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CONTENTS

<u>Principles for Child Protection and Safeguarding Children</u>	4
<u>Scope</u>	4
<u>Key definition and concepts</u>	5
<u>Equality & Diversity</u>	5
<u>Safeguarding and promoting welfare</u>	5
<u>Our Role: Responding to a disclosure, Record keeping</u>	6
<u>Prevention</u>	9
<u>Early Help</u>	9
<u>Types of Abuse and Neglect</u>	10
<u>Neglect</u>	10
<u>Indicators of Abuse</u>	11
<u>Guidance for specific safeguarding circumstances</u>	11
<u>Domestic Abuse</u>	11
<u>Operation Encompass</u>	11
<u>Relationships and sex education</u>	12
<u>Consent issues</u>	12
<u>Child on child</u>	12
<u>Sexually Harmful Behaviour, violence and harassment</u>	13
<u>Online Safety</u>	15
<u>Contextual Safeguarding</u>	15
<u>Child sexual exploitation</u>	16
<u>Criminal exploitation/county lines</u>	16
<u>Serious Violent crime</u>	16
<u>Hazing/Initiation</u>	17
<u>Complex Safeguarding Hub</u>	17
<u>Community Safety and liaising with the police</u>	17
<u>Honour based Abuse</u>	17
<u>FGM</u>	18
<u>Radicalisation and Prevent Duty</u>	18
<u>The Court System</u>	19
<u>Children with Family Members in Prison</u>	19
<u>Homelessness</u>	20
<u>Mental Health</u>	20
<u>Children missing from Education</u>	21
<u>Looked After Children: The designated teacher, Virtual Head</u>	22
<u>Private Fostering</u>	23
<u>Special Education Needs and Disability</u>	23
<u>Child's Voice</u>	23
<u>Whistleblowing</u>	23
<u>Managing Allegations against those who work with children and young people</u>	24
<u>Safer Recruitment</u>	24
<u>Arrangements for individuals coming on to our premises</u>	25
<u>Useful Contacts s</u>	25

Appendix 1 – Summary of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures for Teaching, Non-Teaching, Contractors and Volunteers	26
Appendix 2 – Summary Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy for Parents and carers	28
Appendix 3 – Role of designated safeguarding lead	30
Appendix 4 – Guidance for safeguarding records	33
Appendix 5 – WHS Safeguarding reporting staff quick guide	34
Appendix 6 – Body map guidance	36
Appendix 7 – Home injury form	41
Appendix 8 – Transfer of safeguarding records	42
Appendix 9 – Managing allegations against those who work with children flowchart (first Five Steps)	43
Appendix 10 – LADO tracking form	44
Appendix 11 – The role of the designated teacher for LAC	47
Appendix 12 – Quick guide to making a referral	48
Appendix 13 – Encompass Flow Chart	49
Appendix 14 – Sexually harmful behaviour, violence and harassment flow chart	50
Appendix 15 – FGM flow chart	51
Appendix 16 – Statement of Staff Commitment to the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy	52

HEAD TEACHER/PRINCIPAL:	Mr N Coe
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DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DDSL):	Mrs J Torrance, Assistant Headteacher Mrs D Arstall, Integrated Working Officer Miss R Beattie, Behaviour Support Manager Miss J Taylor, SEND support Lead Ms L Uehlein – Family Liaison and safeguarding officer
DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR LAC:	Mrs J Torrance, Assistant Headteacher
PREVENT LEAD:	Mrs C Unsworth, Deputy Headteacher
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS:	Mrs J Murphy
SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR:	Mr R Bell

Principles for Child Protection and Safeguarding Children

PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

At **Westhoughton High School** we strive to ensure that all students remain safe and free from harm and we are committed to playing a full and active part in the Multi-Agency response to Child Protection concerns. We recognise that we are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children and young people. The purpose of this document is to ensure that **all** our staff are aware of the arrangements that we have in place for safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of our students. It provides guidance to help staff who may have concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or young person and sets out our position in relation to all aspects of the Safeguarding and Child Protection process.

SCOPE

This Policy reflects current statutory guidance:

[Education Act 2002](#) : Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires local education authorities and the governors of maintained schools and further education (FE) colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Section 157 of the same act and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 require proprietors of independent schools (including academies and city technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are students at the school.

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#) sets out organisational responsibilities for schools and colleges and this applies to maintained, independent, academies, free schools and alternative non provision academies.

[Keeping children safe in education 2025](#): Statutory guidance for schools and colleges was issued under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and the Education (Non-Maintained Special Schools) (England) Regulations 2011. This contains information on what schools and colleges **should** do and sets out the legal duties with which they **must** comply.

This policy and its procedures do not form part of the contract of employment; however, they apply to all full and part time employees, including those employed on temporary or fixed-term contracts. Volunteers, supply staff and contractors who offer their services to the school and parents will be made aware of this document and receive a summary version. (see Appendices 1 & 2).

The Integrated Front Door is the point of contact for enquiries and referrals relating to children and young people made by professionals, families and the public. The IFD is a team of multi-agency professionals including Child Protection social workers. Early Help Access Point workers, Health, Police and other partner agencies. These agencies work together to provide advice and to jointly triage referrals made in respect of children and navigate them to the correct service.

Communication of Policy

All members of staff are issued with the policy and updates at least annually. Members of staff sign to confirm that they have read and understood the policy (see Appendix 16). All new staff are issued with the policy as part of their induction training and sign to confirm that they have read and understood the policy. Visitors, volunteers and staff working at the school for a short time are issued with the Summary of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (Appendix 1).

Parents can access the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on the School Website and a summary document is also available (Appendix 2)

Pupils are informed of safeguarding procedures through assemblies and tutor time.

Governors review the policy annually.

KEY DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

The Children Act 1989 and 2004, states a child is anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday. The commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children however will extend to all children and young people who visit Westhoughton High School as well as our own students.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

We understand that promoting equality and diversity and tackling discrimination is essential in safeguarding our students. We hold separate policies and procedures in place to address specific issues such as RSHE, Anti-bullying policy, code of conduct that covers harassment and discrimination. We are committed to the Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

- We will not unlawfully discriminate against students with protected characteristics
- We will consider how to support students with protected characteristics
- We will take positive action, where proportionate, to deal with the disadvantages these students face.

The Equality Act 2010 can be accessed [here](#).

SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING WELFARE

No single professional can have a full picture of a child or Young person's needs and circumstances. If children, young people 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. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the **best interests** of the child.

The Department for Education (DfE) 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2025), states safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge,
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online,
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development,
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding children's welfare encompasses matters such as bullying and health and safety, (about which there are specific statutory requirements) together with a range of other issues, for example, arrangements for meeting the medical needs of children with Medical Conditions, providing First Aid, School Security, Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Misuse, Attendance, Admissions, Exclusions, Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation, CSE, EHA, Managing Allegations, Whistle-blowing, Mandatory reporting duty for FGM, Valuing Equality, Racist Incidents, Harassment & Discrimination, School

Security& Physical Environment, ICT / E-safety, Safe Recruitment and Selection or any other safeguarding which the DfE have issued guidance on. Details of the School's policies in these areas are contained in other documents and can be accessed via our school website.

We recognise that pupils at alternative provision and those missing education are potentially at greater risk of harm. We have processes in place to robustly check on the safety and wellbeing of students not attending school for any reason. See Attendance Policy. When we place a student with an alternative provision provider we remain responsible for the safeguarding of that student whilst they remain on our school roll. We will obtain written confirmation from all providers outlining their safeguarding checks and procedures and will visit provisions regularly whilst students are on placement.

Child Protection

The welfare of our students is paramount. They have an absolute right to a childhood free from abuse, neglect or exploitation. Child Protection is part of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm.

Significant Harm

"Harm" is the "ill treatment or the impairment of the health or development of the child" (Section 31, [Children Act 1989](#); Harm can be determined "significant" by "comparing a child's health and development with what might be reasonably expected of a similar child". Although there is no absolute criteria for determining whether or not harm is "significant", Bolton local authority social care, police, education and health agencies work with family members to assess the child, and a decision is made based on their professional judgement using gathered evidence.

OUR ROLE

- The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) have a number of responsibilities (See Appendix 3)
- All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children and young people can learn.
- Everyone who comes into contact with children, young people and their families have a role to play in safeguarding. Staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children and young people to prevent concerns from escalating.
- All members of our staff have a responsibility to be mindful of issues related to children and young peoples' safety and welfare and a **duty to report and refer** any concerns however "minor" they appear to be. (NB It is NOT, however the role of our staff to investigate those concerns).
- We work in partnership with parents and parents have a right to be informed in respect of any concerns about their child's welfare, or any action taken to safeguard and promote the child's welfare, providing this does not compromise the child's safety.
- Children are best protected when professionals work effectively together and share responsibility for protective action.
- Where there are possible concerns about a child's safety, unconditional confidentiality cannot be guaranteed and should not be offered. When a child is subject to Child Protection Plan, information about the child and their circumstances will only be shared on a "need to know" basis.
- To have in place robust systems that deter possible abusers and will effectively manage any allegations or concerns about abuse if they arise. The staff member who has a concern about a child's welfare should follow the referral processes set below.
- To support social workers and other agencies following any referral.
- When children make allegations about abuse or neglect, they will always be listened to, have their comments taken seriously and, where appropriate, the allegations will be investigated thoroughly by a social worker.
- All staff are prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment.
- [The Teachers' Standards 2013](#) state that teachers, including headteachers, should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

Record keeping

Files should be kept updated and stored securely. Files should only be accessed by those who need to and when file content is shared it is in line with Information Sharing [Guidance](#).

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing using CPOMS. If in doubt about recording requirements, staff should discuss with the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). Guidance for staff when reporting or recording concerns can be found in Appendices 4 & 5.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for transferring Child Protection files to the new school or college within five days of an in-year transfer or within the first five days of term. They should be transferred separately from the main file and a receipt should be obtained. The Transferring of Safeguarding Information form (Appendix 8) should also be completed. The DSL has oversight of record keeping and is responsible for keeping clear chronologies picking up any patterns and themes.

What staff need to know:

All staff are aware of our systems that support safeguarding, and these are explained to them as part of staff induction and staff are provided with this policy along with the following:

- Part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025) or a condensed part one where we think it is more appropriate for our staff not working directly with children.
- the staff code of conduct.
- Online safety training and information
- The identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies.

All our staff receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training which is regularly updated. In addition, all staff members receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, newsletters and staff meetings), as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. **All** our staff are aware of the early help process and understand their role in it. This includes identifying emerging problems, liaising with the designated safeguarding lead, sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment and, in some cases, acting as the lead professional in undertaking an early help assessment.

All our staff are aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care (see flowchart- Appendix 12) and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 that may follow a referral, along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments.

All our staff know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected. Staff know how to manage the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality whilst at the same time liaising with relevant professionals such as the designated safeguarding lead and children's social care. Staff will not promise that they will not tell anyone about an allegation, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child. **All** our staff are advised to maintain an attitude of '**it could happen here**' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members will always act in the best interests of the child.

WHAT WESTHOUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL STAFF SHOULD DO IF THEY HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD:

Westhoughton High School staff who have concerns about a child should raise these straight away with the school's designated safeguarding lead.

Mrs C Unsworth, Deputy Headteacher

Mrs J Torrance, Assistant Headteacher

Mrs D Arstall, Integrated Working Officer

Miss J Taylor, SEND support Lead

Ms L Uehlein, Family Liaison Officer

Concerns should be logged on the CPOMS system to be viewed by the whole DSL team – guidance on how to this can be found in appendix 5. If staff are unable to access CPOMS for any reason initial concerns can also be made in person/by telephone although a written account will be required to support the referral. Referrals will be acknowledged by the DSL. It is the responsibility of the referring member of staff to ensure that their concern has been received. **It will be the responsibility of the designated safeguarding lead to ensure that appropriate advice is obtained from the Children's Social Care Department and that further relevant paperwork is completed.**

If a child or young person is in **immediate danger or is at risk of harm** either during working hours, outside of these hours or during an out of school/college activity a referral will be made to The Integrated Front Door/the out of hours team or police immediately as appropriate. To avoid any delay, anybody can make a referral, however our DSL should preferably be involved and should **always** be notified - . If the students' situation does not appear to be improving the staff member with concerns should press for re-consideration. Concerns should always lead to help for the child. It should be remembered that sometimes children will 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. If staff have any concerns they should not wait for the child to be ready they should raise them with a DSL as soon as possible.

