



'Let all that you do be done in Love' 1

Corinthians 16:14



The example of Jesus Christ and the Good news that He brings inspire St George's to be a place of hope and a caring and inclusive community in which we all Love to learn and Learn to Love.

St George's Primary and Nursery School

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

<u>Date agreed:</u>	October 2024
<u>Review Date:</u>	October 2025

Useful contacts in school and in the Authority

Head Teacher: Nicola Hewitt (contact school) Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Fiona McKeown (Contact school) Deputy DSL Nicola Hewitt (school) Designated Teacher for Looked after Children: Fiona McKeown Chair of Governors: Mark Tomlinson Nominated Governor for Safeguarding and Child Protection: Kelly Wood Education Safeguarding lead for Tameside: Stephen Mills
Stephen.Mills@tameside.gov.uk

Tel. 0161 342 3664 Mobile. 07395374733

Tameside launched EHASH in July 2023

Objectives of the EHASH include:

- To ensure robust safeguarding decision making at the point of requesting Children's Social Care service/s

Earlier identification of need to prevent escalation into statutory services

- **Early identification of harm and risk to ensure that children and young people are afforded necessary protection**
- **To ensure children and families have access to Targeted Family Help at the right time, at the right level of need and from the right service**
- **Provision of advice and guidance to families and professionals**
- **Improved outcomes for children, young people and families**
- **Accurate recording and sharing of information in line with Data Protection principles**

Contacts:

Early Help Advisor Team (Level 2 – for professional use only) – 0161 342 4040

Multi Agency Request for Service (MARS)

Level 3 and Level 4 – <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/childabuse>

Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHASH) - 0161 342 4101

Early Help Assessment Advisors

South (Hyde, Hattersley and Longdendale) Denise Thorley
denise.thorley@tameside.gov.uk

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1. INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

Our pupils’ welfare is our paramount concern. The governing body will ensure that our school will safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and work together with other agencies to ensure that we have adequate arrangements to identify, assess and support those children who are suffering or likely to suffer harm.

At St George's we are a community and all those directly connected, staff members, governors, parents, carers, families and pupils, have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure.

2. OUR ETHOS

At St George's we aim to provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

We recognise the importance of providing an environment within our setting that will help children feel safe and respected. We recognise the importance of enabling children to talk openly and to feel confident that they will be listened to.

We recognise that all adults within our school, including permanent, temporary and supply staff, volunteers and governors, have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm.

We will work with parents/carers to build an understanding of our responsibilities to ensure the welfare of all children, including the need for referrals to other agencies in some situations.

3. SCOPE

In line with the law, this policy defines a child as anyone under the age of 18 years.

This policy applies to all members of staff in our setting, including all permanent, temporary, support and supply staff, governors, volunteers, contractors and external service or activity providers.

4. DEFINITION

For the purpose of this policy, school will define safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development.
(Development being defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 as Physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development)
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- Further information around definitions of abuse can be found in Appendix A

5. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy will have consideration for, and be in compliance with, the following Legislation and statutory guidance:

5.1 Legislation

Children Act 1989
Children Act 2004
Children and Social care Act 2017
Education Act 2002
Education (Health Standards) (England) Regulations 2003
Equality Act 2010
GDPR May 2018
Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009, as amended
The Education (School Teachers' Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
The Children and Families Act 2014 The
Sexual Offences Act 2003

5.2 Statutory guidance

DfE (2023) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
DfE (2024) 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'
DfE (2015) 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'
DfE (2018) 'Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners'
DfE (2018) 'Disqualification under the Childcare Act' 2006
GOV.UK (2024) 'The Prevent duty guidance. England and Wales.'
Ofsted's Education Inspection Framework
Supplementary Guidance COVID-19 Safeguarding in schools and colleges and other providers

5.3 Local Guidance

Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership guidance
Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership - Thresholds for Assessment

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Designated Safeguarding Lead

The lead person with overall responsibility for child protection and safeguarding is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (**DSL**), **Fiona McKeown**. The Deputy DSL is the head teacher, Nicola Hewitt. The DSL (and any deputies) are most likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and be the most appropriate people to advise on

safeguarding concerns. It is the head teacher and Governing body's responsibility to appoint a suitable DSL

The role of the DSL includes:

MANAGING REFERRALS – the DSL will:

Refer all cases of suspected abuse to Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and to the Police if a crime may have been committed.

Liaise with the head teacher about safeguarding issues relating to individual children, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff members on matters of child protection and safeguarding.

If early help is appropriate the DSL will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment. They will monitor any cases referred to early help and consider referral through MASH to children's services where the situation does not improve (See section 12 on inter agency working on process of making a safeguarding referral).

Refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required (see appendix E for further information on Prevent).

Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required.

RECORD KEEPING – the DSL will:

Ensure a stand-alone file is created as necessary for children with safeguarding concerns.

