

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

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Electronic copies of this document are available to download from:
TDA Home > Staff Home and are located on 'MyConcern' under local policies

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1. KEY CONTACTS

	Name	Telephone	email
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Martin Paine	01733 426060 (6195)	mlp@tda.education
Deputy DSL (TDAJ)	Lucy Burks	01733 426060	lcb@tda.education
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Deputy DSL (KS4)	Claire O'Donnell	01733 426060	cod@tda.education
Deputy DSL (KS5)	Michala Jackson	01733 426060	mtj@tda.education
Safe-guarding Governor	Jane Wilson	01733 426060	safeguardinggovernor@thomasdeaconacademy.com
CP Administrator	Keelie Kerr	01733 426060 (6133)	kjk@tda.education

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board – Safeguarding Inter-Agency Procedures <http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

Education Safeguarding Team	ECPSGeneral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Early Help	01733 863649
Customer Service Centre – social care referrals	01733 864180
Emergency Duty Team (Out of hours)	01733 234724
Police	01480 456111 or 101/999 (emergencies)

Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit	01480 478743 or 101/999 Mash.cp@cambs.pnn.police.uk
LADO (Gisela Jarman or Jane Bellamy)	01733 864038 or 864790
On-site PCSO	Mark Ambrose – 07738025209 (Mark.Ambrose@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Thomas Deacon Academy fully recognises the responsibility it has under section 157/175 of the Education Act 2002 to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

2.2 This responsibility is more fully explained in the statutory guidance for schools and colleges 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2020). All staff must be made aware of their duties and responsibilities under part one of this document, which are set out below.

2.3 Staff should read the above document together with 'Annex A' of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2020) and 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners' (March 2015).

2.4 Through their day-to-day contact with pupils and direct work with families **all** staff in school have a responsibility to:

- identify concerns early to prevent them from escalating;
- provide a safe environment in which children can learn;
- identify children who may benefit from early help;
- know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected;
- follow the referral process if they have a concern.

2.5. This policy sets out how the Academy Committee discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at the school. Our policy applies to all staff, paid and unpaid, working in the school including governors. Teaching assistants, mid-day supervisors, office staff as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child. Concerned parents/carers may also contact the school and its governors. It is consistent with the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board procedures.

2.6. There are four main elements to our policy:

PREVENTION through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils and the creation and maintenance of a whole Academy protective ethos;

PROCEDURES for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix A);

SUPPORTING CHILDREN particularly those who may have been abused or witnessed

violence towards others;

PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Processes are followed to ensure that those who are unsuitable to work with children are not employed.

2.7 This policy is available to parents on request and is on the school website.

2.8 The Academy recognises it is responsible for making referrals and not for making enquiries and investigating. Any referrals will normally be made by the Academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of the safeguarding team, as this aids consistency and careful monitoring. However, in an emergency or in the case of a genuine concern, where appropriate action has not been taken, other staff members can speak directly to Children's Social Care.

3. PREVENTION

3.1 We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to protect children.

3.2 TDA will, therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.
- Engage fully in the Early Help process to maximise the opportunity for timely intervention.
- Incorporate into the curriculum, activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safer from abuse in all contexts, including:
 - How to determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy, judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe (and to recognise this in others' relationships) and how to seek help or advice including reporting concerns about others, if needed;
 - The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships;
 - That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control;
 - What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable;
 - About online risks, including that any material someone provides has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removed potentially compromising material placed online;
 - What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online;
 - The impact of viewing harmful content;
 - That specifically explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners;
 - That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created

- by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail;
- The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM and how they can affect current and future relationships;
 - How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent and how and when that can be withdrawn (in all contexts including online).

3.3 Prevention of Peer on Peer Abuse

3.3.1 We recognise that peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This can include but is not limited to: bullying; cyberbullying; sexual violence; sexual harassment; being coerced to send sexual images (sexting); teenage relationship abuse; physical abuse and upskirting (part of the Voyeurism (Offences) Act, April 2019).

