



DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 7a, 7b, 7c, 7e, 8a, 18a (Whole school including Boarding and Pre-Prep)

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Prepared by: Matt Thomas, Headmaster

1. KEY EXTERNAL CONTACT DETAILS

Local Authority Designated Officer	Lindsey Tunbridge-Adams (LADO) Claire Coles (Assistant LADO) TEL: 0330 222 3339 EMAIL: Lindsey.Tunbridge-Adams@westsussex.gov.uk Claire.Coles@westsussex.gov.uk
West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board	TEL: 0330 222 7799 EMAIL: lscb@westsussex.gov.uk
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (West Sussex County Council Children's Access Point)	TEL: 01403 229 900 TEL: 0330 222 6664 (out of hours) EMAIL: MASH@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk
Prevent	Beverly Knight TEL: 0330 222 4223 or 0789 458 9071 EMAIL: Beverly.knight@westsussex.gov.uk
Police	TEL: 101 or 01273 404 930 (Petworth & Bury Ward) EMERGENCY: 999 EMAIL: 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Support and Advice about Extremism	Department for Education NON EMERGENCY NUMBER: 020 7340 7264 EMAIL: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk
NSPCC whistleblowing advice line	TEL: 0800 028 0285 EMAIL: help@nspcc.org.uk
Disclosure and Barring Service	TEL: 01325 953795 EMAIL: dbsdispatch@dbs.gsi.gov.uk
National College for Teaching and Leadership	TEL: 0207 593 5393 EMAIL: misconduct.teacher@education.gov.uk
OFSTED	TEL: 0300 123 4666 EMAIL: whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk
Childline	TEL: 0800 1111
Children's Commissioner	TEL: 0207 783 8330
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)	WEBSITE: www.ceop.police.co.uk
FGM helpline	TEL: 0800 028 3550
Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)	TEL: 0207 600 0100



2. KEY SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Laura Hutchings, Deputy Head TEL: 01798 831 456 EMAIL: lhutchings@dorsethouseschool.com
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Matt Thomas, Headmaster TEL: 01798 831 456 EMAIL: mthomas@dorsethouseschool.com Jason Marconi, Housemaster TEL: 01798 831 456 EMAIL: jmarconi@dorsethouseschool.com Sarah Hobrow, Head of Pre-Prep TEL: 01798 831 456 EMAIL: shobrow@dorsethouseschool.com
Governors	Willy Hockin, Chair of Governors TEL: via school office EMAIL: w.hockin@sky.com Hilary Dugdale, Nominated Safeguarding Governor TEL: 01273 465 812 EMAIL: hrd@lancing.org.uk

3. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy applies to Dorset House School which including Boarding and the Pre-Prep, in part an EYFS setting. This policy is reviewed and updated annually and is available on the School website.

This policy has regard to the following guidance and advice:

- Keeping Children Safe In Education (September 2016) ('KCSIE')
 - Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (June 2016)
 - What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: advice for practitioners (March 2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015)
 - Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services (March 2015)
- Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (July 2015)
 - The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childminders (June 2015)
 - The use of social media for on-line radicalisation (July 2015)

This policy also takes into account the procedures and practice of West Sussex County Council as part of the inter-agency safeguarding procedures set up by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.



4. CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD

The School has a duty to consider at all times the best interests of the pupil and to take action to enable all pupils to achieve the best outcomes. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

The School has arrangements for listening to children and providing early help. Details of these arrangements can be found within the School's Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Learning Development Policy and PSHE Policy.

Definitions of Safeguarding and Types and Signs of Abuse

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or 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 by another child or children. Abuse can be:

- physical abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse; and/or
- neglect

Staff are referred to Appendix 1 of this policy for further detail of the types of abuse and possible signs of abuse.

5. PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD

If staff suspect or hear an allegation or complaint of abuse or neglect from a child or any third party, they must follow the relevant procedure below.

All staff should:

- listen carefully
- avoid asking leading questions
- reassure the individual that the allegation/complaint will be taken seriously
- not guarantee absolute confidentiality (as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child) and explain that the information needs to be passed to the appropriate person who will ensure that the correct action is taken

All concerns, discussions and decisions (together with reasons) made under these procedures should be recorded in writing (see Appendix 3). The record should include the date, time and place



of the conversation and detail of what was said and done by whom and in whose presence and signed by the person making it.

Where there is a safeguarding concern, the School will ensure the pupil's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. The School operates its processes with the best interests of the pupil at their heart.

Early Help

All staff are expected to identify when a child may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

In the first instance, staff who consider that a pupil may benefit from early help should discuss this with the School's DSL. The DSL will consider the appropriate action to take in accordance with the threshold guidance published by the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board. The DSL will support staff in liaising with external agencies and professionals in an inter-agency assessment, as appropriate. If early help is appropriate, the matter will be kept under review and consideration given to a referral to children's social care if the pupil's situation does not appear to be improving.