Maintain a chronology of significant incidents for each child with safeguarding concerns.

Ensure such records are kept confidentially and securely and separate from the child's educational record.

When a child leaves our educational establishment, the DSL will make contact with the DSL at the new educational establishment and will ensure that the child protection file is forwarded to the receiving educational establishment in an appropriately agreed manner. We will retain evidence to demonstrate how the file has been transferred; this may be in the form of a written confirmation of receipt from the receiving educational establishment and/or evidence of recorded delivery. Consideration will be given as to whether it will be appropriate to share any information with the new school in advance of the child leaving.

INTER-AGENCY WORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING – the DSL will:

Cooperate with Children's Social Care for enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

Attend, or ensure other relevant staff members attend, child protection conferences, core group meetings and other multi-agency meetings, as required.

Liaise with other agencies working with the child, share information as appropriate and contribute to assessments.

The DSL will ensure that they have details of social workers and virtual school head teachers for all children who are cared for who attend their school

The DSL will know the local arrangements for private fostering (see appendix G for further details)

New safeguarding partners and child death review partner arrangements are in place in Tameside. Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP) has three safeguarding partners (the local authority; Integrated Care Boards and the chief officer of police) they will make arrangements to work together with appropriate relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs. The DSL will ensure they are aware of local policies and procedures promoted by the TSCP.

DSL TRAINING

Undertake appropriate training, **updated at least every two years**, and update knowledge and skills at least annually in order to:

Be able to recognise signs of abuse and how to respond to them, including special circumstances such as child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, fabricated or induced illness (See appendix A, B, D for further details on definitions and Appendix H for recognising signs of abuse).

Be aware of responsibilities under the Prevent duty (see appendix E for further details).

Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, e.g. the Threshold guidance and tools and the early help planning processes (see section 12 for more details on inter-agency working). [Early-Help-Threshold.pdf \(tameside.gov.uk\)](#)

Have a working knowledge of how the local authority conducts initial and review child protection case conferences and contribute effectively to these.

Be alert to the specific needs of children in need (as specified in section 17 of the Children Act 1989), those with special educational needs, pregnant teenagers and young carers.

Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the educational establishment's safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures, including providing induction on these matters to new staff members.

Organise whole-educational establishment child protection training for all staff members regularly, and provide updates at least annually. Ensure staff members who miss the training receive it by other means, e.g. by joining another educational establishment's training.

Ensure the educational establishment allocates time and resources every year for relevant staff members to attend training.

Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings in any action the educational establishment takes to protect them. To also be aware that children might not be ready or know how to tell an adult.

Maintain accurate records of staff induction and training.

Understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation.

Understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and college, and with the three safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners.

Are able to understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at school or college.

Can recognise the additional risks that children with SEN and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support SEND children to stay safe online.

DSL ROLE IN AWARENESS RAISING

Review the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures annually and liaise with the educational establishment's governing body to update and implement them.

Make the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures available publicly and raise awareness of parents/carers that referrals about suspected abuse may be made and the role of the educational establishment in any investigations that ensue.

Provide updates to the educational establishment on any changes to child protection legislation and procedures and relevant learning from local and national serious case reviews, at least annually.

Ensure the school's or college's child protection policies are known, understood and used appropriately.

Link with the safeguarding partner arrangements to make sure staff are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies on local safeguarding arrangements.

DSL - QUALITY ASSURANCE

We will ensure that systems are in place to monitor the implementation of and compliance with this policy and accompanying procedures. This will include periodic audits of child protection files and records by the DSL. This is done by the LA and CDAT.

We will complete an audit of the educational establishment's safeguarding arrangements at frequencies specified by the Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership and using the audit tool provided by them for this purpose.

Provide regular reports, to the governing body detailing changes and reviews to policy, training undertaken by staff members and the number of children with child protection plans and other relevant data.

The educational establishment's senior management and the governing body will ensure that action is taken to remedy without delay any deficiencies and weaknesses identified in child protection arrangements.

6.2 Designated Teacher for Looked after Children

The **Designated Teacher** who is responsible for promoting the educational achievement of children who are looked after is Fiona McKeown. They will work with the Local Authority and Virtual Educational Establishment Head to discuss how available funding can be best used to support the progress of looked after children and meet the needs identified in the child's personal education plan. The designated teacher also has responsibility to promote the educational achievements who have left care i.e. been adopted, special guardianship etc.

6.3 Nominated Governor for Safeguarding

The **nominated governor** responsible for safeguarding to champion good practice is Kelly Wood. They will liaise with the head teacher and provide information and reports to the governing body.

6.4 Head teacher

The **head teacher**, Nicola Hewitt, will ensure that the policies and procedures adopted by the governing body are fully implemented and sufficient resources and

time are allocated to enable staff members to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities.

