Lancing College

All teaching staff undertake the *Educare* Child Protection Refresher annually in addition to two other compulsory modules from a suite of four possibilities. Many take a significant number more.

- Safeguarding/Child Protection training/update for teaching staff
 - 28 January 2022
 - 04 January 2022
 - 10 December 2021
 - 01 September 2021
 - 16 April 2021
 - 04 January 2021
 - 01 September 2020

18 January 2020 Mental Health First Aid. MHFA England
6 January 2020
2 September 2019
18 June 2019 *Working with Bereaved Children*, Winston's Wish
17 June 2019, *Advanced Safeguarding Training*, W Sussex
2 April 2019 *Mental Health First Aid*, MHFA England
3 September 2018

- Safeguarding/Child Protection training/update for new teaching and support staff

Since September 2021, courses run on a fortnightly basis in conjunction with HR and recruitment patterns.

6 January 2020
29 August and 3 October 2019
16 May 2019
23 April 2019
9 January 2019
14 December 2018
29 August and 30 September 2018

- Safeguarding/Child Protection training/update for support staff & volunteers

26 January 2022
04 January 2022
01 September 2021
16 January (Matrons)
04 January 2021 (Matrons)
03 September 2020 (VMTs)
01 September 2020 (Maintenance, Grounds, Domestic Assistants and Catering)
6 January 2020 (Maintenance, Grounds, Domestic Assistants and Catering)
21 November 2019 (College drivers)
10 October 2019 (visiting sports coaches)
17 September 2019 (support staff)
5 September 2019 (VMTs)
24 April 2019 (invigilators)
14 December 2018 (support staff)
16 November 2018 (College drivers)
6 September 2018 (VMTs)

- Safeguarding/Child Protection training/update for Governors

25 June 2021
19 March 2021
27 November 2020
20 March 2020
29 November 2019
21 June 2019
22 March 2019
30 November 2018
15 June 2018

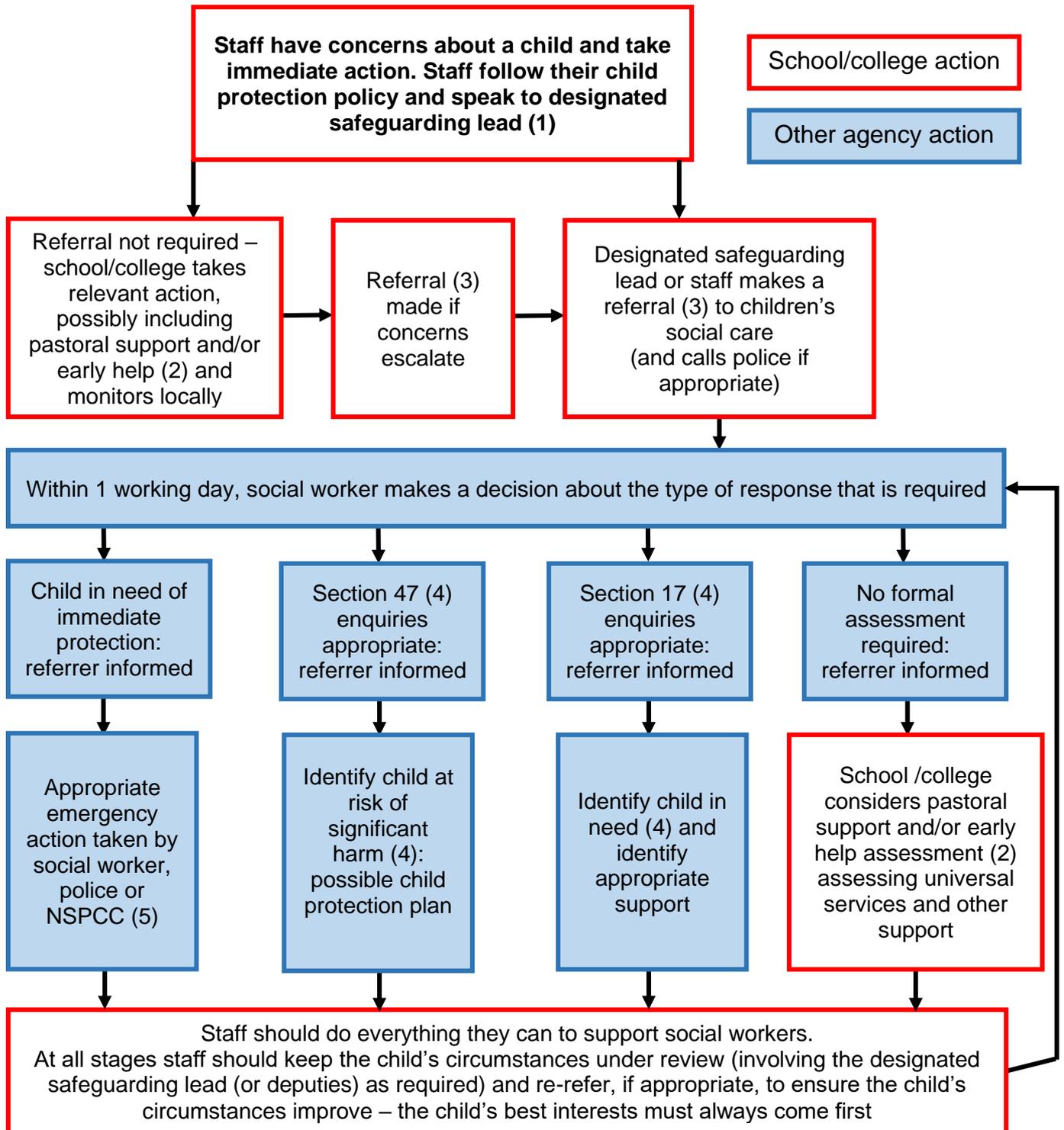
- Safeguarding/Child Protection training for PGCE students
 - 29 September 2021
 - 19 April 2021
 - 19 March 2021
 - 22 February 2021
 - 5 September 2021
 - 26 September 2019
 - 29 September 2018
 - 19 February 2018

- Safeguarding/Child Protection training for School Prefects
 - 09 September 2021
 - 10 September 2020
 - 28 January 2020 *Mental Health First Aid for Senior Pupils, MHFA*
 - 11 September 2019
 - 12 September 2018
 - 13 September 2017

- Safeguarding training for Heads of House and House Captains
 - 15+16 June 2021
 - 10 June 2020
 - 28 January 2020 *Mental Health First Aid for Senior Pupils, MHFA*
 - 13 & 18 June 2019
 - 13 & 18 June 2018
 - 7 September 2017

- Safeguarding/Child Protection training for Peer Supporters
 - 12 January 2022
 - 04 December 2021
 - 26 November 2020
 - 11 October 2020
 - 28 January 2020 *Mental Health First Aid for Senior Pupils, MHFA*
 - 14 January 2020
 - 18 June 2019 *Working with Bereaved Children, Winston's Wish*
 - 16 January 2019
 - 18 January 2018
 - 19 January 2017

**Annex B - taken from *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE September 2021)
Actions when there are concerns about a child**



(1) In cases which also involve an allegation of abuse against a staff member, see Part four of this guidance.
 (2) Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child’s life. Where a child would benefit from co-ordinated early help an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter one of Working together to Safeguard Children provides detailed guidance on the early help process.
 (3) Referrals should follow the process set out in the local threshold document and local protocol for assessment. Chapter one of Working together to Safeguard Children.
 (4) Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, it has a duty to make enquiries to decide whether to take action to safeguard or promote the child’s welfare. Full details are in Chapter one of Working together to Safeguard Children.
 (5) This could include applying for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).