



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**



Nottinghamshire
Safeguarding
Children Partnership



Whole School Child Protection Policy

September 2024/2025

INTRODUCTION

Policy statement and principles

All staff at Edgewood Primary School are committed to keeping children safe, happy and well as the most important role of our work.

We have a clear system with respect to designated safeguarding leads to ensure there is always someone available to deal with concerns in person and/or via phone. We use electronic systems to ensure that information can be shared securely, easily and effectively and never lost or misplaced.

The guidance and policies we provide for all involved with Edgewood Primary School ensure that actions are taken in a timely manner. The strong working relationship of the Head and other DSLs with outside agencies ensures that our concerns are taken seriously when expressed and the school is held in good standing with members of those agencies which allows the most effective ways of working to safeguard our pupils.

Please see the table on the next page for details of safeguarding staff and their responsibilities.

This policy sits alongside a number of other policies including but not limited to: Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct), safer recruitment policy, allegations against staff, complaints, pupil behaviour, child on child abuse, children missing education and online safety.

This Child Protection Policy will be reviewed by the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead on a regular basis to ensure it remains current and incorporates all revisions made to local or national safeguarding guidance. This policy will as a minimum be fully reviewed as a minimum once a year during the autumn term provided to the Governing Body for approval and sign off at the first autumn term meeting.

Date of last review: September 2024

Date of next review: September 2025

Role	Name	Contact Details
Headteacher	Ed Seeley	All school staff and governors are contactable via the school number (0115 9561337) and by asking for them by name. Queries can also be emailed to the Snr. Designated Safeguarding lead directly at head@edgewood.notts.sch.uk for all other staff please email the office@edgewood.notts.sch.uk email address and in the subject line mark the email as confidential and for the attention of the appropriate member of staff.
Senior Leader(s) available for contact in the absence of the DSLs	Matt Curtis Donna Bradley Simone Trenowden Cat Hislop Nikki Cross	
Designated Governor for Child Protection/ Safeguarding	Jessie Wheeler	
Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ed Seeley	
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Claire Holmes Zenna Craske	
Names of additional Safeguarding Officers	Matt Curtis	
LA Safeguarding Children in Education Officer	Cheryl Stollery	
LA Child Protection Contact/LADO	Eva Callaghan or covering LADO	0115 8041272
MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub)		0300 500 80 90
MASH Consultation Line	Office hours	0115 9774247
Emergency Duty Team (Children's Social care)	Outside of office hours	0300 456 4546
Police (to report a crime and immediate risk of harm or abuse to child)	101	999 (In an emergency only)
NSPCC help/whistleblowing line	Line is available 8.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Friday	0800 028 0285- email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school and takes into account statutory guidance provided by the Department for Education and local guidance issued by the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

We will ensure that all parents/carers are made aware of our responsibilities regarding child protection procedures and how we will safeguard and promote the welfare of their children through the publication of this school child protection policy.

These duties and responsibilities, as set out within the Education Act 2002 sec175 and 157, DfE Statutory Guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 and HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (updated February 2024) are incorporated into this policy.

Child Protection and Safeguarding Statement

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We will endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We will be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection, and justice.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff, supply staff, volunteers, and governors and are consistent with those of Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP).

Maintaining a child centred and coordinated approach to safeguarding:

Everyone who works at our school understands they are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children and accepts safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all our staff, including supply staff and volunteers will ensure their approach is child-centred and will be supported to consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

We recognise no single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information, and taking prompt action.

Safeguarding children is defined as: The actions we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm are everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

NB Definition: Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

Whole school approach to safeguarding:

- We understand the importance every member of our staff has through their contact with children in and outside of our school environment and the particular importance of the roles and relationships they have which places them in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for children and promote children's welfare and prevent concerns from escalating.
- As a school we have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.
- We will make every effort to identify children who may benefit from early help and put in place support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life.
- **Any staff member** who has **any** concerns about a child's welfare should follow the processes set out in this child protection policy and raise concerns with the designated safeguarding lead or deputy without delay.
- All our staff should expect to support social workers and other agencies following any referral, especially if they were involved in being alert to or receiving a disclosure of risk, harm or abuse or harassment from a child.
- Our senior designated safeguarding lead will provide support to staff to carry out their safeguarding duties and who will liaise closely with other services such as children's social care, police, early help, and health where required, as the designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) are most likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and be the most appropriate person to advise on the response to safeguarding concerns.

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It also relates to the broader aspects of care and education including:

- Pupils' health and safety and emotional well-being, and their mental and physical health or development.
- Meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The use of reasonable force.

- Meeting the needs of children with medical conditions.
- Providing first aid.
- Educational visits and off- site education.
- Intimate care and emotional wellbeing.
- On-line safety and associated issues.
- Appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the local context.
- Keeping children safe from risks, harm, exploitation and sexual violence and sexual harassment between children: KCSI E 2024 Annex A.

Safeguarding can involve a range of potential issues such as:

- Neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.
- Contextualised also known as extra-familial abuse.
- Bullying, including online bullying (by text message, on social networking sites, and prejudice-based bullying).
- The approach to online safety, including appropriate filtering and monitoring on school devices and school networks for home use.
- Going frequently missing and who are 'absent from education' going 'missing from care or home' and the risks this poses on repeat occasions and for prolonged periods.
- Domestic Abuse including teenage relationship abuse.
- Racist, disability- based, homophobic, bi-phobic, or transphobic abuse.
- Gender based violence/violence against women and girls.
- Risk of extremist behaviour and/or radicalisation and susceptible to being at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, modern slavery, sexual or criminal exploitation.
- A young carer.
- Has a mental health need and has an effect on school attendance and progress.
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)).
- Privately fostered.

- Has returned home to their family from care.
- Has a family member in prison or is affected by parental offending.
- Child-on-Child Abuse (to include children abusing other children, other varying form of bullying including online and sexually harmful behaviour, sexual violence, and sexual harassment (further defined in KCSiE 2024 Part Five).
- Harm outside the home extra familial harm.
- The impact of new technologies, including 'sexting' and accessing pornography.
- Issues which may be specific to a local area or population, is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang activity or involvement and associations with organised crime groups or county lines.
- In possession of a knife and or involved in knife crime, youth violence, criminal child exploitation (CCE).
- Is in family circumstances which present challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse/harm.
- Is at risk of or from serious violence and violent crime.
- Persistent absence from education, including persistent absence for part of the school day.
- At risk of suspension or permanent exclusion
- Particular issues affecting children including domestic abuse and violence, female genital mutilation and honour-based abuse and forced marriage.
- Being subject to any conduct where the purpose is to cause a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday, even if violence, threats, or another form of coercion are not used. As with the existing forced marriage law, this applies to non-binding, unofficial 'marriages' as well as legal marriages (Law change on Forced Marriage, February 2023).
- 'Upskirting'- The Voyeurism (Offences) Act, which is commonly known as Up-skirting Act, came into force on 12 April 2019. Upskirting is a criminal offence and reportable by all teachers (KCSiE Annex A).

All our staff and volunteers are aware of the indicators of abuse and neglect and know what to look for is vital for the early identification so that support can be put in place. Our staff and volunteers are also aware of the specific safeguarding issues that indicate or inform of concerns or incidents linked to child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation and know to report concerns directly to the designated safeguarding or a member of the senior leadership team should the

designated safeguarding lead not be available for children who may be in need of help or protection.

Our staff recognise that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. Children may also feel embarrassed, humiliated, or could be being threatened not to tell, so not feel able to share what is happening to them. Alternatively, we recognise children may not want to make a disclosure or talk about what is happening due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. This should not prevent staff from having a professional curiosity and speaking to the DSL if they have concerns about a child and agree a way forward to support the child and determine how best to build trusted relationships with children and young people which facilitate good opportunities for communication.

All staff should **always** speak to the designated safeguarding lead, or deputy at the earliest opportunity.

All our staff are aware that abuse, neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events and cannot be covered by one definition or one label alone. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another, therefore all staff should always be vigilant and always raise any concerns with the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy).

All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school which can occur between children outside of our school environment.

All our staff have received information and training regarding the risks that can take place outside their families. This is known as extra-familial harm and these can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, sexual abuse, serious youth violence and county lines.

Our staff are aware that technology offers many opportunities but is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Children are at risk of abuse online as well as face to face. Children can also abuse their peers online, this can take the form of abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who do not want to receive such content.

All our staff have 'an understanding of the expectations, applicable to their roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring' of ICT systems and regular monitoring of school's equipment and networks.

Our school approach to online safety, including appropriate filtering and monitoring on school devices and school networks is reflected in this Child Protection Policy including awareness of the ease of access to mobile phone networks. (See KCSiE 2024 Paragraphs 12,102,123 and 133 to 146).

Our Snr DSL and the DSL team has the lead responsibility in this area, which is overseen and regularly reviewed by the governing body, along with considering the number of and age range of their children, those who are potentially at greater risk of harm, and how often they access the IT system along with the proportionality of costs versus safeguarding risks.

Our governing body will ensure they maintain oversight of the Online Safety Policy contained within our main child protection policy, and the arrangements put in place to ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring on school devices and school network. The appropriateness of any filtering and monitoring systems will in part be informed by the risk assessment required by the Prevent Duty as required by KCSiE 2024 paragraph 145 to 146.

This will include:

- identify and assign roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems.
- review filtering and monitoring provision at least annually.
- block harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- have effective monitoring strategies in place that meet the school/ colleges safeguarding need.
- review and discuss the standards with the leadership team, IT staff and service providers to ensure the school/college meets the standard published by the [Department for Education filtering and monitoring standards](#).

Our school manages the new filtering and monitoring requirements put in place by KCSiE 2023 (paragraphs 124, 138, 141 and 142) with advice and support from our IT specialist Atom IT and using the Securly filtering and reporting system which emails if there are any blocked searches on the school system.

Our online safety policy is available on the school website.

Our Governing body will ensure a review is maintained to ensure the standards and discuss with IT staff and service providers these standards and whether more needs to be done to support our school in meeting and maintaining this standard and communicating these to staff, our pupils, parents, carers and visitors to the school who provide teaching to children as part of the learning and educational opportunities we provide.

Our Senior DSL and the DSL team will always act in the 'best interest of the child' and remain mindful of the importance with parents and carers about safeguarding concerns held for children and in particular children's access to online sites when away from school.

We will support understanding of harmful online challenges and hoaxes and share information with parents and carers and where they can get help and support.

All forms of abuse or harassment will be reported in accordance with national safeguarding guidance, and we will take a 'zero tolerance' approach to harassment and abuse as informed by the DfE's KCSiE statutory guidance.

As a school, should an incident or disclosure be made by a child our staff will always reassure the child (victim) that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe, but we recognise that not every victim will view themselves as such. We will also be mindful of the use of other terminology such as '**alleged perpetrator(s)**' or '**perpetrator(s)**' as in some cases the abusive behaviour will have been harmful to the perpetrator as well.

We will do our best to ensure children understand the law on child-on-child abuse is there to protect them rather than criminalise them. In doing this we will discuss with relevant statutory safeguarding agencies to ensure all concerns or incidents are addressed fully, and where required different types of assessment and services are put in place where required and in accordance with the Nottinghamshire County Council and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Pathway to Provision (threshold guidance for referral and access to services).