3.3.2 All forms of peer on peer abuse are unacceptable and will be taken seriously. The academy will therefore:

- Create a whole school protective ethos in which peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- Provide training for staff about recognising and responding to peer on peer abuse, including raising awareness of the gendered nature of peer abuse, with girls more likely to be victims and boys perpetrators.
- Ensure that staff do not dismiss instances of peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment as an inevitable part of growing up.
- Include within the curriculum, information and materials that support children in keeping themselves safe from abuse, including abuse from their peers and online.
- Provide high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), including teaching about consent.
- Ensure that staff members follow the procedures outlined in this policy when they become aware of peer on peer abuse.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1 Thomas Deacon Academy will follow the procedures set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 'Inter-Agency Procedures'.

A copy of these procedures can be found on their website:

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

4.2 The Academy Committee will:

4.2.1 Appoint a senior member of staff, from the leadership team, to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, DDSL), the lead responsibility for child protection remains with the DSL and cannot be delegated.

4.2.2 Ensure that the role of DSL and DDSL is explicit in the role holder's job

description.

4.2.3 Ensure that the DSL has the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post.

4.2.4 Give the DSL the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters (see 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, Annex B').

4.2.5 Ensure that the DSL and DDSLs have undertaken the two day training provided by the Education Safeguarding Team and that this training is updated **at least every two years**.

4.2.6 Ensure that in addition to the formal training set out above, the DSL and DDSLs refresh their knowledge and skills e.g. via bulletins, meetings or further reading **at least annually**.

4.2.7 Ensure that every member of staff (paid and unpaid) and the governing body, knows who the DSL and DDSLs are and the procedures for passing on concerns from the point of induction.

ACADEMY PROCEDURES – STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Any member of staff, volunteer or visitor to the Academy who is concerned about a child or receives a disclosure of abuse, an allegation or suspects that abuse may have occurred must report it **immediately** to the DSL or a member of the child protection team. In the absence of the DSL, the Deputy DSLs should be notified or, in the absence of both, the matter should be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff.

Information regarding concerns will be recorded on the same day and will include a clear, precise, factual account of observations or events. Concerns should be reported online on **MyConcern** or if this is not possible given to the Child Protection Administrator in C04 using a blue reporting form.

The DSL will decide upon the most appropriate course of action to safeguard the child. If the decision to make a referral to Children's Social Care is made, this will be discussed with parents, unless to do so would place the child at further risk of harm. Should this be the case, the Academy will record clearly the reason for not discussing with parents and inform Children's Social Care.

Where there is a child protection concern, allegation or disclosure, a phone call will immediately be made to Children's Social Care to alert them to the situation. The Multi Agency Referral form will then be completed and forwarded within 24 hours.

4.2.8 Ensure that the DSL and/or DDSL are always available (during school hours, during term-time) to discuss any safeguarding concerns and that all staff are clear upon the course of action they must take if in exceptional circumstances the DSL and *DDSL* are not available.

4.2.9 Liaise with the three safeguarding partners (Local Authority, clinical commissioning group and police) as appropriate and work with other agencies in line with Working

Together to Safeguard Children, 2018.

4.2.10 Nominate a governor for safeguarding and child protection who has undertaken appropriate training.

4.2.11 Ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:

- the name of the designated safeguarding leads/deputies and their role;
- how to identify the signs of abuse and neglect;
- how to pass on and record concerns about a pupil;
- that they have an individual responsibility to be alert to the signs and indicators of abuse; and for referring child protection concerns to the DSL/DDSL;
- that they have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn;
- where to find the Inter – Agency Procedures on the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board website;
- their role in the early help process;
- the process for making referrals to children’s social care.

4.2.12 Ensure all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. Ensure that staff training is regularly updated and that in addition to this training all staff members receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required **but at least annually**.

4.2.13 Ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies.

4.2.14 Ensure that this policy is available publicly via the school website (<https://www.thomasdeaconacademy.co.uk/site/data/files/users/459/policies/DD018545469A10CA03ACFE298CAA2E34.pdf>).

4.2.15 Promote educational outcomes by sharing information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children (including children with a social worker) are experiencing/have experienced with teachers and school and leadership staff.

