

Derby and Derbyshire
Template Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy for Education Providers July 2025

This template policy has been developed and updated by representatives from the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (DDSCP) Derby and Derbyshire Education subgroups. The DDSCP education subgroups have approved and signed off the template policy.

The template policy reflects [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSIE) published for information in July 2025 as well as other relevant national guidance and local safeguarding children policies and procedures.

*The template policy has been developed to support Derby and Derbyshire schools and education providers in their safeguarding practice and **must be tailored to reflect the individual education setting and its own internal provisions, vision, and ethos**. Additional information should also be included to reflect the needs of learners, their parents/carers and the community in which the establishment is located. **Reference should also be made to the individual school's networks with other education establishments, local and community organisations and businesses.***

The school child protection/safeguarding policy must be reviewed annually, as a minimum, and updated if needed to incorporate safeguarding issues as these emerge or evolve, lessons learnt and national or local changes.

*Note: Schools with early years provision **should** also ensure that relevant references to the updated statutory [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#) are included in their safeguarding/child protection policy.*

For more details of DDSCP Derby and Derbyshire Education subgroups, please see the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website www.ddscp.org.uk.

Brooklands Primary School



Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

September 2025-2026



Date policy ratified by governing body/trustees:

Date of policy publication:

Author/s of policy:

The policy will be reviewed annually as a minimum, unless lessons learnt or new legislation, national or local guidance suggests the need for an earlier date of review.

Policy review dates and changes

Review date	By whom	Summary of changes made	Date ratified by governors/trustees	Date implemented

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(Amend sections and add page numbers to reflect your individualised policy)

(Additional Trust guidance and support)

Section 1: Introduction

This child protection/safeguarding policy outlines how the school/college will safeguard and promote children's welfare to keep our learners safe from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The policy applies to all adults, including volunteers, governors/trustees, supply staff and contractors working in or on behalf of the setting.

As defined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) (2023) safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- Preventing the 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
- Promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network¹ through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the children
- Taking action to enable all children to achieve the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework²

Effective safeguarding means practitioners should understand and be sensitive to factors, including economic and social circumstances and ethnicity, which can impact children and families' lives.

Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and is defined for the purpose of this guidance as activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suspected to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. This includes harm that occurs inside or outside the home, including online.

Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

We help to keep children safe by:

- Providing safe environments, with secure access, where children can learn and develop
- Acting in the best interests of children to protect them online and offline, including when they are receiving remote education
- At the earliest opportunity, identifying children who may need early help, and who are at risk of harm or have been harmed. This can include, but is not limited to, neglect, abuse (including by other children), grooming or exploitation
- Taking timely and appropriate safeguarding action for children who need extra help or who may be suffering, or likely to suffer, harm. This includes, if required, referring in a timely way to those who have the expertise to help
- Using safe recruitment processes

¹ A family network can be a blood-relative, or a non-related connected person, such as a family friend or neighbour

² [Children's social care: national framework](#). The statutory national framework document is for those who work in local authority children's social care. It includes relevant information for all safeguarding partners and agencies who work with children's social care.

- Managing allegations that may meet the harm threshold and allegations/concerns that do not meet the harm threshold, referred to as low-level concerns

We will ensure that parents/carers and our partner agencies are aware of our child protection/safeguarding policy by ensuring that it is on the school/college website. A safeguarding board is established in the shared reprographics area outside the HT office, detailing our lanyard system, DSL team and other important safeguarding information. Details of the DSL team are displayed in each of areas of school including EYFS – F1 and F2 areas, Year 1, Year2, Year 3/4 corridor, Year 5/6 corridor and in the main reception area. Awareness of the safeguarding team is raised through a slide in the weekly whole school assembly and shared on Class Dojo. Regular posts keeping parents up to date with online safety tips and information are made to the whole school story on Class Dojo.

The school/college website also has information about how parents/children/other agencies can contact the designated safeguarding lead and their deputy/ies and include their availability during out of school hours and school holidays.

Safeguarding and child protection policy statement

Brooklands Primary School operates a whole school approach and ethos to safeguarding and protecting children. Where safeguarding is concerned, we maintain an attitude of *“it could happen here”*. We recognise that everyone in the school/college has a role to play to keep children safe; this includes ensuring children feel heard and understood, identifying concerns, sharing information, and taking prompt action. Safeguarding and child protection is incorporated in all relevant aspects of processes and policy development. All systems, processes and policies operate with the best interests of a child at their centre.

We ensure that all children are safeguarded while on or off school/college premises and are proactive about anticipating and managing risks that children face in the wider community and online. To support this the school/college assesses the risks and issues in the wider community when considering the well-being and safety of its learners. The context of the school fits the following profile and consequent risks:

Approximately 45% of our school community are eligible for Free School Meals. Poverty can be a factor in children being at risk due to the stresses it creates in families and the limitations it places on choice, but by itself is not a safeguarding matter. However poverty can led to issues which are safeguarding matters:

- basic needs not being met (food, warmth, clothing)
- social isolation
- impact of stress within a household (including emotional abuse or domestic abuse)
- impact on home learning
- impact of long working hours (relationships, supervision)
- caring responsibilities
- self-esteem and emotional health issues (in child and parent)
- risk of substance misuse in areas of deprivation (in child and parent)

Poverty can impact in a number of ways. For children it may:

- lead to anxiety due to worries about their parents, siblings, being singled out as different.

- impact on their educational attainment as they are in poor housing, or homeless with little or no space to concentrate.
- lead to them not being able to take part due to lack of funds.
- lead them into being criminally exploited as it appears to be way to make money (Long Eaton is also geographically placed for county lines to be an issue)
- lead to them being bullied for being different.
- mean that they are hungry throughout the day and therefore not able to focus.
- mean that parents are not able to focus on the needs of the children due to worrying about money (National Education Union, 2018)

Research tells us that often children and parents will not tell us what is happening and it is knowing the children that flags concerns in the first instance. At Brooklands, staff are extra vigilant in recognising some of the following:

- tiredness;
- persistent hunger;
- poor concentration;
- lower attainment;
- non-attendance on school trips / involvement in school activities where there is a cost;
- stress / anxiety.
- poor attendance
- recurring patterns of aggressive/emotional behaviour

Due to the above potential risks it is paramount that Brooklands is a place where children feel safe and listened to. PSHE is at the heart of the school's curriculum so that children are educated against potential risks so they can recognise them and protect themselves in the future.

Long Eaton is predominantly White British (95.3%) with only a small percentage of different minority ethnic groups eg. BME (0.9%) and Asian (2.0%).

Due to the make-up of the area, children are at risk of being exposed to extreme right-wing viewpoints and racist language and actions.

Brooklands therefore has a responsibility to help children appreciate and learn about the diversity in the world through its curriculum. This wider understanding of different cultures and religions will help children breakdown any negative stereotypes that might be displayed by the media and help treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Due to the above potential risks it is paramount that Brooklands is a place where children feel safe and listened to. PSHE is at the heart of the school's curriculum so that children are educated against potential risks so they can recognise them and protect themselves in the future. This year the school will adopt the DfE's statutory Relationship, Sex Education and Health Education (RSE) policy and priority will be given to ensuring children understand what a healthy relationship is.

E Safety is also being delivered in classes on a regularly basis, especially as more children could be accessing home learning remotely.

It is not considered the school is at high risk of county lines as the direction of travel would typically be from both neighbouring cities, Nottingham and Derby, however school staff are

vigilant as we recognised that statistically children in deprived areas are more at risk of being criminally exploited.

To protect our learners, we have a Prevent action plan/risk assessment and are part of Operation Encompass (previously known locally as Stopping Domestic Abuse Together/ SDAT). As a school safeguarding is taught through our curriculum, PSHE/RSHE as part of a child's personal development, additionally we hold specific assemblies, online safety aspect of the curriculum and resources used e.g. National online safety materials, NSPCC. We are also part of the i-Vengers project.

The school recognises we have an important role to play in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and contributes to multi-agency working as set out in [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) (2023). As a relevant agency, the school/college understands its role within local safeguarding arrangements and operates in accordance with the [Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children multi-agency procedures](#), including the local criteria for action (known as the [Threshold document](#)) and the [Derby and Derbyshire local protocol for assessment and support](#).

To support key multi-agency safeguarding communications we have a dedicated secure safeguarding email address safeguarding@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk, which is accessible by at least two members of our safeguarding staff. During the school/college term and in school/college hours, this is checked daily. An 'out of office' message is operational during other times and in school/college holidays to advise partner agencies if and how often messages will be checked/responded to and when the school will reopen. The DSL team monitor the safeguarding emails in the holidays and provide social care with phone number to contact in emergencies. The DSL team continue to attend strategy meetings, child in need meetings and child protection meetings during holidays.

The school/college is also aware of and implements any local learning where appropriate, such as those as outlined in DDSCP Briefing Note: [safeguarding school age children and learning from case reviews](#) and other DDSCP briefing notes relating to learning from reviews or audit located in the multi-agency safeguarding children procedures [document library](#). As a school we work with other agencies to support vulnerable children for example we work closely with health services such as school nurses and doctors, emotional well being / mental health practitioners such as Build Sound Minds and CAHMS, Derbyshire Recovery Support, Social Care, Early Help, Elm Foundation, multi faith centre. This may be by holding re3gualr meetings in school, taking part in partnership forums/ events, or hosting meetings for individual children and families in school. As schools, we work effectively with the Flying High Partnership attending regular meetings and safeguarding input at our strategic heads meetings, trust comms, accessing safeguarding resources in the designated FHP TEAMS space and engagement with audits and support from the Trust Safeguarding Team.

Context

This policy enables Brooklands Primary School to carry out our functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and must be read alongside key guidance:

- Department for Education's [statutory guidance](#) publications for schools and local authorities, including:
 - [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) (2023)
 - [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2025)

- [Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children](#) (2018)
- [Human Rights Act](#) (1998) and [Equality Act](#) (2010), including the Public Sector Equality Duty
- [Data Protection Act](#) (2018) and [UK GDPR](#)
- [Prevent Duty Guidance](#) (2023) and [The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation](#) (2023)
- [Derby and Derbyshire Multi-agency Safeguarding Children procedures](#)

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm, neglect, exploitation, or failure to act, it relates to broader aspects of care and education. This policy therefore complements and supports a range of other school/college policies, such as:

- Children's health and safety and well-being, including their mental health
- Behaviour policy, including how we engage learners struggling to engage in school, mental health and behaviour, acceptable and non-acceptable behaviours, how we prevent and respond to bullying including cyber bullying, prejudiced based and discriminatory bullying and child-on-child abuse. This policy also outlines the school/college's screening, searching, and confiscating powers and how they will be used safely, proportionately, and appropriately, including police strip searches
- Staff, learner, and visitor acceptable use policy/agreements, as part of the school/college cyber awareness plan
- Use of reasonable force/physical intervention, including the increased vulnerability of children with special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and equality duties
- School attendance, including unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education, not in receipt of fulltime education or go missing from education, home, or care
- Suspension and permanent exclusion
- Meeting the needs of learners with medical conditions
- Providing first aid
- Educational visits
- Intimate care
- Emotional well-being
- Online safety, including use of mobile and smart technology, AI, online safety at school and at home and other associated issues, including sharing nudes and semi-nudes, use of mobile phones/devices in school, appropriate filtering and monitoring, and how children can be kept safe from terrorist and extremist materials. Our Annual Online Safeguarding Audit is published on the school website and is regularly reviewed by the DSL team.
- Safer recruitment and selection, including single central record
- Staff behaviour (code of conduct), including low level concerns, managing allegations against staff, including supply staff, contractors and volunteers incorporating 'duty to refer' and whistleblowing, acceptable use of technologies/mobile devices, staff/learner relationships and communications, including the use of social media
- School/college security and visitors
- Policy/agreement for visiting speakers
- SEND annual information report, Trust internal and external safeguarding audit
- Relationships education (RE)/relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education (physical and mental well-being)
- Communications
- Complaints procedure
- Data protection policies and privacy notices, including record keeping and retention
- Information sharing

- Whistleblowing
- Private fostering, child-on-child abuse and specific safeguarding related issues

Section 2: What is abuse?

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child which may be caused by an adult, adults or by another child or children inflicting harm or by failing to prevent harm. The harm can involve physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, neglect and/or exploitation and can include witnessing the ill treatment of others, such as in all forms domestic abuse. Children can be at risk of abuse inside and outside of their home, in their community, inside and outside the school/college and online.

Safeguarding issues can put children at of risk harm. Behaviours linked to drug taking and/or alcohol misuse, unexplained and/or persistent absences or going missing from education, serious violence (including county lines), radicalisation, consensual/non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images can be signs that children are at risk. Abuse, neglect, exploitation, and safeguarding issues are rarely stand-alone events; in most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another.