6.5 Governing Board

The **governing board** is collectively responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are fully embedded within our school's ethos and reflected our day to day practice. They are responsible for ensuring that the Designated Safeguarding Lead is an appropriate member of staff from the school leadership team.

6.6 All Staff

All staff members, governors, volunteers and external providers know how to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse, how to respond to pupils who disclose abuse and what to do if they are concerned about a child. Staff know that if they have any concerns about a child's welfare they should act on them immediately (See appendix H for more detail on signs of abuse).

All staff are aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and that statutory assessments under section 17(children in need) and section 47 (a child suffering harm, or likely to suffer significant harm) may follow a referral along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments.

7. SUPPORTING CHILDREN

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence are likely to have low self-esteem and may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth (See appendix C on Domestic Abuse). They may feel helpless, humiliated and some sense of blame. Our educational establishment may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in their lives.

We accept that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.

We will support all pupils by:

Ensuring the content of the curriculum includes social and emotional aspects of learning.

Ensuring a comprehensive curriculum response to online safety, enabling children and parents/carers to learn about the risks of new technologies and social media and to use these responsibly.

Relevant issues will be covered through relationships education and relationships and sex education or through PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education), this is compulsory from September 2020.

Ensuring that child protection is included in the curriculum to help children stay safe, recognise when they do not feel safe and identify who they might or can talk to.

Providing pupils with a number of appropriate adults to approach if they are in difficulties.

Supporting the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence.

Encouraging development of self-esteem and self-assertiveness while not condoning aggression or bullying.

Ensuring repeated hate incidents, e.g. racist, homophobic or gender- or disability based bullying, are considered under child protection procedures. See Appendix F, I & J for further details on dealing with Child on Child Abuse.

Liaising and working together with other support services and those agencies involved in safeguarding children.

Monitoring children who have been identified as having welfare or protection concerns and providing appropriate support.

Ensuring that all staff are aware of the early help process, and understand their role in it, including acting as the lead professional where appropriate.

Ensuring that all staff understand the additional safeguarding issues of children with special educational needs and disabilities and how to address them.

Monitoring attendance patterns and reviewing and responding to them as part of welfare and protection procedures.

Take children's wishes and feelings into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide.

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.

Be aware of the risk factors of both Child Sexual Exploitation and Criminal exploitation of children (see appendix B).

Be aware that children can abuse other children (child on child abuse). (See appendix I)

Be aware of indicators which may signal that children are at risk from or are involved with serious crime.

Protecting Children, as they are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse this risk is part of our schools or colleges' safeguarding approach.

Understanding that the use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation: technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm.

8. RECORD KEEPING

All child protection and welfare concerns, discussions and decisions made will be recorded in writing and kept in a confidential file and stored securely.

If a child about whom there have been concerns transfers to another educational establishment all appropriate information, including child protection and welfare concerns, will be forwarded under confidential cover to the pupil's new educational establishment as a matter of priority.

Good record keeping is an important part of the educational establishment's accountability to children and their families and will help us in meeting our key responsibility to respond appropriately to welfare concerns about children.

Records should be factual, accurate, relevant, up to date and auditable. They should support monitoring, risk assessment and planning for children and enable informed and timely decisions about appropriate action to take.

The DSL will ensure that records are maintained appropriately for children with safeguarding concerns and that stand-alone files are created and maintained in line with requirements of the above guidance.

9. SAFER WORKFORCE AND MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT OR ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

All staff will be subjected to safeguarding checks in line with the statutory guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Educational establishments and Colleges, September 2024*.

We will ensure that agencies and third parties supplying staff provide us evidence that they have made the appropriate level of safeguarding checks on individuals working in our educational establishment. We will also ensure that any agency worker presenting for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

Every job description and person specification will have a clear statement about the safeguarding responsibilities of the post holder.

We will ensure that at least one member of every interview panel who conducts an interview has completed safer recruitment training (see appendix K for more details). We have a procedure in place to handle allegations against members of staff, volunteers and supply staff in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Educational establishments and Colleges, September 2024*. In accordance with local guidance, we adhere to Greater Manchester safeguarding procedures – Managing allegations against staff guidance and Safer Recruitment.

Any allegation made against a staff member or concern raised about a member of staff, volunteer or visitor will be dealt with by the head teacher. All staff are

encouraged to share any low level concerns with the Head teacher about any matter related to professional conduct. We want a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the school's values and expected behaviours are lived and monitored by all staff. In the case of allegations made against the head teacher the case manager will be the chair of governors.

Low-level concerns which are shared about supply staff and contractors will be notified to their employers, so that any potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified. If a school is in any doubt as to whether the information which has been shared is more than low level, they will consult with Stephen Mills Education Safeguarding Lead for Tameside.

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

9.1 PROCEDURE FOR MANAGING ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE MADE AGAINST SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Our aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment which secures the well-being and very best outcomes for the children at our educational establishment. We do recognise that sometimes the behaviour of adults may lead to an allegation of abuse being made.