What staff should do if they have concerns about a child

If staff (including governors, agency staff and volunteers) have any concerns about a child (as opposed to a child being in immediate danger), they should, where possible, speak with the School's DSL to agree a course of action although staff can make a direct referral to children's social care. If anyone other than the DSL makes a referral, they should inform the DSL as soon as possible that a referral has been made. If a child's situation does not appear to be improving, the DSL (or the person that made the referral) should press children's social care for reconsideration. Staff should challenge any inaction and follow this up with the DSL and children's social care as appropriate. All concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for those decisions should be recorded in writing.

What staff should do if a child is in danger or at risk of harm

If staff (including governors, agency staff and volunteers) believe that a child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, they should make an immediate referral to children's social care and/or the Police. Anyone can make a referral. Any such referral must be made immediately and in any event within 24 hours (one working day) of staff being aware of the risk. Parental consent is not needed for referrals to statutory agencies such as the police and children's social care. If anyone other than the DSL makes a referral, they should inform the DSL as soon as possible that a referral has been made. Staff should challenge any inaction and follow this up with the DSL and children's social care as appropriate. All concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for those decisions should be recorded in writing.

The School's Local Safeguarding Children Board is the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board. A full copy of their local procedures can be found at <http://www.westsussexscb.org.uk/>



What staff should do if a child is seen as at risk of radicalisation

Staff should follow the School's normal referral processes when there are concerns about children who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, as set out above. Depending on the risk, this may include a referral to Channel or children's social care, and consultation with the police or the DfE dedicated extremism telephone line.

What staff should do if they discover an act of Female Genital Mutilation ('FGM')

Staff must report to the Police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the member of staff has a good reason not to, they should still consider and discuss any such case with DSL and involve children's social care as appropriate. Staff are referred to Appendix 1 of this policy for the procedure to be followed where they suspect that a pupil may be at risk of FGM.

What staff should do if a child goes missing from education

Children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. Further detail can also be found at Appendix 1 of this policy.

The School will report to West Sussex County Council a pupil who fails to attend school regularly or has been absent from school without the School's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more.

What staff should do if they have concerns about another staff member

If staff have concerns about another staff member, then this should be referred to the Head. Where there are concerns about the Head, this should be referred to the Chair of Governors. In the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Head, staff are referred to the procedures below and refer the matter directly to the designated officer(s) at West Sussex County Council.

What staff should do if they have concerns about safeguarding practices in the school

The School aims to ensure there is a culture of safety and raising concerns and an attitude of 'it could happen here'. Where staff have concerns about poor or unsafe practices and potential failures in the School's safeguarding regimes, these should be raised in accordance with the School's whistleblowing procedures which can be found in the Staff Handbook. There will be no disciplinary action taken against a member of staff for making such a report provided that it is done in good faith.

If staff and volunteers feel unable to raise an issue with the School or feel that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, they may use other whistleblowing channels, such as the NSPCC whistleblowing advice line. Contact details for the NSPCC helpline can be found on the Key Contacts page at the start of this policy.



6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH PEER-ON-PEER ALLEGATIONS

Peer-on-peer abuse is abuse by one or more pupils against another pupil. It can manifest itself in many ways and can include sexting, sexual assault and gender-based issues. Abusive comments and interactions should never be passed off or dismissed as "banter" or "part of growing up". The School recognises that children can be particularly vulnerable in residential settings and are alert to the potential for peer-on-peer abuse in the boarding accommodation.

Where an issue of pupil behaviour or bullying gives 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm', staff should follow the procedures below rather than the School's Anti-Bullying and Behaviour policies:

A pupil against whom an allegation of abuse has been made may be suspended from the School during the investigation. The School will take advice from the LCSB on the investigation of such allegations and will take all appropriate action to ensure the safety and welfare of all pupils involved including the alleged victim and perpetrator. If it is necessary for a pupil to be interviewed by the Police in relation to allegations of abuse, the School will ensure that, subject to the advice of the LCSB, parents are informed as soon as possible and that the pupils involved are supported during the interview by an appropriate adult and until the investigation is completed. Confidentiality will be an important consideration for the School and advice will be sought as necessary from the LCSB and/ or the Police as appropriate.

In the event of disclosures about pupil-on-pupil abuse, all children involved (both victim and perpetrator) will be treated as being at risk and safeguarding procedures in accordance with this policy will be followed. Support from external agencies will be sought, as appropriate.

7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST TEACHERS AND OTHER STAFF (INCLUDING THE HEAD, GOVERNORS AND VOLUNTEERS)

The School's procedures for managing allegations against staff who are currently working in the School follows Department for Education statutory guidance and Local Child Safeguarding Board arrangements and applies when staff (including volunteers) have (or are alleged to have):

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a pupil, or may have harmed a pupil;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a pupil; or
- Behaved towards a pupil in a way that indicated that they would pose a risk of harm if they were to work regularly or closely with children.