Safeguarding action may be needed to protect children from the following risks, which include abuse perpetrated by other children as well as by adults:

- Any concerns that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect
- Bullying, including online bullying and prejudice-based bullying, racist, disability and homophobic or transphobic abuse
- Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls
- Sexual harassment, online sexual abuse, and sexual violence between children. Online abuse can include sending abusive, harassing, and misogynistic or misandrist messages; sharing nude and semi-nude images and videos; and coercing others to make and share sexual imagery
- Radicalisation and/or extremist behaviour
- Child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, including county lines
- Risks linked to using technology and social media, including online bullying; the risks of being groomed online for exploitation or radicalisation; and risks of accessing and generating inappropriate content, for example youth produced sexual imagery
- Abuse within intimate personal relationships between children (sometimes known as 'teenage relationship' abuse)
- Upskirting³
- Substance use – drugs and/or alcohol
- Gang activity and serious violence, particularly affecting young males who have been excluded, have experienced trauma and have been involved in offending
- Domestic abuse
- Forced marriage, marriage/civil partnership under the age of 18, virginity testing or hymenoplasty, female genital mutilation and so-called 'honour-based' abuse
- Children with Perplexing Presentations (PP) in whom illness is fabricated or induced (FII)
- Homelessness
- Other issues not listed here but that pose a risk to children

³ Upskirting is taking a picture of someone's genitals or buttocks under their clothing without them knowing, either for sexual gratification or in order to humiliate or distress the individual. This is a criminal offence, see [Voyeurism \(Offences\) Act \(2019\)](#)

Further information about indicators of abuse and neglect as well as safeguarding risks noted above are located in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2025).

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.

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.

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 and all staff should be aware of it and of their school's policy and procedures for dealing with it.

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.

Safeguarding issues

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and/or alcohol misuse, deliberately missing education, serious violence (including that linked to county lines), radicalisation and consensual and

non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos can be signs that children are at risk. Below are some safeguarding issues all staff should be aware of.

Child criminal exploitation (CCE) and child sexual exploitation (CSE)

Both CCE and CSE are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in criminal or sexual activity. It may involve an exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CCE and CSE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.

Child criminal exploitation (CCE)

Some specific forms of CCE can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others. Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation, as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to. It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same, however professionals should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse 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 clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse including via the internet. CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence and may happen without the child's immediate knowledge for example through others sharing videos or images of them on social media. CSE can affect any child who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16 and 17-year-olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children do not realise they are being exploited and may believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.

Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn.

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Whilst **all** staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) with regard to any concerns about female genital mutilation (FGM), there is a specific **legal duty on teachers**.¹⁴ If a teacher, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher **must** report this to the police.

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. Education staff, however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. Schools and colleges can access a range of advice to help them identify children in need of extra mental health support, this includes working with external agencies. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken to follow their school or college's child protection policy and by speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy.

Serious violence

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

Child-on-Child abuse – refer to Section 7 of the policy.

Section 3: School/College staff safeguarding roles and responsibilities

Staff induction

Staff and governors at Brooklands Primary School will have an induction appropriate to their roles, which will include organisation vision/ethos, aspirations, and expectations of all staff, as well as what is considered acceptable and what is not. New staff will also receive information about systems within the school/college which support safeguarding, including online safety and copies of policies; this includes:

- Child protection/ safeguarding policy, which includes how the school/college deals with child-on-child abuse
- School/college behaviour policy, which includes school/college measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying
- Staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy, which includes acceptable use of technologies/mobile devices, online filtering and monitoring processes utilised and expectations associated with this, staff/learner relationship and communications, including the use of social media. The policy also incorporates low-level concerns, allegations against staff and whistleblowing
- Attendance policy and the safeguarding response to children where there are unexplainable and/or persistent absences or are missing from education
- The safeguarding response to child-on-child abuse
- The role and names of the designated safeguarding lead, their deputy/ies, the designated teacher for looked after children, the senior mental health lead, and the designated governor

All staff will:

- Receive a paper/electronic copy of, read and sign to say that they have received, read, and understood:
 - Those who work directly with children at least Part one of [Keeping Children Safe in Education: for school and college staff](#) and Annex B: Further information (2025)
 - School/college leaders, including governors/trustees/proprietors and designated safeguarding leads/deputies all of [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2025)
 - Staff who do not work with children directly at least [Keeping Children Safe in Education: for school and college staff \(part 1\)](#) (2025) or Annex A Safeguarding information for school and college staff (a condensed version of part 1)

All staff will:

- Be aware of:
 - Operation Encompass, previously known locally as Stopping Domestic Abuse Together /SDAT, a police-led early domestic abuse notification to schools, and the school dedicated safeguarding email address
 - The safeguarding response to children who are missing education or where there are unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education
 - The safeguarding response to child-on-child abuse
 - What private fostering arrangements are and the appropriate safeguarding response
 - The early help process for low level and emerging needs and understand their role in it
 - The process for making a referral to local authority children's social care, the statutory assessments that may follow this and the role they may play in such assessments
 - The protocols for recording concerns on school systems

- Know what to do if a child tells them they are being abused, exploited, or neglected and will be able to reassure children they are being taken seriously, will be supported, and kept safe
- Know what to do if a child shares, produces, or receives a sexual communication, including sharing nudes/ semi-nudes
- Know what to do if a parent or carer shares any concerns about a child
- Be aware:
 - Children may not feel ready or know how to tell and/or might not recognise their experiences as harmful and that certain children may face additional barriers to telling
 - Any child may benefit from early help and be alert to the need for early help for some groups of children
 - Of the indicators of abuse, exploitation, and neglect, understand that children can be at risk inside and outside of the school/college, in their home, institutional or community setting and online
 - Children can abuse other children, referred to as child-on-child abuse, and the school/college policy to prevent and respond to it
 - Children with special education needs, disabilities (SEND) or health issues, particularly those with neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism, as well as those with certain medical or physical health conditions are particularly vulnerable to online and offline abuse, exploitation, and neglect - and also face additional barriers to the recognition of this abuse
 - In addition to children with SEND or health issues, that some groups of children are potentially at greater risk of harm, including children who need a social worker, children absent or missing from education or who are electively home educated, children requiring mental health support, looked after/previously looked after children and children who are, or may be, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or gender questioning
 - Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and well-being issues
 - 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
 - That children's poor behaviour may be a sign that they are suffering harm or that they have been traumatised by abuse
 - Of the 'one chance' rule with suspected or actual victims of forced marriage and so called 'honour-based' abuse. That is, they may only have one opportunity to speak to a victim or potential victim to offer appropriate support and advice
 - Of the possible indicators, alongside other factors, and contexts, that a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology
 - Of the indicators which may signal children are at risk from, or involved with, serious violent crime
- Have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep looked after children and previously looked after children safe
- Discuss/report any concerns they have about a child with the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy. If staff members are unsure, they should always speak to the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy

- Speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy about any concerns about so called ‘honour-based’ abuse, breast ironing, female genital mutilation (FGM)⁴, virginity testing and hymenoplasty⁵
- Work with the designated safeguarding lead and do everything they can to support social workers to help them carry out a statutory assessment
- Be mindful that early information sharing is vital to identifying and tackling all forms of abuse, exploitation, and neglect and in promoting children's welfare, including in relation to their educational outcomes

Governors/trustees/proprietors and the management of school/college safeguarding

As outlined in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2025) the governing body/trustees/ proprietors have a strategic leadership responsibility for the school/college safeguarding arrangements and has/have the responsibility to ensure that the school/college complies with safeguarding duties under legislation. There is a senior board level member who takes leadership responsibility for the establishment’s safeguarding arrangements.

The governing body/trustees/proprietors and their senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding lead are aware of and follow local arrangements. This includes understanding and applying the [Threshold document](#) (criteria for action), [Derby and Derbyshire Local Protocol for Assessment and Support](#), [Derby and Derbyshire Child Protection Conference Professional Dissent process](#) and [Dispute Resolution and Escalation protocol](#). Arrangements have been made to set out information sharing processes and principles within the school/college and with local authority children’s social care, safeguarding partners (Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership/DDSCP) and other agencies. The school/college will supply information as requested by the DDSCP which enables and assists partners to perform their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area, including information related to local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.

Governors/trustees exercise strategic oversight of all aspects of safeguarding in the school/college and this is a standing item at all governing body/trustee meetings and recorded in minutes. To support this on an annual basis:

- A safeguarding audit is undertaken to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding policies and processes. School complete a safeguarding audit led either by an external safeguarding consultant identified in partnership with the Trust or the FHP Safeguarding Lead.
- The DDSCP Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT) [checklist](#) is completed to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding communications and responses to police domestic abuse notifications via Operation Encompass.
- A review and risk assessment of the school approach to online safety, policy and practice. The school uses the free 360 Degrees Safe Online Safety Self-Review Tool for Schools.

Headteacher/principal

The school/college headteacher/principal will ensure that the policies and procedures, adopted by their governing body/trustees and proprietors, are understood, and followed by all staff. This includes working with the designated safeguarding lead, their deputy, and other senior leaders, to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding within the school/college and ensuring that educational outcomes of children who have or have had a social worker are promoted.

⁴ There is a specific [legal duty](#) on teachers to report acts of FGM on girls under 18 to the police

⁵ It is illegal to carry out, offer or aid and abet virginity testing or hymenoplasty in any part of the UK; see [multi-agency guidance](#) for more information

Designated safeguarding lead and deputy designated safeguarding lead

A member of the senior leadership team is appointed to the role of designated safeguarding lead. They take a lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place).

The designated safeguarding lead co-ordinates the setting's safeguarding and child protection arrangements. They provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, including Operation Encompass notifications, take part in strategy discussions/meetings and inter-agency meetings – and/or supports other staff to do so - and contributes to the assessment of children.

The establishment also has a deputy designated safeguarding lead to cover for when the designated safeguarding lead is not available; the lead responsibility however remains with the designated safeguarding lead.

The designated safeguarding lead actively liaises with other school/college staff with safeguarding responsibilities, teachers, pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT leads, SENCos and senior mental health leads on matters of safety and safeguarding to ensure safeguarding and promoting children's well-being are effective.

The designated safeguarding lead or a deputy is always available during school/college hours for the staff in the school/college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. We have 1 DSL and 3 Deputy DSLs within Brooklands Primary School. The DSL team cover the safeguarding email, attend strategy meetings, child in need meetings, Child protection meetings during holidays. Out of hours and during school holidays a DSL phone number is provided to social care.

More information about the role and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead can be found in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2025) Annex C: Role of the designated safeguarding lead.

Safeguarding training

All staff and governors/trustees are equipped with the knowledge and skills to keep children safe. In addition to the safeguarding training at induction, all staff and governors/trustees will receive safeguarding training appropriate to their roles and responsibilities which is regularly updated⁶. They also receive training on the Prevent Duty, child-on-child abuse, private fostering and online safety training (which includes effective responses to sharing nudes/semi-nudes and an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring). All staff and governors/trustees will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) updates at least annually. This will help provide them with an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at the risk of harm ensuring they have the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

All staff will receive training on:

- Attendance, with dedicated attendance training for any staff with a specified attendance function in their role, including administrative, pastoral, or family support staff, and senior leaders.

⁶ See DDSCP multi-agency training pathway on the [training page](#) of www.ddscp.org.uk

- Data protection (including recording protocols) and cyber security, with in-depth data protection training for DSLs in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education, Annex C: Role of the designated safeguarding lead.

The governors'/trustees' safeguarding training and updates will enable them to have the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that safeguarding processes and procedures are effective and robust. They will ensure that a whole school/college approach to safeguarding is in place.

Those involved with the recruitment and employment of staff to work with children will have received appropriate safer recruitment training.

All our staff are aware of systems within Brooklands and these are explained to them as part of staff induction, which include our child protection policy; the employee code of conduct and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022.

Brooklands Primary School utilises an induction checklist when staff are inducted which includes the above, but also other policy and procedural information

All our staff receive safeguarding and child protection training which is updated every three years. In addition, to this training all staff members receive child protection and safeguarding updates when required, but at least annually.

The Deputy Headteacher and DSL provides INSET day training to refresh staff skills on an annual basis. The CFSW takes part in local networks which disseminate training and updates. The headteacher and DSL also shares a weekly safeguarding update with staff from NSPCC.

All our staff are aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 and understand the role they may have in these assessments.

Staff have access to Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website and are familiar with how to access training. They also access updates and certificated training through the school's subscription to 'The National College'

All our staff know what to do if a child is raising concerns or makes a disclosure of abuse and/or neglect. Staff will maintain a level of confidentiality whilst liaising with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and children's social care.

The training requirements for staff in different roles is outlined in the FHP 'Safeguarding Training Requirements' table – this indicates the type and frequency of training.