Identifying Concerns

All members of staff, volunteers and governors will know how to identify pupils who may be being harmed and then how to respond to a pupil who discloses abuse, or where others raise concerns about them. Our staff will be familiar with procedures to be followed and an abridged version is detailed in our Staff Handbook and Supply Handbooks which are issued to all staff and supply agencies for their staff.

Staff understand that abuse, neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition, and that in most cases multiple issues will overlap with each other. Staff who regularly come into contact with children are aware of the DfE guidance [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused](#)

All our staff and volunteers have received safeguarding training to ensure they are able to recognise the indicators of child abuse, harm, or neglect, and will always speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy should they become alert or be informed (directly or indirectly) of an incident or concern.

The four categories of child abuse are as follows:

1. **Physical Abuse**
2. **Emotional Abuse**
3. **Sexual Abuse**
4. **Neglect**

Indicators of abuse and neglect

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

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 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 expectation being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as over protection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbations, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children to look at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue (also known as child-on-child abuse) in education and **all** staff should be aware of it and of their school or colleges policy and procedures for dealing with it.

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

Safeguarding issues: All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and or alcohol misuse, deliberately missing education and consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos can be signs that children are at risk.

The school is a member of the National Online Safety organisation to ensure staff can access training to remain up to date. This also allows parents and governors to enrol and access support for parents and children to remain free from risk, exploitation, radicalisation or grooming.

We have put in place an open and positive culture for safeguarding which is embedded into the way everyone works together, is effective in sharing information in a timely manner and meets local thresholds with safeguarding partners, to ensure what is 'best to keep the child/children safe. It

includes an environment where everyone feels safe, well cared for, and knows they will be listened to and provided with help and support.

Our school ethos demonstrates that the effective safeguarding of children can only be achieved by putting children at the centre of a system where we listen and hear what they say. Every individual within our school will play their part, including working with professionals from other agencies, particularly social workers, to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children and keep them safe. We will take opportunities to teach children about important safeguarding issues in a way that is age appropriate.

We put children at the centre of our 'safeguarding arrangements' and listen to and hear the child's voice by using well-established pastoral team and support so they can share in a safe space with experienced staff.

Our school is led by senior members of staff and governors whose aims are to provide a safe environment and vigilant culture where children and young people can learn and be safeguarded. If there are safeguarding concerns, we will respond with appropriate action in a timely manner for those children who may need help or who may be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

Where staff members have concerns about a child (as opposed to a child being in immediate danger) they will decide what action to take in conjunction with the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead. Although we advocate that any staff member can make a referral to children's social care or MASH, especially where a child is identified as being in immediate danger, they should however ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or a member of the senior leadership team is informed as soon as possible.

We also ensure that all our staff are clear that whilst they should discuss and agree with the DSL any actions to be taken, they are able to escalate their concerns and contact MASH, MASH Consultation Line or social care to seek support for the child if despite the discussion with the DSL their concerns remain. Staff are also informed of the school's whistle blowing procedures and the contact details for the Local Authority LADO and NSPCC helpline.

Our school works with other agencies including statutory safeguarding partners to support vulnerable children. We have regular contact with social care and social workers, when required. We pursue contact when it is not returned and do not let this slide. If requested, we hold meetings in school and access multi-agency training. We also offer to facilitate meetings for individual children and families in school to support easier local access and involvement by children, parents and or carers.

Where a school places a pupil with an alternative provision provider, the school continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil and should be satisfied that the provider can meet the needs of the pupil.

Children who attend alternative education often have complex needs, it is important governing bodies and designated safeguarding leads ensure children are fully supported at all times, and the alternative setting is aware of any additional risks of harm that pupils may be vulnerable to. Information sharing for pupils who receive education provision outside of a mainstream setting is vital to support the child and ensure the learning environment where they are placed has all necessary information for the child before they access the provision. The working together principles are key to keep the child safe and understanding the vulnerabilities needing to be supported. This should include up to date contact details for the professionals working with the child and family.

Schools should also obtain written confirmation from the alternative provision provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been conducted on individuals working at the establishment, i.e., those checks that the school would otherwise perform in respect of its own staff.

No children at our school are on full time AP timetables and, where AP is used, regular meetings are held with the AP provider to gain updates and ensure their provision is effective, safe and purposeful. The school does not wish for AP arrangements to ever be permanent for a child and works to reduce the hours and ensure the child either returns to a mainstream setting or, through the EHCP process, is placed in a setting that better meets their need.

The Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or DSL members, who are familiar with national and local guidance, will share concerns, where appropriate, with the relevant agencies.

The Snr DSL and DSL team share concerns following Nottinghamshire's protocols using the MASH and Early Help support systems. We also refer children to SBAP and SEND sources of support if appropriate (especially for SEMH reasons). If we have concerns we escalate them within the framework or contact Group Managers or Service Leads if our complaints and concerns are not responded to.

Our school will follow the same processes and have the same safeguarding responsibilities when receiving an allegation related to an incident that happened when an individual or organisation was using the school premises for the purpose of running activities for children (e.g., community groups, sports associations, or service providers that run extra-curricular activities). As with any safeguarding allegation, the school will follow the safeguarding policies and procedures, including informing the LADO.

Annual training is conducted and a staff handbook is issued to all staff and supply staff to ensure staff and supply staff receive appropriate safeguarding information during inductions and on a regular basis. Volunteers are asked to report any concerns to any member of staff who can support them in logging concerns. The DSLs monitor red flags from all staff and give training if there are issued with referrals or they are not being done by a member of staff.

We ensure the safe recruitment of all staff by having all governors and senior leaders trained in safer recruitment and we maintain ongoing vigilance (see KCSiE 2023 paragraph 343) by raising these issues through training and regular reminders to ensure a culture which considers matters inside and outside the workplace including online as related and having potential interactions.

The Senior DSL and deputies (DSL team) maintains a key role in raising awareness amongst staff about the needs of children who have or who have had a social worker and the barriers that those children might experience in respect of attendance, engagement and achievement at schools or college.

The Senior DSL along with the Designated Teacher can inform the Governing body and Headteacher the number of children in their cohort who have or who have had a social worker and appropriate information is shared with teachers and staff on individual children's circumstances

The Designated Teacher and Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead maintain data for children who have looked after status and for children who have been involved in the care system.

The Senior DSL and deputies (DSL team) maintains a key role in raising awareness amongst staff about the needs of children who have or who have had a social worker and the barriers that those children might experience in respect of attendance, engagement and achievement at schools or college.

The Senior DSL along with the Designated Teacher can inform the Governing body and Headteacher the number of children in their cohort who have or who have had a social worker and appropriate information is shared with teachers and staff on individual children's circumstances.

The Designated Teacher and Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead maintain data for children who have looked after status and for children who have been involved in the care system.

The Designated Teacher maintains working links with the Virtual School Head to promote the educational achievement of looked after children and those who have been previously looked after children. The virtual school head collaborates with us to identify and engage other key professionals, such as social workers, headteachers, governors, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators, mental health leads, other local authority officers to help improve outcomes for children.

Our Child Protection Policy

There are eight main elements to our policy:

- Providing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.
- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse in and outside of school.
- Supporting pupils who have social care involvement in accordance with his/her child in need plan, child protection plan or are subject to Local Authority Care.
- Raising awareness of safeguarding children, child protection processes and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe in and outside of school.
- Recognising early help is the best way to support children and by providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life.
- Working in partnership with agencies and safeguarding partners in the 'best interest of the child'.
- Ensuring we have appropriate policies and procedures to deal with child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment (included within this policy) and maintain the required filtering and monitoring arrangements for online safety and harms.

We recognise that because of the day-to-day contact our school staff have with children they and we are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse and report concerns in a timely manner to seek help or interventions and support the child/ children..

The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to and heard.
- Ensure children know that there are trusted adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried.
- Ensure that every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers, and colleagues from other agencies.
- Include opportunities in the RSHE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse by:
 - Recognising and managing risks including online safety, radicalisation and extremism, sexual exploitation, child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment,

the sharing of nude and semi -nude images which has replaced what was termed as sexting.

- Support the development of healthy relationships and awareness of domestic violence and abuse, recognising that Domestic Abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may involve a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm and children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn.
 - Recognising how pressure from others and safeguarding vulnerabilities can affect their behaviour.
- Recognising the link between mental health, school attendance and children 'absent from education' and the impact on learning, progress, and educational attainment.
 - Knowing that, as a school, we will act swiftly to address any concerns related to serious violence, gang and knife crime or child on child sexual violence or sexual harassment incidents.
 - Ensuring our behaviour policy includes measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, harmful online challenges, hoaxes, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying and use of social media platforms and networks. (See Behaviour Policy).
 - Maintain an on-line safety policy which address statutory filtering and monitoring standards, which take into account remote learning, and use of mobile and smart technology and is reviewed regularly to take into account any new threats.
 - Work in partnership with safeguarding agencies to address any 'harm outside the home' also known as 'extra familial harm' and create a culture where children and young people can share concerns and seek support in a safe place and where children and young people can form safe and trusted relationships. Where children and young people can feel assured, they will be listened to, heard, and offered support to enable them share sensitive information and strengthen their resilience.
 - We acknowledge the importance of working together with parents, carers, and external services to form strong and trusted partnerships, which can advocate trauma informed and trauma aware responses,

- We will help create and maintain safe places and spaces within the community, so children and young people know how to access a place of safety outside of the school/college environment if needed.
- We will take all reasonable measures to ensure any risk of harm to children's welfare is minimised inside and outside of the school environment.
- Take all appropriate actions to address concerns about the welfare of a child, working to local policies and procedures in full working partnership with agencies.
- Ensure robust child protection arrangements are in place and embedded in the daily life and practice of the school.
- Promote pupil health and safety.
- Promote safe practice, and challenge unsafe practice.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to deal with allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff including volunteers, supply staff and contractors. KCSiE Part Four has two sections, the second section addresses low-level concerns.
- Provide first aid and meet the health needs of children with medical conditions
- Ensure school site security.
- Address drugs and substance misuse issues.
- Support and plan for young people in custody and their resettlement back into the community.
- Work with all agencies regarding missing children, anti-social behaviour/gang activity and violence in the community/knife crime and children at risk of sexual exploitation.
- Everyone having a duty to safeguard children inside/outside the school environment including school trips, extended school activities, vocational placements, and alternative education packages.

Additionally we have the following arrangements in place to keep children safe in specific circumstances including:

Children who receive off-site education or have alternative learning experiences are protected in a number of ways. The school will perform a site visit before any child is placed in any off-site education to ensure the site is safe, appropriate and will meet the child's needs. Assurances that appropriate checks have been carried out and continue to be managed are sought in advance of any placement. The school will only use providers that are registered with Ofsted and on Nottinghamshire Las list of AP providers. We meet regularly with providers to review provision and

ask them to attend any child protection meetings so they are fully involved with the care and protection of any children at risk.