Allegations sometimes arise from a differing understanding of the same event, but when they occur, they are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that many allegations are genuine and there are some adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children.

We will take all possible steps to safeguard our children and to ensure that the adults in our educational establishment are safe to work with children. We will always ensure that the procedures outlined in Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Educational establishments and Colleges September 2024 are adhered to.

If an allegation is made or information is received about an adult who works in our setting, which indicates that they may be unsuitable to work with children, the member of staff receiving the information should inform the head teacher immediately. Should an allegation be made against the head teacher, this will be reported to the Chair of Governors. In the event that neither the head teacher nor Chair of Governors are not contactable on that day, the information must be passed to and dealt with by either the member of staff acting as head teacher or the Vice Chair of Governors.

The head teacher or Chair of Governors will follow the flow chart in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023. No member of staff or the governing body will undertake further investigations before receiving advice from Stephen Mills.

Any member of staff or volunteer who does not feel confident to raise their concerns with the head teacher or Chair of Governors should call the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline on 0800 028 0285.

The school together with Children's Social Care and the police, if they are involved, will consider the impact on the child concerned and provide support as appropriate. The head teacher will ensure that the child and family are kept informed of the progress of the investigation.

The Human Resource Team will be contacted at the earliest opportunity for advice in relation to the investigation of any allegation in line with the Councils' Disciplinary Policy, where appropriate.

The staff member who is the subject of the allegation will be advised to contact their union, professional association or a colleague for support, (depending on the outcome of the safeguarding strategy meeting which is normally chaired by Stephen Mills).

Human Resource Team will ensure that the staff member is provided with appropriate support, if necessary, through occupational health or welfare arrangements.

The head teacher will appoint a named representative to keep the staff member updated on the progress of the investigation; this will continue during any police or section 47 investigation or disciplinary investigation.

We have a legal duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left. The DBS will consider whether to bar the person. If these circumstances arise in relation to a member of staff at our school, a referral will be made as soon as possible after the resignation or removal of the individual in accordance with advice from Stephen Mills and/or The Personnel Advisory Team.

Referrals to Children's Social Care need to be considered when a child is at risk of significant harm and an individual who is working or volunteering with children has:-

Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child

Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child

Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children

Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

When considering the definitions of harm and whether threshold is met speak to Stephen Mills or referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the following guidance provides information about the criteria and process.

The examples provided are not exhaustive as the nature of allegations can sometimes be complex, depending on the history of those who are involved.

10. STAFF INDUCTION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

All new members of staff, including newly-qualified teachers and teaching assistants, will be given induction that includes basic child protection training on how to recognise signs of abuse, how to respond to any concerns, e-safety and familiarisation with the safeguarding and child protection policy, staff code of conduct, Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Educational establishments and Colleges, Part One, and other related policies. We will ensure that staff understand the difference between a safeguarding concern and a child in immediate danger or at risk of significant harm.

All staff members of the educational establishment will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (whole-educational establishment training) which is regularly updated by DSL (see DSL responsibilities)

The nominated governor for safeguarding and child protection will attend relevant training this training will be updated every two years.

The school will maintain accurate records of staff induction and training.

11. CONFIDENTIALITY, CONSENT AND INFORMATION SHARING

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.

The head teacher or the DSL will disclose any information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need-to-know basis, and in the best interests of the child.

All staff members must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets, which might compromise the child's safety or well-being.

All staff members have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.

All our staff members who come into contact with children will be given appropriate training to understand the purpose of information sharing in order to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

We will ensure that staff members are confident about what they can and should do under the law, including how to obtain consent to share information and when information can be shared without consent.

It is essential that people working with children can confidently share information as part of their day-to-day work. This is necessary not only to safeguard and protect children from harm but also to work together to support families to improve outcomes for all.

The school may have to share information about parents or carers, such as their medical history, disability or substance misuse issues, for investigations of child abuse carried out by Children's Social Care.

We will proactively seek out information as well as sharing it. This means checking with other professionals whether they have information that helps us to be as well informed as possible when working to support children.

The Data Protection Act 1998 is not a barrier to sharing information. It is there to ensure that personal information is managed in a sensible way and that a balance is struck between a person's privacy and public protection.

We should be sharing any concerns we have with parents/carers at an early stage, unless this would put a child at greater risk or compromise an investigation. Parents /carers need to know what our responsibilities are for safeguarding and protecting children and that this involves sharing information about them with other professionals.

Be clear about the purpose of sharing confidential information and only share as much as we need to achieve our purpose.

We will try to get consent from parents/carers (or the child, if they have sufficient understanding¹) to share information, if possible. However, **we do not need consent if we have serious concerns about a child's safety and well-being. If we decide to share information without consent, we should record this with a full explanation of our decision.**

Consent should not be sought from parents or carers (or the child, if they have sufficient understanding), if: it would place a child at increased risk of harm; or it would place an adult at risk of serious harm; or it would prejudice a criminal investigation; or it would lead to unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm to a child; or required by law or a court order to share information.