Section 4: Key safeguarding contacts

School/college staff with specific safeguarding responsibilities *(Add or amend list as appropriate. Please note personal phone numbers and email addresses should not be used)*

Safeguarding Role	Name and Role	School/College contact details
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Tom Daniel Headteacher	Brooklands.head@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
Senior Leader(s) available for contact in the absence of the designated safeguarding lead	Aimee Perkinson Deputy Headteacher	aperkinson@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Lind Hibbert Child and Family Support Worker	lhibbert@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
Other staff with safeguarding responsibilities	Jake Bingham Behaviour/Attendance Lead/DDSL	jbingham@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
	Tertia Meakin DDSL	tmeaking@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
Attendance Lead/Education Welfare Officer	Jake Bingham Behaviour/Attendance Lead/DDSL	jbingham@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
	Tom Daniel Headteacher	Brooklands.head@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
	Linda Hibbert Child and Family Support Worker	lhibbert@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
	Olivia Chapman Office Administrator	ochapman@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
SENCo	Sarah House SENDCo	shouse@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
	Sophie McHale Assistant SENDCo	smchale@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
Designated Safeguarding Governor/ Trustee	Hayley Williams	hwilliams@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
Designated Teacher for Looked After/ previously Looked After Children	Jake Bingham	jbingham@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk

Safeguarding Role	Name and Role	School/College contact details
Senior Lead/s for Mental Health and Well-being	Linda Hibbert	lhibert@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
Governor/Trustee for Mental Health and Well-being	Hayley Williams	hwilliams@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
PHSE/RSE Lead	Aimee Perkinson	aperkinson@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
SLT Digital Lead	Tom Daniel	Brooklands.head@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
Date Protection Officer	Emma Price	eprice@brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk
FHP Safeguarding Lead (Schools)	Karen Jagger	0115 9891915
FHP Inclusion Lead (Schools)	Grant Worthington	0115 9891915
FHP Whistleblowing Officer	Paul Goodman	0115 9891915
FHP Trustee for Safeguarding	Paul Goodman	0115 9891915

Other Key Local Safeguarding Contacts

	Derby	Derbyshire
Early Help and Early Help Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derby City Family Hubs and Early Help Early Help Advisors, see Safeguarding Children Procedures Contacts, advice and further information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Help Service For advice contact Starting Point Consultation and Advice Service for Professionals via 01629 535353
Targeted Early Help requests	Locality Vulnerable Children Meeting (VCM) for requests for targeted early help via multi-agency team (MAT) or non-urgent social care referrals via Locality Based Single Point of Access (SPA) Clerks	Requests for support from professionals should be made via the online request for support unless a child is at risk of Significant Harm
Speak to a Social Worker for thresholds advice and consultation	Children's Services Professional Consultation Line 07812 300329	Starting Point Consultation and Advice Service for Professionals 01629 535353
Referrals to Local Authority Children's Social Care	<p>Initial Response Team</p> <p>Urgent: 01332 641172 or out of hours via Careline 01332 956606</p> <p>Non urgent: Derby Children's Social Care Online Referral system</p>	<p>Starting Point</p> <p>Urgent: 01629 533 190</p> <p>Non urgent: Starting Point online</p>

	Derby	Derbyshire
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Derby and Derbyshire LADO referral form Email: CPMduty@derby.gov.uk	Derby and Derbyshire LADO referral form Email: professional.allegations@derbyshire.gov.uk
Derbyshire Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 999 for emergencies or 101 for non-emergencies • Mandatory reporting of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) via 101 • School/College Police Safer neighbourhood team or link officer • Also see When to call the police – guidance for schools and colleges 	
Prevent (radicalisation and extremism)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For advice contact the Local Authority Prevent Team: Derbyshire - 01629 538473 or prevent@derbyshire.gov.uk Derby - Prevent@derby.gov.uk or Sally Siner, Prevent Education Officer on 07765 222032 or sally.siner@derby.gov.uk • Police Prevent (radicalisation/extremism) Team on 101 or directly via 0300 1228694. For emergencies phone 999. See Refer someone to the Derbyshire Prevent Team (Derbyshire Constabulary) • Reporting extremism concerns about an adult working in an education setting submit the details at report extremism in education 	
Children absent from education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derby Education Welfare Service (EWS) • Elective home education (EHE) • Children missing education (CME) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derbyshire Education Welfare Services • Elective home education (EHE) • Children missing education (CME) • See Children missing from education for further information on guidance, policies and procedures relating to school age children missing from education
Virtual School for Looked After Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual School Head - 07812 301044 or graeme.ferguson@derby.gov.uk • Specialist Education Support Officer for LAC 	<p>Helen Moxon, interim virtual school headteacher 01629 538028 virtualschool@derbyshire.gov.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Education Support Officer for LAC or other role
Public Health Nurse/other health contact/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If you need to report a health protection issue, contact the UKHSA for the East Midlands on 0344 225 4524</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If you need to report a health protection issue, contact the UKHSA for the East Midlands on 0344 225 4524</i>
Emotional Health and Well-being Services	<p>Relevant emotional well-being and mental health services, including school Mental Health Support Teams and Specialist Community Advisors. You may wish to add a link to your own bespoke Derby and Derbyshire Mental Health Pathway Guidance)</p>	
Domestic Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Derby City • Derbyshire constabulary - information and advice about domestic abuse webpages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Derbyshire domestic abuse webpage • Derbyshire constabulary - information and advice about domestic abuse webpages

	Derby	Derbyshire
Cyberchoices	For children at risk of being drawn into cybercrime via East Midlands Cyber Secure	
Homelessness or at risk of homelessness	Derby city council homelessness webpages	(See relevant District council website)

Key National Contacts

Organisation	Description and contact details
NSPCC helpline for adults	Helping adults protect children 24 hours a day. For help and support, including anyone needing advice about female genital mutilation, young people affected by gangs, concerns that someone may be a victim of modern slavery contact the NSPCC trained helpline counsellors on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text 88858 • 0808 800 5000 • help@nspcc.org.uk
NSPCC helpline Report Abuse in Education	Bespoke helpline for children and young people who've experienced abuse at school, and for worried adults and professionals who need support and guidance including for non-recent abuse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0800 136 663 • help@nspcc.org.uk
NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice	Free advice and support for professionals concerned about how child protection issues are being handled in their organisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0800 028 0285 • help@nspcc.org.uk
UK Safer Internet Centre professional advice line	Helpline for professionals working with children and young people in the UK with any online safety issues they may face themselves or with children in their care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0844 381 4772 • helpline@saferinternet.org.uk
Police Anti-Terrorist Hot Line number	0800 789 321
National Domestic Abuse Helpline	Hosted by Refuge , Helpline 0808 2000247
Operation Encompass	Information, resources and elearning for schools
Report harmful online content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Safer Internet Centre – report online harm. A national reporting centre that has been designed to assist anyone in reporting harmful content online • CEOP – to report online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating online • Report online material promoting terrorism or extremism
Report Abuse in Education helpline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people who have experienced abuse at school and parents and teachers who are concerned about sexual abuse in education settings can call the Report Abuse in

Organisation	Description and contact details
	Education helpline on 0800 136 663 or email help@nspcc.org.uk
Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWGfL Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service for the children’s workforce 0344 2250623 or email hsbsupport@swgfl.org.uk • Stop it now! For worries about a child’s sexual behaviour, 0808 1000 900. Includes Shore which provides a safe and anonymous place for young people to get help and support. The aim is to prevent harmful sexual behaviours among young people.

Section 5: Ensuring a safe environment for all children

Our school/college provides a safe environment where children can learn and develop. This is an essential part of our whole school/college approach to safeguarding which incorporates a culture of vigilance where children's welfare is promoted, timely and appropriate safeguarding action is taken for children who need extra help or who may be suffering, or likely to suffer harm.

The school environment is safe and secure and protects our learners from harm or the risk of harm. Positive behaviours are consistently promoted, and abusive or inappropriate behaviour challenged. A positive and supportive environment is promoted which gives learners a sense of being valued.

Vulnerable children

We recognise that some groups of children are potentially at greater risk of harm (both online and offline) than others and have agreed arrangements to ensure the safety of these children:

- **Children who need a social worker (Child in Need and Child Protection Plans).** As a matter of routine, the designated safeguarding lead will hold and use the information that the child has a social worker to ensure that decisions can be made in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare, and educational outcomes. In addition, the school/college will work with the virtual head as appropriate, regarding the educational attendance, attainment, and progress of children with a social worker.
- **Children who are absent from education.** The school/college proactively manages and take steps to improve attendance across our community. Attendance is the essential foundation to positive outcomes for all our learners and is everyone's responsibility in school.

The school/college response to children who are absent from education, particularly on repeat occasions and/or prolonged periods, supports identifying a range of safeguarding issues, abuse, exploitation, and neglect; it also helps prevent the risk of absent children becoming a child missing education in the future. This includes when problems are first emerging but also where children are already known to local authority children's social care and need a social worker, where being absent from education may increase known safeguarding risks within the family or in the community. We support and monitor attendance and absence carefully to identify learners or cohorts that require support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place. This includes:

- Building strong relationships with families, listening to, and understanding barriers to attendance and working with families to remove them.
- Sharing information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, the local authority, and other partners when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe.
- Whole school culture to attendance with the headteacher as the strategic lead for the attendance team. [See our attendance policy.](#)
- Derbyshire Education Welfare Service [webpages](#)) [Education welfare services - Derbyshire County Council](#)
- Local authority see Derby Schools and Colleges [webpages](#) or [access the Schools' Information Portal](#) and Derbyshire Schoolsnet [webpages](#))

The school/college also recognises that when children are not in school, such as when a learner is on a reduced timetable, suspended or excluded, they miss the protection and opportunities that education can provide, and can become more vulnerable to harm. Learners who have a social worker, including looked-after children, and previously looked-after children, are especially vulnerable. The school/college proactively supports learners in the school environment and decision-making processes about reduced timetables, suspension or exclusion and operate in the best interest of children as outlined in local and national guidance. Please see our positive relationships behaviour policy, as a school we promote positive relationships and behaviours with all our children and work hard to ensure they are supported. We follow the national guidance documents: Behaviour in Schools (2024), Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement (2023), Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (2015) and local guidance Derby part-time timetable guidance and a protocol and Derby In Year Fair Access (IYFA) and Exclusions or Derbyshire part-time timetables and Derbyshire attendance management and exclusions)

See national guidance [Behaviour in Schools](#) (2024), [Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement](#) (2024), [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#) (2015) and local guidance [Derby](#) part-time timetable guidance and a protocol and [Derby](#) In Year Fair Access (IYFA) and Exclusions or [Derbyshire](#) part-time timetables and [Derbyshire](#) attendance management and exclusions)

- **Elective home education.** Where a parent/carer has expressed their intention to remove a child from school with a view to educating at home, the school will seek to co-ordinate a meeting with the parents/carers, Local Authority, and other key professionals where possible. This would be before a final decision has been made, to ensure the parents/carers have considered what is in the best interests of each child and is particularly important where a child has SEND, is vulnerable, and/or has a social worker. Where a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) the local authority should review the plan with parents/carers. Where a child is taken off roll, we will inform the Local Authority of the deletion from our admission register via the system outlined on the [Derby](#) or [Derbyshire](#) elective home education webpages.
- **Children who require mental health support.** The school/college has an important role to play in supporting the well-being and mental health of our learners. Mental health problems can be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect, or exploitation. We have clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible emotional well-being issues and mental health problems, seek advice from external agencies where appropriate and have clear referral and accountability systems. Our school has a whole school approach to emotional well-being and mental health through our personal development, PSHE and RSHE curriculum. We ensure we promote resilience, support emotional well-being and your school/college bespoke Derby and Derbyshire Mental Health Pathway Guidance. We have a dedicated Senior Mental Health Lead, ELSAs and Family Support Worker that support emotional wellbeing and mental health across school. Support is offered to pupils through the Bird Hide and ELSA trained Family Liaison Officer. Interventions are tailored and bespoke to the individual need of the pupils. Parents are consulted regularly about progress and the outcome of any intervention is measured

through the use of Boxall profiling. School regularly consult external agencies such as CAMHS. We use Derby and Derbyshire Mental Health [Pathway](#) Guidance, including the role of your senior mental health lead and other relevant staff)

- **Looked after children and previously looked after children.** The school/college ensures that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status, contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility, care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her. The designated safeguarding lead has:
 - Details of the child's social worker, and
 - The name and contact details of the virtual school head and the relevant support officer in the authority that looks after the child
 - The name of the Personal Advisor appointed to support a child who has left careWhen dealing with looked after children and previously looked after children, the school/college will work with all local authority children's social care, health and other relevant agencies and take prompt action when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group. The school/college has a named designated teacher, who has appropriate training, relevant qualifications, and experience. They work with the Virtual School, to promote the educational achievement of learners who are looked after, have left care through adoption, special guardianship, or child arrangement orders, or adopted from state care outside of England and Wales. In addition, the school/college recognises the distinct needs of children in kinship care and will, alongside the Virtual School, seek to will promote their education outcomes. The designated teacher has appropriate training, relevant qualifications, and experience. Looked after Children at Brooklands have access to a range of tailored intervention through our Bird Hide as well as carefully chosen Primary needs targets. Looked after Children have a Pupil Profile which is shared at PEP meetings and with carers.
- **Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or health issues.** The school/college recognises that these children may face extra safeguarding challenges both online and offline. Additional barriers can also exist when recognising abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The designated safeguarding lead and SENCo/named person with oversight of SEND will closely liaise whenever there are any concerns or reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation involving a child with SEND, neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism or certain medical or physical health conditions. The school/college will consider extra pastoral support and attention for these children, along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place. As a school we have a dedicated pastoral team including SENCO, child and family support worker, ELSA and they deliver a range of prioritised pastoral interventions. Support is offered through the Roost, Bird Hide and 1:1 intervention. Emotional needs are highlighted on Pupil Profiles. We promote positive behaviour through our Behaviour Policy in terms of SEND specific adaptations. e.g SEND Support Plans, De-escalation plans and individual risk assessments where CRB/physical intervention may be required as a last resort.
- **Children who are, or may be, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or gender questioning.** The school/college will take steps to reduce the additional barriers these children face and create a culture where they can speak out or share their concerns with staff. When supporting gender questioning children, the broad range of a child's individual needs are considered. At Brooklands Primary School we work hard to reduce barriers and have

created a culture to support children to speak out and share concerns and seek the support offered. We are inclusive with our relationships/relationships and sex education and other elements of the curriculum as well as the schools behaviour policy. Please note: the outcome of the DfE Gender Questioning Children guidance consultation and final DfE Gender Questioning Children Non-statutory guidance for schools and colleges in England are yet to be published). We teach and promote protected characteristics through our PHSE curriculum, character education and ensure high quality personal development for our children. We have a Child & Family Support Worker, Pastoral Team that enhances our responsive curriculum. School promotes all the protected characteristics, and they are all taught as part of the school curriculum. The dedicated pastoral team support children and families. ELSA trained staff will spend time with any child who feels that they need to speak in a safe and secure environment. Emotional support will be offered to the child and parents as well as signposting to external partnerships that will be of support. If the child needs further support, consultation will take place with agencies such as Build Sound Minds, CAHMs and support groups.