Our staff support children with mental health problems in the class through their teaching and care and access our pastoral team to provide additional support when and where required. Staff identify the indicators that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect, or exploitation using the training they have accessed and information provided in this policy and others. Our Behaviour Lead is also the Mental Health Lead. (See KCSiE 2023 Mental Health paragraphs).

Children who may be LGBT can speak in confidence to any adult within school they feel comfortable with (usually this would be to their class teacher or the pastoral team). If they wish, they can choose a trusted adult who they can be open with on an ongoing basis. KCSiE 24 Paragraphs 205 to 209 informs statutory guidance for 'Children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or gender questioning is under review, pending the outcome of the gender questioning children guidance consultation, and final gender questioning guidance documents being published.

Until then we will follow the guidance from KCSiE 2023 which acknowledges that children who are LGBT may be targeted and informs that homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are not phobias, they are not fears; they are forms of discrimination of or hate towards LGBT people or those perceived to be LGBT and will not be tolerated and dealt with like any form of discrimination, poor behaviour or bullying in line with our behaviour policy.

Child abduction and community safety incidents – Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends, and acquaintances); and by strangers. (KCSiE 2024 Annex B (page 149).

Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation.

Our school operates the NCC & NSCP School Safe Alert protocol and has good links with other local schools to share concerns amongst senior leaders via email quickly and effectively.

As children get older and are granted more independence (for example, as they start walking to school on their own) we give them practical advice on how to keep themselves safe by providing outdoor safety lessons within PSHE and with additional sessions such as bike ability and road safety to help children build confidence and abilities to protect themselves or know how and where they can seek help and support.

We will follow the procedures set out by the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and take account of guidance issued by the DfE in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 to:

- Ensure we have a Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), who is a member of the school leadership team, and Deputy Safeguarding Leads for child protection/safeguarding who have received appropriate training and support for this role.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead role is written into their job description and clarifies the role and responsibilities included (as defined in KCSiE 2024 Annex C).
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection/safeguarding.
- Ensure that we have a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (LAC).
- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary, supply staff and volunteers) and the governing body knows the name of the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead, their deputies responsible for child protection, and their role.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and their responsibility for referring any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or to children's social care/police if a child is in immediate danger.
- Ensure that there is a whistleblowing policy and culture where staff can raise concerns about unsafe practice, and that these concerns will be taken seriously.
- Ensure that there is a complaints system in place for children and families.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection and safeguarding by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus and/or on the school's website.
- Notify Children's Social Care if there is an unexplained absence for a child who is subject to a child protection plan and where no contact can be established with the child or a parent or appropriate adult linked to the child.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and cooperate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters, including attendance at child protection conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately; documenting and collating information on individual children to support early identification, referral, and actions to safeguard.
- Ensure all records are kept securely using an electronic management and recording system.

- Ensure that we follow robust processes to respond when children are missing from education or missing from home or care.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- Apply confidentiality appropriately.
- Apply the NSCP escalation procedures if there are any concerns about the actions or inaction of social care staff or staff from other agencies.

Supporting children

We recognise that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or being threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. We recognise that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a positive sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation, and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure, and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. This should not prevent staff from having a professional curiosity and speaking to the DSL if they have concerns about a child. It is also important that staff determine how best to build trusted relationships with children and young people which facilitate communication. We also recognise that there are children who are more vulnerable than others, which include children with special educational needs and or disabilities.

All staff including volunteers are advised to maintain the attitude of **'it could happen here'** where safeguarding is a concern, and when concerned about the welfare of the child should always act in the **best** interests of the child.

Our school will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- Developing the content of the curriculum to provide a context rich learning experience which then helps them have conversations with their peers and build better peer-to-peer support networks.
- Maintaining a school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive, and secure environment, and which gives pupils a sense of them being valued.
- The school behaviour policy, anti-bullying policy and child-on-child abuse policy which is kept up to date with national and local guidance and which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in our school.
- Our school will proactively ensure that all children know that some behaviours are unacceptable and will need to be addressed but as members of our school they are valued and will be supported through the time required to deal with any abuse or harm that has occurred, or outcomes from incidents. Our behaviour policy details our responses and support can be provided by our pastoral team when required.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as Children's Social Care (in line with the Pathway to Provision Version 9.1, published in May 2021), Behaviour and Attendance Service and Education Psychology Service, use of Complex Case Resolution Meetings and the Early Help Assessment Form (EHAF).

- Ensuring that, where a pupil leaves and is subject to a child protection plan, child in need plan or where there have been wider safeguarding concerns, their information is transferred to the new school immediately or within **5 working days** and that the child's social worker is informed.
- Ensuring that the vulnerability of children with special educational needs and or disabilities is recognised and fully supported by the school and pastoral and SEND staff.
- Where a child discloses a concern or informs of an incident that has involved them in an incident involving sexual violence and or sexual harassment the staff member will ensure the child (victim) is taken seriously, kept safe and never be made to feel like they are creating a problem for reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. The KS leader and designated safeguarding leads will be informed immediately, and actions taken in accordance with the school peer on peer/ sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in school and college policy.

Children and staff are encouraged to seek support and advice from any DSL whenever required and both groups regularly do.

DSLs support each other and seek advice from MASH advice line or school's liaison officer as required.

Safe Staff and Safe Recruitment

- The leadership team and governing body of the school will ensure that all safer working practices and recruitment procedures are followed in accordance with the guidance set out in KCSiE 2024 Part Three and advised by NCC HR policy and practice guidance.
- School leaders, staff and members of the governing body will be appropriately trained in safer working practices and access the safer recruitment training advised by NCC HR Service. (NCC direct schools to the NSPCC Safe Recruitment online course).
- Statutory pre-employment checks and references from previous employers are an essential part of the recruitment process. We will ensure we adopt the appropriate necessary procedures to carry out the checks required and where any concerns arise, we will seek advice and act in accordance with national guidance.
- The school has in place recruitment, selection, and vetting procedures in accordance with KCSiE 2024 Part Three and maintains a Single Central Record (SCR), which is reviewed regularly and updated in accordance with KCSiE 2024 Part Three.
- Staff will have access to advice on the boundaries of appropriate behaviour and will be aware of the School Employee Code of Conduct, which includes contact between staff and pupils outside the work context. Concerns regarding low-level concerns will be included in

our Code of Conduct from 1 September 2023 in line with KCSiE Part Four Section two. Staff can access a copy of this through the school's SharePoint>Policies

- Newly appointed staff and volunteers will be informed of our arrangements for safer working practices by a member of the school's SLT before beginning working and contact with pupils.
- Supply staff agencies are issued with a copy of our Supply Staff handbook which they are required to read before working here.
- Contractors and visitors must sign in through Inventory and guidance around reporting concerns to any members of staff is part of that sign in process.
- In the event of any complaint or allegation against a member of staff, the headteacher (or the Designated Safeguarding Lead if the headteacher is not present), will be notified immediately. If it relates to the headteacher, the chair of governors will be informed without delay. We will respond to all allegations robustly and appropriately in collaboration with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), LADO Allegation Officers and HR Business Partner or HR Service.
- Staff may find some of the issues relating to child protection and the broader areas of safeguarding upsetting and may need support which should be provided by the school and their Human Resources Team or they can access rapid and confidential support through our SAS counselling service.
- In addition to the above, advice and support will be made available by the Safeguarding Children in Education Officer (SCiEO), LADO and NCC HR where appropriate to the leadership team.
- The DSLs access half termly supervision-style sessions with an independent counsellor.
- Advice around online safety is available to staff through our partnership with National Online Safety.
- All new employees will be appropriately inducted to their role and a link to the [Induction Checklist for Safer Recruitment](#) can be accessed from HR's guidance section of the School Portal.
- Where the school places a pupil with an alternative provision provider, the school continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil and should be satisfied that the provider meets the needs of the pupil and we obtain written confirmation from the alternative provision provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been conducted on individuals working at the establishment and conduct a site visit in advance of a pupil starting there to satisfy ourselves that the child will be safe and have their needs met. We regularly meet with

the AP provider and ensure they are invited to all CP meetings to ensure this safety is maintained and they can safeguard the child.

Links to other Local Authority policies

This policy, together with the following, should be read alongside and in conjunction with other policies and statutory guidance regarding the safety and welfare of children. These together will make up the suite of policies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in this school

- Accessibility Plan.
- Anti-Bullying revised for 2024-2025 (LA template policy in the process of being revised).
- Attendance Policy.
- Behaviour Policy (Including use of force, weapons
- Equality.
- Central Record of Recruitment and Vetting Checks.
- Parental Concerns and Complaints' Procedure.
- E-Safety Policy
- Acceptable Behaviour of Adults Policy
- Freedom of Information.
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Guidance
- Radicalisation – Prevent Duty action plan
- Health and Safety Disability Equality Action Plan.
- Child on Child Abuse
- Register of Pupil Attendance.
- Knife Crime Guidance 2022 (cross authority and in the process of being revised for September 2023).
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education (KCSiE paragraph 131).
- Mental and Physical Health (KCSiE 2023 Part One, Part Two and Annex A and paragraphs 165, 171 to 187).
- Special Educational Needs.
- Staff Behaviour (Code of Conduct policy).
- Staff Discipline Conduct and Grievance (procedures for addressing).
- School information published on a website.
- Visitors and VIP Guidance 2023-24.

- Whistle Blowing Policy.
- Guidance for NSPCC helpline and usage (KCSiE 2023 paragraph 466; when to call the police guidance from the NSPCC).
- NCC & NSCP Neglect Toolkit (available from the NSCP website).

Any disclosures or incidents involving sexual violence and child sexual harassment here will be recorded in line with this policy and dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy and/or anti/bullying policy. Any actual or suspected criminal act will be reported to police.

Nottinghamshire safeguarding Children Partnership Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance link:
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp/policy-procedures-and-guidance>

Roles and Responsibilities

All staff and volunteers

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone in our school who comes into contact with children and their families have a role to play in safeguarding children. All staff in our school consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of children.

All staff have received appropriate safeguarding training to enable them to identify concerns early and provide help to children to prevent concerns from escalating. We recognise early help is the best way to support children and by providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life.

We may decide that the children do not require referral to statutory services but may benefit from early help.

Early Help: is support for children of all ages that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse. We recognise providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.

All school and college staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs.
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan).
- has a mental health need.
- is a young carer.
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines.
- is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home, or care,
- has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from schools, colleges and in Alternative Provision or a Pupil Referral Unit.
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual and/or criminal exploitation.
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited.
- has a parent or carer in custody or is affected by parental offending.
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse.
- is misusing alcohol and other drugs themselves.

- is at risk of so-called 'honour'-based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage.
- is a privately fostered child.
(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and KCSiE paragraph 497)

All staff have roles clearly set out in keeping children safe however:

- Class teachers especially have responsibility due to their ongoing roles with children in their classes where they can see long term changes as well as immediate concerns.
- Teaching assistants especially have responsibility due to their ongoing roles with children in their groups where they have more focused interactions more regularly than class teachers might and can see long term changes as well as immediate concerns.
- Midday supervisors are especially important as they see children at more unstructured times, especially with regard to child-on-child abuse and bullying.
- Office staff again may see children in unstructured times and their interactions with parents may lead to concerns that might form part of domestic abuse.
- Site staff, due to the hours they work and being outside the school building as part of their role, have a particular role in seeing and reporting harm outside the home.
- All senior leaders have a clear responsibility to make sure staff are following processes and supporting them in the execution of their duties.