Responding to a disclosure

It is recognised that a student may seek out an individual teacher/adult to share information specifically about abuse or neglect, or they may talk spontaneously, individually or in a group when staff or volunteers are present.

In these situations, our staff are required to:

- Listen to the student and allow them to freely recall significant events and without asking leading questions.
- Reassure the student but tell them that a record of the information given will be made and do this. Include times, settings and others present. Record the student's demeanour as well as what is said.
- Explain that they cannot promise to keep confidential anything that is said if the matter is related to child protection or abuse.
- Explain that help may be required to keep them safe, but do not ask the student to repeat their account of events to anyone else.
- Recognise it may only be the first incident reported, rather than representative of a singular incident and that trauma can impact memory, so they may not be able to recall all details or timeline of abuse
- Keep in mind that certain students may face additional barriers to telling someone because of their disability, gender, ethnicity and/or sexual orientation
- Reflect back, using the child's language, when hearing a report

The individual who receives the information will be expected to pass it on as a matter of urgency to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. See Appendices 4&5 for guidance on how to record the information.

Why is all this important?

It is important for children to receive the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating. Research and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews have repeatedly shown the dangers of failing to take effective action. Poor practice includes: failing to act on and refer the early signs of abuse and neglect; poor record keeping; failing to listen to the views of the child; failing to re-assess concerns when situations do not improve; sharing information too slowly; and a lack of challenge to those who appear not to be taking action.

Staff and Governor Safeguarding Training

DSL and DDSLs attend refresher training every two years and also attend multi-agency training throughout the year. All school staff and governors receive Safeguarding and Child protection training annually online via The National College.

All staff receive a start of year safeguarding briefing session from the DSL which includes key aspects of safeguarding awareness and routes of referral. New staff receive a briefing as part of their induction process.

All staff and governors are issued with electronic copies of the safeguarding and child protection policy and relevant sections of Keeping Children Safe in Education and are required to sign to say that have read and understood – staff are signposted to DSLs for clarification of any information.

CPD sessions on key safeguarding issues are incorporated into the whole school CPD programme – this includes online safety, filtering and monitoring, sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Safeguarding updates are also received from the National College and NSPCC.

Procedures and Guidelines for Child Protection and Safeguarding Children

PREVENTION

We take seriously our duty of pastoral care and we are proactive in seeking to prevent children becoming the victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation. We do this in several ways:

- Through the creation of an open culture which respects all individuals' rights and tackles bullying and discrimination of all kinds
- By identifying members of staff who have overall responsibility for Child Protection matters
- By promoting British values and offering Personal, social, Health and economic education (PSHE) curriculum to address the issue of child protection in the wider context of safeguarding.
- Link available to PSHE guidance [here](#)
- By ensuring these members of staff receive training in this field and act as a source of advice and support to staff
- By informing students of their rights to be free from harm and encouraging them to talk to staff if they have any concerns.

EARLY HELP

Early Help means providing support as soon as a need emerges, at any point in a child or young person's life.

In Bolton we refer to Bolton's Framework for action which provides guidance on how Early Help will facilitate high quality, collaborative working that is holistic and supportive. For early help to be effective, we work closely with partner agencies to:

- Identify children, young people and families who would benefit from support
- Undertake an assessment of need.
- Provide services to address those needs.
- Review progress to ensure that positive change has happened.

Factors which may indicate a student may benefit from early help		
Misusing drugs or alcohol	Young carers	Frequent missing from home/care
Family circumstances presenting challenging for the student such as parental drug, alcohol, mental health issues and domestic abuse	Is at risk of modern slavery trafficking or exploitation sexual and/or criminal	Showing signs of being drawn into anti-social behaviour, criminal behaviour including gangs/OCG
Has Mental health needs	Persistent absence from education or frequently missing or goes missing	Is privately fostered
At risk or being radicalised or exploited	Has experienced multiple suspensions and/or is at risk of permanent exclusion	Returned to family from care or stepped down from social care involvement
A family member in prison or affected by parental offending	Has medical conditions or special educational needs	Honour based abuse such as FGM or forced marriage

We are committed to early help and the identification of unmet needs and vulnerabilities of our students. Our staff are aware of the early help process and understand their role in identifying emerging problems, sharing information with other agencies and for some staff acting as the lead professional in undertaking early help assessments and co-ordinating support. We support the wellbeing of children, young people and families by tackling emerging needs at the earliest opportunity and prevent them from getting worse. A referral to Targeted Early Help Services will be made where the support provided by us at an Early Help level is no longer effective.

TYPES OF ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION

Abuse: *a form of maltreatment of a child. Anybody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Types of abuse may overlap. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing the ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse.*

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.* More information on Fabricated or Induced Illness can be accessed [here](#).

Emotional abuse: *the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development.* It may involve:

- Conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.
- Not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.
- Feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.
- It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another, bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

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

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

If we are worried about sexual abuse we gain advice from [Stop abuse together \(campaign.gov.uk\)](#)

Neglect: *neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.* Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger.
- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter including exclusion from home
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers or children being left unattended or abandoned at home.
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care, treatment, and/or education.
- It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic physical and emotional needs.

We utilise [Bolton's Neglect Practice Guidance](#)

INDICATORS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION

Our staff will look out for any of the following indicators and take the appropriate action. The child may:

- Show unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries
- Have an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent
- Describe what appears to be an abusive act in which they were involved – verbally or in written form such as an essay or drawing
- Show unexplained changes in behaviour - e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn, or displaying sudden outbursts of temper or hysteria. Academic work may suddenly deteriorate
- Demonstrate age inappropriate sexual awareness
- Engage in sexually explicit behaviour in games/PE or other areas
- Be distrustful of adults
- Have difficulty in making friends or be prevented from socialising with other children
- Showing signs of depression, self-injury, suicidal tendencies
- Not being taken to medical appointments
- Lose weight for no apparent reason
- Become increasingly dirty or unkempt, with inadequate or damaged clothing

The above list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more of the indicators will not be proof that abuse is actually taking place. It is **not** the responsibility of members of staff to decide that abuse is occurring, but it is their responsibility to act on any concerns.

GUIDANCE FOR SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING CIRCUMSTANCES

All staff have an awareness of specific safeguarding areas. Expert and professional organisations are best placed to provide up-to-date guidance and practical support on specific safeguarding issues. For example, NSPCC offers information for schools and colleges on the TES [website](#) and also on its own website www.nspcc.org.uk. [Whysup](#) also offers support to students and staff in relation to a variety of topics.

We access broad government guidance on a range of safeguarding issues via the GOV.UK [website](#), Bolton Safeguarding Partnership [website](#) and Greater Manchester [Procedures](#).

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic violence and abuse is: Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can include, but is not limited to:

*Psychological *Physical *Sexual *Financial *Emotional

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children and young people where they see, hear or experience its effects. Domestic abuse can also affect young people within their personal relationships as well as in the context of their home life.

The Domestic Abuse Act came into force in 2021 and support can be found [here](#) Bolton's Domestic Abuse Handbook will be referred to and can be accessed [here](#)

If we are concerned about domestic abuse we will contact The Integrated Front Door. An Early Help assessment will be completed in cases with no social care involvement.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Encompass is a partnership between the Police, Local Authority and designated staff, known as Key Adults. Working together to safeguard children, the Police will inform us about any domestic abuse incident where a child or young person has been present. In the short term this will enable us to take appropriate steps to support students during what could be an emotionally difficult day. In its simplest form, they are given some leeway, comfort and support. Early help will also be considered to offer a holistic package of support to families experiencing domestic abuse. The

resources available through Encompass can be accessed on the [website](#). Operation Encompass Key Adult Training has been accessed by the DSL team.

Fortalice provide support around Domestic Abuse and can be contacted on: 0800 2000247 and 01204 365677. We can also gain free advice from an Education Psychologist about how best to offer support. OE Teachers' National Helpline on 0204 513 9990. Monday to Friday, 8am-1pm
See flow chart Appendix 13.

CONSENT

If a young person is under the age of 13 years old, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 they cannot legally consent to any form of sexual activity. Therefore, a referral to The Integrated Front Door will be made in all such cases. The [Sexual Offences Act 2003](#) reinforces that, whilst mutually agreed, non-exploitative sexual activity between teenagers does take place and that often no harm comes from it, the age of consent still remains at 16 years of age. This acknowledges that this group of young people are still vulnerable even when they do not view themselves as such. Whilst a referral to The Integrated Front Door or the police is not mandatory in such cases, careful consideration (including whether the children are Gillick Competent (using [Fraser competent Guidelines](#)) must be given and explore any difference of age, maturity, functioning and experiences and also an awareness of the potential consequences of their act. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will seek guidance from The Integrated Front Door in such cases.

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

It is now compulsory to teach relationships education in primary schools, and relationships and sex education in secondary schools. This area of work will support our students with a variety of issues that will reduce them being at risk of harm and promote them having better life chances. Our teachers are prepared to handle any safeguarding issues that may arise during these lessons and will report any concerns that are identified to the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay.

DFE Guidance [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance](#)

CHILD ON CHILD ABUSE

Staff are aware of the harm caused by bullying and will use our anti-bullying procedures where necessary. However, there will be occasions when a student's behaviour warrants a response under child protection rather than anti-bullying procedures.

Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as child on child abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to):

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

Child on child abuse will never be accepted or dismissed as 'children being children'.

Our PSHE curriculum aims to prevent child on child abuse and opportunities are provided for students to report any concerns. However, should we identify child on child abuse and identify risk of significant harm, we will refer to Social Care and the police to make sure that the children and young people affected get the help and protection they need. Should the case not require Social Care intervention Early Help will be put in place.

If the students involved in child on child abuse are in the same class, we will consider carefully whether to separate them while the concerns are being investigated. In situations of alleged rape and assault by penetration, the [statutory Guidance](#) is clear that the alleged perpetrator(s) should always be removed from classes they share with the victim.

We will always consider how best to keep the victim and alleged perpetrator(s) at a reasonable distance apart while they are on the same premises, as well as on transport to and from school, where appropriate.

Where appropriate we will seek advice from The Integrated Front Door, Police and the Safeguarding in Education Team on implementing a [safety and support plan](#) for both the alleged perpetrator(s) and the alleged victim. Sanctions will be put in place and we will also ensure the emotional needs of both students are considered and support is implemented.

We utilise the NSPCC [Child on child sexual abuse in Education NSPCC.docx \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

SEXUALLY HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR, VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

*Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of **any** age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Children and young people who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, likely, adversely affect their educational attainment.*

Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal). Some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at greater risk.

What is Sexual violence and sexual harassment?

Sexual violence

When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as described below:

Rape: *A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.*

Assault by Penetration: *A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.*

Sexual Assault: *A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.*

Sexual harassment

When referring to sexual harassment we mean ‘unwanted conduct of a sexual nature’ that can occur online and offline. When we reference sexual harassment, we do so in the context of child on child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child’s dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexually harmful behaviour and harassment can include:

- unwanted sexual comments and messages, including social media, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names;
- sexual “jokes” or taunting;
- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone’s clothes (we consider if this crosses a line into sexual violence – we will talk to and consider the experience of the victim) and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature;
- online sexual harassment.
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers
- non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos;
- sexualised online bullying;
- sexual exploitation; coercion and threats

(Also see [consent](#) section)

Our culture

We have created a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are not tolerated. We identify issues and intervene early to better protect our students.

- We make clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- We do not tolerate or dismiss sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh”
- We challenge behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, flicking bras, sexist language and lifting up skirts.
- We do not rely on students making disclosures, we actively look out for any indicators such as a change in behaviour or emotional wellbeing. We will openly ask outright if they have been harmed or threatened.
- We make clear to our students the ways they can report and who they can go to.
- We are committed to preventing and responding to any sexually harmful behaviours at the earliest opportunity.
- Our PSHE curriculum, based on the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) statutory guidance, specifically includes sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online. We include time for open discussion of topics that students can tell us they find particularly difficult, such as consent and the sending of ‘nudes’.
- We follow guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 (section 5) and Greater Manchester Procedures [here](#).
- We promote the [Dedicated helpline for victims of abuse in schools | NSPCC](#) and [Shorespace](#)
- We are aware that being subject to harassment, violence or abuse may breach children’s rights as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.