4.2.16 Where pupils are educated off site or in alternative provision, the school and the provider will have clear procedures about managing safeguarding concerns between the two agencies. Written confirmation that the alternative provider has carried out appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working at the establishment will be sought by the school.

4.3 Liaison with Other Agencies

The academy will:

4.3.1 Work to develop effective links with relevant services to promote the safety and welfare of all pupils.

4.3.2 Co-operate as required, in line with ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children,’ (July 2018), with key agencies in their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance and providing written reports at child protection conferences and core groups.

4.3.3 Notify the relevant Social Care Team immediately if:

- it should have to exclude a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan (FTE or PEx);
- there is an unexplained absence of a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan;
- there is any change in circumstances to a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan.

4.3.4 When a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new school immediately. The Child Protection Chair and Social Work Team will also be informed.

4.4. Record Keeping

The academy will:

4.4.1 Keep clear, detailed, accurate, written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Social Care immediately.

4.4.2 Ensure electronic records are stored on an identified, purpose-built, secure platform (MyConcern).

4.4.3 Ensure all relevant child protection records are sent to the receiving school/establishment when a pupil moves schools in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2020) and the Education Safeguarding Team's Guidance on Keeping and Managing Child Safeguarding Records.

The DSL will consider whether it would be appropriate to share information with the new school or establishment in advance of a child leaving.

4.4.4 Make parents aware that such records exist except where to do so would place the child at risk of harm.

4.4.5 Ensure all actions and decisions are led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child.

4.5. Confidentiality and information sharing

4.5.1 The Data Protection Act 2018 does not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child.

The school will:

4.5.2 Ensure staff and volunteers adhere to confidentiality protocols and that information is shared appropriately.

4.5.3 Ensure staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children, (as set out in 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).

4.5.4 Ensure that if a member of staff receives a Subject Access Request (under the Data Protection Act 2018) from a pupil or parent they will refer the request to the DSL or Headteacher.

4.5.5 Ensure staff are clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies will:

4.5.6 Disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a 'need to know' basis. Parental consent may be required.

4.5.7 Aim to gain consent to share information and be mindful of situations where to do so would place a child at increased risk of harm. Information may be shared without consent if a person believes that there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner.

4.5.8 Record when decisions are made to share or withhold information, who information has been shared with and why (see 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' July 2018). In cases where the 'serious harm test' is not met, TDA will withhold providing the data, in compliance with schools' obligation under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR.

4.5.9 Seek advice about confidentiality from outside agencies if required. (See 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).

4.6 Communication with Parents/Carers

The academy will:

4.6.1 Ensure that parents/carers are informed of the responsibility placed on the academy and staff in relation to child protection by setting out its duties in the school prospectus/website.

4.6.2 Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of another agency, unless the circumstances preclude this action.

4.6.3 Seek advice from Social Care if the school believes that notifying parents could increase the risk of harm to the child. Particular circumstances where parents **may not** be informed include any disclosure of sexual abuse or physical abuse where the child has an injury or where it may lead to the loss of evidence.

4.6.4 Record what discussions have taken place with parents or if a decision has been made not to discuss it with parents, record the reasons why. Records may subsequently be disclosable to relevant partner agencies if Child Protection proceedings commence.

4.7 Dealing with Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children

4.7.1 The academy recognise that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. Sexual violence may include rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault. Sexual harassment refers to 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature', such as sexual comments, sexual taunting or physical behaviour such as deliberately brushing against someone. Online sexual harassment may include non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos, sexualised online bullying, unwanted sexual comments and messages, and sexual exploitation, coercion and threats.

The academy will:

4.7.2 Be clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

4.7.3 Provide training for staff on how to manage a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment.

4.7.4 Make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

4.7.5 Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, offer appropriate support and take the wishes of the victim into account when decision making.

4.7.6 Implement measures to keep the victim, alleged perpetrator and if necessary other children and staff members, safe. Record any risk assessments and keep them under review.

4.7.7 Give consideration to the welfare of both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in these situations.

4.7.8 Liaise closely with external agencies, including police and social care, when required.

4.7.9 Further guidance can be found in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education - Part Five' (September 2020), 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges,' (DfE, May 2018) and 'Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people' published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS).