All staff within our school are important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help to children to prevent concerns from escalating.

Staff contribute to enabling a safe environment both in and when out of schools on trips or extended learning opportunities by ensuring school policies continue to be enforced and ensure children feel safe and secure at all times.

All our staff are aware of the early help process and understand their role in this.

- This includes being able to identify emerging problems to recognise children who may benefit from early help.
- Staff know in the first instance to discuss their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and understand they may be required to support other agencies and professionals in assessments for early help.

We employ pastoral staff who are part of our DSL team who work outside of the classroom and who lead the engagement with children, families and partner agencies.

If parents/ carers wish to seek support or advice they should contact school in any way and will be directed at first to the pastoral team or their child's class teacher as appropriate. We include information on this for new starters and also send out information from National Online Safety to support parents with online safety and other resources such as NottAlone.

School clearly understands the importance of children and social workers meeting during the school day where required and the DSLs closely liaise with and, where required chase up, social care and safeguarding partners to ensure children subject to child protection, child in need and LAC plans are kept safe, and the child's needs are met.

Safeguarding Training

All our staff are aware of systems within our school and these are explained to them as part of staff induction and in each annual edition of our staff handbook, which include our child protection policy; the employee code of conduct and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024.

Our school utilises an induction checklist when staff are inducted which includes the above, but also other policy and procedural information.

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

NCSP and National College provide our training and staff are kept up to date with any local or national changes to safeguarding guidance via emails or items in staff meetings or briefings as required.

All our staff are aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 and understand the role they may have in these assessments as part of regular training. Opportunities, including any partnership work especially with social care and the local arrangements put in place by Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) are shared with staff and DSLs will support with accessing the NSCP website.

All our staff know what to do if a child is raising concerns or makes a disclosure of abuse and/or neglect. Staff will maintain a level of confidentiality whilst liaising with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and children's social care. Our staff will never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a disclosure or allegation, recognising this may not be in the best interest of the child.

Staff responsibilities

All staff have a key role to play in identifying concerns and provide early help for children.

To achieve this, they will:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or have concerns.
- Plan opportunities within the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to assess and manage risk appropriately and keep themselves safe.
- Lead and ensure robust arrangements and procedures are in place to effectively manage and regularly monitor the school online safety, and specifically appropriate filtering and monitoring on school devices and school networks which are reflected in this Child Protection Policy, including awareness of ease of access to mobile phone networks. In agreement with the Governing body.
- Attend training in order to be aware of and alert to the signs of abuse.
- Maintain an attitude of "it could happen here" with regards to safeguarding.
- Record their concerns if they are worried that a child is being abused and report these to the DSL as soon as practical that day. If the DSL is not contactable immediately a Deputy DSL should be informed.
- Be prepared to refer directly to social care, and the police if appropriate, if there is a risk of significant harm and the DSL or their Deputy is not available.
- Follow the allegations procedures if the disclosure is an allegation against a member of staff.
- Support pupils in line with their child protection plan, child in need plan, LAC Care Plan.
- Treat information with confidentiality but never promising to "keep a secret".
- Notify the DSL or their Deputy of any child on a child protection plan or child in need plan who has unexplained absence.
- Be prepared to identify and support children who may benefit from early help, support, and interventions.
- Ensure they know who the DSL and Deputy DSLs are and know how to contact them.
- Have an awareness of the Child Protection Policy, the Behaviour Policy, the Staff Behaviour Policy (or Code of Conduct), procedures relating to the safeguarding response for children who go missing from education and the role of the DSL.

Senior Leadership/Management Team responsibilities:

- Contribute to inter-agency working in line with HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (Updated February 2024) guidance.
- Provide a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified.
- Ensure all staff, supply staff and volunteers are alert to the definitions of abuse and indicators, and through access to regular training opportunities and updates.
- Working with Children's Social Care, support their assessment and planning processes including the school's attendance at conference and core group meetings as appropriate.
- Carry out tasks delegated by the governing body such as training of staff and volunteers, safer recruitment and maintaining of a single central register.
- Provide support and advice on all matters pertaining to safeguarding and child protection to all staff regardless of their position within the school.
- Treat any information shared by staff or pupils with respect and follow agreed policies and procedures.
- Ensure that allegations or concerns against staff including low-level concerns are dealt with in accordance with guidance from Department for Education (DfE KCSiE 2024 Part Four 'Allegations made against/Concerns raised in relation teachers including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors' in Sections One and Two).

Our school makes working with social care and agencies to address safeguarding and child protection concerns one of our highest priorities.

Teachers (including NQTs) and Headteachers – Professional Duty

The Teachers Standards 2012 (updated 13 December 2021) remind us that teachers, newly qualified teachers and headteachers should safeguard children and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of our professional duties.

The Children and Social Work Act of 2017, places responsibilities for Designated Teacher to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship, or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales. As a school we treat these children, and those with (or formally with) a social worker as a distinct vulnerable group needing additional attention and support.

All children are aware of the pastoral team in school and the designated teacher introduces himself to any looked after child that starts at or goes into care at our school so they know who he is.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

We have a Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding children and child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role. The Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead is a senior member of the school leadership team and their responsibilities are explicit in their job description.

We also have two Deputy Safeguarding Leads, who work alongside the SDSL and provide cover for the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead when they are not available and a reserve DSL. Our Deputy Safeguarding Leads have received the same training as our Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead. They will provide additional support to ensure the responsibilities for child protection and safeguarding children are fully embedded within the school ethos and that specific duties are discharged. They will assist the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead in managing referrals, attending child protection conferences, reviews, core group meetings and other meetings of a safeguarding and protection nature to support the child/children.

We acknowledge the need for effective and appropriate communication between all members of staff in relation to safeguarding pupils. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure there is a structured procedure within the school, which will be followed by all of the members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.

The Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead is expected to:

Manage Referrals

- Refer cases of suspected abuse or allegations to the relevant investigating agencies.
- Support staff who make referrals to children's social care and other referral pathways.
- Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child and the DBS as required.
- Ensure arrangements are in place year-round for all staff and volunteers to seek advice, support and inform of safeguarding concerns, or incidents and disclosures that inform children are at risk of harm, or abuse, harm or bullying or sexual harm or harassment has occurred.
- Ensure appropriate systems are in place to manage and address online safety, access to mobile phone networks, especially for those children who are potentially at greater risk of harm, abuse, and exploitation and refer concerns where required linked to the PREVENT duty.
- The DSL team meets on average fortnightly and also shares any relevant information as it happens wherever possible so more than one person at least is aware of what is happening.

- Our pastoral team and class teachers support vulnerable children and those subject to safeguarding concerns.

Work with others

- Consult with the headteacher/principal (where the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead role is not conducted by the headteacher) to inform him/her of any issues and ongoing investigations.
- As required, consult with the 'case manager' (as per Part Four of KCSiE 2024) and the LADO where there are child protection concerns/allegations that relate to a member of staff.
- Consult with the case manager and the LADO/LADO Allegation Officer where there are concerns about a staff member.
- Consult with staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and deciding when to make a referral by liaising with other agencies and acts as a source of support, advice, and expertise for other staff.
- Take part in strategy discussions or attend inter-agency meetings and/or support other staff to do so and to contribute to the assessment of children.
- Consult with the local authority and other agencies in line with HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and the local Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures and practice guidance.
- The headteacher, designated safeguarding leads and governing body are aware of the local arrangements put in place by Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and know how to access the NSCP website and training

The HT has links with agencies such as the NSPCC, TETC team, Police or others through his roles on the Education Trust Board as well as attending DT focus groups when possible.

DSL's feed back information to other staff or help to raise awareness of emerging threats and risks via emails or training sessions as required.

Undertake training

- Formal Designated Safeguarding Lead training will be undertaken every two years. Informal training and updating of knowledge and skills will be at regular intervals, undertaken at least annually.
- The Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for their own training and should obtain access to resources or any relevant refresher training.

- The Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead is also responsible for ensuring all other staff with designated safeguarding responsibilities access up to date and timely safeguarding training and maintains a register or data base to evidence the training.
- Annual staff undergo training from the National College (formerly National Online Safety) and via items emailed or shared in meetings/briefings on how to keep children safe online.

The training undertaken should enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead to:

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention through the NCC & NSCP's Pathway to Provision, the Early Help Service and Family Hubs.
- Have a working knowledge of how the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership operates, the conduct of a child protection conference, and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- Ensure that each member of staff has access to the child protection policy and procedures and any updates or revisions.
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, including those with special educational needs and or disabilities and young carers.
- Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals.
- Understand the Prevent Duty and provide advice and support to staff on protecting and preventing children from the risk of radicalisation and being grooming into extremist behaviours and attitudes (KCSiE 2024 Annex A and B).
- Understand the reporting requirements for FGM and PREVENT.
- Encourage a culture of protecting children, listening to children and their wishes and feelings.

Raise awareness

- Ensure that the child protection policies are known, understood, and used appropriately.
- Ensure that the child protection policy is reviewed annually in consultation with staff members, and procedures are updated and reviewed regularly and implemented, and that the governing body is kept up to date and actively involved.
- Work strategically to ensure policies and procedures are up to date and drive and support development work within the school.
- Ensure that the child protection policy is available to parents and carers and uploaded to the school website and make parents/carers aware that referrals may be made about suspected abuse or neglect.

- Ensure all staff receive induction training covering child protection before working with children and can recognise and report any concerns immediately as they arise.

Child Protection file

- The Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring that when a child leaves the school or college their 'child protection', 'child in need' file or 'confidential' file is transferred to the new school or college at the same time the child goes on roll of its new school or education provision.
- A record of the number of children open and subject to CP, CiN and LAC concerns is maintained and shared with the governing body annually. (Twice yearly in Head teacher's report to governors.)
- A record or data on the cohort of children having or have had a social worker and social care involvement will be maintained.
- Our school will maintain, keep and storing records, where a concern about a child has been identified in accordance with statutory guidance - See 'Records and Monitoring' below for further information.

Availability

- During term time the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a Deputy) will always be available (during school or college hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. In the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Leads a member of the senior leadership team will be nominated to provide cover. Appropriate arrangements will also need to be in place all year round for any out of school hours' activities in line with the guidance contained in DfE KCSiE 2024 Part Two and Annex C.

Headteacher

The Headteacher of the school will ensure that:

- The policies and procedures adopted by the governing body, (particularly those concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect), are understood, and followed by **all** staff.
- The school maintains an up-to-date Single Central Record (SCR) which is reviewed regularly and is compliant with statutory guidance.
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of children.
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice with regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies.