How we respond to sexual violence or sexual harassment

- For **all** cases where there are concerns about harmful sexual behaviour, Children's Social Care and the Police will be informed.
- We balance the victims wishes against our duty to protect them and other students. If the referral is against the victims wishes, this will be handled extremely sensitively, and the reasons provided to the victim and support offered.
- If Social Care do not become involved, support will be offered through the Early Help process.
- We listen and reassure all victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.
- We will never give the impression that the student is creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or harassment. A victim will never be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- We listen to the report but do not ask any leading questions nor speak to the alleged perpetrator(s) until advice is sought.
- Sanctions are put in place for accused students in line with our behaviour policy.
- The accused student will be provided with support.
- We signpost victims to [Help after rape and sexual assault - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) where appropriate.
- We consult with the Safeguarding in Education Team to devise and implement a [safety and support plan](#) ensuring victim and alleged perpetrator(s) are kept a reasonable distance apart on school premises including at before and after-school activities.
- We put measures in place to support all students involved with their emotional wellbeing.
- All incidents to ensure our DSL has oversight to identify patterns and intervene early.
- Any incident details will include the time and location and consideration will be given to any action required to make the location/context safer to minimise the risk of repeat incidents.
- Consideration will be given to the importance of intra familial harms and any necessary support for siblings.

*See flow chart Appendix 14.

The management of children and young people with sexually harmful behaviour is complex and therefore we work with other relevant agencies to maintain the safety of all our students and staff. Children and Young people who display such behaviour may be victims of abuse themselves and therefore child protection procedures will be followed for both victim and alleged perpetrator(s). Children and Young people who harm others will be held responsible for their

harmful behaviours while being identified and responded to in a way which meets their needs as well as protecting others.

We ensure our staff receive training to ensure that they are able to:

- better understand the definitions of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online sexual abuse.
- identify early signs of child on child sexual abuse.
- consistently uphold standards in their responses to sexual harassment and online sexual abuse.
- Engage students in sensitive conversations.

Our behaviour policy will be followed including sanctions when appropriate, to reinforce a culture where sexual abuse, violence, harassment and online sexual abuse are not tolerated.

ONLINE SAFETY

Our online safety policy explains how we try to keep students safe. Cyber-bullying, via texts and emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying and Respect to Learn policies. We recognise that online abuse will often occur concurrently with face-to-face abuse.

We recognise that whilst working online it is essential that students are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material, this may also include misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories. We follow the advice in DFE Filtering and Monitoring Standards, Cyber Security Standards and Generative AI: product safety expectations. As such, we have robust security in place such as appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems which are regularly reviewed for their effectiveness. We ensure that students are taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. This includes appropriate information for students around harmful online challenges and online hoaxes. We also involve parents and carers in this learning. Although appropriate blocking is essential, we ensure this does not restrict learning. When students are learning remotely we refer to government guidance [here](#).

Should we have any concerns we will:

- Refer to the Department of Education guidance on [Teaching on line safety in schools](#) (Jan 2023), [Greater Manchester Procedures](#) and [UK Council for child internet safety](#) (UKCCIS).
- Report to [CEOP](#) a law enforcement agency that keeps children and young people safe from sexual exploitation and abuse- [Reporting link](#) or tel 0800 1111
- We access resources from [safer Internet](#) to keep students safe on line. We will also encourage our students/parents/carers to anonymously report online child sexual abuse imagery and videos to the safer internet [Hotline](#).
- Report any harmful content to - www.reportharmfulcontent.com

See also our online safety policy.

Sharing of Nudes and Semi Nudes (also known as youth produced imagery)

Sharing of nudes and semi nudes refers specifically to sharing nude and semi-nude images and/or videos. We have a stand-alone policy on Sharing of Nudes and Semi Nudes that includes a flowchart. Staff will also refer to the Government guidance in relation to [Sharing nude and semi nudes: advice for education settings 2024](#)

We also promote the new [Report Remove tool](#) whereby children, young people and adults can report nude images of them that are circulating social media and ensure they are taken down.

CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING AND EXTRA- FAMILIAL ABUSE

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighborhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Criminal Exploitation /county lines

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is a geographical widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity, drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes when the victim may have been trafficked for the transporting of drugs.

If we have any concerns regarding CCE and gangs we will refer to guidance provided by the [Home Office](#) and Greater Manchester [procedures](#) along with Multi agency practice principles for responding to exploitation and extra amilial harm. We will record the concerns and refer to The Integrated Front Door. Should the case not require Social Care intervention Early Help will be offered.

The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) is aware of the National Referral Mechanism and will consider if a notification is required through Children Social Care. Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, CCE can:

- affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):

The definition of Child Sexual Exploitation is as follows:

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator(s) or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology (DfE, February 2017).

Technology is widely used by perpetrators as a method of grooming and coercing victims, often through social networking sites. More information about Child Sexual Exploitation is available on the [Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership website](#), [Greater Manchester Procedures](#) and staff are also aware of the Department for Education's [Child sexual exploitation: guide for practitioners](#).

We will also complete the Police Partner Agency form to share any information we have in relation to CSE or CCE. We will work in partnership with the complex safeguarding team if the young person becomes allocated to a complex safeguarding support or social worker. We will share appropriate information as requested by the CEAM (Child Exploitation and Missing) panel via the Local Authority Safeguarding Education Team.

Serious Violent Crime

Our staff are aware of indicators, which may signal that children and young people are at risk from, or involved in serious violent crime. They may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant change in wellbeing or signs of assault and unexplained injuries, attention deficit, involvement in drugs and alcohol, changes to income and poverty. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children and young people have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

We will ensure that we carry out 'justified, proportionate and reasonable' searches in our school where appropriate following our Safer Search Policy and the guidance on [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#) available from the DfE. Guidance on gangs and youth violence can be found [here](#).

The Greater Manchester Serious Violence (GMSVU) Action Plan identifies key priorities that includes 'working with the education sector to improve the sharing of information across the system, particularly in relation to students with additional needs and those deemed to be most vulnerable'.

We will work in partnership with the local Police, Social Care, Early Help and other key partners to identify timely intervention for our students at risk of exploitation and violent crime. We will use the [NPCC- When to call the police](#) and also share any intelligence with the police.



Partner Agency
Intelligence Form.doc

We will work with our School link PCSO and our link Police Officer to coordinate appropriate support. We also utilise resources from the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit.

Hazing/Initiation

Hazing or initiation ceremonies refers to the practice of rituals, challenges, and other activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group.

Hazing is seen in many different types of social groups, including gangs, sports teams and school groups. The initiation can range from relatively minor pranks, to patterns of behaviour that rise to the level of abuse or criminal misconduct. Hazing may include physical or psychological abuse. It may also include nudity or sexual assault.

Our staff are alert to such behaviour and will act in line with our behaviour policy. We will consider if the police and The Integrated Front Door need contacting or if Early help support should be put in place.

Modern day slavery & Trafficking

Modern Slavery is a term used to describe anyone, including children who are exploited for criminal gain. The impact can be devastating for the victims. Modern Slavery comprises slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. More information and guidance we follow can be found [here](#).

COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING HUB

If we have concerns that a student is being exploited or they are frequently missing from home then a referral will be made to The Integrated Front Door. The referral will be triaged and if the risks are considered medium/high then the case will be referred to CEAM (Child Exploitation And Missing) Panel and if deemed appropriate a Complex Safeguarding Social worker will be allocated. We will share appropriate information as requested by CEAM via the Safeguarding Education Team. Information about the Complex safeguarding hub can be found [here](#).

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISING WITH THE POLICE

In emergencies we will ring 999. [NSPCC- When to call the police](#) supports us to understand when we should consider calling the police and what to expect when we contact the police.

Community safety incidents in the vicinity, like people loitering and unknown adults talking to students, will be reported to the police and a school safe incident report form completed and uploaded to the Extranet.



School Safe Report
Blank Form.docx

HONOUR BASED ABUSE (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)

So-called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) includes crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving 'honour' often involves a wider network of family and community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important that we are aware of this dynamic and additional risk

factor when deciding what action to take. All forms of so-called Honour based abuse (regardless of the motivation) will be handled and escalated as appropriate.

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 came into force in February 2023 and means that 16 and 17 year olds will no longer be allowed to marry or enter a civil partnership, even if they have parental consent. Any concerns that students may be getting married should be referred to the DSL.

If our staff have concerns about HBA they will speak to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) who will refer to The Integrated Front Door. Should the case not require Social Care intervention Early Help will be put in place.

Information on Breast Ironing and Forced Marriage can be accessed below:

[Forced Marriage](#) and [Breast Ironing](#)

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

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

Indicators of risk:

- Victims are likely to come from a community that is known to practice FGM
- Any girl born to a woman who has been subjected to FGM
- Any girl who has a sister who has undergone FGM
- Girls taken abroad at start of school holidays
- Parents state that they or a relative will take the child out of the country for a prolonged period
- A professional hears reference to FGM in conversation e.g. a child may tell other children about it.

Indicators of FGM:

- Girl may have difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- May spend longer in the bathroom or toilet owing to difficulties in urinating
- Recurrent urinary tract infections or complaints of abdominal pain
- spend longer periods away from the classroom
- Young girls refusing to participate in P.E. regularly without a medical note
- Prolonged absence from school with noticeable behaviour changes on the girl's return

FGM Mandatory Reporting Duty

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon **teachers**, along with social workers and healthcare professionals, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions.

Teachers **must** personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, by telephoning 101.

All staff who are concerned about FGM will speak to the designated safeguarding lead who will contact The Integrated Front Door .

- Online E- Learning training on FGM is available [here](#)
- Government documents and further info on FGM can be found [here](#)
- Multi agency statutory guidance on FGM 2020 can be found [here](#)
- See flow chart in Appendix 15

RADICALISATION

Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence. Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. Extremism is the vocal or active

opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism. Staff should be alert to changes in behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help and protection.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, our staff are alert to changes in children and young peoples behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

Prevent

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

The Prevent Guidance (2023) summarises the requirements for education.

We understand the risks affecting children and young people and understand how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them. We will assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas such as Right Wing, Far Right, International, Incel, Far Left, and Environmental related influences.

As part of this Duty our designated safeguarding lead will:

- undertake Prevent awareness training and be able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children and young people from the risk of radicalisation.
- ensure that children and young people are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet with us and ensuring that suitable filtering are in place.
- ensure that the Guidance for Schools Duty is fully met as part of a risk assessed approach
- ensure staff have accessed training and are clear on the definition of Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism (KCSIE, 2025)

We utilise the ‘educate against hate’ [website](#) which provides us with information, tools and resources we need to recognise and address extremism and radicalisation. Training on making Prevent referrals and E- learning will be accessed [here](#). Bolton’s [Safeguarding against harmful radicalisation Handbook](#) will be referred to as required.

Channel

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Channel awareness guidance will be accessed from the home office [here](#) along with The Home Office [Prevent and Channel Fact Sheet](#)

If our staff have any concerns about an individual, a channel referral form will be completed. Support can be provided by the Education Prevent officer (details above) or the Counter Terrorism policing on 0161 856 6362.

Contact for Channel: Liam Twigg, Channel Coordinator Tel: 0161 227 3543 (int:43543) Mobile: 07971385238
E-mail: Liam.Twigg@manchester.gov.uk Secure e-mail: L.Twigg@manchester.gcsx.gov.uk

Bolton’s Channel Panel referrals go to: Channel.project@gmp.pnn.police.uk OR gmchannel@manchester.gov.uk

THE COURT SYSTEM

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed.

Age appropriate guides can be found for 5-11yr olds [here](#) and 12-17 [here](#).

The guides explain each step of the process and support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained.

Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children. The Ministry of Justice has launched an online child arrangements information tool which can be accessed [here](#) with clear and concise information on the dispute resolution service.

CHILDREN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN PRISON

Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health.

National Intervention for Children with Parents in Custody ([NICCO](#)) provides information designed to support our staff working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children and young people. For further information [here](#).

HOMELESSNESS

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare.

Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Referrals and or discussion with housing will take place as appropriate this does not, and will not, replace a referral into The Integrated Front Door.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a legal duty that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to meaningful help. The duties shift focus to early help and encourage families at risk to seek support as soon as possible, before they are facing a homelessness crisis.

In most cases we consider homelessness in the context of children and young people who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it is recognised in some cases 16 and 17 year olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Children's services should be the lead agency for these young people and the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the circumstances. The department and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have published joint statutory [guidance](#) on the provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless and/ or require accommodation.