Consent is not necessary in cases where Children's Social Care are making child protection enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989. Information needs to be shared with Children's Social Care; staff members must make sure to record what information has been shared.

Consent is necessary, for Children's Social Care investigations or assessments of concerns under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Children's Social Care will assume that we have obtained consent from the parents/carers to share information unless we make them aware that there is a specific issue about consent. This will be discussed with a social worker in the Multi Agency Safeguarding hub.

Early help assessments are undertaken with the agreement of the child and their parents or carers.

¹ Children aged 12 or over may generally be expected to have sufficient understanding. Younger children may also have sufficient understanding. All people aged 16 and over are presumed, in law, to have the capacity to give or withhold their consent, unless there is evidence to the contrary.

If we are in any doubt about the need for seeking consent, we will get advice from the DSL or from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

School aims to be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety of children, whether this is when problems are first emerging (e.g. persistent school absences), or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care (e.g. they are being supported as a child in need or have a child protection plan).

In some circumstances, it may be possible to consider and refer the family to a range of early help and support they could access in the local area to address evolving concerns and before there is an impact on the child's overall safety.

However, where a referral to these services is not necessary to protect a child from harm, school will seek the family's consent before doing so. Sharing and acting on that information early, helps to ensure that a child and their family, receive the right services at the right time and helps to prevent a risk or need from becoming more acute.

School can often hold the key information in the jigsaw that confirms or corroborates the safeguarding risk.

Staff should be proactive in sharing their concerns about new or evolving risks impacting on a child's safety. They will inform the DSL immediately and this information will be discussed with the Deputy DSL and acted upon either straight away or logged and discussed with other agencies as per the need and following Threshold Guidance.

[DfE non statutory information sharing advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services for children, young people ,parents and carers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672222/DfE_non_statutory_information_sharing_advice_for_practitioners_providing_safeguarding_services_for_children_young_people_parents_and_carers.pdf)

12. INTER-AGENCY WORKING

We will develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, including agencies providing early help services to children, the police and Children's Social Care.

We will ensure that relevant staff members participate in multi-agency meetings and forums, including child protection conferences and core groups, to consider individual children.

We will participate in serious case reviews, other reviews and file audits as and when required to do so by the Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership.

We will support the Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements in supporting our children and families.

12.1 Early Help for Children and Families

Most parents/carers can look after their children without the need of help other than from their family or friends. However, some parents/carers may need additional help from our educational establishment or other services such as the NHS. Providing help early is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.

Our educational establishment will work together with other agencies to provide a coordinated offer of early help, in line with *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023* and local guidance, to any child who needs it.

We will pool our knowledge within the educational establishment and with other agencies about which families or children need additional support in a range of ways so that we can work out how best to help them.

We will work closely with targeted early help services and Children's Social Care if we feel families need more support and input, or children are at risk of harm, and we will continue to provide support if other services are also needed.

At St George's we work with other agencies to provide the best support we can for our pupils and their families. We work in partnership with the local authority and their early help offer <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/earlyhelp/neighbourhoods>, working with other agencies through the neighbourhood multiagency initiative and also the Team Around the School Approach

12.2 Operational Encompass

This school participates in Operation Encompass. We work together with the police to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the police will inform the key adult (usually the designated safeguarding lead) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can enable support to be given to the child according to their needs. Safeguarding Leads have had Operation Encompass training (Please see Appendix C)

12.3 Mental Health

We will work with arrange of services to identify and support children who may be suffering from mental health issues. All children will engage with the NHS endorsed "My Happy Mind" programme weekly to be proactive in supporting good mental health with an App for parents to use.

All staff at St George's are 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. Our Mental Health Lead is Sarah Coley.

Only appropriately trained professionals will attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following our child protection policy and speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy

Staff however, will observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.

12.4 Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership Threshold Guidance will be used to determine the level of need and the action needed to offer support at an earlier stage or to safeguard a child i.e., does the child and family need help or is the child at risk of harm.

Tameside Children's Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub will be contacted if we need support or advice on safeguarding children/young people and/or if we believe that a child/young person is at risk of significant harm (contact details on the first page of this policy).

All safeguarding concerns will be reported to the Children's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub using the Multi-Agency Request for Service Form (MARS).

The safeguarding functions within the Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub bring together all the multi-agency resources to provide a quick and robust response to safeguarding children at the front door.

Referrals may also be made for Early Help intervention by completing a MARS, this will enable the school to work with the family and other professionals to provide a coordinated multi-agency package of support.

13. CONTRACTORS, SERVICE AND ACTIVITY PROVIDERS AND WORK PLACEMENT PROVIDERS

We will ensure that contractors and providers are aware of our school's safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures. We will require that employees and volunteers provided by these organisations use our procedure to report concerns.