- **Private fostering**

In addition to the above the school/college recognises the additional vulnerability of children in private fostering arrangements. A private fostering arrangement is essentially one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. When such arrangements come to our attention, we will notify the local authority to check the arrangement is suitable and safe for the child. Notifications will contain the information specified in Schedule 1 of The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 and made in writing. See statutory guidance [Children Act 1989: private fostering](#).

We also recognise that in addition to the above, other factors can increase a child's vulnerability to abuse, exploitation, or neglect such as:

- In a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as parental substance (drugs and/or alcohol) use, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- Misusing drugs and/or alcohol
- Being an asylum seeker/refugee
- Being from our new communities
- Living away from home, including private fostering arrangements, or have returned home to their family from care
- Are at risk of homelessness or living in temporary accommodation
- Living in chaotic, neglectful, and unsupportive home situations
- Vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of age, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity leave, disability, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin), religion/belief, gender, sex, or sexual orientation
- Being a young carer
- Not speaking or not having English as a first language
- Being involved in the court system
- Poverty and financial challenge
- Our curriculum principles drive the safeguarding curriculum

As a school, our curriculum principles drive the safeguarding curriculum. Our dedicated pastoral team ensure that extra support is given to those who need it. In each case, Brooklands staff will endeavour to support the family, in partnership with Social Care, Health and adult services as well as others to ensure that communication is accessible and clear for parents. Translations are provided for those families who need this through the means of Class Dojo. Teams around the family provide support and challenge to ensure that the needs of the child are met.

Teaching safeguarding

We are committed to offering our learners age and developmentally appropriate preventative education to ensure that learners are aware of personal safety, safeguarding risks, recognise when they are at risk and how and where to get help and support if they need it. They will be taught about their use of technology, healthy relationships online and offline, how to keep themselves and others safe, including online. We recognise the new safeguarding risks caused by rapid technological developments and the need to support and educate children about these. To be effective, we employ [best practice principles](#) to ensure there is a safe and supportive environment and to facilitate participative and interactive education which aims to support and not to alarm pupils. We refer to the Effective Working Together Guidance: Supporting Schools to Deliver the PSHE Programme guidance⁷ to help to ensure that the input of external visitors to school enhances our PSHE programme.

The school is sensitive to our learners' circumstances and recognises teaching will need to be tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of individual children, including those who have been victims of abuse and children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Our preventative education forms part of our whole school/college approach to prepare our learners for life in modern Britain, encourages open debate about different points of view and beliefs and creates a culture of zero tolerance for sexism, misogyny/ misandry, disablism, racism, homophobia, biphobia and sexual violence and harassment. It is responsive to contextual, local, and national data, issues, and trends to ensure it is meeting the challenges that children are facing.

The school's core values and standards, alongside the fundamental British Values, are upheld and demonstrated throughout all aspects of the school/college. This is underpinned by the school/college's behaviour policy, pastoral support system and our planned evidence-based relationships education/relationships and sex education and health education and reinforced throughout the whole curriculum.

See Brooklands Primary School's relationships education/relationships and sex education and health education policy and behaviour policy.

Online safety

Online safety and protecting learners from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material forms part of the whole school/college approach to safeguarding, including policies, curriculum, staff training, roles and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead and parental engagement. The school/college has filtering and monitoring systems in place, which meet the current DfE [filtering and monitoring standards](#). This includes:

⁷ Please see [DDSCP safeguarding Update: July 2025](#). It will shortly be available on a Derbyshire based website.

- Identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems
- Reviewing filtering and monitoring provision at least annually
- Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning
- Having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet safeguarding needs

The school/college uses the DfE '[plan technology for your school service](#)' to self-assess against filtering and monitoring standards and takes action on recommendations. In addition we refer to [Generative AI: product safety expectations guidance](#) to use AI safety.

The school/college protects and educates learners and staff in their use of technology, including where they are learning remotely, and has mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate any concerns where this is needed.

The school/college online safety policy outlines how the four areas of risk, content, contact, conduct and commerce, will be addressed to protect and educate learners and staff. It also incorporates the use of mobile and smart technology and appropriate filtering and monitoring on school devices and networks. Security protection procedures which meet the current [Cyber security standards for schools and colleges](#) are in place in order to safeguard the systems, staff and learners and review the effectiveness of these procedures to keep up with ever evolving cyber-crime technologies. The school/college is also in regular communication with parents and carers and uses these communications to reinforce online safety and the systems the school/college use to protect children from online harms.

To ensure that online safety is effective, especially as technology and the associated risks and harms evolve and change, the school/college undertakes an annual review of our approach to online safety, and an annual risk assessment to consider and reflect the risks children face.

For more information see school online safety and AI policies.

Systems for children to report concerns and abuse

Our school recognises the importance of ensuring that all children feel heard and understood. We have a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings in any measures the school/college may put in place to protect them. Whenever there are any concerns, the child's wishes will be taken into account when determining what action to take and what services are provided. The welfare and safety of a child is of paramount concern and staff will act in the best interests of the child.

We understand the difficulties that children may have in approaching staff about their circumstances and any concerns they may have. Some children may feel unable to report their concerns or abuse, others may have additional barriers to telling someone or may not recognise what is happening is abusive.

The school has an open and accepting attitude towards children and promotes a positive and supportive environment as part of our responsibility for pastoral care. Our school/college ethos promotes trusted relationships between learners and all staff which supports children to tell staff about any concerns they may have.

Children, parents/carers, and all staff will be free to talk about any concerns and see the school/college as a safe place. Many children can show signs or act in ways they hope adults will notice or react to, others may make indirect reports via a friend or staff may overhear conversations. All staff are alert to this and to the potential need for early help and are aware of the indicators of abuse, exploitation and neglect and know what actions they should take.

The school/college has systems in place for children to complain and/or confidently report their concerns, including any form of abuse or neglect, including child-on-child abuse, and know that their concerns will be treated seriously. As a school, we use CPOMS for reporting concerns this system is well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible.

Working with parents and carers

We recognise the importance of working together with parents/carers to educate as well as safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Brooklands Primary School will ensure that:

- We work with parents positively, openly, and honestly
- Parents are encouraged to discuss their issues or concerns about safety and welfare of children, including any worries about a child's emotional well-being or mental health. They will be listened to and taken seriously
- Parents/carers are aware there is a whole school/college safeguarding approach to ensure that children are kept safe and well, and the school/college is part of Operation Encompass (previously known locally as Stopping Domestic Abuse Together/SDAT)
- We will provide parents with information about safeguarding issues, such as child exploitation (sexual and criminal), child-on-child abuse, emotional well-being/mental health, online safety, including sharing nudes and semi-nudes, harmful sexual behaviour, and terrorist/extremist material. We will also outline the support available to keep children safe within the school/college, locally and nationally
- Up to date and accurate information is kept about learners i.e.
 - names and contact persons with whom the child normally lives
 - those with parental responsibility
 - where reasonably possible, we hold more than one emergency contact number
 - if different from above, those authorised to collect the child from the setting
 - name and contact details of GP
 - any relevant court orders or any other factors which may impact on the safety and welfare of the child
- Information about our learners given to us by children themselves, their parents, or carers or by other agencies will remain confidential. Staff will be given relevant information on a 'need to know' basis in order to support the child
- It is made clear to parents and carers that the school/college has a duty to share information when there are any safeguarding concerns. Also, that there is a duty to keep records which relate to safeguarding work by the school/college, or partner agencies. These will be kept securely, kept apart from the main pupil/student record and only accessible to key members of staff. Copies of these records will be securely sent to any education provider to which the child transfers and a confirmation of receipt obtained
- Where we have reason to be concerned about the welfare of a child, we will always seek to discuss this with the child's parents or carers first. However, there may be occasions where we are not able to do this, for example, when by doing so, it places the child at additional risk or where it may not be possible to speak to the parents/carers

- Our kind, safe and proud ethos is extended to parents. Parents frequently approach the Family Liaison Worker and member of SLT to discuss their concerns and worries. Parents are treated with dignity and respect but also challenged to ensure that all our pupils are safe.

Section 6: Responding to concerns about a child's welfare

Key points to remember for any member of staff (including volunteers or supply staff) or visitors whenever they have any concerns about a child's welfare:

- In an emergency take the action necessary to help the child, for example, call 999
- Do not assume a colleague or another professional will share information that might be critical to keeping a child safe. Early information sharing is vital in keeping children safe, whether this is when problems first emerge, or when a child is already known to local authority children's social care
- Report your concern, including any possible [private fostering](#) arrangements, to the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy as soon as you can and by the end of the day at the latest. As a school, reporting concerns goes direct to the school safeguarding team via CPOMs and conversation to alert
- If you are unsure speak to the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy
- If the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy is not around, ensure the information is shared with the most senior person in the school/college that day. The concerns and any action taken must then be shared with the designated safeguarding lead as soon as it is possible
- If the concerns are about sharing nudes and semi-nudes do not view, copy, print or share the images
- Share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends, or family
- As soon as you are able, complete a record of the concerns. This should be on the same day and before the child is due to leave the school premises. As a school, all concerns are reported on our CPOMs system. All verbal conversations will be recorded.
- Seek support for yourself if you are distressed. The first point of contact will be a member of the safeguarding team. Our mental health first aider is L Hibbert. A DSL will also be on hand to offer support and signposting.
-

Staff must always **immediately** inform the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy if there are any:

- Concerns that a child is presenting signs or symptoms of abuse, exploitation, or neglect, including suspicion that a child is injured, marked, or bruised in a way which is not readily attributable to the normal knocks or scrapes received in play
- Searching incidents where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a learner was in possession of a prohibited item⁸ or where a search has revealed a safeguarding risk
- Behaviour or changes in presentation, including changes in school attendance, which gives rise to suspicions that a child may not be receiving adequate care or may be suffering harm
- Hint or disclosure of abuse about or by a child
- Concerns that a person(s) who may pose a risk to children is living in a household with children present

⁸ Prohibited items include knives and weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco, cigarette papers, fireworks pornographic images; any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used, to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to property of; any person (including the learner). (*Amend as per school/college behaviour policy*)

- Concerns about online abuse including cybercrime, exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour, sharing nudes and semi nudes and/or where any adult appears to be sexually communicating (e.g., email, text, written note or verbally) with a child
- Concerns about child-on-child abuse, including sexual violence and harassment
- Information which indicates that the child is living with someone who does not have parental responsibility for them (this is known as private fostering)
- Concerns that a child is at risk of domestic abuse or so-called 'honour-based' abuse, including forced marriage, marriage, or civil partnership under the age of 18, female genital mutilation (FGM), breast ironing, virginity testing or hymenoplasty
- Concerns that a child is at risk of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation, including county lines; or that a child or their parent/carer may be a victim of modern slavery (trafficked)

There will also be occasions when you suspect that a child may be at risk, but you have no 'real' evidence or that the child may need support with their mental health. The child's behaviour, play and or appearance may have changed, their attendance at school/college may have reduced, their ability to concentrate and focus may have altered, or you may have noticed other behavioural and or physical but inconclusive signs. In these circumstances, you should try to give the child the opportunity to talk. The signs you have noticed may be due to a variety of factors and it is fine to ask the child if they are alright or if you can help in any way.