MENTAL HEALTH

All staff are aware that mental health difficulties can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child or young person has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a mental health diagnosis. Our staff however, are well placed to observe children and young people day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health difficulty or may be at risk of developing one.

Where children and young people have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences (known as [ACE's](#)), this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is important that our staff are aware how experiences, can impact on behaviour and education.

We promote positive emotional wellbeing by building resilience, promoting healthy lifestyles, recognising what a healthy relationship is and so on.

Children and young people requiring mental health support

We recognise that we have an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and pastoral staff are trained to identify possible mental health difficulties, and are aware of support services available. We also have a number of Mental Health First Aiders on the wider staff team. We utilise [GM Procedures](#), signpost to: Bolton's The *Be Kind to My Mind Website*. We also work closely with the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) and have a school based counsellor – direct referrals can be made to both services by school staff.



Feb 2022 Bolton Self
Harming behaviour P:

Where a student requires support with their mental health/ emotional wellbeing we will:

- Phone 999 in an emergency and follow the pathway above
- Contact the students parent/carer
- Consider if a referral is required to The Integrated Front Door and/or CAMHS.
- Consider completing an Early Help assessment and support the student/family by using the Early Help process.
- Consider putting a safety plan in place in order to protect the student and others.
- Access a range of advice and support from specialist mental health services to help us to identify what extra support can be provided.

More information is available at [mental health and behaviour in school's guidance](#) and [Education Recovery Support](#) following the COVID Pandemic. Resources are also available [here](#).

Behaviour and safeguarding

A child that is displaying what we may believe to be 'challenging behaviour' could have suffered from abuse or neglect. The behaviour that is being displayed could be 'distressed behaviour'.

If we have serious concerns about a student's behaviour, we will follow our behaviour policy and will also consider whether a multi-agency assessment such as an early help assessment or statutory assessment that goes beyond the student's educational needs is required (see guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#))

For further guidance we will refer to DfE Behaviour Guidance (2022) [Behaviour in schools](#).

CHILDREN WHO ARE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

Knowing where children are during school hours is an extremely important aspect of safeguarding. Missing school – particularly having unexplainable and/or persistent absence - can be an indicator of abuse and neglect or risk from other external factors such as the criminal exploitation of children. We monitor attendance carefully and address poor or irregular attendance swiftly. For further information please refer to our Attendance Policy.

CHILDREN MISSING FROM EDUCATION

Local authorities have a duty to establish, as far as it is possible to do so, the identity of children of compulsory school age who are missing education in their area. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future.

Children missing Education will be reported to the Child Missing Education Officer Craig Swinton- Email -

childrenmissingeducation@bolton.gov.uk Telephone- 01204 334036

The law requires us to have an admission register and an attendance register. All students must be placed on both registers.

In accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, pupils will only be deleted from the school register when one of the following circumstances applies:

- The student has been registered at another school
- The student is registered at one or more other schools and the other schools have agreed to the deletion
- The student has a school attendance order which has been changed to name another school
- The student had a school attendance order which has been revoked
- The parent of the student has notified the school in writing that the student will be leaving the school to be educated otherwise than at school
- The student no longer lives a reasonable distance from the school
- The student has not returned following a leave of absence
- The student has been continually absent from school for 20 school days
- The student is detained under a sentence of detention
- The student has died
- The student will be over compulsory school age and will not continue into the sixth form.
- The student has been permanently excluded from the school

We will inform the local authority of any student who is going to be deleted from the admission register where they:

- have been taken out of school by their parents and are being educated outside the school system e.g. home education;

- have ceased to attend school and no longer live within reasonable distance of the school at which they are registered;
- have been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither he/she nor his/her parent has indicated the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age;
- are in custody for a period of more than four months due to a final court order and the proprietor does not reasonably believe they will be returning to the school at the end of that period; or,
- have been permanently excluded.

We will notify the Local Authority when we delete a student from our register under the above circumstances. This will be done as soon as the grounds for deletion are met, but no later than deleting the student's name from the register. It is essential that we comply with this duty, so that the local authority can follow up with any child who might be in danger of not receiving an education and who might be at risk of abuse or neglect.

For any student who has a child protection plan or is looked after but placed at home is absent, we will contact the Early Intervention Team on the first day of absence before 10am via the online portal. The Early Intervention team will then conduct a home visit.

Also see our attendance policy .

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Under the Children Act (1989), a child is looked after if they:

- are provided with accommodation, for a continuous period of more than 24 hours, [Children Act 1989, Section 20 and 21]
- are subject to a care order [Children Act 1989, Part IV]
- are subject to a placement order

We will ensure that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a student's looked after legal status and support contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility. We shall also have information about the student's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her.

The Designated Teacher

Our Designated Teacher is Mrs J Torrance and they will work with the local authority to promote the educational achievement of our registered students who are looked after. With the commencement of sections 4 to 6 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, our designated teacher has responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders.

From September 2021 The designated teacher chair and leads on how the Personal Education Plan (PEP) is developed and used to make sure the child's progress towards education targets is monitored

For further information on the role of the Designated Teacher please see Appendix 11 and the following [link](#)

Virtual School Head

The Virtual School Head is the lead responsible officer for ensuring that arrangements are in place to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of a local authority's looked-after children, including those placed out-of-authority. The Virtual School Head should ensure the educational attainment and progress of children looked after by the local authority or in kinship care are monitored and evaluated as if those children attended a single school. The Virtual School Head is also responsible for managing pupil premium plus for looked-after children.

Our designated teacher works with the Virtual School Head to promote the educational achievement of previously looked-after children, including discussing how funding can be best used to support the progress of looked after children in the school and meet the needs identified in the child's Personal Education Plan (PEPs).

In addition the Virtual School Head has a non-statutory responsibility for oversight of attendance, attainment and progress of children with a social worker and those living under kinship care arrangements.

The Local Authority Virtual School Head is Lindsay Nelson- 07385 361924 Lindsay.Nelson2@bolton.gov.uk.

More information on the Virtual School can be found [here](#).

PRIVATE FOSTERING

By law our Local Authority must be notified when parents make arrangements for their child to be cared for by friends, neighbours or extended family for more than 28 days. When parents make plans for their child to be cared for like this it is called a Private Fostering Arrangement.

If a member of staff believes a child may be privately fostered they must inform the designated safeguarding lead, who will contact the Integrated Front Door. More information can be found [here](#).

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can face additional safeguarding challenges. We are aware that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of students. We will ensure that:

- we do not make assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the student's disability without further exploration.
- we consider that students with SEN and disabilities may be disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs.
- communication barriers do not prevent us from gaining the students views and we will be creative in overcoming any potential difficulties.

We refer to guidance on [Reducing the need for Restraint](#) and restrictive intervention in regards to supporting students with learning disabilities, autism and mental health difficulties who are at risk of restrictive intervention. We also signpost families to [Bolton's SEND local Offer](#)

THE CHILD'S VOICE

We are proactive and take positive steps to inform students of their rights to safety and protection and the options available to express their fears or concerns. We have systems in place to ascertain our students wishes and feelings. Where there is a safeguarding concern the school will seek the wishes of the child. All our systems operate with the children's best interests at heart. Tools and resources are available [here](#).

WHISTLEBLOWING

Staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in our safeguarding regime. Appropriate whistleblowing procedures, which are suitably reflected in staff training and staff behaviour policies, are in place for such concerns to be raised with our management team. The Designated Safeguarding lead in the first instance.

Our Whistleblowing policy enables staff to raise concerns or allegations in confidence and for a sensitive enquiry to take place. All concerns of poor practice or concerns about a child's welfare brought about by the behaviour of colleagues should be reported to the head teacher. Complaints about the head teacher should be reported to the chair of governors.

Staff can also refer to the NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line if:

- They feel we don't have clear safeguarding procedures to follow
- Their concern won't be dealt with properly or may be covered-up
- They have raised a concern but it hasn't been acted upon
- They are worried about being treated unfairly.

They can call about an incident that happened in the past, is happening now or you believe may happen in the future. Contact the Whistleblowing Advice Line Call [0800 028 0285](tel:0800 028 0285) Email website help@nspcc.org.uk [Whistleblowing Advice Line](#)

MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THOSE WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN

Bolton's 'First Steps' is displayed around our building and will be followed in the event that there is an allegation about a member of staff (Appendix 9). Allegations against staff will be reported to the Headteacher. Allegations against the Headteacher will be reported to the Chair of Governors. We will not wait to act if a student is at risk of significant harm,

we will immediately contact the Police or [Integrated Front Door](#). We will also contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) using the LADO portal.

Staff who are the subject of an allegation

When an allegation is made against a member of our team, set procedures must be followed. Staff who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension is not mandatory, nor is it automatic but, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that students are protected. Arrangements will also be made to support the member of staff against whom an allegation has been made.

A tracking form has been devised to record allegations of professional abuse (Appendix 10). The form also allows for the recording of outcomes and lessons learned.

Transferable risk

Where a member of staff or volunteer is involved in an incident outside of work which did not involve children but could have an impact on their suitability to work with children, we will consider what triggered these actions and could a student trigger the same reaction, therefore being put at risk.

Allegations against staff will be reported to the head teacher. Allegations against the headteacher will be reported to the chair of governors.

Low Level concerns

The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant. A low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' - that an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college may have acted in a way that is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work and does not meet the harm threshold or is otherwise not serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

Low level concerns will be reported to the Headteacher, who will record this. These will be kept separate to personnel files and will not be shared or transferred unless further concerns are raised which would require consultation with the LADO. See Part Four, section two of [KCSiE](#).

More information on Managing Allegations can be found [here](#). For further information on managing allegations against staff contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Lisa Kelly – 01204 337474 07824 541233
Lisa.Kelly@bolton.gov.uk

SAFER RECRUITMENT

We will prevent people who pose a risk of harm by adhering to statutory responsibilities and checking our staff using the [Disclosure and Barring Service](#). We take proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required and ensure volunteers are appropriately supervised. We have written recruitment and selection policies and procedures in place and utilise information from [The Safer Recruitment Consortium](#).

The [Guidance for Safer Working Practice](#) for those working in Education settings was updated in April 2020 with an addendum to include guidance on Covid-19, school closures and online learning.

At least one of the person who conducts an interview has completed safer recruitment training.

Also see our safer recruitment policy.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS COMING ONTO OUR PREMISES

Where visitors not in the direct employment of the school attend to work with individuals/groups of students an assessment of the education value, the age appropriateness of what is going to be delivered will take place. Where visitors will be working directly and unsupervised with students relevant checks will be required.

Where the school hosts out-of-school providers on school premises they will ensure that the provider has a safeguarding and child protection policy in place. The school may refer any concerns they may have about the provider to the local authority in line with the school's policy and procedures.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

● Integrated Front door- Targeted Early Help and Children's Social Care:	01204 331500
● Emergency Duty Team – Out of Hours:	01204 337777
● Children's Social Care- Child Protection Unit:	area.cpc@bolton.gov.uk
● Lisa Kelly- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):	LADO@bolton.gov.uk
● Safeguarding in Education Team:	SET@bolton.gov.uk
● Virtual School	Virtual.school@bolton.gov.uk
● Child Missing Education	childrenmissingeducation@bolton.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

Westhoughton High School– Summary of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy. These procedures are for Teaching, Non-Teaching, Contractors, Supply Staff and Volunteers

The summary of this policy and procedures is shown below and a copy of this, including the Categories of Abuse (from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 & Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2025) will be issued to **all** staff both permanent and temporary, and also to any volunteers or contractors who work with the children.

All teaching, non-teaching, volunteers, contractors and staff engaged or employed by us have a duty to report and refer any concerns they may have to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who has overall responsibility for safeguarding and child protection matters. The relevant members of staff are:

DSL Mrs C Unsworth, Deputy Headteacher	CUnsworth@westhoughton-high.org	Ext 205
DDSL Mrs J Torrance, Assistant Headteacher	JTorrance@westhoughton-high.org	Ext 244
DDSL Mrs D Arstall, Integrated Working Officer	DArstall@westhoughton-high.org	Ext 233
DDSL Miss R Beattie, Behaviour Support Manager	RBeattie@westhoughton-high.org	Ext 221
DDSL Miss J Taylor, SEND Support Lead	JTaylor@westhoughton-high.org	Ext 237
DDSL Ms L Uehlein, Family Liaison Officer	LUehlein@westhoughton-high.org	Ext 368

Definitions/categories of abuse are shown below, you are expected to familiarise yourself with them.