Allegations against a teacher who is no longer teaching should be referred to the Police. Historical (non-recent) allegations of abuse should also be referred to the Police.

If an allegation is made against anyone working with children in the School, the School should not undertake their own investigation of allegations without prior consultation with the Local Authority 'designated officer' or, in the most serious cases, the Police, so as not to jeopardise statutory



investigations. In borderline cases, the School may discuss informally with the 'designated officer' on a no-names basis.

All allegations should be investigated as a priority to avoid any delay.

1. All allegations which appear to meet the above reporting criteria are to be reported straight away to the Head who will refer the allegation to the 'case manager' who is the DSL. Where the Head or DSL is absent or is the subject of the allegation or concern, reports should be made to the Chair of Governors. Where the Head or DSL is the subject of the allegation or concern, the Head or DSL must not be informed of the allegation prior to contact with the Chair of Governors and designated officer.
2. The case manager should immediately discuss the allegation with the designated officer and consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action including any involvement of the Police. Where the case manager deems there to be an immediate risk to children or there is evidence of a possible criminal offence, the case manager may involve the Police immediately. All discussions should be recorded in writing, and any communication with both the individual and the parents of the child(ren) agreed. The designated officer should be informed within one working day of all allegations that come to the School's attention and appear to meet the criteria or that are made directly to the Police and/or children's social care.
3. The case manager will ensure that the individual who is subject of the allegation is informed as soon as possible and given an explanation of the likely course or action, unless there is an objection by children's social care or the Police. The case manager will appoint a named representative to keep the individual informed of the progress of the case and will consider what other support is appropriate for the individual.
4. The case manager should give careful consideration as to whether the circumstances of the case warrant suspension or whether alternative arrangements should be put in place until the allegation is resolved. The case manager will give due weight to the views of the designated officer and KCSIE when making a decision about suspension. Where the individual is suspended, the case manager will ensure they know who their point of contact is in the School and shall provide them with their contact details.
5. Where a member of boarding staff is suspended pending an investigation, the case manager will consider whether arrangements for alternative accommodation away from children should be made.
6. The case manager will ensure that parents are informed as soon as possible and kept informed about progress of the case, subject to any advice from children's social care or the Police.
7. The case manager will discuss with the designated officer whether a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service or National College for Teaching and Learning should be made where an allegation is substantiated and the person is dismissed or the School ceases to use their services, or the person resigns or otherwise ceases to provide their services. The School has a legal obligation to report promptly to the Disclosure and Barring Service any person (whether employed,



contracted, a volunteer or a student) 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. Further, or in the alternative, if an investigation leads to the dismissal or resignation prior to dismissal of a member of teaching staff specifically, the School must consider making a referral to the National College for Teaching and Leadership and a prohibition order may be appropriate (because that teacher has displayed unacceptable professional conduct, conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute or a conviction at any time for a relevant offence).

8. On conclusion of the case, the case manager should review the circumstances of the case with the designated officer to determine whether there are any improvements to be made to the School's safeguarding procedures or practices to help prevent similar events in the future.

The School will make every reasonable effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity whilst an allegation is being investigated or considered.

Allegations found to be malicious will be removed from the individual's personnel records. In all other circumstances a written record will be made of the decision and retained on the individual's personnel file in accordance with KCSIE and a copy will only be provided to the individual concerned.

Allegations proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious will not be included in employer references. If an allegation is shown to be deliberately invented or malicious, the Head will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against a pupil who made it; or whether the Police should be asked to consider if action might be appropriate against the person responsible even if they are not a pupil.

In all cases where there are concerns or allegations of abuse, the School will make a serious incident report to the Charity Commission whenever the Commission's guidelines deem it appropriate to do so.

8. STAFF BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The School's Staff Behaviour Policy can be found as Appendix 4. The aim of the Staff Behaviour Policy is to provide clear guidance about behaviour and actions so as to not place pupils or staff at risk of harm or of allegation of harm.

9. SAFER RECRUITMENT

The School is committed to safer recruitment processes. Members of the teaching and non-teaching staff at the School including part-time staff, temporary and supply staff, and visiting staff, such as musicians and sports coaches are subject to the necessary statutory child protection checks before starting work, for example, right to work checks, additional overseas checks (if necessary), verifying identity, taking up references, checking work history and confirming medical fitness for the role. For most appointments, an enhanced DBS check with 'barred list' information will be appropriate. A DBS certificate will be obtained from the candidate before or as soon as practicable after appointment.



Alternatively, if the applicant has subscribed to it and gives permission, the School may undertake an online update check through the DBS Update Service.

Full details of the School's safer recruitment procedures for checking the suitability of staff, governors and volunteers to work with children and young people is set out in the School's Recruitment and Selection Policy.