- The Headteacher will ensure all staff including supply teachers and volunteers have access to and read and understand the requirements placed on them through: - Supply Handbook, the school Child Protection Policy; the Staff Code of Conduct Policy.
- The Headteacher will ensure there are mechanisms in place to assist staff to fully understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in KCSiE 2024.
- Where there is an allegation made against a member of staff (either paid or unpaid) that meets the criteria for a referral to the LADO, then the headteacher or principal will discuss the allegation immediately with the LADO (within 24 hours) and ensure that cases are managed as per Part Four: Allegations made against/Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers, and contractors.
- If the allegation is against the Headteacher, then the Chair of the Governing Body will manage the allegation and consult with statutory safeguarding leads, such as the Local Authority LADO – see below – see below.

Governing Body

We recognise our Governing body has a strategic leadership responsibility for our school's safeguarding arrangements and must ensure they comply with their duties under legislation and must have regarding to KCSiE 2024 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2024, ensuring policies, procedures and training in our school are effective and comply with the law.

The governing body will be collectively responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are fully embedded within the school's ethos and reflected in the school's day to day safeguarding practices by:

- Ensuring there is an individual member of the governing body to take leadership responsibility for safeguarding and champion child protection issues in the school.
- Ensuring that the school has effective policies and procedures in line with statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 as well as with local NSCP guidance) and monitors the school's compliance with them.
- Ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to promote a child's welfare.
- Recognising the importance of information sharing between agencies through the statutory guidance provided within KCSiE 2024 regarding Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR and the additional clarification regarding processing personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure (KCSiE paragraph 92).
- Ensuring cooperation with the local authority and other safeguarding partners.

- Appointing a Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead from the leadership team to take lead responsibility for child protection/safeguarding and that a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children is appointed and appropriately trained.
- Ensuring that all staff, supply teachers and governors read and fully understand at least KCSiE 2024 Part One and or Annex A as a minimum and ensure that there are mechanisms in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as required within the guidance.
- Ensuring that the governing body understands it is collectively responsible for the school's safeguarding arrangements, even though a governor will be nominated as the 'Safeguarding Governor' and person who will champion all safeguarding requirements'.
- All members of the governing body will undertake safeguarding training to ensure they have the knowledge and information needed to equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place are effective and support the delivery of robust 'safeguarding arrangements and act as the 'critical friend'. This training must focus on their strategic role and not on operational procedures.
- The Chair of Governors and named Safeguarding Governor will access role specific training to enable them to comply and discharge their child protection/ safeguarding responsibilities including should any allegations be made against the Headteacher/ Principal.
- Ensuring that staff undergo safeguarding child protection training at induction and that there are arrangements in place for staff to be regularly updated to ensure that safeguarding remains a priority.
- Ensuring that temporary staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities
- Ensuring there are procedures in place to manage allegations against staff and exercise disciplinary functions in respect of dealing with a complaint KCSiE 2024, Part Four, Section One.
- Ensuring that arrangements/procedures are in place to manage and provide clarity on the process for sharing 'low level' concerns, which should be referred to within the school Staff Code of Conduct, (Allegations and concerns about a staff member that after initial consideration by the 'case manager' do not meet the criteria for a referral to LADO.)
- Ensuring the chair of governors is able to respond if there is an allegation against the head teacher by liaising with the LADO or other appropriate officers within the local authority.

- Ensuring appropriate responses to children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, or have unexplained or persistent absence from education.
- Ensure an overview is in place to help identify the risk of abuse, including child sexual exploitation and being at risk of exploitation.
- Be aware of the issues involving the complexity of serious violence and sexual violence and sexual harassment between children and ensure the DSL team and SLT has appropriate policy, procedures in place and staff are trained, to recognise and respond to incidents and resources to manage actions and support for those involved.
- Ensure the DSL team and staff are alert and able to respond to harmful online challenges and hoaxes, including providing information and advice to parents and carers and informing where to get help and support.
- The SLT and DSL team works closely with the police and safeguarding partners to raise awareness of the impact of knife crime and adopt proactive practice to address concerns locally and within the community.
- Ensuring appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children online and children are taught about keeping safe online through the curriculum.
- Giving staff the opportunities to contribute and shape the 'safeguarding arrangements' and child protection policy.
- When the school's premises are used for non-school activities the Governing body will seek assurances that the body concerned has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place, and inspect them as needed, including liaising with the Head teacher. This will apply regardless of whether or not children who attend the provision are on the school roll.
- Any safeguarding concerns involving outside organisations will be addressed through our school safeguarding policies and procedures and in line with Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures.
- Prevent people who pose a risk of harm from working with children by adhering to statutory responsibilities to check staff who work with children, making decisions about additional checks and ensuring volunteers are supervised as required.
- Ensure at least one person on an interview panel has completed safer recruitment training.
- Inform any new prospective employees that online social media checks will be completed as part of the interview process (KCSiE 2024 Part Three Safer Recruitment).
- Recognising that certain children are more vulnerable than others, such as looked after children and children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Looked After Children – The Role of Designated Teacher (maintained schools and academies) and the Designated Safeguarding Lead

- A Designated Teacher is appointed who has responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of children who are looked after. They have the appropriate training and will collaborate with the Virtual School to ensure that the progress of the child is supported.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead and SENCO will work closely together, as we recognise that children may have been abused or neglected before becoming looked after and may also have SEND. We will ensure they are fully supported, able to thrive and take the most out of their education or the learning opportunities we are able to provide by linking with the virtual school, their social worker, parents, and carers.
- We also recognise those children who were previously Looked-After potentially remain vulnerable and all staff will be informed of the importance of maintaining support for them through our school pastoral system.
- We will continue to recognise the importance of working with agencies and take prompt actions where necessary to safeguard these children, who may remain vulnerable.

Children with Special Educational Needs

We recognise that children with special educational needs (SEN) and or disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges on and offline. Children with SEN and or disabilities are especially vulnerable when identifying concerns due to their impaired capacity to resist or avoid abuse. They may have speech, language and communication needs which may make it difficult to tell others what is happening.

All staff are aware that additional barrier can exist when recognising abuse and neglect for children with SEND and be more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children. They may not always show outward signs and may have communications barriers and difficulties in reporting challenges, especially involving exploitation or incidents involving child on child harm, abuse, or harassment and particularly where that harassment or harm is of a sexual nature. Our staff's vigilance will be a supporting factor to keeping all children safe.

Our policy reflects the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children which include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration.
- children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming their ability to disclose incidents or the risk of harm they feel subject to,

- addressing individual behaviour concerns and incidents considering the child's SEN and disabilities.
- recognising and having in place additional support for example to teach, advise, mentor and support children with SEND from online harms, hoaxes, bullying, grooming and radicalisation and enable them to have confidence and the ability to stay safe online, either in schools or outside the school environment.

Taking action where concerns are identified

Our staff recognise the difference between concerns about a child and a child in immediate danger.

If staff have concerns about a child, they will need to decide what action to take. **We advise staff that, if they have any concerns, no matter how slight, then a 'Red Flag' should be written and logged to alert the DSLs.** A discussion may then take place with a Designated Safeguarding Lead, to agree a course of action.

If a child is in immediate danger or risk of harm a referral will be made immediately to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and/or immediately to the police if at imminent risk of harm by the member of staff if required, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead being informed of the referral.

If a child chooses to tell a member of staff about alleged abuse, there are a number of actions that staff will undertake to support the child:

- The key facts will be established in language that the child understands, and the child's words will be used in clarifying/expanding what has been said.
- No promises will be made to the child, e.g., to keep secrets.
- Staff will stay calm and be available to listen.
- Staff will actively listen with the utmost care to what the child is saying.
- Where questions are asked, this should be done without pressurising, and only using open questions.
- Leading questions should be avoided as much as possible
- Questioning should not be extensive or repetitive
- Staff will not/ should not put words in the child's mouth but will subsequently note the main points carefully.
- A full written record will be kept by the staff duly signed and dated (or written immediately onto My Concerns as a Concern – see below), including the time the conversation with the child took place, outline what was said, comment on the child's body language etc.
- It is not appropriate for staff to make children write statements about abuse that may have happened to them or get them to sign the staff record.
- Staff will reassure the child and let them know that they were right to inform them and inform the child that this information will now have to be passed on.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will be immediately informed unless the disclosure has been made to them.

- Information should be shared with children's social care without delay, either to the child's own social worker or to the MASH. Children's Social Care will liaise with the police where required, which will ensure an appropriate police officer response rather than a uniformed response.
- The Police would only therefore be contacted directly in an emergency or if a child is in immediate risk of harm, abuse, or danger.
- If unsure, the MASH has available a Consultation Phone Line during office hours where a conversation (without naming children) can be used to speak with a qualified social worker. No record of the conversation will be made it is purely an advice line.

Staff should never attempt to carry out an investigation of suspected child abuse by interviewing the child or any others involved especially if a criminal act is thought to have occurred. The only people who should investigate child abuse and harm are Social Care, Police, or the NSPCC.

Confidentiality

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential; however, a member of staff must never guarantee confidentiality to children; children will not be given promises that any information about an allegation will not be shared.

Where there is a child protection concern it will be passed immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or to children's social care. When a child is in immediate danger children's social care/the police will be contacted.

The Headteacher or Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead will disclose personal information about a pupil to other members of staff, including the level of involvement of other agencies, only on a 'need to know' basis.

All staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies to safeguard children. They are aware that the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) should not be a barrier to sharing of information where failure to do so would result in a child being placed at risk of harm (KCSiE 24 paragraph 55).

Further guidance can be found by visiting Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp>

Information Sharing

Effective sharing of information between practitioners and local organisations and agencies is essential for early identification of need, assessment, and service provision to keep children safe. Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) now known as Rapid Reviews (RRs) have highlighted that missed opportunities to record and thereby understand the significance of sharing information in a timely

manner can have severe consequences for the safety and welfare and well-being of children (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023).

We will adopt the information sharing principles detailed in statutory safeguarding guidance contained within:

- DfE KCSiE 2024 paragraphs 114 to 122 and Annex C.
- HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 Paragraphs 28 to 34 and on pages 18 to 22.
- HM Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents, and carers (Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).
- Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Policy and Practice Guidance.
- Staff and governors have completed GDPR Information Sharing training.

Records and Monitoring (KCSiE 2024 paragraphs 66 to 67, Part Four, Part Five, Annex C)

The section below is taken directly from the school's staff handbook, issued to all staff annually. It is also included in the supply handbook for all supply teachers to read and refer to.

20. Safeguarding information

20.1. What to do if a child discloses something to you.

The safety of children is paramount at Edgewood Primary School.

- Listen to the child
- Do not promise confidentiality
- Record the conversation in the child/person's language
- On My Concerns, click the 'Report a Concern' on the upper right hand side
- Record information in all the boxes
- If the concern involves a physical injury or another case where you think a child is at imminent risk and might need to be seen by a social worker today immediately log the concern as a High Priority AND find a Designated Safeguarding Lead.

20.2. Safeguarding and reporting concerns 20.2.1. Safeguarding is the statutory responsibility of each member of staff, not just designated persons (DSLs). Staff must read and understand the school's child protection policy at least annually and refer to it if they are not clear on any aspect.