Physical Abuse (intentional act causing physical injury or trauma) - Physical injury of any form (hitting, biting, burning, shaking) - Giving drugs including alcohol - When a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness	Sexual Abuse - Penetrative or non-penetrative acts by males or females - Showing of pornographic material
Emotional Abuse - Persistent lack of affection - Constant threatening behaviour - Constant overprotection - Unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations - Exposure to domestic abuse	Neglect - Persistent failure to meet basic needs - Failure to protect from harm - Failure to access medical treatment - Inadequate supervision
Other - Exploitation such as sexual exploitation or Criminal Exploitation - Any actions that single out a child for special attention and could therefore be interpreted as 'grooming'. - Staff need to be fully aware of the dangers and risks associated with electronic communications. Consequently, they MUST ensure that they do NOT engage in inappropriate electronic communication of any kind with students.	

A student may seek out an individual teacher/adult to share information specifically about abuse or neglect, or may talk spontaneously, individually or in a group when staff or volunteers are present. Anyone hearing an allegation from a child that abuse has, or may have, occurred should:

Receive • What is said • Accept what you are told – you do not need to decide whether or not it is true • Listen without displaying shock or disbelief.	Reassure • The student • Acknowledge their courage in telling you • Do not promise confidentiality • Remind them they are not to blame – avoid criticising the alleged perpetrator(s) • Do not promise that “everything will be alright now” (it might not be).
React • Calmly, respond to the student but do not interrogate • Avoid leading questions but ask open ended ones • Clarify anything you do not understand • Explain what you will do next i.e. inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead.	Record • Make notes as soon as possible – during the conversation if you can • Include: Time, Date, Place and the student’s own words – do NOT assume: Ask “Please tell me what that means”. • Describe observable behaviour • Do not destroy your original notes – they may be needed later on.
Support • Consider what support is needed for the student – you may need to give them a lot of your time • Ensure you are supported – such conversations can be extremely stressful and time consuming • Talk to your Designated Safeguarding Lead/Head teacher/Line Manager	

In the unlikely event that a member of the DSL is unavailable, to reduce delay, staff will contact directly the Integrated Front Door for advice to ensure the safety, welfare and protection of the student
Telephone- 01204 331500.

It must be acknowledged that some children may not feel ready or able to disclose abuse. They may not recognise that the abuse or neglect that they are experiencing is harmful. They may be embarrassed or have vulnerabilities, such as disability or language barriers. This will not prevent staff from having professional curiosity and they should always discuss with the DSL if there are concerns about a child.

Where there are concerns regarding a staff member, volunteer or contractor the **Head teacher** must be informed immediately.

Westhoughton High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

APPENDIX 2

Westhoughton High School – Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy – Summary for Parents and Carers

Introduction

We strive to ensure that all our students remain safe and free from harm, and we are committed to playing a full and active part in the multi-agency approach to child protection concerns. Additionally, we have a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and to have a child protection policy and procedures in place, which should be shared with you, to address concerns about the safety and protection of children and young people

Through our day to day contact with students, and direct work with families, our staff have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse, neglect and exploitation. Parents/carers should be aware therefore, that where it appears to a member of staff that a child or young person may have been abused, we are required, as part of the local child protection procedures, to report this concern to Children's Social Care (known as the Integrated front door- IFD). School safeguarding staff will always work closely with families to explain the process and support those involved. We would encourage families to seek help and support from school if they find themselves experiencing circumstances where a child could be at risk of harm. School staff will always seek consent for a referral to the IFD except in rare circumstances where this could place a child at further risk. To avoid any potential misunderstandings, parents/carers of students who sustain accidental injuries such as cuts/bruises/fractures should inform us **without delay** and explain the cause.

Principles • Children and young people have a right to be safe. • Parents/carers have a right to be informed of any concerns. • Children and young people are best protected when we work together with parents/carers.	Partnership • Please speak to us if you have any concerns. • We will inform parents/carers of any concerns we have and will offer help and support as necessary. • We will seek your permission to share information. • We will involve you and actively encourage you to participate in any meetings regarding your child. • We will consult with other agencies when we have concerns that a child or young person may have been abused, neglected or exploited. * (providing this does not compromise safety)
Prevention • We aim to offer help and support at the earliest opportunity as needs emerge (Early Help). • We have a comprehensive PSHE curriculum that teaches our students about keeping safe. • We will take positive action to prevent children and young people from abuse, neglect and exploitation through the development of an open culture that informs children and young people of their rights and encourages them to speak about any concerns.	Responding to Concerns • We will listen to parents/carers who raise concerns about their child and offer support. • We will refer all allegations or concerns that a student has been, or is likely to be, abused, neglected or exploited to The Integrated Front Door. • We will put support in place as soon as we are aware of any concerns this may include completing an Early Help Assessment.

Child on Child Abuse

- Physical and emotional abuse of children by other children will not be tolerated and will be dealt with. Parents/carers will be kept informed of actions taken. Concerns about abuse will be referred to Children's Social Care (The Integrated Front Door) and the police as appropriate.
- Parents/carers or students can also report abuse by contacting [Dedicated helpline for victims of abuse in schools | NSPCC](#) and [Stop abuse together \(campaign.gov.uk\)](#)
- We will ensure students are believed and listened to and support is put in place. This may include a safety plan. Sanctions will be put in place for perpetrator (s).

Emotional health and wellbeing

- We aim to support any students who experience any difficulties with their emotional health and wellbeing and have access to a range of internal and external support services. Please speak to a member of staff for more details.

Domestic Abuse

- As part of Operation Encompass we receive notifications from the police relating to domestic incidents when children/young people live in the household. The aim is for us to offer advice and support.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to speak to us about domestic abuse and should feel confident that situations will be dealt with sensitively and professionally.
- Services can be accessed at Fortalice 0800 2000247 and 0120465677 and Endeavour 01204 394842

Online Safety

- Children can be harmed and abused online and therefore we have measures in place to protect them. We also teach students how to keep safe online and send regular advice updates home.
- It is important that Parents/carers have adequate safety measures in place at home, that children receive consistent messages of how to keep safe on line and that they are appropriately supervised.

Child Protection Strategy Meetings and Conferences

- If circumstances require, a member of our staff will attend strategy meetings and child protection conferences and will share information. This information will be shared with parents/carers beforehand where possible. We will keep confidential child protection records separately from a student's academic and other records. And these will be transferred to their future school/college.

Confidentiality

- Information from any source, including parents, about possible child abuse or significant harm cannot be kept confidential. Information and records about children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan will be given only to those people who need it and will be kept strictly confidential by them.

If parents have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of their child, they should contact their Child's Student Support Team or one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads

Year 7– Miss Walsh (SSL) Mr Barwise (SPL)

Year 8 Mr Shaw (SSL) or Miss Hill (SPL)

Year 9 Mrs Aaron (SSL) or Mr Hancock (SPL)

Year 10 – Miss Swift(SSL) or Mrs Wharton (SPL)

Year 11 – Miss Whittle-Darroch (SSL) or Mrs Wild (SPL)

Mrs C Unsworth, Deputy Headteacher CUnsworth@westhoughton-high.org

Mrs J Torrance, Assistant Headteacher JTorrance@westhoughton-high.org

Mrs D Arstall, Integrated Working Officer DArstall@westhoughton-high.org

Miss R Beattie, Behaviour Support Manager RBeattie@westhoughton-high.org

Miss J Taylor, SEND Support Lead JTaylor@westhoughton-high.org

Ms L Uehlein, Family Liaison Officer LUehlein@westhoughton-high.org

APPENDIX 3

ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL) See Annex C – [KCSIE 2025](#)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is also a **senior leader**. As outlined in the role holder's job description, they take **lead responsibility** for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems in place). The DSL is given the additional time, funding, training, resources and appropriate support they need to carry out the role effectively.

The DSL may need to contact the Safeguarding Children Partnership Officer on any matter that the DSL considers cannot be properly dealt with internally. Access to external advice from an appropriate company or legal service may be necessary.

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)

In addition to the DSL, there is at least one Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Any deputies are trained to the same standard as the DSL and their role is explicit in their job description. The activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, however, the ultimate lead responsibility for child protection, as set out above, cannot be delegated and so, remains with the DSL.

Availability

During term time the DSL (or a deputy) will always be available (during opening hours) for staff in to discuss any safeguarding concerns. If they are not available in person, they will be available via phone. Adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities will be arranged by the DSL.

Manage referrals

The DSL will refer (and support staff who refer):

- suspected abuse and neglect to children's social care (The Integrated Front Door)
- radicalisation concerns to the Channel panel
- cases where a person is dismissed or has left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required
- cases where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required. [NSPCC - When to call the police](#) will be consulted.

Working with others

The designated safeguarding lead is expected to:

- act as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff;
- act as a point of contact with the three safeguarding partners (LA, Police and Health);
- liaise with the headteacher or principal to inform him or her of issues- especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations. This should include being aware of the requirement for children to have an appropriate adult. Further information can be found in statutory guidance [PACE Code C 2019](#)
- as required, liaise with the "case manager" (usually the head teacher/Principal) and the LADO at the local authority for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member;
- liaise with staff (especially teachers, pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians, and SENCOs or the named person with oversight for SEN) on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety): when deciding whether to make a referral and so that children's needs are considered holistically;
- liaise with mental health services, where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health;
- promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances;
- promote educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and is therefore best placed to identify the impact that these issues might be having on children's attendance, engagement and achievement.
- Work with others to ensure that the school's filtering and monitoring systems are functional and effective.

Working with the Head teacher, the designated safeguarding lead takes lead responsibility for:

- ensuring that the school or college knows who its cohort of students who currently need a social worker are, understanding their academic progress and attainment, and maintaining a culture of high aspirations for this cohort;
- support teaching staff to feel confident to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help children who need or have needed a social worker reach their potential, recognising that even when statutory social care intervention has ended, there is still a lasting impact on children's educational outcomes.

Information sharing and managing the child protection file

Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect, and in promoting children's welfare, including their educational outcomes. We have clear powers to share, hold and use information for these purposes.

The DSL is responsible for ensuring that child protection files are kept up to date and stored securely. They ensure the file is only accessed by those who need to see it and where the file or content within it is shared, this happens in line with information sharing advice as set out in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) 2025.

Where students leave, the DSL will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible, and within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term. This will be transferred separately from the main student file, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. Receiving schools and colleges should ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads and SENCOs or the named person with oversight for SEN in colleges, are aware as required.

The DSL will also consider if it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving in order to help them put in place the right support to safeguard this child and to help the child thrive in the school or college. For example, information that would allow the new school or college to continue supporting children who have had a social worker and been victims of abuse and have that support in place for when the child arrives.

Raising Awareness

The DSL will:

- ensure child protection policies are known, understood and used appropriately; ensure that our child protection policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies /proprietors regarding this; and ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and our role in this;
- link with the safeguarding children partnership arrangements to make sure staff are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies on local safeguarding arrangements; and
- raise awareness of the lasting impact of adversity and trauma on education, behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, so that this is understood by senior leaders and staff and reflected in relevant policies (for example, mental health and behaviour).
 - Ensure that all staff undertake training to understand risks of poor filtering and monitoring and know how to share their concerns. Ensure that all staff have taken part in annual cybersecurity training.

Training, knowledge and skills

The DSL (and any deputies) will undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training will be updated at least every two years. The DSL also undertakes Prevent awareness training.

A DSLs knowledge and skills will be continuously refreshed via newsletters, meetings, other DSLs, or simply taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments. This will allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role.

Understanding processes and procedures

The DSL:

- understands the assessment process for providing early help and statutory services, including the [Framework For Action](#) (Bolton's Threshold document) and local authority children's social care referral arrangements (The Integrated Front Door);

- has a working knowledge of how a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference is conducted and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so; and
- understands the importance of the role the designated safeguarding lead has in providing information and support to children social care in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Providing support to staff

The DSL will:

- ensure each member of staff has access to, and understands, our child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff;
- ensure that staff are supported during the referrals processes; and
- support staff to consider how safeguarding, welfare and educational outcomes are linked, including to inform the provision of academic and pastoral support.

Holding and sharing information

The DSL:

- understands the importance of information sharing, both within our setting, and with other schools and colleges on transfer including in-year and between primary and secondary education, and with the three safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners;
- understands relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation; and
- is able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of all concerns, discussions and decisions made including the rationale for those decisions. This should include instances where referrals were or were not made to another agency such as LA or the Prevent Programme. and referrals and understand the purpose of this record-keeping.