The School's protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers, whether invited by staff or pupils themselves, are suitable and appropriate supervised is set out in the School's Visiting Speaker Policy.

10. MANAGEMENT OF SAFEGUARDING

The School's DSL is Laura Hutchings

Matt Thomas, Sarah Hobrow and Jason Marconi are the deputy DSLs and the persons to whom reports should be made in the absence of the DSL. This ensures there is the required cover for the role at all times.

The DSL (and deputy DSLs) contact details can be found on the Key Contacts page at the start of this policy.

The DSL's role is to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection matters in the School. The DSL's responsibility is to maintain an overview of safeguarding within the School, to open channels of communication with local statutory agencies, support staff in carrying out their safeguarding duties and to monitor the effectiveness of the School's policies and procedures in practice. The DSL works with the governors to review and update the School's safeguarding policy.

Where a pupil leaves the School, the DSL will also ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school (separately from the main pupil file) as soon as possible. The DSL will ensure secure transit and obtain confirmation of receipt.

The DSL regularly reviews the School's and their own practices and concerns about welfare and safeguarding matters. This includes the personal and professional duty of all staff to report welfare and safeguarding concerns to the DSL, or in the absence of action, directly to local children's services.

During term time, the DSL and/ or the deputy DSLs will always be available (during school hours) for staff in the School to discuss any safeguarding concerns. For out of hours/out of term activities, the School will ensure that the DSL or one of the deputy DSLs can be contacted by email.

Full details of the DSL's role can be found at Annex B of KCSIE.

Ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSL and this responsibility should not be delegated.



11. TRAINING

All Staff

All new staff, governors, volunteers and activity leaders will be provided with induction training that includes:

- the Safeguarding Policy, including information about the identity and roles of the DSL and deputy DSLs
- the Staff Behaviour Policy, the School's whistleblowing procedure, Acceptable Use (of IT) Policy, Online Safety Policy, staff/pupil relationships and communications including the use of social media
- a copy of Part 1 of KCSIE
- School leaders and staff who work directly with children will also be required to read Annex A of KCSIE.

Copies of the above documents are provided to all 'staff' during induction.

All staff are also required to:

- Read Part One of KCSIE and confirm that they have done so. Each time Part One of KCSIE is updated by the Department for Education, staff will be updated on the changes via email and at staff meetings.
- Understand key information contained in Part One of KCSIE. The School will ensure staff understanding during INSET day training.
- Receive training in safeguarding, child protection and online safety regularly. It will also include Prevent awareness training to equip staff to raise concerns appropriately by ensuring all staff have the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism; are able to challenge extremist ideas; and know how to refer children and young people for further help.
- Undertake regular informal updates, at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. The School provides these via, for example, emails, staff meetings and INSET day training.

DSL and deputy DSLs

The DSL receives updated child protection training at least every two years to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This includes local inter-agency working protocols, participation in child protection case conferences, supporting children in need, identifying children at risk of radicalisation, record keeping and promoting a culture of listening to children and training in the Prevent duties. Further details of the required training content for the DSL are set out in Annex B of KCSIE.

In addition to their formal training, the DSL's knowledge and skills are updated at least annually to keep up with any developments relevant to their role.

The deputy DSLs are trained to the same level as the DSL.



12. OVERSIGHT OF SAFEGUARDING, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR REVIEWING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Hilary Dugdale is the governor designated to take a lead in relation to responsibility for the safeguarding arrangements in the School.

A review of the School's child protection policies takes place at least annually, including an update and review of the effectiveness of procedures and their implementation.

If there has been a substantiated allegation against a member of staff, the School will work with the Local Authority designated officer to determine whether there are any improvements to be made to the School's procedures or practice to help prevent similar events in the future.

13. THE SCHOOL'S ARRANGEMENTS TO FULFIL OTHER SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES

Teaching children how to keep safe

The governing body ensures that all pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online, through the curriculum and PSHE to help children to adjust their behaviours in order to reduce risks and build resilience, including to radicalisation. This includes teaching pupils about the safe use of electronic equipment and the internet and the risks posed by adults or young people, who use the internet and social media to bully, groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The School has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place to safeguard children from potentially harmful and inappropriate material online. Such systems aim to reduce the risk of children being exposed to illegal, inappropriate and harmful materials online; reduce the risk of children being subjected to harmful online interaction with others; and help manage online behaviour that can increase a child's likelihood of, or causes, harm.

Further detail of the School's approach to online safety can be found in the School's Online Safety Policy which also includes detail on the use of mobile technology in school

Arrangements for Visiting Speakers

The School has clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers are appropriately supervised and suitable. The School's responsibility to pupils is to ensure that they can critically assess the information they receive as to its value to themselves, and that the information is aligned to the ethos and values of the School and British values.