5. SUPPORTING CHILDREN

5.1 The academy recognises that **any** child may be subject to abuse and 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 and as such will support all children by:

5.1.1 Providing curricular opportunities to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.

5.1.2 Creating an ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and safe environment and values the whole community.

5.1.3 Applying the school's behaviour policy effectively. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the child but does not damage the pupil's sense of self-worth. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.

5.1.4 Liaising with other agencies which support the pupil such as Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service or Early Help Teams.

5.1.5 Developing productive and supportive relationships with parents/carers.

5.1.6 The school recognises that whilst **any** child may benefit from early help, staff are encouraged to consider the wider environmental factors present in a child's life which could pose a threat to their welfare or safety, (contextual safeguarding). Staff are required to be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for those:

5.2 Children with Disabilities, Additional Needs or Special Educational Needs

5.2.1 We recognise that, statistically, children with additional needs, special educational needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with complex and multiple disabilities and/or emotional and behavioural problems should be particularly sensitive to indicators of abuse.

5.2.2 The academy has pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or challenging behaviours. The school will support staff to decide appropriate strategies that will reduce anxiety for the individual child and raise self-esteem as part of an overall behaviour support plan agreed with parents/carers.

5.2.3 As part of the PD curriculum, staff will teach children personal safety skills commensurate with their age, ability and needs. Children will be taught personal safety skills such as: how to recognise if they are feeling unsafe including within family relationships and friendships; how to ask for help; the difference between safe and unsafe secrets; the difference between safe and unsafe physical contact; and how recognise and manage risk including in a digital context. The content of lessons will be shared with parents/carers so that these skills can be supported at home.

5.2.4 The academy has pupils who may have communication difficulties and we are aware that they are vulnerable to abuse because they are unable to express themselves to others. Instead such children will often exhibit changes in behaviours or signs and indicators of abuse recognised by staff with a good knowledge of the child.

5.2.5 Where necessary, the academy will provide additional training to staff in the use of appropriate communication systems. Supervision by senior managers will be vigilant to create a protective ethos around the child.

5.2.6 We promote high standards of practice, including ensuring that disabled children know how to raise concerns, and have access to a range of adults with whom they can communicate.

5.3 Young Carers

5.3.1 The academy recognises that children who are living in a home environment which requires them to act as a young carer for a family member or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol can increase their vulnerability and that they may need additional support and protection.

5.3.2 The academy will: seek to identify young carers; offer additional support internally; signpost to external agencies; be particularly vigilant to the welfare of young carers and follow the procedures outlined in this policy, referring to Early Help or Social Care as required if concerns arise.

5.4 Children at Risk of Criminal Exploitation

5.4.1 Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity. Drug networks or gangs exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas. Exploitation can occur even if activity appears to be consensual.

5.4.2 All staff will consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. School will address indicators of child criminal exploitation with staff through training. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of criminal exploitation arise.

5.4.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation (CSE / Criminal/Gangs) Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

5.4.4 The school recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of child criminal exploitation and/or trafficking and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions (see section 5.5).

5.5 Children Frequently Missing Education and Moving Off-roll

5.5.1 School recognises that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities including abuse, neglect, child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, and risk of FGM or forced marriage.

5.5.2 The school monitors attendance of individual pupils closely, as outlined in the Attendance Policy, and analyses patterns of absence to aid early identification of concerning patterns of absence.

5.5.3 The school endeavors to hold more than one emergency contact for each pupil to provide additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child missing education is identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.

5.5.4 When a child is missing from education, the school follows the procedure as set out in Cambridgeshire's Children Missing Education guidance. The school will inform the Education Welfare Officer and Social Care if a missing child is subject to a Child Protection Plan or there have been ongoing concerns.

5.5.5 When a student who is the subject of a Child Protection Plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new school immediately. If information on the new school is not available Children's Social Care and the Attendance Service will also be informed.

5.5.6 When a child leaves the Academy and is taken off roll, a record will be kept of the destination (school or other setting) of that student and every effort will be made to ensure that they have safely transferred to a new setting. If there is any concern about the child's safety, then the relevant authorities will be contacted by the Academy.