We follow ICO guidelines utilise the [Data protection toolkit for schools](#)

The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children. Staff have regard to the Department for Education Guidance; *Information Sharing Advice for Safeguarding Practitioners* (2024) [Safeguarding practitioners information sharing advice](#)

Responding to specific needs and harms

The DSL will:

- be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers;
- understand the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have, including on children's behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, and what is needed in responding to this in promoting educational outcomes;
- understand and support with the requirements of the Prevent duty and be able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation;
- understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at school or college; and
- recognise the additional risks that children with SEN and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and be confident they have the capability to support children with SEND to stay safe online;

Understanding the views of children

The DSL will:

- encourage a culture of listening to students and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, and put in place any measures to protect them
- understand the difficulties that students may have in approaching staff about their circumstances and consider how to build trusted relationships which facilitate communication.

GUIDANCE FOR SAFEGUARDING RECORDS

What is a “welfare concern”?

Concerns may arise in one or more of the following areas:

- The student’s behaviour
- The student has a physical injury
- The student makes a disclosure or allegation
- The student’s physical presentation
- Information from or observation of behaviour of a parent

What to record

Using CPOMS record ;

- The incident / event / observation of concern is described clearly and concisely
- This is written using straightforward language and fact and opinion are differentiated.
- If recording a disclosure, the student’s own words are recorded and any questions you may have asked are included.
- Physical marks and injuries are recorded on a body map where appropriate (See Appendices 6)
- Any action taken is recorded
- If appropriate scan in handwritten notes taken when a student makes a disclosure and use body maps when there is a physical mark or injury and make reference to this in the chronology.

How to record actions taken in response to staff concerns

When a welfare concern is raised, it is important that this is checked to ensure sufficient detail has been recorded by the staff member who has reported the concern. If a body map has been completed or there are any other documents referred to in the record, ensure these are attached and where appropriate.

It is important that a record of the action taken in response to every welfare concern form is documented. The level of detail of this record will clearly depend on the nature and seriousness of the concern but may include;

- Requests to staff for monitoring specific aspects of the student’s presentation, behaviour, attendance etc.
- Discussions and telephone calls (with colleagues, parents, student, Social Care and other agencies or services), including rationale, actions and outcomes
- Professional consultations
- Letters sent and received
- Early Help Assessments and reviews
- Any referrals (both for external and education-based services)

Actions and decisions should be added to the original log on CPOMS.

WHS SAFEGUARDING REPORTING - STAFF QUICK GUIDE

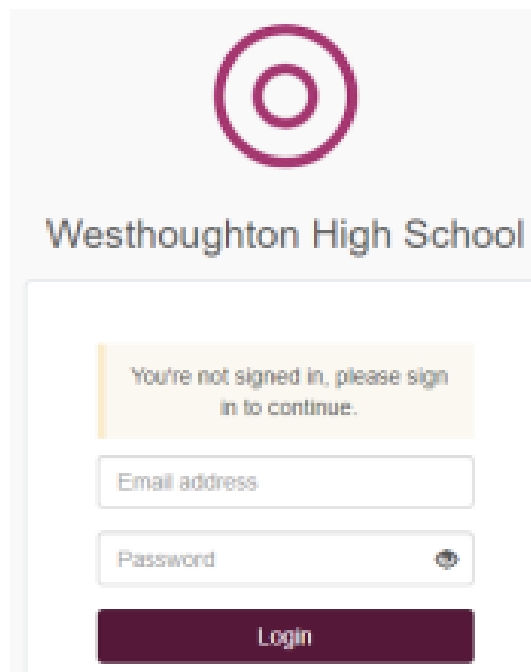
If you have concerns about a student **contact a DSL as soon as possible**. The clearest way to do this is to record your concerns using CPOMS using the instructions below. You should receive acknowledgement that your concern has been received – you have a responsibility to check with the DSL team if this does not happen.

If the concern involves immediate danger you must act straight away, speak to a DSL or a member of SLT (in person or by phone). If you are in class send for urgent support by contacting main school office and state it is a safeguarding concern – a DSL will come to you.

In the unlikely event that this is not possible and the danger is immediate you should call the police or social care directly. The contact number for the Integrated Front Door (Bolton Social Care) is 01204 331500 8.45-5pm Mon-Fri or 01204 337777 out of hours emergency. If you take this step please also alert a member of the DSL team as soon as possible.

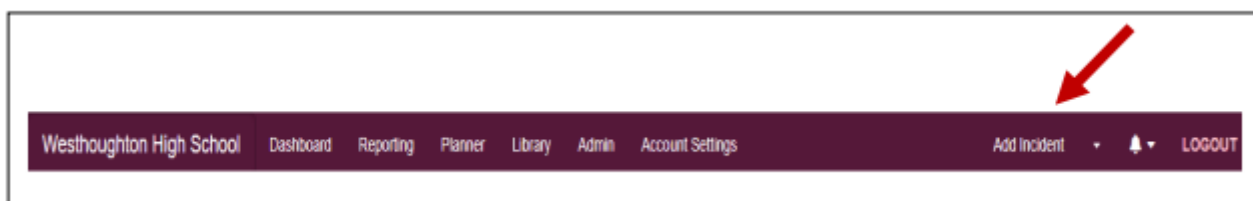
To use CPOMS

Login from the shortcut on the desktop of your school computer.
Every WHS staff member has their own login. Use the password reset function to set your password for the first time.

The image shows a login interface for Westhoughton High School. At the top, there is a purple circular logo with concentric circles. Below the logo, the text "Westhoughton High School" is displayed. A yellow message box states: "You're not signed in, please sign in to continue." Below this, there are two input fields: "Email address" and "Password". The "Password" field has a small eye icon to its right. At the bottom, there is a dark purple button labeled "Login".

If you have any difficulties with this step, or any questions, you should raise with a member of the DSL team as soon as possible. Do not let technical issues prevent you from referring a concern.

When you have logged in, click 'add incident' on the home screen.



Search for the student name then fill in the details of your concern/ the incident or disclosure.

A screenshot of the incident reporting form. On the left is a vertical sidebar with 'Student' and 'Incident' options. The 'Student' section is active, showing a text input field with the placeholder 'Begin typing a student's name'. The 'Incident' section is below it, showing a larger text input field.

Click to say it is a safeguarding/pastoral concern and then click to alert DSL before you press submit.

A screenshot of the incident reporting form. The 'Alert Staff Members' section is active, showing a text input field with the placeholder 'Begin typing a staff member's name' and a 'DSL' button below it. At the bottom left is a large blue button labeled 'Submit Incident'.

- Be accurate - record dates and times and exact details. Use the voice of the child if your concern comes from a direct disclosure – what did they say? How did they phrase it?
- Use full names - not initials/first names/staff ciphers
- Be factual – do not give personal opinions that cannot be substantiated – it is appropriate to give the reasons for your decision making i.e. why you have raised the concern
- Use professional language – logs may be viewed by other agencies and this is a permanent record on the student file.
- Check details and click alert DSL before clicking to submit the incident.

APPENDIX 6

Body Map Guidance

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 and scan in or complete using the electronic version on CPOMS.

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

Any concerns should be reported and recorded without delay to The Integrated Front Door or allocated social worker if already an open case to social care.

When you notice an injury, 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 student feel hot?
- Does the student feel pain?
- Has the student'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 students file on CPOMS.

(This must be completed at time of observation)

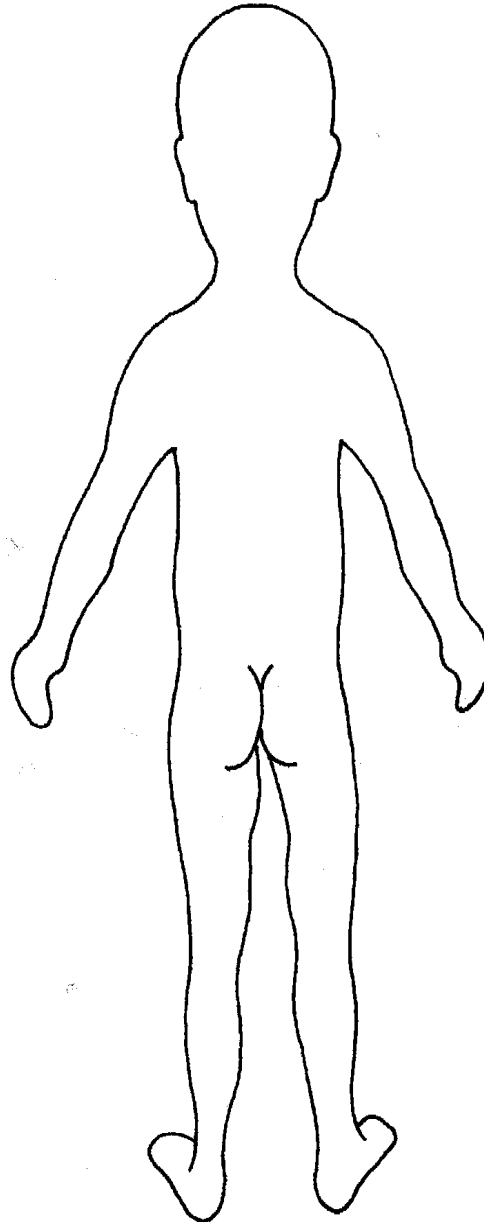
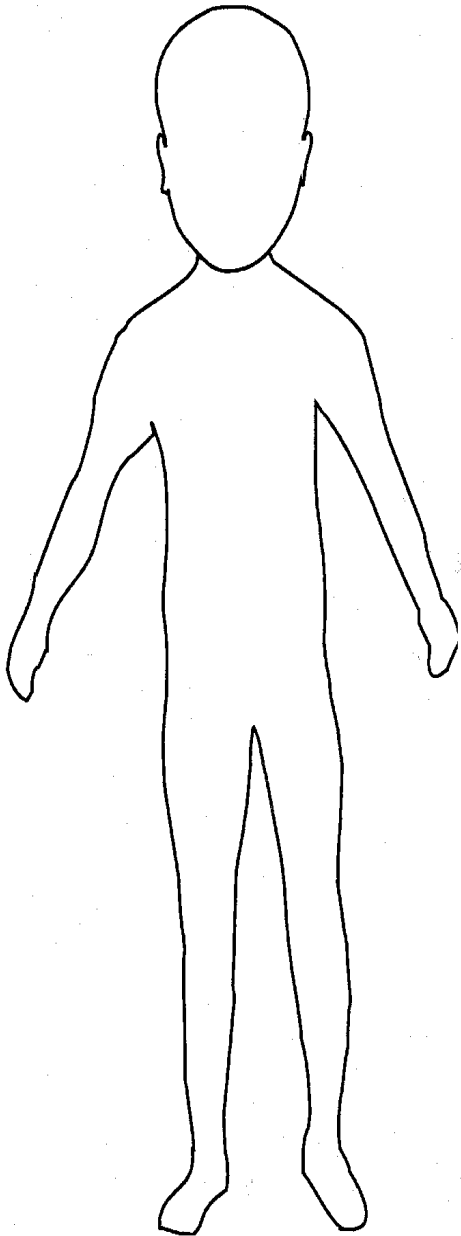
Name of Student: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of Staff: _____