Visiting speakers will be expected to understand that, where appropriate, their session should actively promote the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and at no point undermine these. In some cases, the School may request a copy of the Visiting Speaker's presentation and/or footage in advance of the session being provided.



The School will carry out a risk assessment before agreeing to a Visiting Speaker being allowed to attend the School. This will take into account any vetting requirements considered appropriate in the circumstances, and may include a DBS check if relevant.

Visiting Speakers, whilst on the School site, will be supervised by a school employee. The School keeps a formal register of visiting speakers. Further details are given in the School's Visiting Speakers Policy.

Disqualification from working in childcare

Where staff work in, or are involved in the management of, the School's early years or provision of care of pupils under the age of eight, the School will take steps to check whether those staff are disqualified under the Childcare Act 2006, including by association with others. This forms part of the School's safer recruitment practices, further details of which can be found in the School's Recruitment and Selection Policy.

The School records all checks of staff employed to work in or manage relevant childcare on the Single Central Register. This includes the date disqualification checks were completed.

Where a member of staff is found to be disqualified, including by association, or if there is doubt over that issue then, pending resolution, the School will remove them from the work from which they are or may be disqualified. Suspension or dismissal will not be an automatic response; the School will consider if there is scope in principle to redeploy them with other age groups or in other work from which they are not disqualified, subject to assessing the risks and taking advice from the designated officer when appropriate.

Use of mobile phones and cameras

The School's policy on the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting can be found in the School's Acceptable Use Policy and Online Safety Policy.

Early Years

The School will inform Ofsted of any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of any person who is in regular contact with children on the premises where childcare is provided. For example, where the School is satisfied that a person working in a relevant setting falls within one of the disqualification criteria. Any significant event must be notified to Ofsted as soon as reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days of the date the School became aware (or ought reasonably to have become aware) of it.

The School will notify Ofsted within 14 days of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere).



APPENDIX 1 - SIGNS AND TYPES OF ABUSE

All school staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

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

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

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

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

Specific safeguarding issues: behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse, truanting and sexting put children in danger. Safeguarding issues can also manifest themselves via peer-on-peer abuse, such as bullying (including cyberbullying), gender-based violence/sexual assaults and sexting.



Safeguarding issues can also be linked to, for example, children missing education; child sexual exploitation; domestic violence; fabricated or induced illness; faith abuse; female genital mutilation; forced marriage; gangs and youth violence; gender-based violence / violence against women and girls; hate; mental health; preventing radicalisation; relationship abuse; sexting; and trafficking.

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

So Called 'Honour Based' Violence: encompasses 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.

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. Guidance on the warning signs that FGM may be about to take place, or may have already taken place, can also be found on pages 38-41 of the HM Government's Multi-agency statutory guidance on FGM. There is a statutory duty on teachers to personally 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 communities use religion and culture as a way to coerce a person into marriage. Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage. There are a range of potential indicators that a child may be at risk of forced marriage, details of which can be found on pages 13-14 of the Multi-agency guidelines: Handling cases of forced marriage. School staff can also contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fmu@fco.gov.uk.

Radicalisation: Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular have become major factors in the radicalisation of young people. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or