5.6 Children Misusing Drugs or Alcohol

5.6.1 The discovery that a young person is misusing legal or illegal substances or reported evidence of their substance misuse is not necessarily sufficient in itself to initiate child protection proceedings but the school will consider such action in the following situations:

- When there is evidence or reasonable cause to believe the young person's substance misuse may cause him or her to be vulnerable to other abuse such as sexual abuse.

- When there is evidence or reasonable cause to believe the pupil's substance related behaviour is a result of abuse or because of pressure or incentives from others, particularly adults.
- Where the misuse is suspected of being linked to parent/carer substance misuse.
- Where the misuse indicates an urgent health or safeguarding concern.
- Where the child is perceived to be at risk of harm through any substance associated criminality.

5.7 Children at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation

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

5.7.2 Sexual exploitation can take many different forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship to serious organised crime involving gangs and groups. Potential indicators of sexual exploitation will be addressed within staff training, including raising awareness with staff that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of abuse and may not recognise it as abuse. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of child sexual exploitation arise.

5.7.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation (CSE / Criminal/Gangs) Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of CSE.

5.7.4 The school recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions (see 5.5).

5.8 Children Living with Substance Misusing Parents/Carers

5.8.1 Misuse of drugs and/or alcohol is strongly associated with Significant Harm to children, especially when combined with other features such as domestic violence.

5.8.2 When the school receives information about drug and alcohol abuse by a child's parents/carers they will follow appropriate procedures. This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

- Use of the family resources to finance the parent's dependency, characterised by inadequate food, heat and clothing for the children;
- Children exposed to unsuitable caregivers or visitors, e.g. customers or dealers;
- The effects of alcohol leading to an inappropriate display of sexual and/or aggressive behavior;
- Chaotic drug and alcohol use leading to emotional unavailability, irrational behaviour and reduced parental vigilance;
- Disturbed moods as a result of withdrawal symptoms or dependency;
- Unsafe storage of drugs and/or alcohol or injecting equipment;
- Drugs and/or alcohol having an adverse impact on the growth and development of the unborn child.

5.9 Children Living with Domestic Abuse

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

5.9.2 The school recognises that where there is Domestic Abuse in a family, the children/young people will always be affected; the longer the violence continues, the greater the risk of significant and enduring harm, which they may carry with them into their adult life and relationships. Domestic Abuse can also affect children in their personal relationships as well as in the context of home life.

5.9.3 Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of Domestic Abuse arise. The school will vigilantly monitor the welfare of children living in domestic abuse households, offer support to them and contribute to any Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) safety plan as required.

5.9.4 At Thomas Deacon Academy, we are working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Police and Peterborough City Council to identify and provide appropriate support to pupils who have experienced domestic abuse in their home; this scheme is called Operation Encompass.

5.9.5 In order to achieve this, Cambridgeshire's Education Safeguarding Team will share police information of all domestic incidents, where one of our pupils has been present, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s).

5.9.6 On receipt of any information, the DSL will decide on the appropriate support the child may require. The Operation Encompass information is stored in line with all other confidential safeguarding and child protection information. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough *Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools, Colleges and Early Years settings*'.

5.10 Children at risk of 'Honour- Based' Violence including Female Genital Mutilation

5.10.1 So called 'honour-based' violence encompasses incidents which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including breast ironing, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. The school takes these concerns seriously and staff are made aware of the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of HBV through training. Staff are required to treat all forms of HBV as abuse and follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

5.10.2 FGM is a procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. FGM is illegal in the UK. Any indication that a child is at risk of FGM, where FGM is suspected, or where the woman is under 18, will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy. Staff will report concerns to the DSL, who will make appropriate and timely referrals to social care. In these cases, parents will not be informed before seeking advice and the case will still be referred to social care even if it is against the pupil's wishes.

5.10.3 In accordance with the Female Genital Mutilation Act, it is a statutory duty for teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' cases of FGM in under-18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. Teachers should still consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve social care as appropriate, but the teacher will personally report to the police that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out.

5.11 Children in care including those who have returned home to their family from care

5.11.1 Children in care (LAC) may be particularly vulnerable. The Academy has a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement and welfare of children who are looked after and liaise closely with the Virtual Academy Headteacher in the Local Authority.