It is not the responsibility of the school/college staff to determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation; this is the responsibility of local authority children's social care. All staff however have a duty to recognise where extra support is needed or where there are complex needs or child protection concerns requiring intensive or specialist support.

Ensure you record these early concerns using CPOMs and following the protocols in Appendix 4: Safeguarding and Child Protection Recording. If a child or adult does begin to reveal that a child is being harmed, you should follow the advice in the section '*If a child chooses to tell a member of staff about a concern or abuse*'.

Remember: If you are unsure, you should always have a discussion with the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy

If a child chooses to tell a member of staff about a concern or abuse

It takes a lot of courage for a child, parent, carer, or other significant adult to disclose that they are worried or have concerns. They may feel ashamed, the abuser may have threatened what will happen if they tell, they may have lost all trust in adults, or they may believe, or have been told, that the abuse is their own fault. It is important they are reassured that they are being taken seriously, and that they will be supported and kept safe. They should not be made to feel they are creating a problem, blamed or ashamed for making a report. Reports, particularly those about sexual violence and harassment, if possible, should be managed with two members of staff present (preferably one being the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy), however this might not be possible in all cases.

If a child or adult talks to you about any risks to a child's safety or well-being you will need to let them know that you must pass the information on – you are not allowed to keep secrets. The point at which you do this is a matter for professional judgement.

During your conversation with the child (or their parent/carer):

- Allow them to speak freely, listen to what is being said without interruption and without asking leading questions
- Keep questions to a minimum and of an open nature ('TED questions' tell me, explain, describe) i.e., 'can you tell me what happened?' rather than 'did x hit you?'
- Remain calm and do not overreact – the child (or their parent/carer) may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting you
- Give reassuring nods or words of comfort – 'I'm so sorry this has happened', 'I want to help', 'This isn't your fault', 'You are doing the right thing in talking to me'
- Avoid admonishing the child or adult for not disclosing earlier. Saying 'I do wish you had told me about this when it started' or 'I can't believe what I'm hearing' may be your way of being supportive but they may interpret it that they have done something wrong
- Do not be afraid of silences – remember how hard this must be for the child or adult
- Under no circumstances ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings too, or what do other family members think about all this
- At an appropriate time tell the child or adult that to help them you must pass the information on
- Do not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort; it may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused
- Tell the child or adult what will happen next. The child or adult may agree to go with you to see the designated safeguarding lead. Otherwise let them know that someone will come to see or contact them before the end of the day
- Report verbally to the designated safeguarding lead
- Write up your conversation as soon as possible and hand it to the designated safeguarding lead
- Children should not be asked to write statements about abuse or any concerns that may have happened to them or sign the staff record
- Seek support if you feel distressed. This may be sometime after the disclosure

Role of the designated safeguarding lead and their deputy following identification of concerns

Whenever the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy receive information regarding concerns about a child, including via police domestic abuse notifications via Operation Encompass they will:

- Review information received and assess if any urgent actions are needed, i.e. medical, child's immediate safety
- Check what is known about the child when they arrived (or not) at school today, how they are presenting physically and emotionally and if there are any changes in their behaviour
- Consider what is already known about the child and their family, including whether any previous concerns have been raised by staff or if they are already known to local authority children's services (targeted early help or social care)
- Consider what 'checks' need to be carried out and how best these can be achieved
- Inform relevant school staff who have a specific need to know i.e., class/form teacher and relevant support staff
- Where appropriate use relevant national, local, and education-based risk identifying, assessment tools and guidance to support the identification of needs and decision making, such as:

- School-based records, assessments, and chronologies, including any contextual factors/placed based risks. An emerging needs tracker is completed termly by teaching staff and guides decisions about intervention, additional support for the family and early intervention. Boxall profiling is used to track the impact of interventions. Regular three houses tasks are used to get the voice of the child that is raising or causing concern.
- DDSCP multi-agency guidance, tools and briefing notes which cover a broad range of safeguarding issues, see DDSCP safeguarding children [procedures](#) and [documents library](#)
- National guidance and assessment tools e.g. [Stop it now](#) (sexual behaviours), [Contextual safeguarding](#) tools, [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people \(2024\)](#)
- Not directly approaching a child or parent/carer about an incident when the school/college have received a domestic abuse notification and instead make general enquiries with the child about how they are. If a child initiates a conversation about the incident the guidance outlined in the section '*If a child chooses to tell a member of staff about a concern or abuse*' will be followed
- Following the [Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures](#) and using the DDSCP [Threshold document](#) to support decision making about the child's needs and the appropriate level of support and intervention. Possible options include internal support via school/college pastoral systems, early help assessment and referral to statutory services such as local authority children's services
- Considering whether the matter should be discussed with the child's parents or carers or whether to do so may put the child at further risk of harm, see Notifying parents
- If unsure about the action to take, including if a child protection referral should be made, seeking advice from local authority children's social care or another appropriate agency
- If the concerns are about radicalisation or violent extremism, contacting the local authority Prevent team for advice and where appropriate making a referral to the police Prevent Team
- Where the child has complex needs or where there are child protection concerns, referring as appropriate to Local Authority Children's Services via agreed processes, providing a copy of the early help assessment, action plan and any other relevant assessments
- Notify the appropriate Local Authority Children's Services of any private fostering arrangements, to allow the local authority to check the arrangement is suitable and safe for the child. Notifications will contain the information specified in Schedule 1 of The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 and made in writing⁹
- If a child is at risk of immediate harm, and/or where it is believed a criminal offence has been committed, including sexual violence and harassment, referring to the police. See [NPCC When to call the police; guidance for schools and colleges](#). Safeguarding considerations must take priority and include how screening, searching, and confiscating powers will be used safely, proportionately, and appropriately, including undertaking a police strip search on a child and the requirement for children to have an [appropriate adult](#).; see [Searching, screening and confiscation at school guidance](#) (2022)
- In all cases where children are believed to be at risk of exploitation, complete and submit an [Information Sharing Form for Professionals - Operation Liberty](#) to raise concerns and share information

⁹ See statutory guidance [Children Act 1989: private fostering](#)

Notifying parents/carers

The school/college will normally seek to discuss any needs or concerns about a child with their parents or carers. Where an early help assessment would benefit the child and their family the most appropriate member of staff should approach the parent/carer to take this forward. In situations where there are serious needs or child protection concerns the designated safeguarding lead or deputy will contact the parent or carer. However, if the setting believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, then advice will first be sought from local authority children's social care.

Pastoral/school-based support (universal support/ low level needs)

In all cases the school/college will consider what support could be offered within the setting via pastoral support processes. The Bird Hide, nurture team, provide additional support to children through a range of intervention and restorative practices. ELSA trained staff provide specific support for pupils in emotional regulation, anxiety, anger management, bereavement and family relationships as well as friendships. As a school, we also refer to the Derbyshire Mental health Pathway Guidance, Early Help or Social Services. Pastoral support will be kept under constant review to ensure that it is effective.

Early help support and assessment (emerging needs)

Where a child is likely to require co-ordinated support from a range of early help services, or where there are concerns for a child's well-being or a child's needs are not clear, not known or not being met, the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy will support the completion of an early help assessment (EHA) and if needed, co-ordinate a team around the family (TAF). As a school, the DSL team, pastoral team and SENCO work collaboratively to gather information and make referrals to Early Help this is part of our children first meetings. The family Liaison worker and DSL will meet with parents and complete an Early Help Assessment together. Contact is made with the early help team at the family support centre and the assessment is shared. Often, the lead will be invited to school to meet the parents and talk through the process. At each step, parents are fully informed and support offered through the team around the family process.

Whenever a child and their family are supported via an early help assessment, the school/college will keep this under constant review and should the child's situation appear not to be improving or getting worse, consideration will be given to a referral to local authority children's services.

For more information about the early help assessment process see Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children; [Providing early help](#) procedure.

Referral to local authority children's social care (intensive and specialist support)

Concerns about a child's welfare will be referred to local authority children's social care using the agreed referral process as outlined in Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children; [Making a referral to Children's Social Care](#) procedure.

If at any point there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child, an immediate referral should be made to local authority children's social care and/or if appropriate, the police

Anybody can make the referral

Where it is believed that there are urgent child protection concerns, the designated safeguarding lead or deputy will make a referral to local authority children's social care by phone and follow this

up in 'writing' via the local authority Online Referral System. Non-urgent cases will be referred via the local authority Care Online Referral System. In Derby submission of an early help assessment, or equivalent assessment, to the weekly Vulnerable Children meeting (VCM) in the relevant locality can also be made.

In exceptional circumstances, such as in an emergency or a genuine concern that appropriate action hasn't been taken, any staff member can refer their concerns directly to local authority children's social care; however, they should inform the designated safeguarding lead or deputy as soon as possible.

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

If the referral is about a 'known' case of female genital mutilation (FGM), in addition to a referral to local authority children's social care, the individual teacher also has a mandatory reporting duty; see [Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation; procedural information](#) (2015).

Under this duty, 'known' cases of FGM where a girl under 18 informs the person that an act of FGM has been carried out on her, or where physical signs appear to show that an act of FGM was carried out, this must be reported to the police on 101. This is a personal responsibility in addition to the referral to local authority children's social care and the professional who identifies FGM and/or receives the disclosure should make the report by the close of the next working day.

Action following referral

The designated safeguarding lead, their deputy or other appropriate member of staff will:

- Where a referral was made by phone follow up the referral in writing using the online referral system within 48 hours and attaching any existing assessment e.g., early help assessment. In all cases the school/college will also include information held about any place-based risks (harm outside of the home)
- Be aware that local authority children's social care should make a decision within one working day of the referral being made about what course of action they are taking and let the school/college know the outcome. If the information is not forthcoming, the designated safeguarding lead or another appropriate member of staff should follow this up
- Maintain contact with the allocated social worker and support them or other agencies following any referral
- Contribute to any strategy discussion or meetings
- Support any Section 47 enquiries or statutory assessments that are carried out
- Provide a report for, attend, and contribute to any initial and review Child Protection Conference. This includes sharing any reports with parents/carers and where appropriate, the child
- Share the content of this report with the parent/carer and if appropriate the child, prior to the meeting
- Attend core group meetings for any child subject to a Child Protection plan or Child in Need meeting for any child subject to a Child in Need plan
- Whenever there are concerns about the outcome of a Child Protection Conference, use the appropriate [Derby and Derbyshire Child Protection Conference Professional Dissent Process](#)
- Where a child on a Child Protection plan, Child in Need plan or who is Looked After moves from the school/college or if there are unexplained absences from school, immediately inform the child's social worker/key worker in local authority children's social care
- If after the referral the child's situation does not appear to be improving the designated safeguarding lead should press for re-consideration to ensure their concerns have been

addressed and the child's situation improves. See Derby and Derbyshire [Multi-Agency Dispute Resolution and Escalation Policy](#)

Confidentiality and sharing information

The school/college recognises the importance of information sharing between the school/college and local agencies to effectively safeguard our learners. The setting operates with regard to HM Government [Information Sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#) (2024), Information Commissioner's Office [A 10 step guide to sharing information to safeguard children](#) (2023) and DDSCP [Information Sharing Guidance for Practitioners](#) (2022).

All staff will be mindful of the seven golden rules to sharing information (See Appendix 3) and [Data Protection Act](#) (2018) and [UK General Data Protection Regulation](#) (UK GDPR) obligations. Staff are aware that the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent or limit the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe and promoting their welfare, rather, they provide the legal framework under which information can, and in some cases, must be shared.

School/college staff should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess, and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of a child, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care.

If in any doubt about sharing information, staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy, who will seek advice from our Data Protection Officer if needed

Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare, and protect the safety, of children

All information sharing outside of 'business as usual', should be recorded on the appropriate logs

Staff should only discuss concerns with the designated safeguarding lead or deputy (or the most senior person on the premises if they are unavailable), headteacher or chair of governors/trustees (depending on who is the subject of the concern). That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

Where appropriate, consent will be sought to share information. However, where there are safeguarding concerns about a child, information will be shared with the appropriate organisations such as local authority children's social care under alternative, appropriate, lawful basis¹⁰. In most cases concerns will be discussed with parents and carers prior to the referral taking place unless doing so would increase risk.

Details of whom the school/college shares information with, in what circumstances and under what lawful basis can be found in our published Privacy Notices.

Record keeping

¹⁰ See [Information Sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services for children, young people, parents and carers](#), Why data protection legislation does not prevent information sharing, pages 9 -11

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, including the rationale for those decisions, should be recorded in writing following the protocols in Appendix 4: Safeguarding and child protection recording CPOMS. This includes instances where referrals were or were not made to another agency, such as local authority children's social care or the Prevent programme etc. If in doubt about recording requirements staff should discuss with the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy.

Records of concerns documentation, referrals and other written safeguarding information are kept in a child protection file for each child and stored separately from each child's education file; this file is 'tagged' to indicate that separate information is held. Child protection files are confidential and stored securely and only made available to relevant individuals.