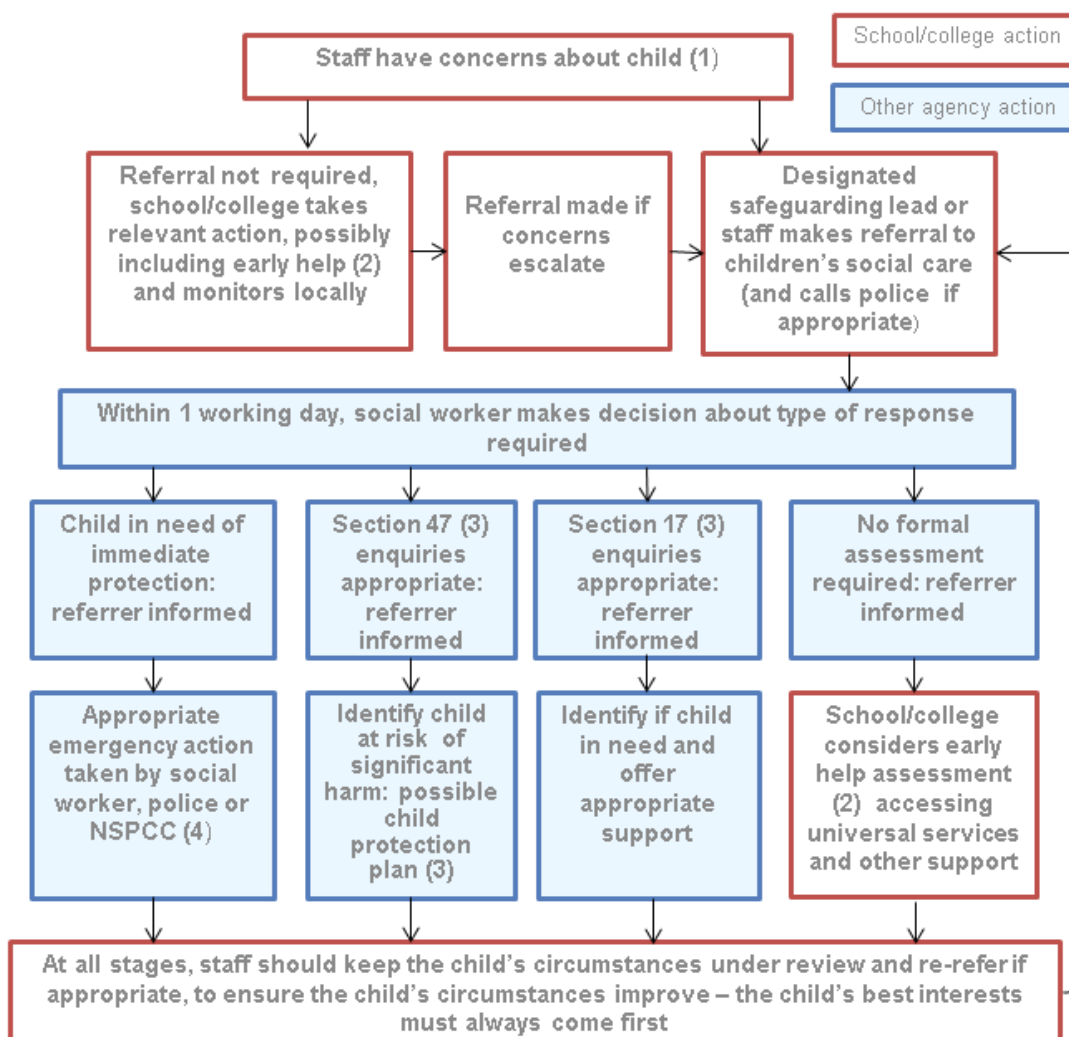
protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately, which may include making a referral to the Channel programme.

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

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

APPENDIX 2 (taken from “Keeping Children Safe in Education” (DfE September 2016))

Actions where there are concerns about a child



1. In cases which also involve an allegation of abuse against a staff member, see Part four of this guidance.
2. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. Where a child would benefit from co-ordinated early help, an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter one of [Working together to safeguard children](#) provides detailed guidance on the early help process.
3. Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. This can include s17 assessments of children in need and s47 assessments of children at risk of significant harm. Full details are in Chapter one of [Working together to safeguard children](#).
4. This could include applying for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).



APPENDIX 3 – RECORDING FORM FOR SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Staff, volunteers and regular visitors are required to complete this form and pass it to the Headmaster if they have a safeguarding concern about a child in our school.

Full name of child	Date of Birth	Tutor/Form group	Your name and position in school

Nature of concern/disclosure	
Please include where you were when the child made a disclosure, what you saw, who else was there, what did the child say or do and what you said.	
Time & date of incident:	
Was there an injury? Yes / No	Did you see it? Yes / No
Describe the injury:	
Have you filled in a body plan below to show where the injury is and its approximate size? Yes / No	
Was anyone else with you? Who?	
Has this happened before?	Did you report the previous incident?
Who are you passing this information to? Name:	
Position:	
Your signature:	
Time and date form completed:	



Time form received by DSL:

Action taken by DSL:

Referred to...?

Date:

Time:

Parents informed? Yes / No (If No, state reason)

Feedback given to...?