20.2.2. If staff have any concern that they want to discuss with a DSL then it is serious enough to 'Report a Concern' on My Concerns (See above) All information relating to a child or family should be recorded on My Concerns (even non-urgent information). If we work with other agencies this information helps to build a background picture of the child and/or family.

20.2.3. Concerns must be logged on My Concerns within 1 working day of the incident / conversation / concern.

20.2.4. The only time staff should speak to a DSL before logging the concern on My Concern is when the child is in imminent danger or the concern is severe enough that it needs urgent action (e.g. bruising, disclosure of physical or sexual abuse, clear emotional abuse that can be evidenced clearly or serious neglect meeting a large number of the strands of tier 4 on Pathway to Provision).

20.2.5. Staff must follow up a concern with the DSL if they do not feel it has been dealt with correctly and should do so by referring to the tiers of concern within the pathway to provision.

20.2.6. If staff fail to follow the safeguarding procedures they will receive a verbal warning at the first incidence and this will be followed up by written warnings in line with the school staff conduct procedure.

This section ends with a picture and the names of the DSLs so even someone unfamiliar with the school can find a relevant person to speak to.

Any concerns about a child will be recorded on My Concerns within 24 hours. All records will provide a factual and evidence-based account and there will be accurate recording of any actions. Where an opinion or professional judgement is recorded this should be clearly stated as such.

When these are logged the DSLs receive an email so they are made aware and can take action whether on site or not.

At no time should an individual teacher/member of staff or school be asked to, or consider taking photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person; this type of behaviour could lead to the staff member being taken into managing allegations procedures. The body map below should be used in accordance with recording guidance.

Body maps can be logged with the 'Report a Concern' function on My Concerns electronically. Once you have put the child's name in the link will appear to complete the Body Map if required.

Any concerns should be reported and recorded without delay to the appropriate safeguarding services e.g. MASH or the child's social worker if already an open case to social care.

A chronology is kept by My Concerns as concerns and profile actions are made. Staff, particularly pastoral staff, will record any minor concerns via the 'Report a Concern' system on My Concerns, even if only logging for information. DSLs may record on the profile directly instead of reporting a concern and will take responsibility for alerting the Designated Safeguarding Lead should the number of concerns rise or, in their professional judgement, become significant.

My Concerns allows us to easily run a report seeing where concerns or profile actions have been made and uses a system of flags to highlight current and former involvement or actions. These can be easily observed and/or filtered in numerous ways. This means we no longer need to add a **red C** in the top right-hand corner of the main pupil paper file to denote a separate file exists.

My Concerns logs all referrals made, new or open concerns and the dashboard shows the status of any open cases.

Our school will ensure all or files will be available for external scrutiny for example by a regulatory agency or because of a serious case review or audit.

Recording Practice and Procedures

Timely and accurate recording will take place as detailed above. This will include any contact from other agencies who may wish to discuss concerns relating to a child. Actions will be agreed, and roles and responsibility of each agency will be clarified, and outcomes recorded.

The chronology is automatically generated by the recording system.

Records will include any discussion of the event or concerns and will take account of the holistic needs of the child, and any historical information held on the child's file.

Support and advice will be sought from social care, or the early help service whenever needed. In this way a picture can emerge, and this will assist in promoting an evidence-based assessment and determining any action(s) that needs to be taken.

This may include no further action, whether an EHAF should be undertaken, or whether a referral should be made to MASH/Children's Social Care in- line with the NCC Pathway to Provision, made available by Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Such robust practice across child protection and in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children will assist the school and DSL team in the early identification of any concerns which may require addressing further and the prevention of future harm, risk, or abuse.

Why recording is important

Our staff will be encouraged to understand why it is important that recording is comprehensive and accurate and what the messages from serious case reviews are in terms of recording and sharing information. It is often when a chronology of information is pieced together that the level of concern escalates or the whole or wider picture becomes known.

As detailed above, our school uses My Concerns to record information and concerns cannot be deleted by school staff.

We acknowledge without information being recorded it can be lost. This could be crucial information, the importance of which is not always necessarily apparent at the time. We will ensure all our recording is made in timely manner and is kept safe and signed off by one of our DSLs to evidence the reporting and information being used to safeguard the child and detail the child's journey through the safeguarding system.

We acknowledge, on occasions, this information could be crucial evidence to safeguard a child or be evidence in future criminal prosecutions.

The Child Protection (CP), Child in Need (CiN) or Confidential file

(KCSiE 2024 Annex C pages 171 to 172 and paragraphs 101,121 to 122, 547 and 550).

Our school uses My Concern which automatically adds all concerns, documents and notes to a profile which fulfils the role of a CP/CiN file. Any case where any form of concern, no matter how slight, or any safeguarding agency is involved is automatically logged for future reference.

DSLs then meet to decide what warrants a concern and log what action is to be taken.

Above this automatic process when a Concern is made, a 'child protection' or 'confidential' file should be commenced in the event of:

- A referral to MASH/Children's Social Care.
- A number of minor concerns on the child's main school file.
- Any child open to social care or Early Help Service.
- Involved with statutory safeguarding agency.

All 'child protection' or 'confidential' file should contain the following:

- A front sheet. (The child's profile page on My Concerns.)
- A chronology. (automatically generated in the profile log)
- A record of concern in more detail and body map, where appropriate (In the profile).
- A record of concerns and issues shared by others. (in both of the above sections.)

The school will keep electronic records of concerns about children even where there is no need to refer the matter to MASH/Children's Social Care (or similar) immediately, but these records will be kept in My Concerns.

Records will be kept up to date and reviewed regularly by the Designated Safeguarding Leads, to evidence and support actions taken by staff in discharging their safeguarding arrangements. Staff usually input direct to My Concerns so there are no contemporaneous notes. If staff have taken them they are to be scanned and uploaded to the confidential section as they may be important in any criminal proceedings arising from current or historical allegations of abuse or neglect.

The profile remains active on our system, even if there is no current activity. Children subject to current or former plans or involvement are recorded within flags for reporting purposes.

Transfer of child's child protection file, child in need, LAC, or confidential file (statutory requirement):

Our school will adopt the file transfer guidance contained in KCSiE 2024 and ensure when a child moves school/education provision their child protection/confidential file is sent securely to their new educational setting when the child starts/ leaves the school.

For those children subject of social care and safeguarding agency involvement will ensure the file is able to evidence the child's journey and include key information as described in KCSiE 2024. Should

a child subject to social care involvement transfer schools, college, or education provider we will ensure the child's child protection or confidential file move is transferred within 5 days as required by KCSIE.

Our Senior DSLs will liaise directly with the receiving school, college or alternative placement and hold a discussion to share important information to support the child's transfer to ensure the child remains safeguarded, has any 'reasonable adjustments' agreed, and put in place and to ensure the changes experienced by the child are as smooth as possible to enable a positive integration experience and engagement with new staff and learning.

In accordance with KCSiE 2024 we will maintain information on cohorts of children who have been open to social care, have had a social worker or who are closed to social care and may have returned to the family home. This information will only be considered for sharing 'if appropriate' with the new school or provider in advance of the child leaving to allow for the new school to continue supporting the children who have had a social worker or been victims of abuse, including those who are currently receiving support through the 'Channel' programme.
(KCSiE 2024 paragraph 121 to 122 and Annex C).

Educating Young People – Opportunities to teach safeguarding

(KCSiE 2024 paragraphs 128 to 136, Annex A & Annex C Online Safety).

As a school we will teach children in an age-appropriate way about youth produced imagery, on-line risks associated with social networking to prevent harm by providing them with the skills, attributes, and knowledge to help them navigate risks, including covering online safety, remote learning, filters and monitoring, information security, cyber-crime, reviewing online safety platforms and use of mobile technology. We will ensure appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness

The education we provide for online safety will take into account the need for children to learn using online technologies in a safe environment whether that be in school, in the home or in a community environment. This will also be taught as part of a wider RSHE programme, as well as through other subject areas and ICT.

We will ensure a whole school approach is in place to promote giving children the space to explore key issues in a sensitive way and the confidence to seek the support of adults should they encounter problems or online harms, hoaxes or harassment including involving incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment between children.

As a school we do not allow pupils to have mobile phones in school. If parents wish children to have mobile phones for walking to and from school they must hand them in to the front office before they come into school in the morning and collect them from there after school in the evening. If a child is found to have a mobile phone in school it is confiscated and taken to the office to be collected at the end of the day. If this happens again, the phone is confiscated and a parent is called to collect

it and the child is not allowed to bring a phone. This prevents children, whilst at school, sexually harassing, bullying and controlling others via their mobile and smart technology, sharing indecent images consensually and non-consensually (via large chat groups) and viewing and sharing pornography and other harmful content.

The school is delivering RSHE through the Jigsaw program to ensure appropriate coverage for this and PSHE issues throughout school. This is monitored by the PSHE leader and SLT.

As a member of the National Online Safety organisation, staff, children and parents have access to a wealth of training and information around on-line safety to minimise the safeguarding risks technology can pose and where they can seek advice, help, and support.

If children are in a situation where they access education from home, for instance in a lockdown scenario, we use SeeSaw to distribute and collect the finished work. This is a secure online platform also used to communicate non-urgent messages with parents. Any live lessons have clear rules communicated with staff and pupils before the sessions commence.

Our school's response to identifying, responding to, and managing concerns, incidents, or disclosures regarding sexual violence between children in school is to follow both this policy in reporting the concern and our behaviour policy in dealing with the incident. If we believe a crime may have been committed we will report this to the police while supporting the victim and alleged perpetrator.

Helplines and reporting

- Children can talk to a Child Line counsellor 24 hours a day about anything that is worrying them by ringing 0800 11 11 or in an online chat at <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/>
- Where staff members feel unable to raise an issue with their employer, or feel they have a genuine concern that is not being addressed we acknowledge they may wish to consider whistleblowing channels. Likewise, if parents and carers are concerned about their child, they can contact the NSPCC Helpline by ringing 0800 028 028 0295, or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk
- National Online Safety is available to support staff, parents and pupils with any aspect of online safety. [National Online Safety | Keeping Children Safe Online in Education](#)

The following appendices are a part of this policy (delete or amend as appropriate):

Appendix 1 - NCC LA Flow Chart 2023-2024 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused at risk of harm or neglect.

Appendix 2 -Template: Body Maps Guidance and Body Maps
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Appendix 3 – Existing Injuries Form – Tool to support reflection

Appendix 1

Name of School/Academy/AP Child Protection & Safeguarding Flow Chart 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused, at risk of harm or neglect'

Actions where there are concerns about a child's welfare in and outside of school

- Be alert to signs of abuse, question unusual behaviour or changes to presentation.

Where a child discloses abuse, neglect, sexual violence, or sexual harassment

- Listen to what they say, keep calm, reassure they are right to tell, and you will take action to help keep them safe.
- Inform them you need to share the information and what you are going to do next
- Do not promise confidentiality, you will need to share/ report the information to appropriate services.
- **DO NOT DELAY, take any immediate necessary action to protect the child and ensure the Designated Safeguarding Lead is informed or member of SLT in the DSL's absence.**

Discuss concerns with the Snr Designated/Named Safeguarding Lead

- The Safeguarding Lead will consider further actions including consultation with Children's Social Care/ MASH (if a new concern).
- Concerns and discussion, decisions and reasons for decision should be recorded in writing and a 'confidential concerns' or a 'child protection' file should be opened, stored in line with the school child protection policy.
- At all stages the child's circumstances should be kept under review and re-refer if concerned to ensure the child's circumstances improve – **the child's best interests must come first.**

Still have concerns - Refer to MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) Social Care
Have child/families' personal details to hand and be clear about concern/allegations.