Records will include:

- A clear and comprehensive summary of the concern (see Appendix 4)
- Details of how the concern was followed up and resolved
- A note of any action taken, decisions reached, the rationale for these, and the outcome, as well as a review of any progress made
- Any professional differences of opinion about the safety of a child will also be recorded; see DDSCP Multi Agency [Dispute Resolution and Escalation Policy](#) and [Derby and Derbyshire Child Protection Conference Professional Dissent Process](#)

When a child leaves the school/college, the designated safeguarding lead will ensure a copy of these records will be sent securely as soon as possible (within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term) to any school/college or other education setting to which the child transfers and a confirmation of receipt obtained. The child protection file transfer will be separate to the main pupil file. This will allow the new provider to continue supporting the child and have the support in place for when the child arrives.

The designated safeguarding lead will also consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new education provider in advance of the child leaving e.g. children who have or who have had a social worker and those receiving support through the Channel programme.

The designated safeguarding lead, their deputy/ies and key staff such as special education needs co-ordinators will be informed when a child's safeguarding/child protection file is received.

Support for those involved in a safeguarding/child protection issue

Child neglect, abuse and exploitation are devastating for children and can also result in distress and anxiety for staff who become involved. We will support the children and their families and staff by:

- Taking all suspicions and disclosures seriously
- Nominating a link person who will keep all parties informed and be the central point of contact
- Nominating a 'case manager' where a member of staff is the subject of an allegation made by a child
- Responding sympathetically to any request from a child or member of staff for time out to deal with distress or anxiety
- Maintaining confidentiality and sharing information on a need-to-know basis only with relevant individuals and agencies

- Storing records securely
- Offering details of helplines, counselling, or other avenues of external support
- Following the procedures laid down in our whistleblowing, complaints, and disciplinary procedures
- Co-operating fully with relevant statutory agencies

Section 7: Child-on-child abuse, including sexual violence and harassment

All staff working in or on behalf of the school/college maintain an attitude of *'it could happen here'* – this is especially important when considering child-on-child abuse. Even if there are no reports it does not mean it is not happening.

If staff have any concerns regarding child-on-child abuse, they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy

The school recognises that children may abuse their peers physically, sexually, and emotionally. There is a zero-tolerance approach to child-on-child abuse; abuse is abuse and this will not be tolerated or passed off as 'banter', 'just having a laugh', 'boys being boys' or 'part of growing up' as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children.

Brooklands Primary and Nursery School recognises that children are vulnerable to and capable of abusing their peers. We take such abuse as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult. This includes verbal as well as physical abuse. Child on Child abuse will not be tolerated or passed off as part of *"banter"* or *"growing up"*.

We are committed to a whole school approach to ensure the prevention, early identification and appropriate management of child on child abuse within our school and beyond.

In cases where child on child abuse is identified we will follow our child protection procedures, taking a contextual approach to support all children and young people who have been affected by the situation.

We recognise that child on child abuse can manifest itself in many ways such as:

- Child Sexual exploitation
- Sexting or youth produced digital imagery
- Up skirting
- Bullying
- Radicalisation
- Abuse in intimate relationships
- Children who display sexually harmful behaviour
- Gang association and serious violence (County Lines)
- Technology can be used for bullying and other abusive behaviour

Some of these behaviours will need to be handled with reference to other policies in school such as the behaviour policy, anti-bullying policy, child protection policy and online safety policy.

This policy concentrates on child on child abuse in the context of sexual harassment and sexual violence. It is compliant with the statutory guidance on child on child abuse as set out in *Keeping children safe in Education (2025)* and should be read in conjunction with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board's (LSCB) Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, and any relevant practice Guidance issued by it.

As a school we follow the DDSCP Child-on-Child Abuse Strategy recognising that the issue requires a partnership-wide strategic response. It should be consistent with school behaviour policy, staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy and other relevant policies)

The setting will take child-on-child abuse as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult and address it through the same processes as any safeguarding issue. We will respond to all reports and concerns, including those that have happened outside of the school/college and / or online. In

addition, we also recognise that children who abuse others and any other child affected by child-on-child abuse are also likely to have considerable welfare and safeguarding issues themselves.

What is child-on-child abuse?

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2025) defines child-on-child abuse as most likely to include but not limited to:
 - Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice based and discriminatory bullying)
 - Abuse within intimate personal relationships between children (sometimes known as ‘teenage relationship abuse’)
 - Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and /or encourages physical abuse)
 - Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and /or encourages sexual violence)
 - Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes, and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
 - Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party
 - Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and or videos
 - Upskirting¹¹, which typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm
 - Initiating/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)
- It can also include causing someone to engage in extremist or radicalising behaviour
- Child-on-child abuse exists on a continuum and different forms of abuse may overlap
- It can affect any child/young person of any age and sex and can occur between two children or through a group of children abusing a single child or group of children
- Sometimes vulnerable children are targeted. For example:
 - Those living with domestic abuse or with intra-familial abuse in their histories
 - Young people in care
 - Those who have experienced bereavement through the loss of a parent, sibling, or friend
 - Black and minority ethnic children are under identified as victims but are over identified as perpetrators
 - There is recognition it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys are likely to be perpetrators. However, both girls and boys can experience child-on-child abuse, but they are likely to experience it differently e.g., girls being sexually touched/assaulted or boys being subject to homophobic taunts/initiation/hazing (rituals and other activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group)
 - Evidence also shows that children with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, or gender questioning children are at greater risk

¹¹ [The Voyeurism \(Offences\) Act \(2019\)](#) – upskirting is a criminal offence and anyone of any gender can be a victim

- It is influenced by the nature of the environments in which children/young people spend their time - home, school/college, peer group, online and community - and is built upon notions of power and consent. Power imbalances related to gender, social status within a group, intellectual ability, economic wealth, social marginalisation etc, can all be used to exert power over a peer
- Child-on-child abuse involves someone who abuses a 'vulnerability' or power imbalance to harm another and has the opportunity or is in an environment where this is possible
- While perpetrators of child-on-child abuse pose a risk to others, they are often victims of abuse themselves

Preventing child-on-child abuse

There is a whole school/college approach to preventing child-on-child abuse, including child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment; this forms part of the whole school approach to safeguarding. The school/college will seek to minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse by ensuring an approach that prepares learners for life in modern Britain. The establishment has a clear set of values and standards which are upheld and demonstrated throughout all aspects of school/college life.

The school/college provides a safe environment, promotes a culture of positive standards of behaviour, takes steps to address inappropriate behaviour, has effective systems in place where children can confidently raise concerns knowing they will be taken seriously and provides safeguarding through the curriculum via relationships education/relationships and sex education, online safety, and other curriculum opportunities. This may include targeted work with children identified as vulnerable or being at risk and developing risk assessment and targeted work with those identified as being a potential risk to others.

All staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers that are abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviours will not be tolerated or passed off. Staff will maintain an attitude of '*it could happen here*' and all inappropriate behaviour will be addressed.

The setting deals with a wide continuum of children's behaviour on a day-to-day basis and most cases will be dealt with via school based processes. These are outlined in the following policies:

- Brooklands Primary School behaviour policy, including bullying/ online bullying and prejudice-based bullying and school screening, searching, and confiscating powers and how they will be used safely, and appropriately, including police strip searches
- Online safety policy and other associated issues, including sharing nudes and semi-nudes and extremist material
- Attendance policy
- Relationships education/ relationships and sex education
- We follow the PSHE associate schemes (JIGSAW) for PSHE and have a strong Personal Development curriculum

Systems for children to report abuse

Even if there are no reports, all staff understand it does not mean it is not happening; it may be the case that it is not being reported. We recognise that children may not find it easy to tell staff about the abuse, that certain children may have additional barriers to telling someone and children can show signs or act in ways they hope adults will notice or react to. In some cases, victims may make indirect reports via a friend or staff may overhear conversations. All staff recognise the indicators and signs of child-on-child abuse and know how to identify it.

See page 20 *Systems for children to report concerns and abuse* for information about the systems in place for children to confidently report abuse.

If staff have any concerns regarding child-on-child abuse, they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy

Action on concerns

Child-on-child abuse may be a one-off serious incident or an accumulation of incidents. Staff may be able to easily identify some behaviour/s as abusive however in some circumstances it may be less clear. Reports of sexual violence and harassment are likely to be complex and require difficult professional decisions to be made, often quickly and under pressure. In all cases the initial response to a report is very important. Members of staff will take the concerns seriously and reassure the child that they will be supported and kept safe, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward. If possible, reports should be managed with two members of staff present (preferably one being the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy), however this might not be possible in all cases. The victim will not be given the impression they are creating a problem or made to feel ashamed for making a report or their experience minimised. Abuse which has occurred online or outside of the school/college will be treated just as seriously as that which has occurred within the education environment.

Staff must follow *Section 6. Responding to concerns about a child's welfare* and discuss the concerns and seek advice from the designated safeguarding lead.

When an allegation is made by a pupil/student against another pupil/student, members of staff should consider if the issues raised indicate that the child and/or alleged perpetrator may have low level, emerging needs, complex/serious needs, or child protection concerns and follow the process outlined in Section 6. Responding to concerns about a child's welfare.

Considerations for cases where child-on-child abuse is a factor include:

- What are the wishes of victims in terms of how they want to proceed?
- What is the nature, extent and context of the behaviour including verbal, physical, sexual (including sharing of nudes/semi-nudes) and/or online abuse? Was there coercion, physical aggression, bullying, bribery or attempts to ensure secrecy? What was the time, location, duration, and frequency? Is the incident a one off or a sustained pattern of abuse? (Remember there may be other forms of abuse in addition to what has been reported) Were other children and /or adults involved? Has a crime been committed and/or have any harmfully sexual behaviours been displayed?
- What is the child's age, development, capacity to understand and make decisions (including anything that might have had an impact on this e.g., coercion), and family and social circumstances? What is the nature of the relationship between the children involved? Are they in a current or previous intimate personal relationship, do they live in the same household or setting, attend the same school/college, classes, or transport?
- What are the relative chronological and developmental ages of the children? Does the victim or perpetrator have a disability or learning difficulty? Are there any differentials in power, social standing, or authority?
- Is the behaviour age appropriate or not? Does it involve inappropriate sexual knowledge or motivation?

- Are there any risks to the child victim or alleged perpetrator themselves and others e.g., other children in school/college, adult students, school/college staff, in the child's household (particularly siblings or other children related to the household), extended family, peer group or wider social network? Are there any links to child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation or gang related activity?

Immediate consideration should be given to how best to support and protect the victim and alleged perpetrator and any other children involved/impacted. Where the report involves rape and assault by penetration, the alleged perpetrator must be removed from any classes they share with the victim. There must also be careful consideration on how best to keep the victim and alleged perpetrator apart on school/college premises (including any before or after school activities) and on transport to and from the setting.

For all other reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment and forms of child-on-child abuse, the proximity of the victim and alleged perpetrator and considerations regarding shared classes, school/colleges premises and transport should be considered immediately.

All decisions will be made in the best interests of the children involved and should not be perceived to be a judgement on the guilt of the alleged perpetrator. In all cases, the initial report should be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis with the designated safeguarding lead taking a leading role and using their professional judgement, supported by other agencies, such as local authority children's social care and the police as required. The designated safeguarding lead will refer to relevant assessment tools and guidance as appropriate such as:

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2025) part five
- [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation at school](#)
- [Behaviour in schools](#)
- [School suspensions and permanent exclusion](#)
- [Stop it Now Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool](#)
- [DDSCP Thresholds Document](#)
- [DDSCP Safeguarding Children Procedures](#), in particular Children who present a risk of harm to others and Safeguarding children from online harms procedures
- [When to call the police – guidance for schools and colleges](#)

When appropriate the designated safeguarding lead may seek further advice from local or national safeguarding contacts as outlined in Section 4: Key safeguarding contacts.

Whenever there is an allegation of abuse, including concerns about sexual harassment and violence, made against a child, the designated safeguarding lead and other appropriate staff will draw together separate risk and needs assessments and action plans to support the victim and the alleged perpetrator. These will consider:

- The victim, especially their protection and support
- Whether there have been other victims
- The alleged perpetrator/s
- All the other children (and if appropriate adult students and staff) at the school/college, especially any actions that are needed to protect them from the perpetrator/s, or from future harms
- The time and location of the incident and any action required to make the location safer

- When information can be disclosed to staff and others, including the alleged perpetrator and parents/carers

Whenever local authority children's social care and/or the police are involved, the school/college will work in collaboration to ensure the best possible support and protection is provided for both the victim and the alleged perpetrator.

All reports of child-on-child abuse (including sexual harassment and/or sexual violence) will be recorded in the child's safeguarding/child protection file. This will include all decision making, risk and needs assessment and plans recorded in writing as outlined in Section 6.

Where appropriate incidents may be managed internally (low level needs), via early help (emerging needs) or through local authority children's social care (complex/serious needs or child protection concerns); reports to the police will be run in parallel with children's social care as outlined in the Derby and Derbyshire multi-agency safeguarding [procedures](#), in particular [Children who Present a Risk of Harm to Others](#) and [Safeguarding children from online harms](#) procedures.