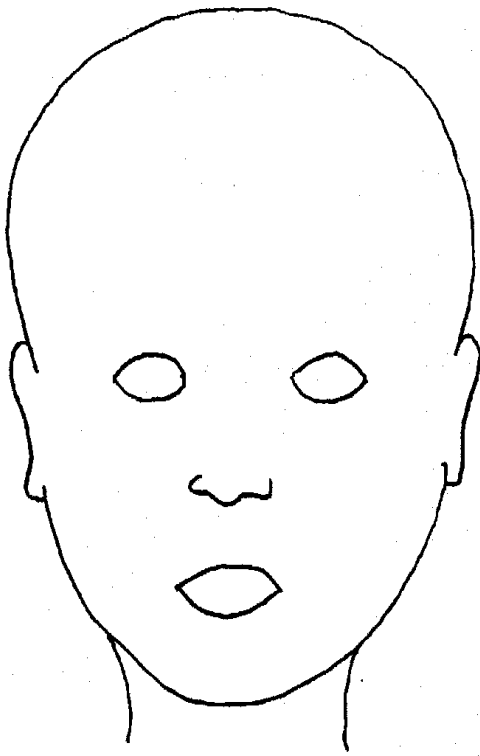
Job title: _____

Date and time of observation: _____

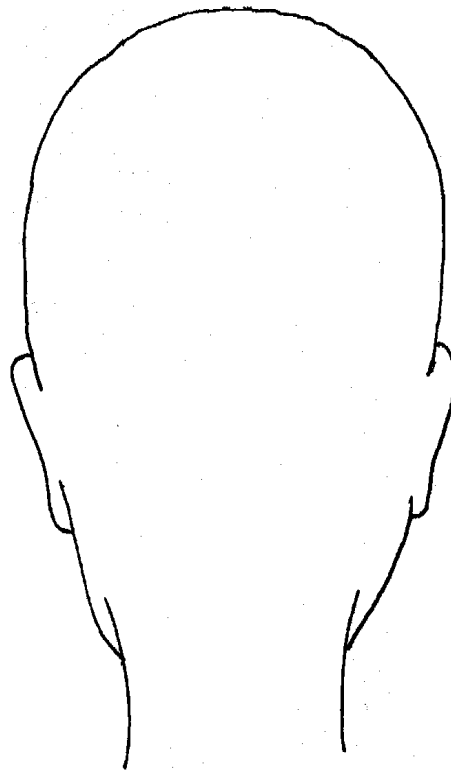


Name of Student: _____

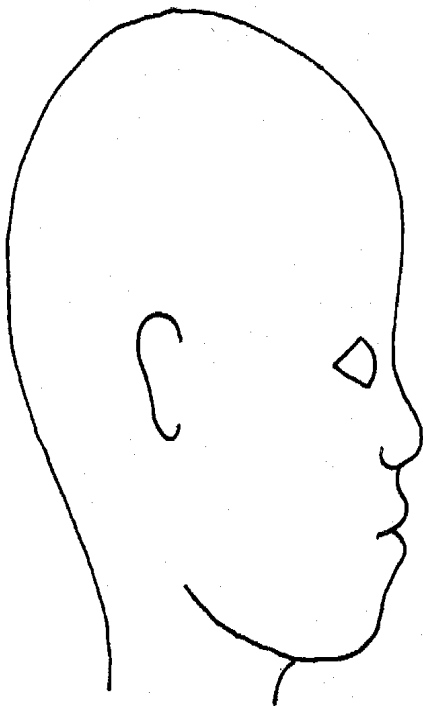
Date and time of observation: _____



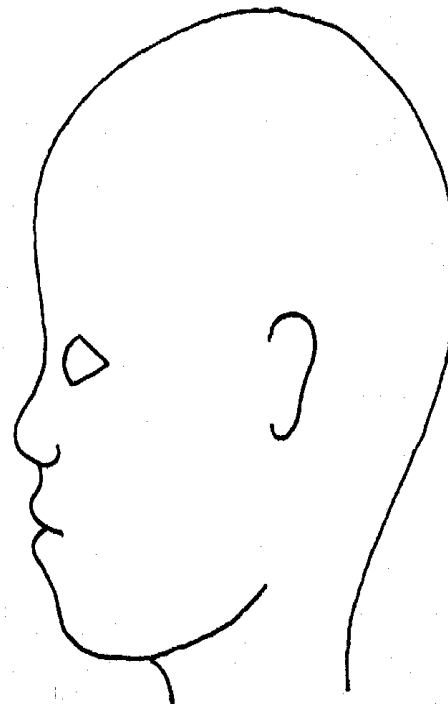
FRONT



BACK



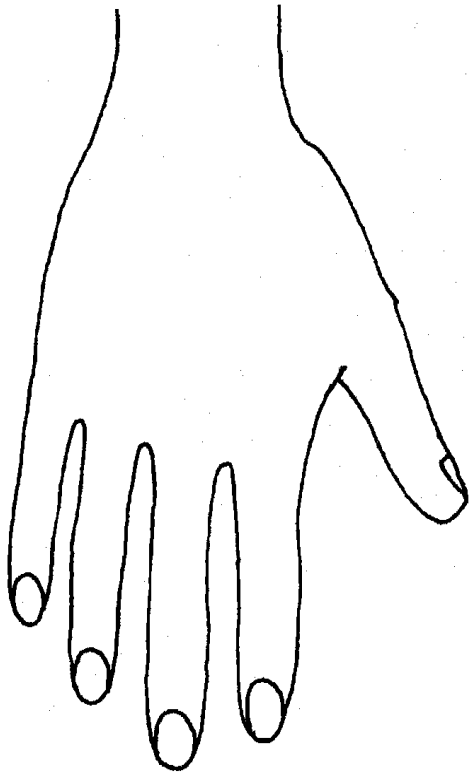
RIGHT



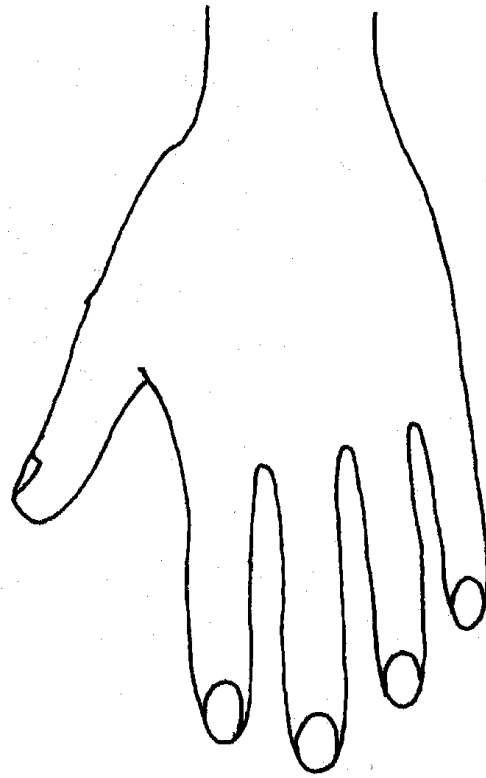
LEFT

Name of student: _____

Date and time of observation: _____

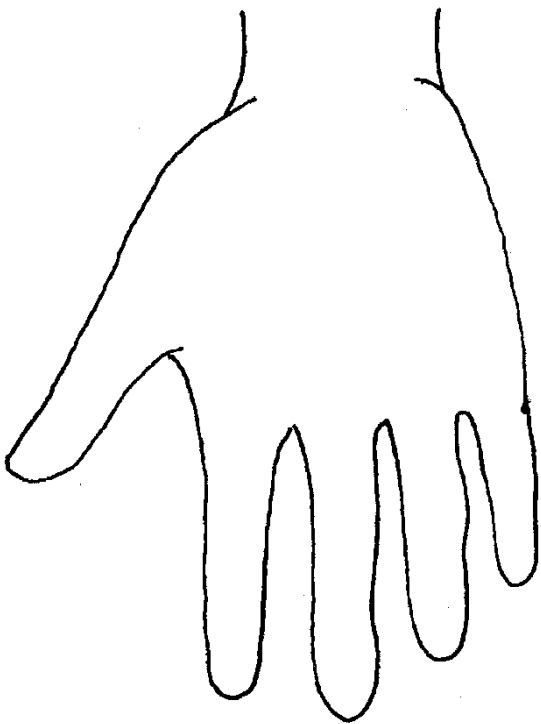


R



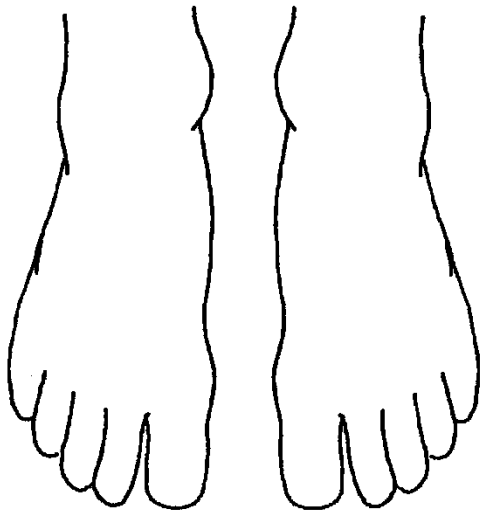
L

BACK



Name of Student: _____

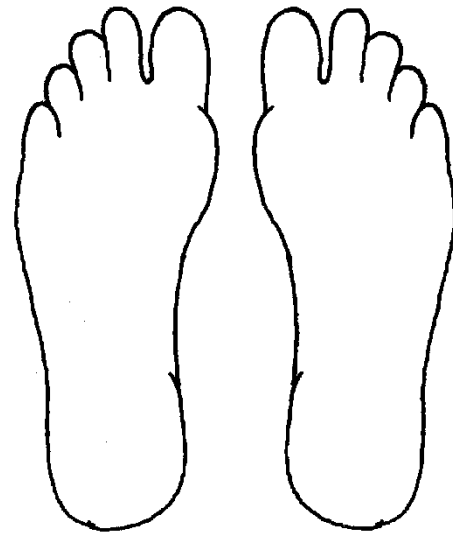
Date and time of observation: _____



R

TOP

L



R

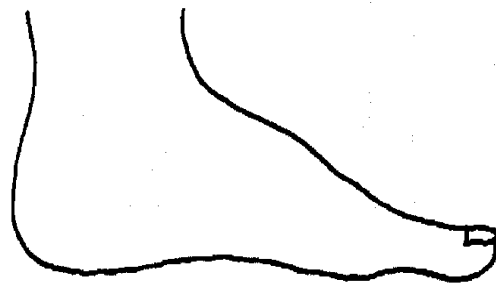
BOTTOM

L

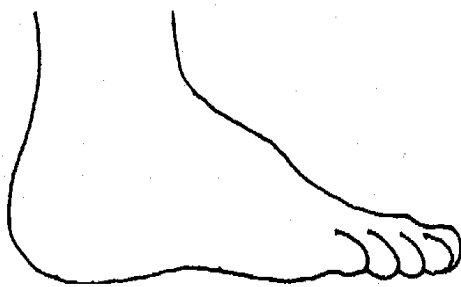


R

INNER

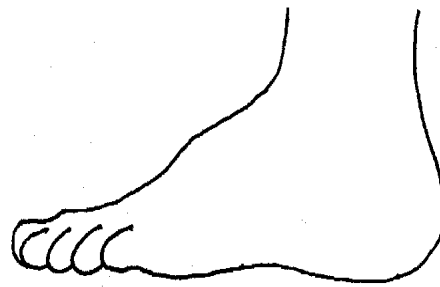


L



R

OUTER



L

HOME ACCIDENT OR INJURY FORM

This form should be completed when a parent/carer informs us that a student has sustained an injury or had an accident outside of school

Date Accident/Injury Reported:	
--------------------------------	--

Name of student:	
Class/Year Group:	

Person Reporting Incident:	
Relationship to student:	

Date Accident Occurred:	
Place of Accident:	

Description of injury (complete body map if needed):
--

Brief detail of how the accident occurred:
--

Witnessed by:	
---------------	--

First Aid Treatment given:	Yes ☐	No ☐
----------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------

Was Medical advice sought?	Yes ☐	No ☐
If yes, when and where?		