Pastoral team

Tutor

Child

Person who recorded disclosure

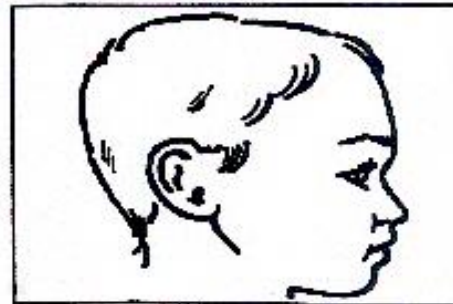
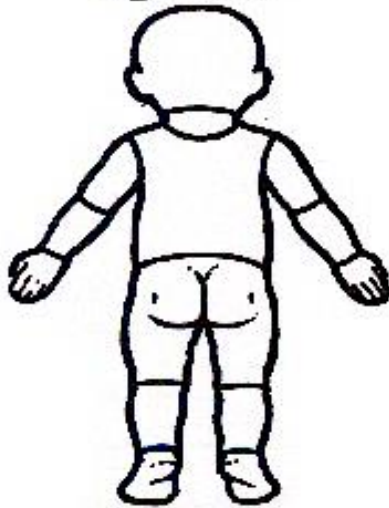
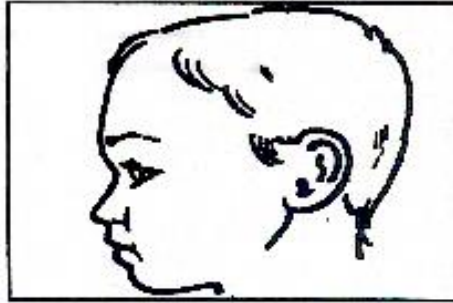
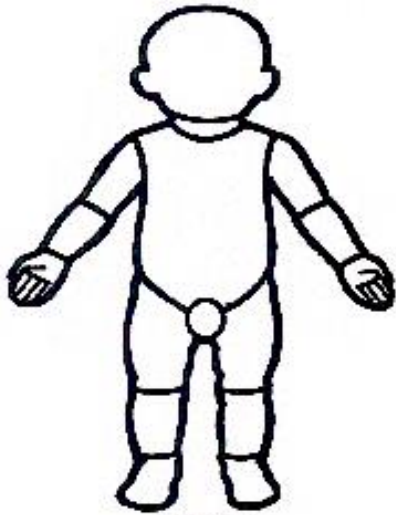
Further Action Agreed:

Full name:

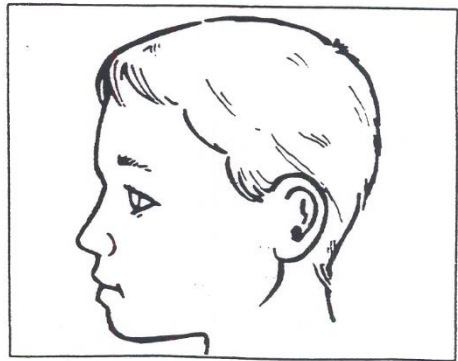
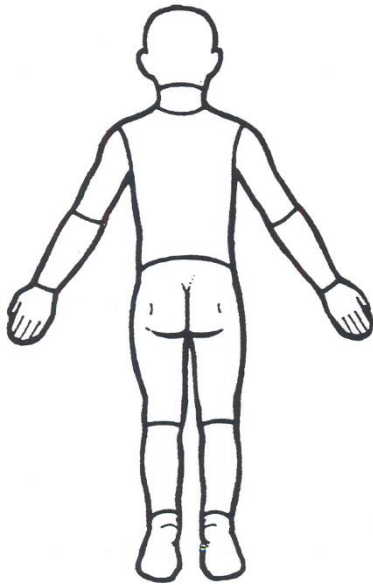
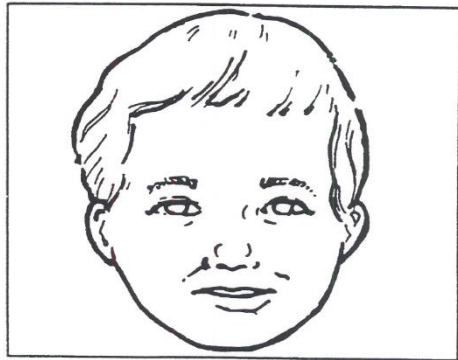
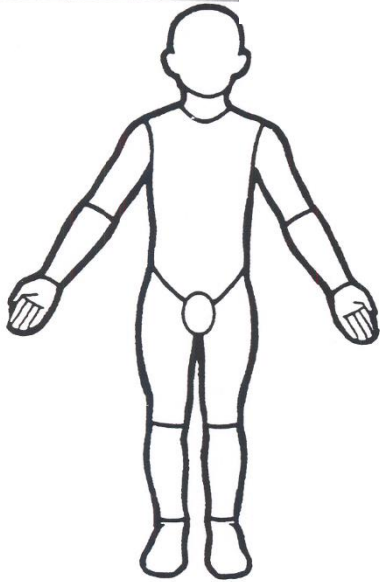
DSL Signature:

Date:

Young Child



Older Child





APPENDIX 4 - STAFF BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Staff need to ensure that their behaviour does not inadvertently lay them open to allegations of abuse. They need to treat all pupils with respect and try, as far as possible, not to be alone with a child or young person. Where this is not possible, for example, in an instrumental music lesson, or sports coaching lesson, it is good practice to ensure that others are within earshot. Where possible, a gap or barrier should be maintained between teacher and child at all times. Any physical contact should be the minimum required for care, instruction or restraint. Staff should avoid taking one pupil on his/her own in a car.

Staff should remember at all times that they are in a position of trust in respect of the children in their charge and must not take any action which would constitute a breach of trust.