All risk and needs assessment and action plans whether internal or multi-agency will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. If things do not improve or deteriorate the situation should be reconsidered.

The school/college uses the Contextual Safeguarding School [Beyond Referrals](#) Self-Assessment Toolkit & Guidance to self-assess our response to harmful sexual behaviour. All relevant policies will be updated to reflect the lessons learnt and consideration given to the wider cultural issues within the school/college that enabled the behaviour to occur.

Where the victim or alleged perpetrator transfers to another education setting, the designated safeguarding lead will ensure the new provider will be made aware of any on-going support needs (and will discuss this with the victim and where appropriate their parents, as to the most suitable way of doing this) as well as transferring the safeguarding/child protection file. In the case of the alleged perpetrator, where appropriate, this will also include potential risks to other children and staff. See Section 6. Responding to concerns about a child's welfare - record keeping.

Any suspicion or allegations that a child has been sexually abused or is likely to sexually abuse another child (or adult) or where there are concerns about any other form of abuse, a referral must be made immediately to local authority children's social care and where appropriate, the police

Section 8: Safer recruitment and selection of staff

The school/college uses best practice and has adopted robust recruitment procedures as outlined in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2025) to deter and prevent people who are not suitable to work with children from applying, securing employment or volunteering opportunities in the school/college. We apply all appropriate measures for our staff, including volunteers, agency, and third-party staff (supply staff) trainees/student teachers, governors/trustees, and contractors. This forms a vital part of the whole school/college approach to safeguarding and is an essential part of creating a safe environment for our learners.

Those involved with the recruitment and employment of our staff have received appropriate safer recruitment training and at least one person who conducts an interview has completed safer recruitment training - National College Safer Recruitment training.

Safer practice in recruitment means thinking about and including issues to do with child protection and safeguarding children at every stage of the process from advertising, job descriptions/person specifications, application forms, shortlisting, employment history and references, selection, and pre-appointment vetting checks.

Everyone who works in the school/college, including volunteers and school governors will have appropriate Disclosure and Barring (DBS) and teacher status, teacher, and teacher prohibition checks or where appropriate GTCE sanctions and restrictions. Governors/trustees/proprietors will also require section 128 checks.

Other checks that may be necessary for staff, volunteers, and others:

- **Individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK** – will undergo the same checks as all other staff in the school/college and further checks deemed appropriate to ensure suitability
- **Agency and third-party staff (supply staff)** - the school/college will obtain written notification from any agency or third-party organisation provider that they have carried out checks on an individual who will be working at the school/college that we would otherwise perform.
- **Contractors** - where the school/college uses contractors to provide services the contact will set out their safeguarding requirements.
- **Trainee/ student teachers** – applicants salaried by the school/college will undergo all necessary checks by the school/college. The initial teacher training provider will carry out necessary checks on fee funded trainee teachers and will provide written confirmation that these have been carried out and judged suitable to work with children.
- **Volunteers** - the school/college will ensure volunteers are appropriately supervised as outlined in [statutory guidance](#) on supervising the activities of workers and volunteers with children. In addition, risk assessments will be undertaken, and professional judgment/ experience used when deciding whether to obtain an enhanced DBS certificate for any volunteer not engaged in regulated activity. The details of the risk assessment will be recorded.

The school/college maintains a single central record of pre-appointment checks consistent with [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2025). The school uses Staff Safe to maintain a single central record of pre appointment checks.

See the school/college recruitment and selection policy/disclosure and barring (DBS) policy and supervision of volunteer's statement. *(Amend as appropriate)*

Visitors

The school/college premises provide a safe learning environment with secure access. We recognise there are different types of visitors, those in a professional capacity, children's relatives or others visiting for school activities or visitors via a third party and have processes in place to ensure they are suitable, are checked and monitored as appropriate.

We recognise the importance of allowing access for local authority children's social care to conduct, or to consider whether to conduct an assessment and that staff from other partner agencies may need to visit to see a child or young person to either safeguard or promote their welfare. To support our decision making about appropriate checks regarding any professional visitor we operate using guidance outlined in the [DDSCP Briefing Note - Professional Visitors to Schools](#). See school/college security and visitor's policy.

External speakers/visitors

The school/college may ask external speakers or visitors to work with children or provide assemblies on subjects such as online safety, relationships/relationships and sex education and health education. On these occasions we refer to the Effective Working Together Guidance: Supporting Schools to Deliver the PSHE Programme guidance¹². The school will undertake an assessment of the educational value, the age appropriateness of what is going to be delivered and whether relevant checks will be required, and an assessment made of what will be appropriate supervision. There will also be an agreement made in advance of the session/s on how a safeguarding report should be dealt with by an external visitor. See school/college policy/agreement for visiting speakers.

Alternative provision

The school/college continues to be responsible for the safeguarding any learner placed with an alternative provision provider. Learners in alternative provision often have complex needs and are vulnerable to additional risk of harm. We will ensure that the provider meets the needs of the learner.

The school/college obtains written confirmation from the provider that:

- Appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on their staff and individuals working for the provider; and
- The provider will inform the school of any arrangements that may put the child at risk i.e., staff changes, so the school can ensure that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on new staff.

The school has arrangements in place to ensure attendance is monitored and always know where a child is based during school hours. The address of the provider, any satellite sites and subcontracted provision a learner may attend is known.

Alternative provision placements are regularly reviewed to provide assurance that the learner is regularly attending, and the placement continues to be safe and meets the child's needs.

¹² Please see [DDSCP safeguarding Update: July 2025](#). It will shortly be available on a Derbyshire based website.

Whenever safeguarding concerns arise, placements are immediately reviewed and terminated, if necessary, unless or until concerns have been satisfactorily addressed.

The school also has arrangements in place to ensure attendance is monitored and that there are effective safeguarding arrangements within the provision. School will complete the Trust Alternative Provision checklist and the Alternative Provision Transition Plan as part of Due Diligence ensuring written confirmation from the provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out. Senior school staff including members of the school safeguarding team will regularly visit to monitor the provision in place including the effective safeguarding arrangements within the provision.

Use of school/college premises for non-school/college activities

Our school/college safeguarding arrangements will apply to all activities provided by the school/college under the direct supervision of school/college staff. Where activities are provided by another body, the governing body/trustees/proprietor will seek assurance that the provider has appropriate safeguarding/child protection policies and procedures in place, as outlined in the [Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings guidance](#). This includes arrangements to liaise with the school/college where appropriate. This applies regardless of whether or not the children who attend any of these services or activities are children on the school roll/attend the college. Safeguarding requirements are included in all lease/hire agreements.

Section 9: What staff should do if they have a safeguarding concern or an allegation about another member of staff or concerns about safeguarding practices within the school/ college

As part of our whole school/college approach to safeguarding there are processes in place for continuous vigilance, maintaining an environment that deters and prevents abuse and challenges inappropriate behaviour. Our culture and environment support all of our staff to discuss matters that concern them in the workplace and, where appropriate, outside the workplace (including online) which may have implications for the welfare and safety of children.

All concerns and or allegations about adults working in or on behalf of the school/college (including supply teachers, contractors, and volunteers) will be reported, recorded, and dealt with promptly and appropriately.

This includes whenever the school/college receives an allegation relating to an incident that happened when an individual or organisation was using their school premises for the purposes of running activities for children.

By doing so everyone in the school/college will:

- Create and embed a culture of openness, trust, and transparency
- Help to identify concerning, problematic, or inappropriate behaviour at an early stage
- Minimise risk of abuse
- Ensure that school/college staff are clear about professional boundaries and act within these, in accordance with the ethos and value of the school/college

The school/college recognise there are two levels of allegation/concern

1. Allegations that **may** meet the harms threshold
2. Allegations/concerns that **do not** meet the harms threshold, also known as 'low level concerns'

Our response to concerns/allegations is consistent with the DDSCP Safeguarding Children [Allegations against Staff, Carers and Volunteers](#) procedure.

1. Allegations that may meet the harms threshold

This is where an allegation might indicate that a person would pose a risk of harm if they continue to work in their present position, or in any capacity with children in a school or college. Where it is alleged that anyone working in the establishment, including supply teachers, contractors and volunteers has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child and/or;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

This includes any behaviour that may have happened outside school/college and is known as transferable risk.

If you have concerns about another staff member

Staff who are concerned about the conduct of a colleague (including supply staff, contractors, and volunteers) must remember that the welfare of the child is paramount.

If staff have a safeguarding concern or an allegation of harming or posing a risk of harm to children is made about another member of staff then this should be reported without delay to the headteacher/principal. Where there are concerns/allegations about the headteacher/principal this should be referred to the chair of governors/chair of the management committee/proprietor. In a situation where there is a conflict of interest in reporting the matter to the headteacher/principal this should be reported directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The member of staff should make a record which will include time, date, place of incident, persons present, what was witnessed, what was said etc; this should then be signed and dated. As a school, we will use StaffSafe for logging of any concerns. The investigation lead will liaise with the FHP Safeguarding Lead, Safeguarding Team and the FHP HR Team.

Looking after the welfare of the child

Where a child has been harmed, or there is an immediate risk of harm to a child or if the situation is an emergency, local authority children's social care should be contacted and where appropriate the police. It is the designated safeguarding lead's responsibility to ensure the child is not at risk and refer cases of suspected abuse to children's social care.

For further information about how concerns which may meet the harms threshold will be investigated, recorded, and managed, including non-recent allegations by a child and referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) see Brooklands Primary School staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy, which incorporates low-level concerns, managing allegations against staff and whistleblowing.

2. Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold

Allegation/concerns that do not meet the harms threshold are referred to as 'low-level concerns'. A low-level concern does not mean it is insignificant, rather that the behaviour towards the child does not meet the harm threshold as outlined above.

A low-level concern is any concern, no matter how small, that an adult working in or on behalf of the school/college may have acted in a way that is:

- Inconsistent with the staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, or
- Does not meet the harm threshold or is not serious enough to consider a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum. Further information about distinguishing expected and appropriate behaviour from concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be found in the school/college staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy.

Staff should share low-level concerns in confidence with the Headteacher Senior DSL in their absence the Deputy Heads Deputy DSLs. This will be done in a timely way according to the nature of each particular low-level concern.

Low-level concerns about the headteacher/principal should be reported to the chair of governors/proprietor.

Staff are also encouraged to self-refer where they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.

The headteacher/principal will be the decision maker in respect of all low-level concerns; however, this may be undertaken in collaboration with the designated safeguarding lead.

Reports about supply staff or contractors will be notified to their employers.

All low-level concerns will be recorded in writing to include details of the concern, the context and the action taken. For further information about the procedure for recording and responding to low-level concerns see school/college staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy. Staff Safe for logging low level concerns.

Concerns about safeguarding practices within the school/college

All staff are encouraged to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school/college safeguarding regime. These concerns will be taken seriously by the senior leadership team.

For information about how to raise concerns with the senior leadership team or other channels see staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy, which incorporates the whistleblowing routes available to staff.

Appendix 1	Example concerns form
Either adopt or amend according to CPOMs	

Education settings must ensure that volunteers, staff, and governors are able to record concerns about:

- The welfare of a child or young person; and
- The behaviour of a volunteer, member of staff, governor or person connected with the school/college

The following headings illustrate the minimum information that should be included in the local arrangements that is agreed within the individual education setting.

Principles

A statement should be included on the form used in the setting that confirms:

"Any member of the staff, including volunteers, must record any concerns about a child or young person. This form must be completed as soon as possible after the discovery of the concern. If the concern is about:

- *The welfare of a child, it must be sent to the designated safeguarding lead*
- *The behaviour of any member of staff, it must be sent immediately to the headteacher, or the chair of governors/management committee or equivalent if the allegation is against the headteacher/principal or where the headteacher/principal is the sole proprietor of an independent school the allegations should be reported directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).*

If the concerns are immediate, please inform an appropriate person straight away."

Concerns about a child or young person

Child's full name:		Date of birth:	
		Class/year/form:	
Concern identified by:		Role:	
Date of concern:		Time of concern:	
Witness/es:		Place of incident:	
Name of alleged person (s) responsible for the harm/potential harm:			
Not known		Volunteer	
Learner in this school/college		Member of staff	
Learner in another school/college, please specify		Governor/trustee	
Family member		Other, please specify	

Concern/Incident/Disclosure: Why are you concerned about this child? What have you observed and when? What have you been told and when?

Please provide a description of any incident/s or anything you see or have been told by a child, or another person. Record any visible injuries or ask the child/young person to point to where else it is sore/hurts. Do not remove or lift clothing for the purpose of the examination unless the injury site is freely available because of treatment or take photos of injuries. If photos of injuries are required for evidence purposes, then this should be done by the police. Remember to make clear what is fact and what is hearsay/opinion. Note the language and terminology used by the child, or adult, and be clear about who has said what. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

--

Has any action already been taken in relation to this concern?