5.11.2 The school recognises that a previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable. TDA will vigilantly monitor the welfare of previously looked after children, keep records and notify Social Care as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern in accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 'Inter - Agency Procedures.'

5.12 Children showing signs of Abuse and/or Neglect

5.12.1 School recognise that experiencing abuse or neglect may have an adverse impact on those children which may last into adulthood without appropriate intervention and support. School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Children who have experienced abuse or neglect may display this through their own behaviour, which may be challenging and defiant or passive and withdrawn. We recognise that children may develop abusive behaviours and that these children may need to be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.

5.12.2 All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the DSL (and deputies) should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.

5.12.3 School will provide training for staff to ensure that they have the skills to identify and report cases, or suspected cases, of abuse in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix A).

5.13 Children at Risk of Radicalisation

5.13.1 School recognises that children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation and that protecting children from this risk forms part of the school's safeguarding response.

5.13.2 The governing body will ensure that the DSL has undertaken Prevent awareness training and that all staff receive training about the Prevent duty.

5.13.3 Staff are required to be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate they need help or protection. Concerns that a child is at risk of radicalisation are referred to the DSL in the usual way. If appropriate the DSL will make a Channel referral.

5.13.4 See also 'The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers', DfE (June 2015), and 'Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales,' HM Government, (July 2015).

5.14 Privately Fostered Children

5.14.1 Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16, (under 18 if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or relative in their own home for 28 days or more.

5.14.2 The school will follow the mandatory duty to inform the local authority of any 'Private Fostering' arrangements and refer to the Specialist Fostering Team.

5.15 Children who have Family Members in Prison

5.15.1 The school is committed to supporting children and young people who have a parent or close relative in prison and will work with the family to find the best ways of supporting the child.

5.15.2 The school recognises that children with family members in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including: poverty, stigma, isolation, poor mental health and poor attendance.

5.15.3 The school will treat information shared by the family in confidence and it will be shared on a 'need to know' basis.

5.15.4 The school will work with the family and the child to minimise the risk of the child not achieving their full potential.

6. PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN

6.1 The school will operate safer recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to Part three of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2020). This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Safer Recruitment Policy.

6.2 The governing body will ensure that at least one of the persons who conducts an interview has completed safer recruitment training.

The following members of staff have undertaken Safer Recruitment training:

Emily Gaunt; Martin Paine; Lucy Burks; Becky Brown; Ruth Fehrenbach; Tracy Hardy; Alex Izycy; Mo Ladak; Claire O'Donnell; Ben Treverton; Vicki Wiles; Ro Mackrell-Hey; Laura Ashton; Lucia Hawes; Michala Jackson; Claire Rouse.

6.3 Any allegation of abuse made against a member of staff (including supply staff and volunteers) will be reported straight away to the Principal.

6.4 In cases where the Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors. (See Allegations flowchart, Appendix D).

6.5 The school will follow the procedures set out in Part four of 'Keeping Children Safe in

Education' (2020).

6.6 The school will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, supply staff or volunteer and adhere to the relevant procedures set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', (2020) and the school's HR Policies.

6.7 The Principal or Chair of Governors will ensure that all allegations are reported to the LADO within one working day. The LADO will advise on all further action to be taken. Please note that the Principal or Chair of Governors should **not** seek to interview the child/ren or members of staff involved until advice has been sought. Doing so may compromise any police interviews that may be necessary.

6.8 The school will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff, supply staff or volunteers relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff, supply staff or volunteer is no longer employed at the school and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities and professional bodies and included in references where applicable.

6.9 Staff (including supply staff and volunteers) who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly, and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension is not mandatory, nor is it automatic but, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected.

6.10 Consideration must be given to the needs of the child and a recognition that a child may make an allegation against an innocent party because they are too afraid to name the real perpetrator. It is rare for a child to make an entirely false or malicious allegation, although misunderstandings and misinterpretations of events do happen.