Communication with Pupils

Staff should not give their personal mobile phone numbers or email addresses to pupils, nor should they communicate with them by text message, personal email or social media. If they need to speak to a pupil by telephone, they should use one of the school's telephones and email using the school system. The group leader on all trips and visits involving an overnight stay should take a school mobile phone with him/her and may ask the pupils for their mobile numbers before allowing them out in small, unsupervised groups (if age appropriate). The school mobile should be used for any contact with pupils that may be necessary. The group leader will delete any record of pupils' mobile phone numbers at the end of the trip or visit and should ensure that pupils delete any staff numbers that they may have acquired during the trip.

Physical contact with pupils

There are occasions when it is entirely appropriate and proper for staff to have physical contact with pupils, but it is crucial that they only do so in ways appropriate to their professional role. Staff should, therefore, use their professional judgement at all times. Staff should not have unnecessary physical contact with pupils and should be alert to the fact that minor forms of friendly physical contact can be misconstrued by pupils or onlookers.

A member of staff can never take the place of a parent in providing physical comfort and should be cautious of any demonstration of affection.

Physical contact should never be secretive, or of the gratification of the adult, or represent a misuse of authority. If a member of staff believes that an action could be misinterpreted, the incident and circumstances should be recorded as soon as possible, the Designated Safeguarding Lead informed and, if appropriate, a copy placed on the pupil's file.



Physical Restraint

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Any physical restraint is only permissible when a child is in imminent danger of inflicting an injury on himself/herself or on another, and then only as a last resort when all efforts to defuse the situation have failed. Another member of staff should, if possible, be present to act as a witness. All incidents of the use of physical restraint should be recorded in writing and reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will decide what to do next. Where this relates to the EYFS setting, parents will be informed of any physical restraint used on their child the same day or as soon as reasonably practicable.

Physical education and other activities requiring physical contact

Where exercises or procedures need to be demonstrated, extreme caution should be used if the demonstration involves contact with pupils and, wherever possible, contact should be avoided. It is acknowledged that some staff, for example, those who teach PE and games, or who offer music tuition, will, on occasions, have to initiate physical contact with pupils in order to support a pupil so they can perform a task safely, to demonstrate the use of a particular piece of equipment/instrument or assist them with an exercise. This should be done with the pupil's agreement.

Contact under these circumstances should be for the minimum time necessary to complete the activity and take place in an open environment. Staff should remain sensitive to any discomfort expressed verbally or non-verbally by the child.

Transporting pupils

It is inadvisable for a teacher to give a lift in a car to a pupil alone. Wherever possible and practicable it is advisable that transport is undertaken other than in private vehicles, with at least one adult additional to the driver acting as an escort. If there are exceptional circumstances that make unaccompanied transportation of pupils unavoidable, the journey should be made known to a senior member of staff.

One to One Tuition

As noted earlier, particular care must be taken in one to one tuition situations. At Dorset House, this includes individual music lessons, learning support lessons and sessions with the independent listener; these activities take place in easily visible rooms, they are timetabled (and a member of SMT is aware of the activity / lesson) and other members of staff are within ear-shot.

The Boarding House

Only members of the boarding team are allowed to access boarding accommodation. However, there may be one to one situations in the boarding house e.g. bed-time routines and other situations involving intimate care (shower-time); however, the boarding staff are given clear guidance and procedures as to how to behave in those situations (maintain a gap or barrier between staff member



and child, ensure that other staff are within ear-shot, keep any physical contact to the minimum required for care or restraint, do not enter shower rooms at shower-time etc). During boarding hours, access to the boarding house is restricted to members of the boarding house (although other members of staff may visit the library area provided that they have advised the Housemaster in advance).

Trips and Visits Off-Site

The Dorset House staff in charge of trips and visits will monitor closely the behaviour and actions of the staff of another organisation visited during the course of a trip. At all times during the trip, the pupils must be under the supervision of Dorset House staff. Where appropriate, to ensure care for and safety of our pupils, we request confirmation in advance that staff from the other organisation have been vetted for suitability.

Confidentiality

Staff members should never give absolute guarantees of confidentiality to pupils or adults wishing to tell them about something serious. They should guarantee only that they will pass on information to the minimum number of people who must be told in order to ensure that the proper action is taken to sort out the problem and that they will not tell anyone who does not have a clear need to know. They will also take whatever steps they can to protect the informing pupil or adult from any retaliation or unnecessary stress that might be feared after a disclosure has been made.

Whistleblowing

The school's policy on Whistleblowing is set out in the Staff Handbook. In accordance with Lord Nolan's Second Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, the school's policy on whistleblowing is intended to demonstrate that the school :

- Will not tolerate malpractice;
- Respects the confidentiality of staff raising concerns and will provide procedures to maintain confidentiality so far as is consistent with progressing the issues effectively;
- Will provide the opportunity to raise concerns outside of the normal line management structure where this is appropriate;
- Will invoke the School's disciplinary policy and procedure in the case of false, malicious, vexatious or frivolous allegations; and
- Will provide a clear and simple procedure for raising concerns, which is accessible to all members of staff.

The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 or help@nspcc.org.uk