We will seek assurance that employees and volunteers provided by these organisations and working with our children have been subjected to the appropriate level of safeguarding check in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Educational establishments and Colleges, September 2024*. If

assurance is not obtained, permission to work with our children or use our educational establishment premises may be refused.

When we commission services from other organisations, we will ensure that compliance with our policy and procedures is a contractual requirement.

14. WHISTLE-BLOWING AND COMPLAINTS

We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff members fail to do so.

We will ensure that all staff members are aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues. If necessary, they will speak with the head teacher, the chair of the governing body or with the Local Authority Designated Officer

We have a clear reporting procedure for children, parents/carers and other people to report concerns or complaints, including abusive or poor practice.

We will actively seek the views of children, parents and carers and staff members on our child protection arrangements through surveys, questionnaires and other means.

15. SITE SECURITY

All staff members have a responsibility to ensure our buildings and grounds are secure and for reporting concerns that may come to light.

We check the identity of all visitors and volunteers coming into school. Visitors are expected to sign in and out in the office visitors' log and to display a visitor's badge while on the school site. Any individual who is not known or identifiable will be challenged for clarification and reassurance.

The school will not accept the behaviour of any individual, parent or anyone else, that threatens educational establishment security or leads others, child or adult, to feel unsafe. Such behaviour will be treated as a serious concern and may result in a decision to refuse the person access to the school site.

16. ONLINE SAFETY

The school has an Online Safety policy which includes guidance for all pupils in relation to Online Safety and using the internet and social media. The four areas of risk are taught as part of the curriculum: Content, Contact, Conduct and Commerce. There are appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and any concerns are reported to the DSL immediately by our Network Provider: Network Connect. There is testing of the filtering system at intervals throughout the year. Staff are encouraged to report their concerns if they believe that children are using the internet, mobile

technology or social media inappropriately (e.g. sending nudes or semi nudes). In some extreme cases the Police may become involved if a child is at risk of exploitation due to their use of the internet or social media. Consequently, staff must report concerns in a timely way so that advice and support can be sought. Parents are supported with information on how to keep their children safe online.

17. MISSING FROM EDUCATION

A child going missing from education is a potential sign of abuse or neglect, particularly on repeat occasions.

At school we have appropriate safeguarding responses to support children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing again.

We will inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the educational establishment's permission for a continuous period of 10 educational establishment days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between the educational establishment and the local authority (or in default of such agreement, at intervals determined by the Secretary of State). We work closely with the Education Welfare Officer on a termly basis to review children who are classed as a Persistent Absentee.

We request more than one emergency contact number for each pupil or student in order to be able to contact more than one responsible adult if a child who is missing education is also identified as a welfare and /or safeguarding concern.

We will follow Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2024 guidance and statutory guidance around children Missing from Education.

18. LINKED POLICES AND PROCEDURES

The following policies and procedures are relevant for the child protection and safeguarding policy and procedure.

- [Administration of Medicines Policy](#)
- [Anti-Bullying Policy](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)
- [Behaviour Policy](#)
- [Complaints procedure](#)
- [Online Safety Policy](#)
- [Equalities Policy](#)
- [Keeping Records of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns: Guidance for Early Years Settings, Educational establishments and Colleges](#)
- [Health and Safety Policy and other linked policies and risk assessments](#)
- [Social Media Policy](#)
- [Offsite Activities and Educational Visits Policy and risk assessments](#)

- Physical Education and Sports Guidance
- Premises Inspection Checklist
- PSHE Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy and procedures
- Teachers' Standards, Department for Education guidance available on [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk)
- Relationship, Sex and Health Education Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy
- Vision Values and Ethos Policy
- Staff code of conduct/behaviour policy

APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS

1 DEFINITIONS

Abuse, including neglect, is a form of maltreatment. A person may abuse or neglect child by inflicting harm or by failing to prevent harm. Children may be abused within their family, in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Children are any people who have not yet reached their 18th birthday; a 16-year- old, whether living independently, in further education, in the armed forces or in hospital, is a child and is entitled to the same protection and services as anyone younger.

Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and refers to activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years to teenage years.

Harm is ill treatment or impairment of health and development, including impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another.

Self harm, self-mutilation, eating disorders, suicide threats and gestures by a child must always be taken seriously and may be indicative of a serious mental or emotional disturbance.

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-Agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children (July 2018) as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health and development; updated in KCSIE 2023 to preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health and development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Significant harm is the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in the family in the best interests of the child. Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 states where the question of whether harm suffered by a child is significant turns on the child's mental and physical health or development, his health or development shall be compared with that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child.