6.11 The school will ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with pupils and parents/carers as advised within the Local Authority's Code of Conduct: 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (May 2019). As part of the Induction process, all staff, paid and unpaid, will receive guidance about how to create appropriate professional boundaries (in both the real and virtual world) with all children, especially those with a disability or who are vulnerable.

6.12 All staff have signed to confirm that they have read 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (May 2019).

6.13 The school will ensure that staff, supply staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with pupils aged under 18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of Position of Trust).

6.14 The school will ensure that communication between pupils and adults, by whatever method, are transparent and take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries and are open to scrutiny.

7. OTHER RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

7.1 This policy links to our:

- Anti-bullying policy
- Attendance policy
- Behaviour policy
- Complaints procedure
- Equality policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Physical Control and Restraint policy
- Safer Employment and Recruitment policy
- Safeguarding and CP policy - COVID19
- Sex and Relationship Education policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct/Safer Working Practice
- Staff Discipline and Grievance procedures
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs policy
- Whistleblowing policy

7.2 Use of Mobile Phones Policy

7.2.1 Our policy on use of mobile phones, cameras and sharing of images is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually. It is recognised that personal mobile phones have the potential to be used inappropriately and, therefore, the school has developed an Acceptable Use Policy to outline the required protocol for all staff, students, volunteers and parents/carers.

7.2.2 Thomas Deacon Academy has a no mobile phone policy. Students are encouraged not to bring mobile phones, headphones or other devices into school. If they choose to, they must be switched off and in their school bag at all times whilst on the school site.

7.2.3 Cameras and mobile phones are prohibited in all toilet and changing areas.

7.2.4 **No** photographs may be taken on personal mobiles/tablets or for an adult's own records.

8. ACADEMY COMMITTEE CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

8.1 The Academy Committee fully recognises its responsibilities with regard to child protection and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It aims to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in school are effective and comply with the law and government guidance at all times.

It will:

- Nominate a governor for safeguarding and child protection who will take leadership responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements and practice and champion child protection issues.
- Ensure an annual report is made to the full governing body and copied to the Education Safeguarding Team. Any weaknesses will be rectified without delay.
- Ensure that this Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is annually reviewed and updated and shared with staff. It will be made available on the school website.
- Ensure that children's exposure to potential risks while using the internet is limited by having in place age appropriate filtering and monitoring systems.

- Ensure children's wishes and feelings are taken into account where there are safeguarding concerns.

8.2 Extended Schools and Before and After School Activities (on or off school site)

8.2.1 If the governing body provides extended school facilities or before or after school activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for child protection as written in this policy shall apply.

8.2.2 Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, either on or off school site, the academy committee will seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place for safeguarding children and child protection and there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and procedures will be monitored and evaluated by:

- Academy Committee visits to the Academy;
- SLT 'drop ins', learning walks and discussions with children and staff;
- student surveys;
- scrutiny of attendance data;
- scrutiny of a range of risk assessments;
- monitoring of logs of behaviour and prejudice related incidents;
- review of parental concerns.

Appendix A - Four categories of abuse

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

Neglect - 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.

It may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

It may involve the neglect of or lack of responsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

It also includes parents or carers 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
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

Emotional Abuse - Is the persistent emotional maltreatment so as to cause severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are:

- Worthless
- Unloved
- Inadequate
- Valued only insofar as they meet another person's needs

It may include:

- not giving the child opportunities to express their views
- deliberately silencing them
- 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate

It may also feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children including:

- interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability
- overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning
- preventing participation in normal social interaction.

It may involve:

- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another
- Serious bullying (including cyberbullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- The exploitation or corruption of children

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment although it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse – involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

This may involve:

- physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex)
- non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing
- non-contact activities involving:
 - children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images,
 - children in watching sexual activities
 - or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
 - grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

The next course of action and timescales are agreed at this point. Consider also:

- information for the adult, witnesses, child/young person and parents/carers
- on-going support for the member of staff, pupil and parents/carers
- statements, if needed, for the whole staff, community and press.