For example, child taken out of class, first aid

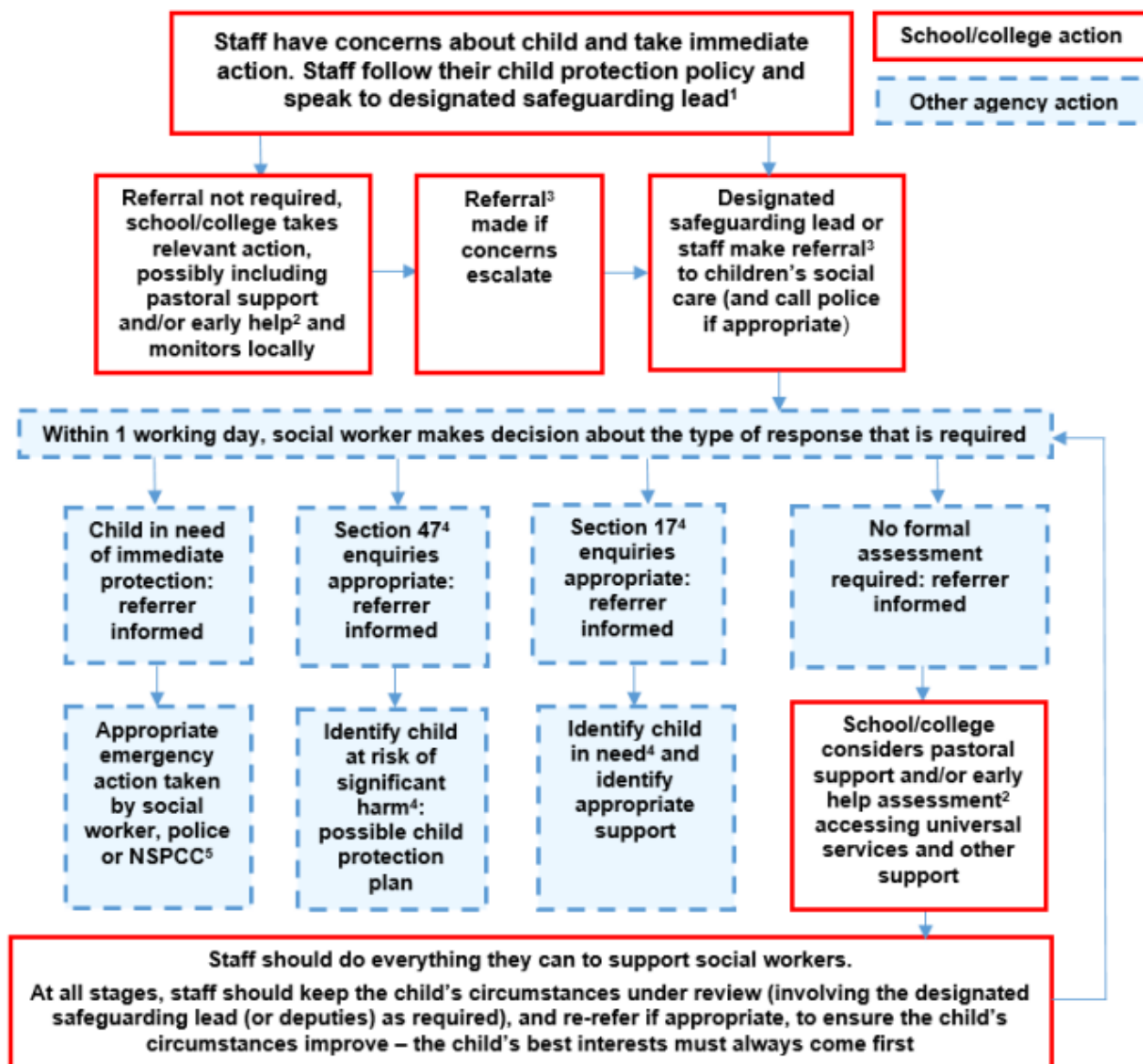
--

Name of person concerns reported to	Date

Action to be taken / recommendations from designated safeguarding lead

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Name of person completing form	Signature	Date and time



¹ In cases which also involve a concern or 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).

Appendix 3 The seven golden rules to sharing information (including personal information)

- 1. All children have a right to be protected from abuse and neglect. Protecting a child from such harm takes priority over protecting their privacy, or the privacy rights of the person(s) failing to protect them.** The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) provide a framework¹³ to support information sharing where practitioners have reason to believe failure to share information may result in the child being at risk of harm.
- 2. When you have a safeguarding concern, wherever it is practicable and safe to do so, engage with the child¹⁴ and/or their carer(s), and explain who you intend to share information with, what information you will be sharing and why.** You are not required to inform them, if you have reason to believe that doing so may put the child at increased risk of harm (e.g., because their carer(s) may harm the child, or react violently to anyone seeking to intervene, or because the child might withhold information or withdraw from services).
- 3. You do not need consent to share personal information about a child and/or members of their family if a child is at risk or there is a perceived risk of harm.** You need a lawful basis¹⁵ to share information under data protection law, but when you intend to share information as part of action to safeguard a child at possible risk of harm¹⁶, consent may not be an appropriate basis for sharing. It is good practice to ensure transparency about your decisions and seek to work cooperatively with a child and their carer(s) wherever possible. This means you should consider any objection the child or their carers may have to proposed information sharing, but you should consider overriding their objections if you believe sharing the information is necessary to protect the child from harm.
- 4. Seek advice promptly whenever you are uncertain or do not fully understand how the legal framework supports information sharing in a particular case.** Do not leave a child at risk of harm because you have concerns you might be criticised for sharing information. Instead, find out who in your organisation/agency can provide advice about what information to share and with whom. This may be your manager/supervisor, the designated safeguarding children professional, the data protection/information governance lead (e.g., Data Protection Officer¹⁷), Caldicott Guardian, or relevant policy or legal team. If you work for a small charity or voluntary organisation, follow the NSPCC's safeguarding guidance.
- 5. When sharing information, ensure you and the person or agency/organisation that receives the information take steps to protect the identities of any individuals (e.g., the child, a carer, a neighbour, or a colleague) who might suffer harm if their details became known to an abuser or one of their associates.**

¹³ Where processing or sharing personal data, you must follow [the Information Commissioner's Code of Practice for Data Sharing](#) which should be read alongside the [ICO's guide to GDPR](#)

¹⁴ Engagement with a child where it is appropriate to be based on their level of assessed competency. See [NSPCC Learning Gillick competence and Fraser guidelines](#)

¹⁵ [A guide to lawful basis](#)

¹⁶ See [Information Sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#) (2024) page 9 for further advice on appropriate lawful basis or use the [IOC Lawful basis interactive guidance tool](#)

¹⁷ [Data Protection Officers](#), IOC

6. **Only share relevant and accurate information with individuals or agencies/organisations that have a role in safeguarding the child and/or providing their family with support, and only share the information they need to support the provision of their services.** Sharing information with a third party rarely requires you to share an entire record or case-file – you must only share information that is necessary, proportionate for the intended purpose, relevant, adequate and accurate.

7. **Record the reasons for your information sharing decision, irrespective of whether or not you decide to share information.** When another practitioner or organisation requests information from you, and you decide not to share it, be prepared to explain why you chose not to do so. Be willing to reconsider your decision if the requestor shares new information that might cause you to regard information you hold in a new light. When recording any decision, clearly set out the rationale and be prepared to explain your reasons if you are asked.

Taken from [Information Sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers \(2024\)](#) HM Government

Note:

The [Derbyshire Education Data Hub](#) advise schools ensure there is a good working relationship between DSL and Data Protection Officer (DPO). Work together to determine when information should be shared, how and under what lawful basis. Ensure all decisions are properly recorded and do not attempt to redact information without the support and advice of your Data Protection Officer (even if your safeguarding recording software offers this functionality).

Appendix 4 Safeguarding and child protection recording

(Please note: this appendix has been developed and published for schools by the [Derbyshire Data Protection Hub](#))

Introduction

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) found that proper creation, maintenance and long-term retention of records is an important part of supporting victims of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and bringing perpetrators to justice. This is because victims and survivors may take decades to come to terms with what has happened to them and potentially to decide to take action to report a crime.

The IICSA Inquiry recommended that records relating to CSA should be retained for 75 years. It also recommended that the UK government directs the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to introduce a Code of Practice on retention of and access to records known to relate to child sexual abuse. The Inquiry report stated that such a code should set out that institutions should have:

- retention policies that reflect the importance of such records to victims and survivors, and that they may take decades to seek to access such records;
- clear and accessible procedures for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse to access such records;
- policies, procedures and training for staff responding to requests to ensure that they recognise the long-term impact of child sexual abuse and engage with the applicant with empathy.

A Code of Practice has not yet been published, but [School name] is committed to ensuring practices at the school are reflective of IICSA recommendations.

Statement of Intent

[Insert name of School or Trust] is aware that creation, maintenance and retention of child protection, safeguarding and CSA records must be carried out with the understanding that access to records may be required many decades after records are created.

This document should be read in conjunction with the school's / Trust's Record Retention Policy. [Note to schools- you should review and update your Retention Policy if it still refers to no record deletion whilst the IICSA inquiry is ongoing].

How to record safeguarding/child protection concerns.

Given these very long retention periods, [school name] will ensure that safeguarding, child protection and CSA records are written in such a way as to be intelligible in the future and without any additional knowledge of the school, its staff, pupils or systems. Staff will be trained in good practice.

Our records will:

- Be written by the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Deputy (DDSL) or other suitably trained staff [delete / amend as required]
- Identify the author by name and role

- Make clear it where the person who is recording the information is not the person who has seen or heard the issue, and identify all relevant parties by name and role
- Use full names (not initials) of staff, other adults and parents/family members (full name in this context means first and surname)
- Ensure staff roles / job titles are included
- Ensure family relationships are clear
- Use full name (not initials) of child whose record this is
- Use full name (not initials) of any other child involved and ensure a mirror record is on their file, if appropriate
- Not use initials when recording names
- Where individuals have the same or similar names, ensure there is a distinguishing factor, eg middle name, job title, DoB etc
- Ensure all spelling, punctuation and grammar is correct.
- Use appropriate language to describe events, not slang, shorthand, local terminology or asterixis.
- Ensure quotes are properly identified as such and attributed to their owner
- Be objective and avoid opinion. If opinion is necessary, ensure it is identified as such and attributed to its owner.

How records are stored

[name of school] use [insert name of platform, other method or paper records] to record and store child protection and safeguarding records.

This method was risk assessed in conjunction with our Data Protection Officer using a Data Protection Impact Assessment to determine the nature, scope and context of the data processing. This is subject to regular review.

We inform our pupils, families and staff that we process their personal data for this purpose via our Privacy Notices which are published on the school website.

Any related physical first-hand notes will be accurately transcribed into *(insert name of safeguarding platform)* and include the following statement: “This is an accurate transcription of notes taken at (insert date & time)”. Diagrams will be scanned in. Any recordings will be also be securely retained.

The transfer of pupil safeguarding records

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 states that “where children leave the school or college, the designated safeguarding lead should ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible, and within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term to allow the new school or college to have support in place for when the child arrives. The designated safeguarding lead should ensure secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. For schools, this should be transferred separately from the main pupil file.”

When a child leaves [name of school], all pupil records, including safeguarding, child protection and CSA records will be transferred in a secure manner, to the child’s new school. The legal basis and time scale for this can be found in The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005, parental consent is not required.

All copies of data held by the school that the child has departed will then be deleted or retained in line with the retention policy, including all paper records and data stored electronically. A record will be kept for tracking and auditing purposes only.

Schools may retain some minimal 'skeleton' data about pupils' admission, departure and next destination (where known) in order to respond to any requests for information about these pupils and for the school's historical archive. Where we intend to create and maintain these records, this will be noted on the retention policy. In some instances, we may have a legitimate interest in retaining a copy of more detailed pupil records for a longer time period. If we do retain pupil records, we will justify this retention and document the reasons for doing so, and will carry out a Data Protection Impact Assessment where required.

Responsibility for maintaining the pupil record, including retaining records relating to Child Protection, Safeguarding and CSA passes to the 'last known school'.

The school is the final or last known school if:

- secondary phase and the pupil left at 16 years old or for post-16 or independent education, or;
- at any point the pupil left for elective home education, they are missing from education, or have left the UK, or have died.

Tertiary colleges are not included in this definition, therefore the school will retain the record. However, the college must receive a copy of the child protection file, as per the requirements of KCSiE above.

Retention of Records relating to Staff

[school name] retains staff records in line with the school Record Retention Policy. Where staff records pertain to CSA they will be retained for up to 75 years, subject to review, as set out in the Policy.

As stated above regarding the long-term retention of minimal pupil records, we may wish to retain very basic 'skeleton' records about staff that have worked in the school/trust beyond the normal retention of the whole personnel/HR file. This information may include the staff name, role, contract start and end dates and evidence of Single Central Record checks. This may be useful when we need to respond to requests for information from/regarding staff, in the event of it being needed for litigation or other legal purpose and as part of our historical archive. If we intend to create and maintain these records, this will be noted on the retention policy.

END