2 CATEGORIES OF ABUSE

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such that it causes severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve:

- making a child feel worthless, unloved or inadequate
- only there to meet another's needs
- inappropriate age or developmental expectations
- overprotection and limitation of exploration, learning and social interaction
- seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another, e.g. domestic abuse
- making the child feel worthless and unloved - high criticism and low warmth
- serious bullying (including cyberbullying)
- exploitation or corruption

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

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse. Once a child is born, it may involve a parent 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

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

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, 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.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Activities may involve physical contact, including penetration of any part of the body, or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children looking at or in the production of sexual images, including on the internet, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Child sexual exploitation is also sexual abuse; it involves children and young people receiving something, for example accommodation, drugs, gifts or affection, as a result of them performing sexual activities, or having others perform sexual activities on them. It could take the form of grooming of children, e.g. to take part in sexual activities or to post sexual images of themselves on the internet.

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

3 SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

Staff should be aware of specific safeguarding issues such as:

- child missing from education
- children and the Court System
- child missing from home or care
- children with family members in prison
- child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- child criminal exploitation - county lines (CCE)
- bullying including cyberbullying
- domestic abuse
- drugs
- E-safety
- fabricated or induced illness
- faith abuse
- female genital mutilation (FGM)
- forced marriage
- gangs and youth violence
- gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- homelessness
- “honour-based” abuse

- mental health –and possible links to indicators of abuse, neglect or exploitation
- child on child abuse
- private fostering
- preventing radicalisation and the Prevent duty
- self-harm and suicidal behaviour
- serious violent crime
- nudes or semi nudes (also known as Youth Produced Imagery)
- sexual violence/harassment
- teenage relationship abuse
- trafficking
- upskirting

APPENDIX B CRIMINAL AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (county lines) forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- Children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child 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. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it

can also occur through the use of technology. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex. It can include both contact (penetrative and non penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media).

The above CCE indicators can also be indicators of CSE, as can:

- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant.

County lines

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

Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools, further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, special educational needs schools, children's homes and care homes.

Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations and are known to be exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

One of the ways of identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes (both from home and school), when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered. If a child is suspected to be at risk of or involved in county lines, a safeguarding referral should be considered alongside consideration of availability of local services/third sector providers who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation.

APPENDIX C DOMESTIC ABUSE

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is: any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family

members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological; physical; sexual; financial; and emotional.

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

APPENDIX D HONOUR BASED ABUSE

So-called 'honour-based' abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)

So-called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators.

It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

FGM mandatory reporting duty for teachers - Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18.

Forced Marriage

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into

a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some perpetrators use perceived cultural practices as a way to coerce a person into marriage. Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

APPENDIX E PREVENT

Preventing Radicalisation

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a schools' or colleges' safeguarding approach.

- Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.
- Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home).

However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy)

making a Prevent referral. The school's designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral.

The Prevent duty

All schools and colleges are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

Channel

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required.

APPENDIX F UPSKIRTING AND YOUTH PRODUCED IMAGERY

Upskirting

The Voyeurism (Offences) Act, which is commonly known as the Upskirting Act, came into force on 12 April 2019. 'Upskirting' is where someone takes a picture under a person's clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission and or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.

Youth Produced Imagery – Nudes or semi nudes.

Sending nudes or semi nudes among children and young people can be a common occurrence, where they often describe these incidents as 'mundane'. Children involved in these incidents will be dealt with by the police as victims as opposed to perpetrators, unless there are mitigating circumstances. The DSL should record all incidents of sending nudes or semi nudes. This should include both the actions taken and the actions not taken, together with justifications.

In applying judgement to the incident of sending nudes or semi nudes, consider the following:

- Significant age difference between the sender/receiver involved
- If there is any external coercion involved or encouragement beyond the sender/receiver.
- If you recognise the child as more vulnerable than is usual.
- If the image is of a severe or extreme nature.

- If the situation is not isolated and the image has been more widely distributed.
- If this is not the first time children have been involved in sending a nude or semi nude
- If other knowledge of either the sender or recipient may add cause for concern.

If these characteristics present cause for concern then escalate or refer the incident. If not, manage the situation accordingly, recording details of the incident, action and resolution. See CEOP website for further information.

APPENDIX G PRIVATE FOSTERING

Parents and carers often fail to notify schools about private fostering arrangements even though they are legally required to notify Children's Services. Often this is because they are unaware of the requirements. They believe that this is a private family arrangement which does not concern anybody else.

Private fostering occurs when a child under 16 (or 18 if the child is disabled) is cared for and lives with an adult who is **not** a relative for 28 days or more. This could be a step parent (by marriage or civil partnership), grandparent, step grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt.

Private fostering is a private arrangement made by the parent(s), (or those with parental responsibility) for someone to care for their child because they are unable to do so (permanently or temporarily). This may be due to a number of reasons such as parental ill health, a parent going abroad or into prison, a child being bought to the UK to study English or the relationship between the child and parent has broken down.

School staff play an essential role in identifying privately fostered children. If you know a child is being privately fostered you should advise the parent/carer that they have a legal obligation to report the arrangement to Children Social Care at least six weeks before it happens or within 48 hours if the arrangement is current having been made in an emergency.