Appendix B - Relevant Documents

“Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges” (September 2020)

COVID-19: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers (May 2020)

“Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings” (May 2019)

“Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers” (July 2018)

“The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers” (June 2015)

“Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales” (July 2015)

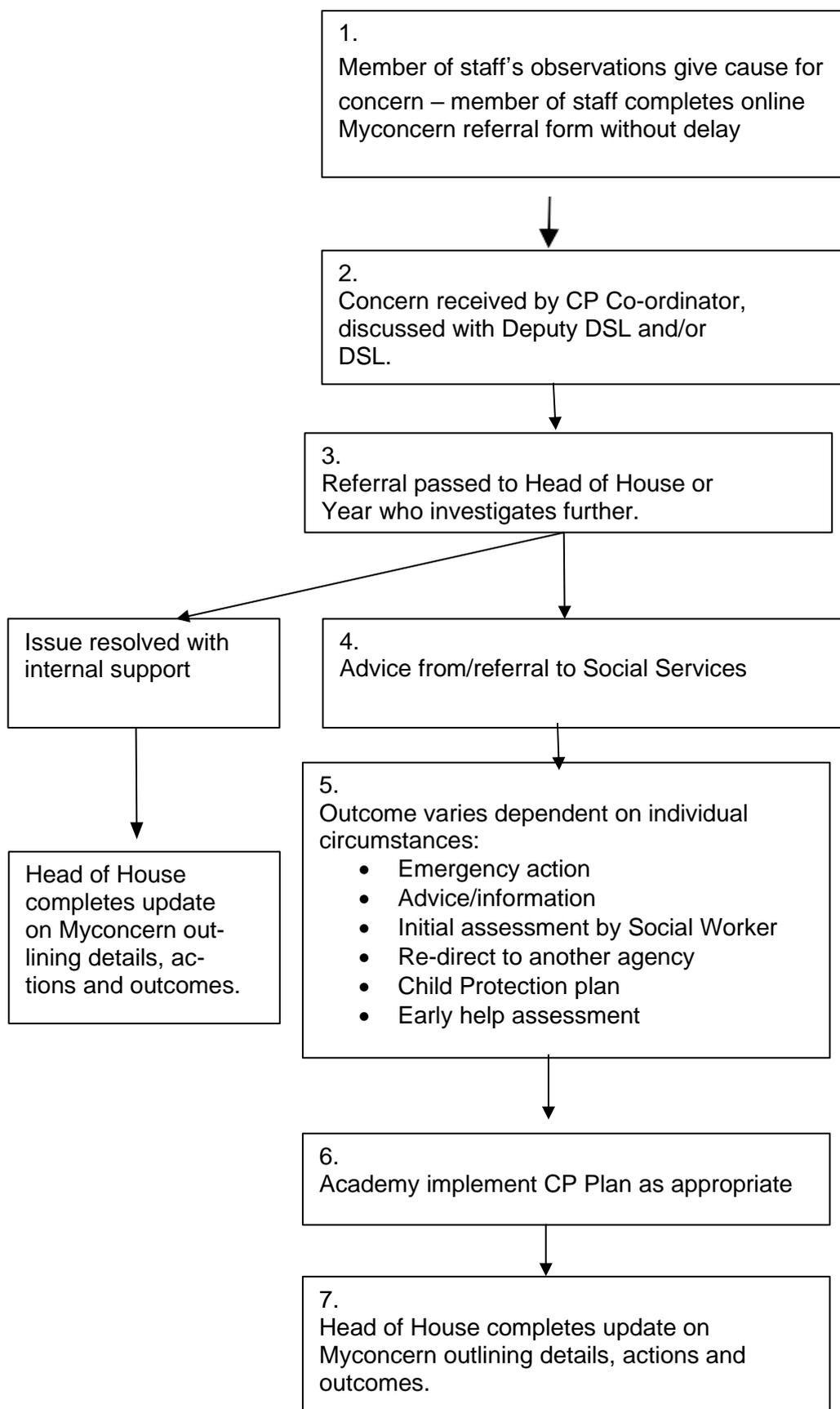
“Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people” published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) – (September 2016)

“Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges” (May 2018)

“What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners” (March, 2015)

“Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children” (July 2018)

APPENDIX C – Referral of CP Issues



Appendix D - Managing an Allegation Against a Member of Staff or volunteer