Safeguarding concern Resolved /no longer held
Support has been agreed, record decisions and any follow up needed.

MASH Tel: 0300 500 80 90
Consultation Line Tel: 0115 977 4247
(Office Hours Monday to Friday)

If the child is at immediate risk dial 101 and ask for assistance
Record all decisions and actions, working to agreed outcomes and within timescales. Escalate any emerging threats/concerns by adopting Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures.
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp

Out of hours Emergency Duty Team
5.00pm –8.30am
Tel: 0300 4564546
NSPCC Whistle blowing
Tel: 0800 028 0285
Police Tel:101

Unmet needs identified
Decide what actions are needed to support the child.

Consult with the child young person, family, and relevant agencies:
Agree support, refer to NSCP guidance 'Pathway to Provision' version 9.1.

Contacts: For any allegations/concerns regarding an adult who works with (in either paid/voluntarily) employment with children contact the LA Designated Officer (LADO) for referrals Tel:- 0115 8041272. LADO Strategic Lead Tel: 0115 9773921
Cheryl Stollery – LA Safeguarding Children in Education Officer Tel:- 0115 8041047
This flow chart is a brief guide - Please refer to our School Child Protection Policy.

Appendix 2

Body Map Guidance for Schools

Medical assistance should be sought where appropriate.

Body Maps should be used to document and illustrate visible signs of harm and physical injuries.

Always use a black pen (never a pencil) and do not use correction fluid or any other eraser.

Do not remove clothing for the purpose of the examination unless the injury site is freely available because of treatment.

***At no time should an individual teacher/member of staff or school be asked to or consider taking photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person, this type of behaviour could lead to the staff member being taken into managing allegations procedures, the body map below should be used in accordance with recording guidance. Any concerns should be reported and recorded without delay to the appropriate safeguarding services,**

e.g., MASH or the child's social worker if already an open case to social care.

When you notice an injury to a child, try to record the following information in respect of each mark identified e.g. red areas, swelling, bruising, cuts, lacerations and wounds, scalds and burns:

- Exact site of injury on the body, e.g., upper outer arm/left cheek.
- Size of injury - in appropriate centimetres or inches.
- Approximate shape of injury, e.g. round/square or straight line.
- Colour of injury - if more than one colour, say so.
- Is the skin broken?
- Is there any swelling at the site of the injury, or elsewhere?
- Is there a scab/any blistering/any bleeding?
- Is the injury clean or is there grit/fluff etc.?
- Is mobility restricted as a result of the injury?
- Does the site of the injury feel hot?
- Does the child feel hot?
- Does the child feel pain?
- Has the child's body shape changed/are they holding themselves differently?

Importantly the date and time of the recording must be stated as well as the name and designation of the person making the record. Add any further comments as required.

Ensure First Aid is provided where required and record

A copy of the body map should be kept on the child's child protection file.

BODYMAP

(This must be completed at time of observation)

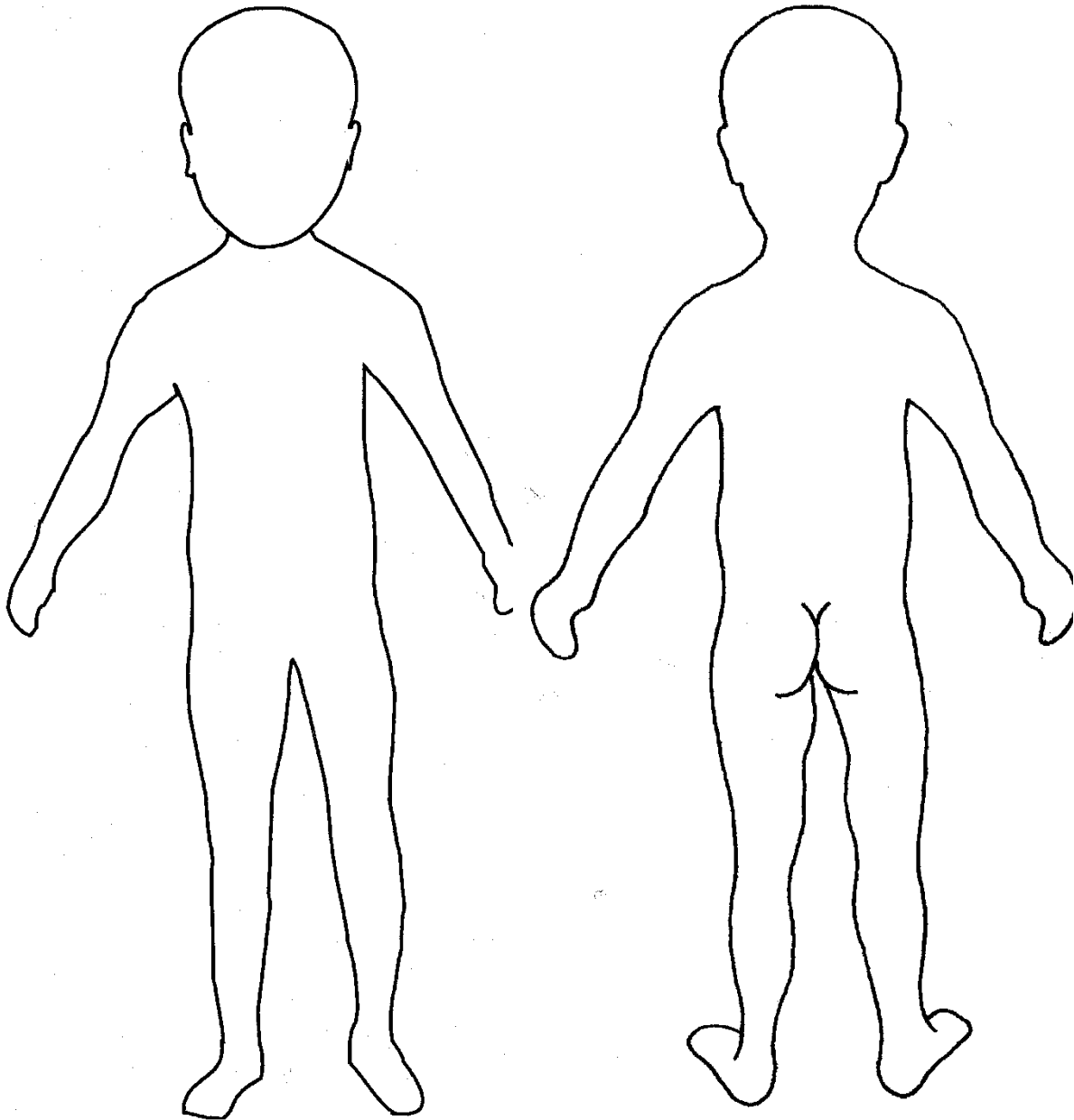
Names for
Child:

Date of
Birth:

Name of
Worker:

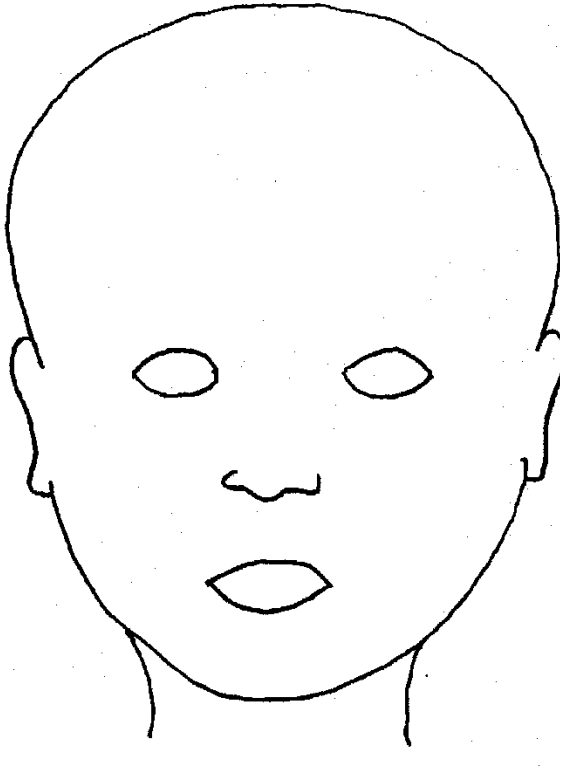
Agency:

Date and time of
observation:

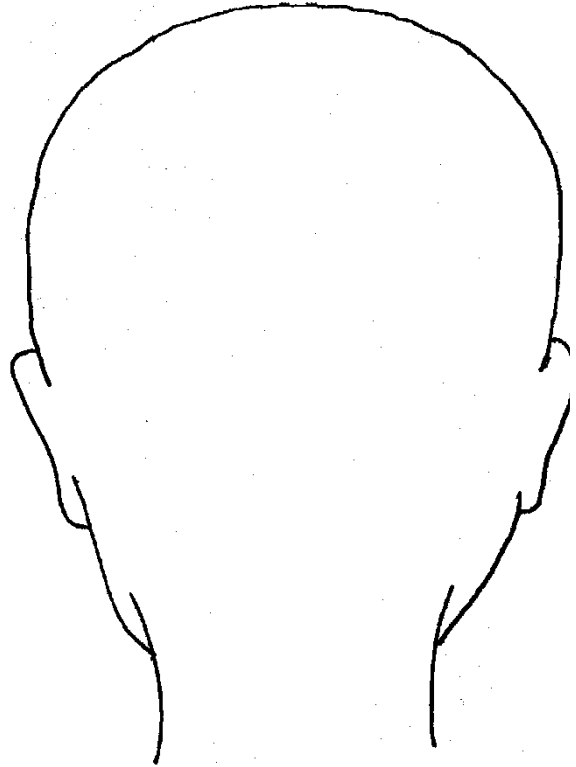


Name of Child: _____

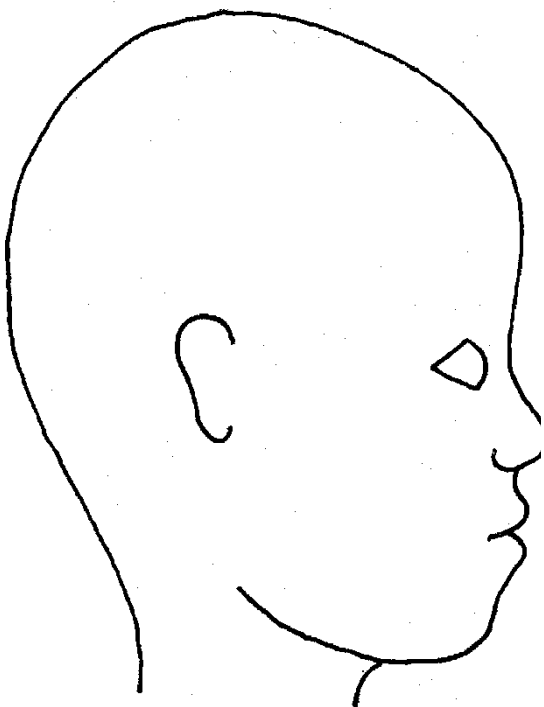
Date of observation: _____



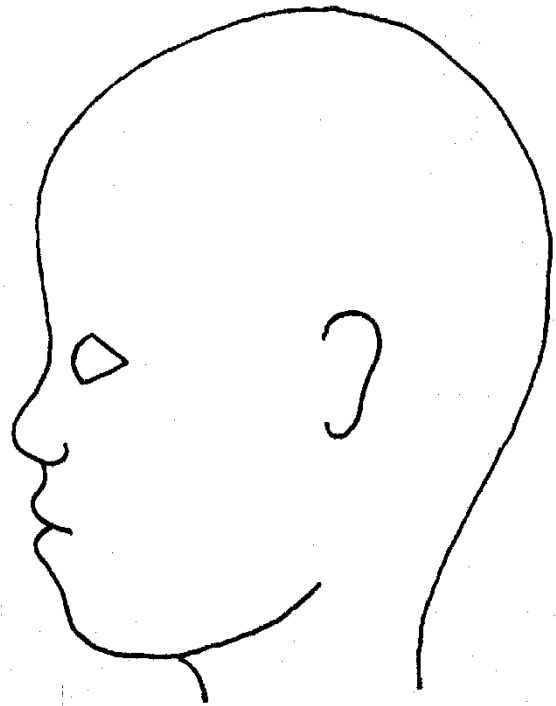
FRONT



BACK



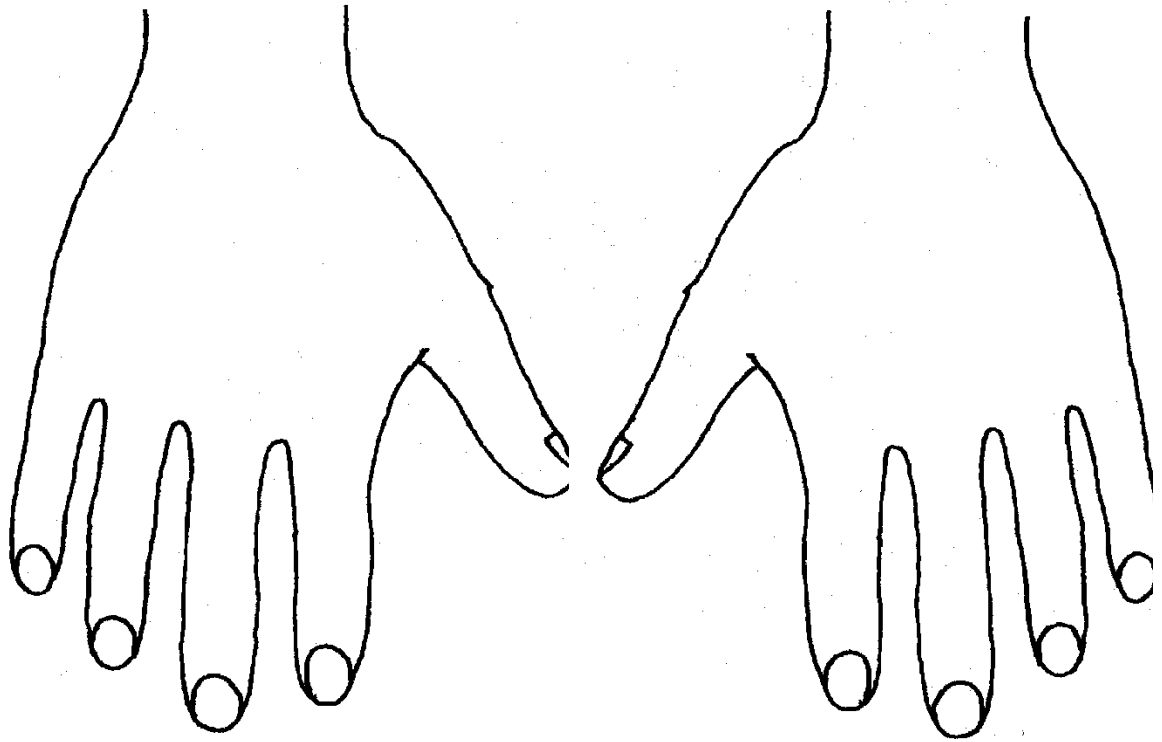
RIGHT



LEFT

Name of Child: _____

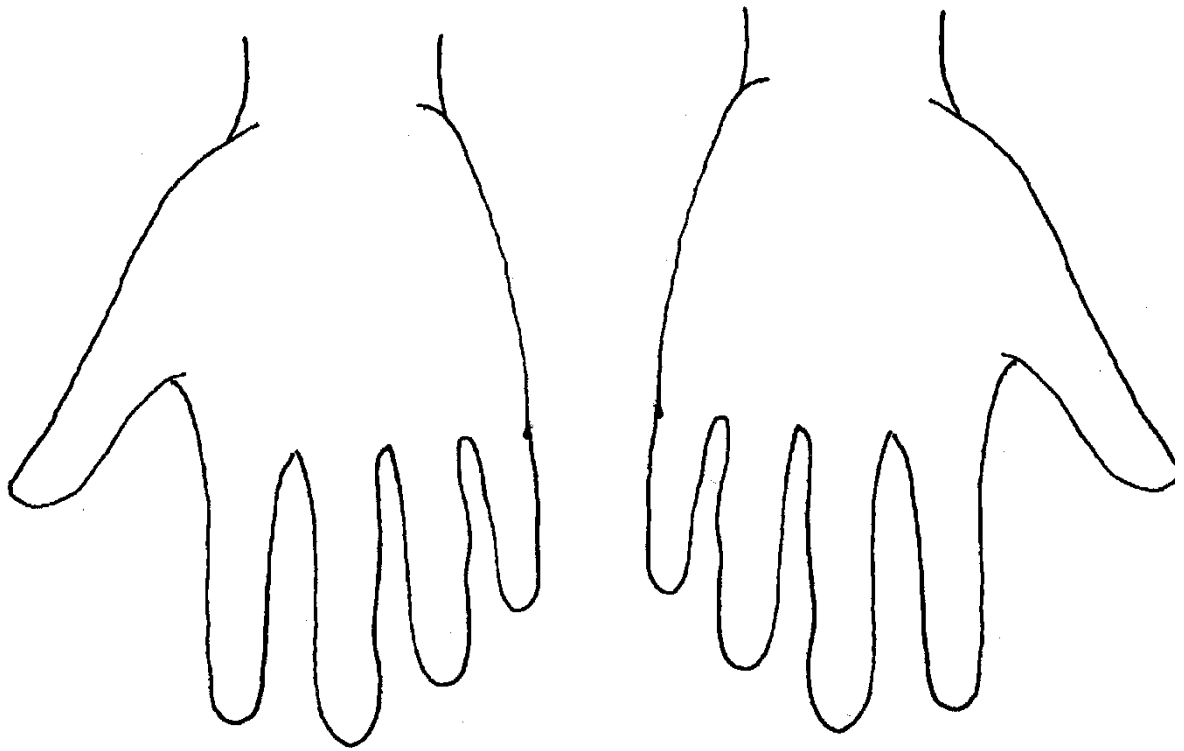
Date of observation: _____



R

L

BACK



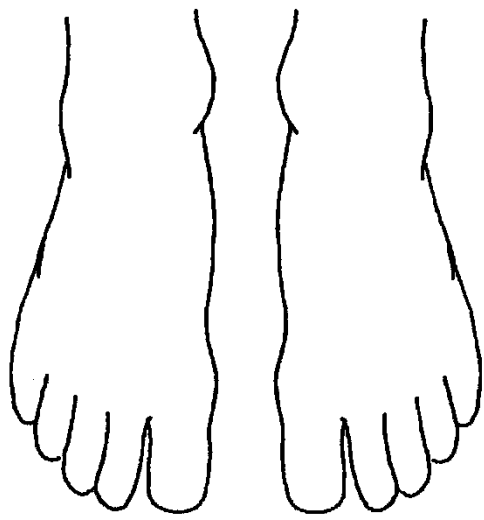
R

L

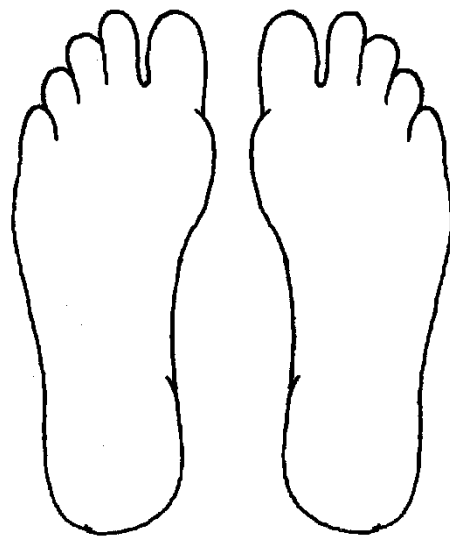
PALM

Name of Child: _____

Date of observation: _____



R TOP L



R BOTTOM L

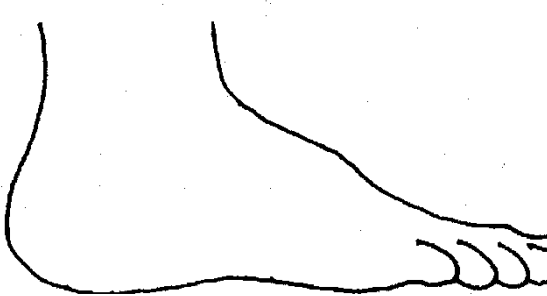


R



L

INNER



R



L

OUTER

Printed Name and
Signature of worker:

Date:

Time:

Role of Worker

Other information:

Appendix 3



Existing Injuries Form – Tool to support reflection

The recording of injuries which children have sustained outside of a care or education setting, including the explanation given by the child, their parent or carer, plays a key role in identifying safeguarding concerns. Lessons from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews tell us that the reflection which takes place alongside the recording is also key, particularly in identifying patterns to injuries.

This tool has been co-designed by practitioners who are dealing with these issues on a day-to-day basis. Whilst it is for each setting to determine how they discharge their safeguarding responsibilities, this tool is being made available to support you in the difficult work you do, with the aim of keeping our children safe.

Are there existing safeguarding concerns or Children's Social Care current or past involvement?	Yes / No Comments:
When was the last injury(ies)?	Date(s) and injury(ies)
Is this part of a pattern?	Yes / No Comments:
Is the explanation consistent with the injury?	Yes / No Comments:

- Is the explanation concerning or are there conflicting explanations?	Yes / No Comments:
- Interpretation of level of risk	Low Medium High
<p>Actions to be taken, either in response to the injury, or to reduce further risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What, By who, By when 	
Referral to MASH Y/N	
Signed by....	Reviewed by (e.g., DSL)
Role....	Date....
Date	