Alert your Designated Safeguarding Lead who will ensure this is followed up with Children Social Care and the arrangement is assessed, approved and monitored.

APPENDIX H RECOGNISING ABUSE

RECOGNITION – WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Staff members should refer to the detailed information about the categories of abuse and risk indicators in the Tameside Thresholds guidance for further guidance.

In an abusive relationship, the child may:

- appear frightened of their parent(s)

- act in a way that is inappropriate to their age and development, although full account needs to be taken of different patterns of development and different ethnic groups

In an abusive relationship, the parent or carer may:

- . persistently avoid child health services and treatment of the child's illnesses
- . have unrealistic expectations of the child
- frequently complain about or to the child and fail to provide attention or praise
- be absent
- be misusing substances
- persistently refuse to allow access on home visits by professionals
- be involved in domestic violence and abuse
- be socially isolated

Staff should be aware that children with special educational needs and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges including assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability and children with special educational needs and disabilities are particularly vulnerable to bullying and often show no outward signs. Communication issues can be a barrier to effective safeguarding.

APPENDIX I CHILD ON CHILD ABUSE

ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE MADE AGAINST OTHER CHILDREN- CHILD ON CHILD ABUSE

At St George's we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other students.

We recognise that some pupils will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy. Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as child on child abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals.

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as child on child abuse).

- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault;
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- upskirting, typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm;
- sending nudes or semi nude (also known as youth produced sexual imagery);
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

Serious violence

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

• **Safeguarding allegations**

It is important to remember that Child-on-Child Abuse does not occur in a vacuum. It occurs in a society where there are structures and norms that shape young people's views, experiences and behaviours, as well as responses to them. Consequently, there are different issues of gender that will need to be considered when responding to allegations made against pupils by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a pupil, some of the following features will be found.

The allegation:

- is made against an older pupil and refers to their behaviour towards a younger pupil or a more vulnerable pupil
- is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence
- raises risk factors for other pupils in the educational establishment
- indicates that other pupils may have been affected by this pupil
- indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this pupil

Examples of safeguarding issues against a pupil could include:

Physical Abuse

- violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to use drugs or alcohol

Emotional Abuse

- blackmail or extortion
- threats and intimidation

Sexual Abuse

- indecent exposure, indecent touching or serious sexual assaults forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sending nudes or semi nudes

Sexual Exploitation

- encouraging other children to attend inappropriate parties
- photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts

In areas where gangs are prevalent, older pupils may attempt to recruit younger pupils using any or all of the above methods. Young people suffering from sexual exploitation themselves may be forced to recruit other young people under threat of violence.

Minimising the risk of safeguarding concerns towards pupils from other pupils

We will provide a developmentally appropriate PSHE syllabus which develops pupils' understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe.

Have systems in place for any pupil to raise concerns with staff, knowing they will be listened to, believed and valued.

- Deliver targeted work on assertiveness and keeping safe to those pupils identified as being at risk.

On occasion, some pupils will present a safeguarding risk to other pupils. The educational establishment should be informed that the young person raises safeguarding concerns, for example, they are coming back into school following a period in custody or they have experienced serious abuse themselves.

These pupils will need an individual risk management plan to ensure that other pupils are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations. There is a need to balance the tension between privacy and safeguarding.

What to do

When an allegation is made by a pupil against another pupil, members of staff should consider whether the complaint raises a safeguarding concern. If there is a safeguarding concern the DSL should be informed.

A factual record should be made of the allegation, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances.

The DSL should contact the Children's Hub or EHA Advisor to discuss the case. It is possible that Children's Social Care are already aware of safeguarding concerns around this young person. The DSL will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a statement of referral where appropriate.

The DSL will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both pupils' files.

If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police should be contacted at the earliest opportunity and parents/carers informed (of both the pupil being complained about and the alleged victim).

Where neither Children's Social Care nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school's usual disciplinary procedure

-In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan.

The plan should be monitored and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned.

APPENDIX J SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT BETWEEN CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of **any** age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable. It is important that **all** victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at greater risk.

Staff will be aware of the importance of:

making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;

- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and challenging behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

APPENDIX K SAFER RECRUITMENT

SAFER RECRUITMENT

St George's has robust recruitment and vetting procedures to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children.

Our job advertisements and application packs make explicit reference to the school's commitment to safeguarding children, including compliance with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) process and clear statements in the job description and person specification about the staff member's safeguarding responsibilities.

All staff members who have contact with children, young people and families will have appropriate pre-employment checks in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Educational establishments and colleges, September 2024*.

At least one member on every short listing and interview panel will have completed safer recruitment training. The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that safer recruitment training is kept up to date.

The head teacher and the nominated governor for child protection are responsible for ensuring that our **single central record** is accurate and up to date.