Signed by parent/carer:	
-------------------------	--

Member of staff accident reported to:	
---------------------------------------	--

APPENDIX 8

TRANSFER OF SAFEGUARDING RECORDS

Pupil Name:

DOB:

Start Date @ WHS:

Previous School:

To be completed by the DSL

1. I can confirm that there is no safeguarding information to transfer for the above pupil. ☐

Or

2. I can confirm that there is safeguarding information to transfer for the above pupil and that I have forwarded it to Mrs C Unsworth by the following method:

☐ Electronically by email

Date:

☐ Electronically by CPOMS transfer

Date:

☐ Paper copy by post

Date:

☐ Telephone Conversation

Date:

☐ In person by meeting

Date:

Signed:

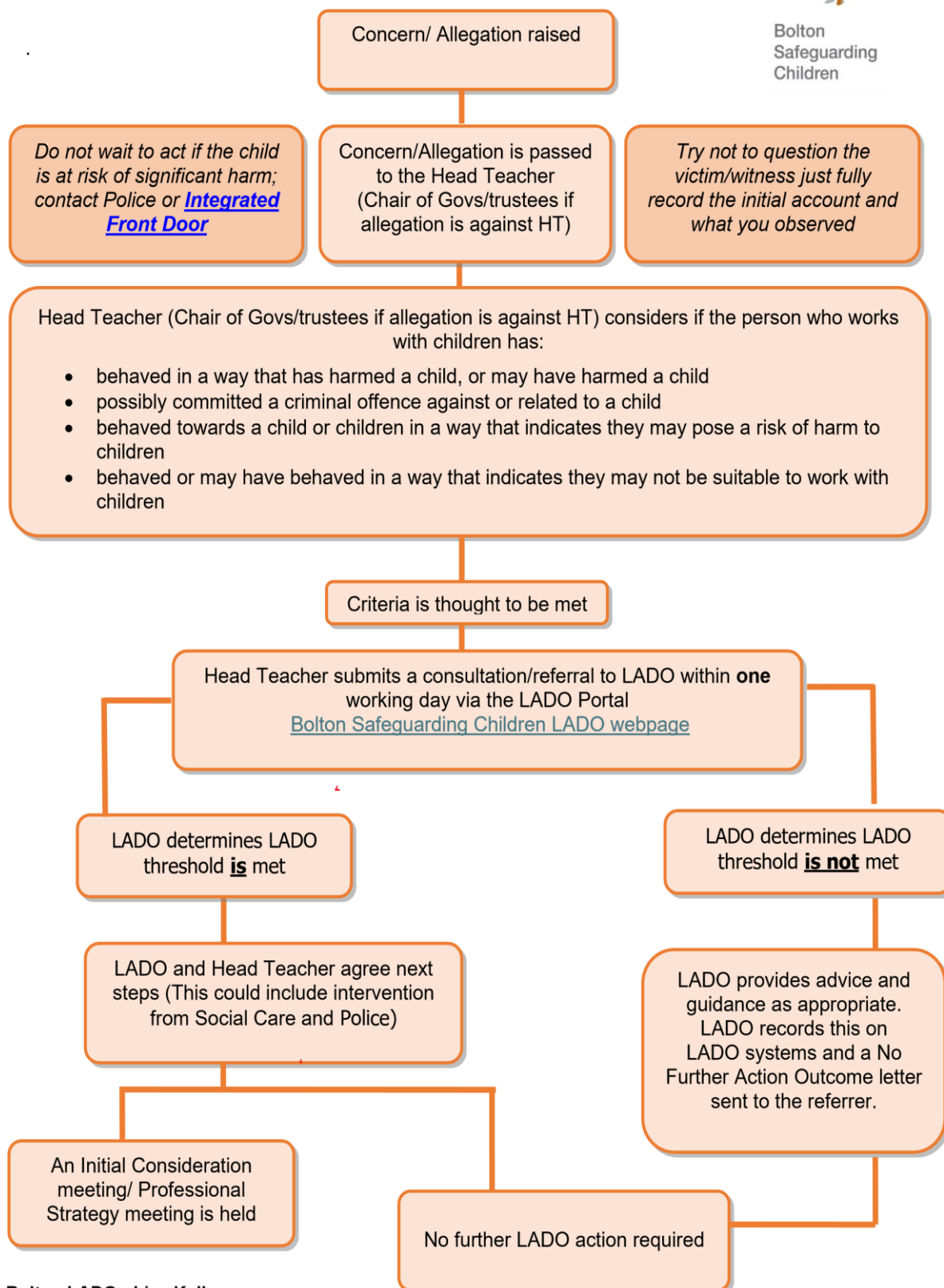
Date:

Print Name:

Please return this form as soon as possible to Mrs C Unsworth – Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westhoughton High School, Bolton Road, Westhoughton, Bolton. BL5 3DN

Egress: cunsworth@westhoughton-high.org

Managing Professional Allegations Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 'First Steps' (for schools & colleges)



APPENDIX 10

Tracking Form

Allegation/concern raised against Staff

When an allegation/concern is identified brief details should be obtained and passed to the Headteacher as soon as possible.

Date:		Time	
Allegation/Concern raised by- Name: Role if staff/ year group if student:			
Allegation/concern alerted to: Name: Role:			
Who the allegation/concern is made against Name: Role:			
If there is a victim Name: Role if staff/ year group if student:			
<i>NB: The subject of the allegation should not be informed without first seeking advice</i>			
Brief details of the allegation/concern:			
Date and time of alleged concern /incident:			
Does this allegation involve restraint?	YES / NO / NK		

Case manager appointed and to complete further tracking form	
--	--

Allegations which appear to meet the criteria should be referred to LADO within 24 hours (see Note 1)

Chronology (record here a chronology of all conversations, email, telephone calls)	
Does this appear to meet the criteria for a LADO referral?	YES / NO
If no, are you recording the incident as a Low-Level Concern?	YES / NO If you answer Yes- Record rationale for decision making here:
Referred to LADO via portal:	YES / NO Date:
Advice provided by LADO:	
Date advice provided:	
Action to be taken:	
<i>Suspension should never be automatic but should be considered and rationale given for decisions made.</i>	Decision to suspend YES / NO / NA

Information gathered about the allegation.

Staff or parent/carers witnesses	Account taken	Copy forwarded to LADO
1.		
2.		
3.		
Student witnesses		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4		
Plan of setting/classroom etc		
CCTV		
Chronology of events		
1 st Aid log		

Full details gathered.

If there is a Victim - name:	
Date of Birth	
Address:	
Is the student known to Social Care?	YES / NO
Does the student have Special Educational Needs?	YES / NO If yes - details.
Has the student raised previous concerns?	YES / NO If yes - details

Staff accused full name:	
Date of Birth:	
Address:	
Has this person had concerns raised against them before?	

Informing others

Have parents of the student been informed?	
Details of response	

Staff members should be informed of the allegation ASAP - on advice from LADO

Has the staff member been informed?	YES / NO
Name of Key person nominated to feedback to them:	

Outcome

Does this meet LADO criteria:	YES / NO
Further action required:	
Professional Strategy Meeting to be held:	YES / NO /NA
Professional Strategy Meeting date:	
Attended by Case Manager:	YES / NO / NA
Minutes received:	YES / NO /NA
Outcome: – <i>please circle</i> Substantiated: there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation	Unfounded False Malicious Unsubstantiated Substantiated

APPENDIX 11

The Role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (LAC) within the school

The designated teacher has a leadership role in promoting the educational achievement of every LAC on the school's roll. The role should make a positive difference by promoting a whole school culture where the personalised learning needs of every LAC matters and their personal, emotional and academic needs are prioritised.

The designated teacher has lead responsibility for helping school staff to understand the things which can affect how LAC learn and achieve. Everyone involved in helping LAC achieve should:

- Have high expectations of LAC's involvement in learning and educational progress
- Be aware of the emotional, psychological and social effects of loss and separation from birth families, the reasons for that separation and that some children may find it difficult to build relationships of trust with adults because of their experiences
- Understand the reasons which may be behind a LAC's behaviour, and why they may need more support than other children but the teacher should not allow this to be an excuse for lowering expectations of what a child is capable of achieving
- Understand how important it is to see LAC as individuals rather than as a homogeneous group and to not publicly treat them differently from their peers
- Appreciate the importance of showing sensitivity about who else knows about a child's looked after status
- Create a shared understanding between teachers, carers, social workers and most importantly, depending on age and understanding, the child him or herself of what everyone needs to do to help them to achieve their potential
- Have the level of understanding of the role of social workers, virtual school heads (or equivalent) in local authorities and how education – and the function of the PEP – fits into the wider care planning duties of the authority which looks after the child.

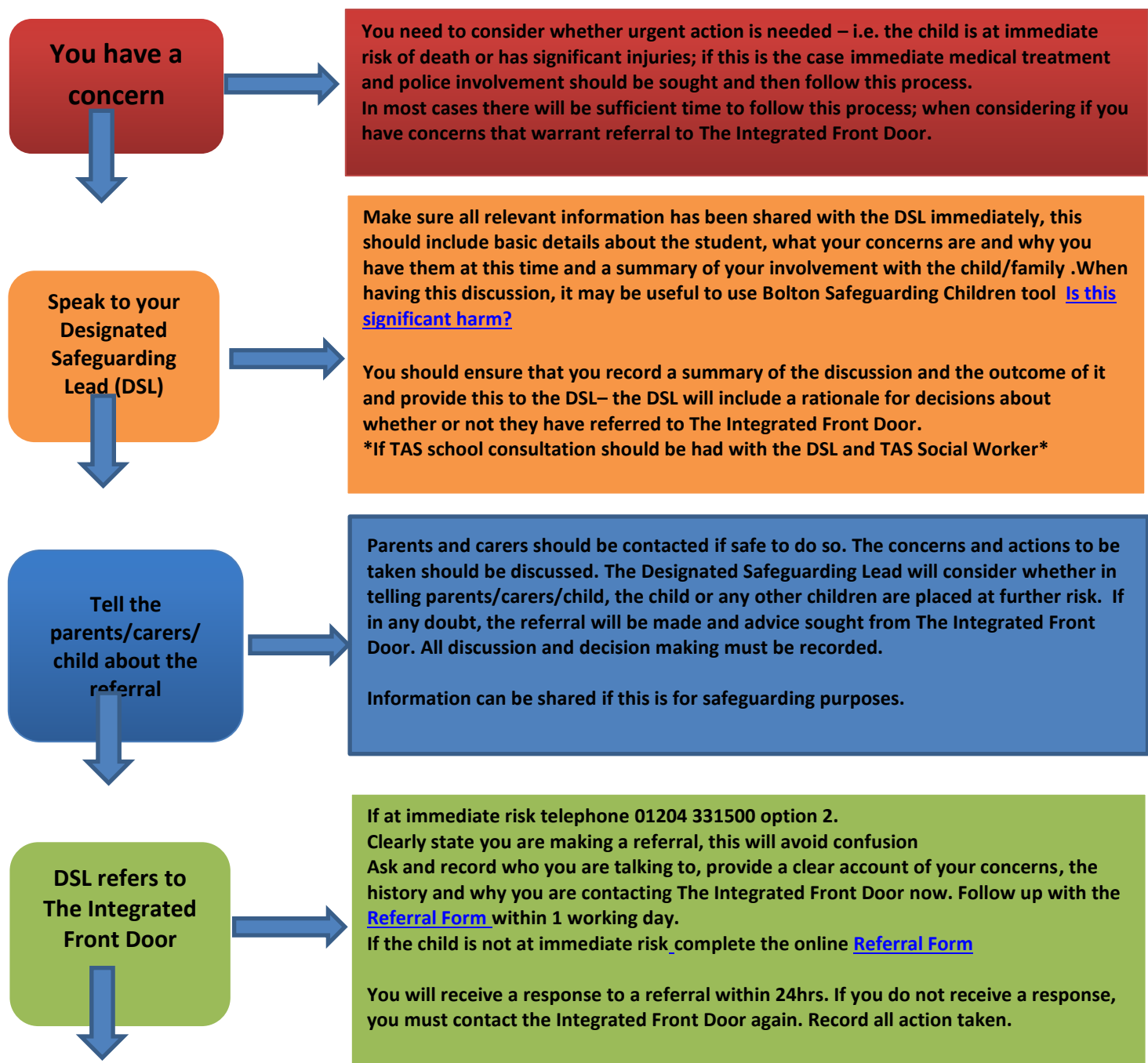
In promoting the educational achievement of looked after students the Designated Teacher will:

- Contribute to the development and review of whole school policies to ensure that they do not unintentionally put LAC at a disadvantage
- Make sure, in partnership with other staff, that there are effective and well understood school procedures in place to support a LAC's learning. Particular account should be taken of the child's needs when joining the school and of the importance of promoting an ethos of high expectations about what he or she can achieve
- Promote a culture in which LAC believe they can succeed and aspire to further and higher education
- Promote a culture in which LAC are able to discuss their progress and be involved in setting their own targets, have their views taken seriously and are supported to take responsibility for their own learning
- Be a source of advice for teachers at school about differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for individual students who are looked after
- Make sure the school makes full use of Assessment for Learning (AfL) approaches to improve the short and medium term progress of LAC and help them and their teachers understand where they are in their learning, where they need to go and how to get there
- Make sure that LAC are prioritised in any selection of students who would benefit from one-to-one tuition and that they have access to academic focused study support
- Promote good home-school links through contact with the child's carer about how they can support his or her progress by paying attention to effective communication with carers. In particular, they should make sure that carers understand the potential value of one-to-one tuition and are equipped to engage with it at home
- Have lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the child's PEP within school in partnership with others as necessary.

APPENDIX 12

Quick Guide to making a referral

QUICK GUIDE TO MAKING A REFERRAL TO THE INTEGRATED FRONT DOOR



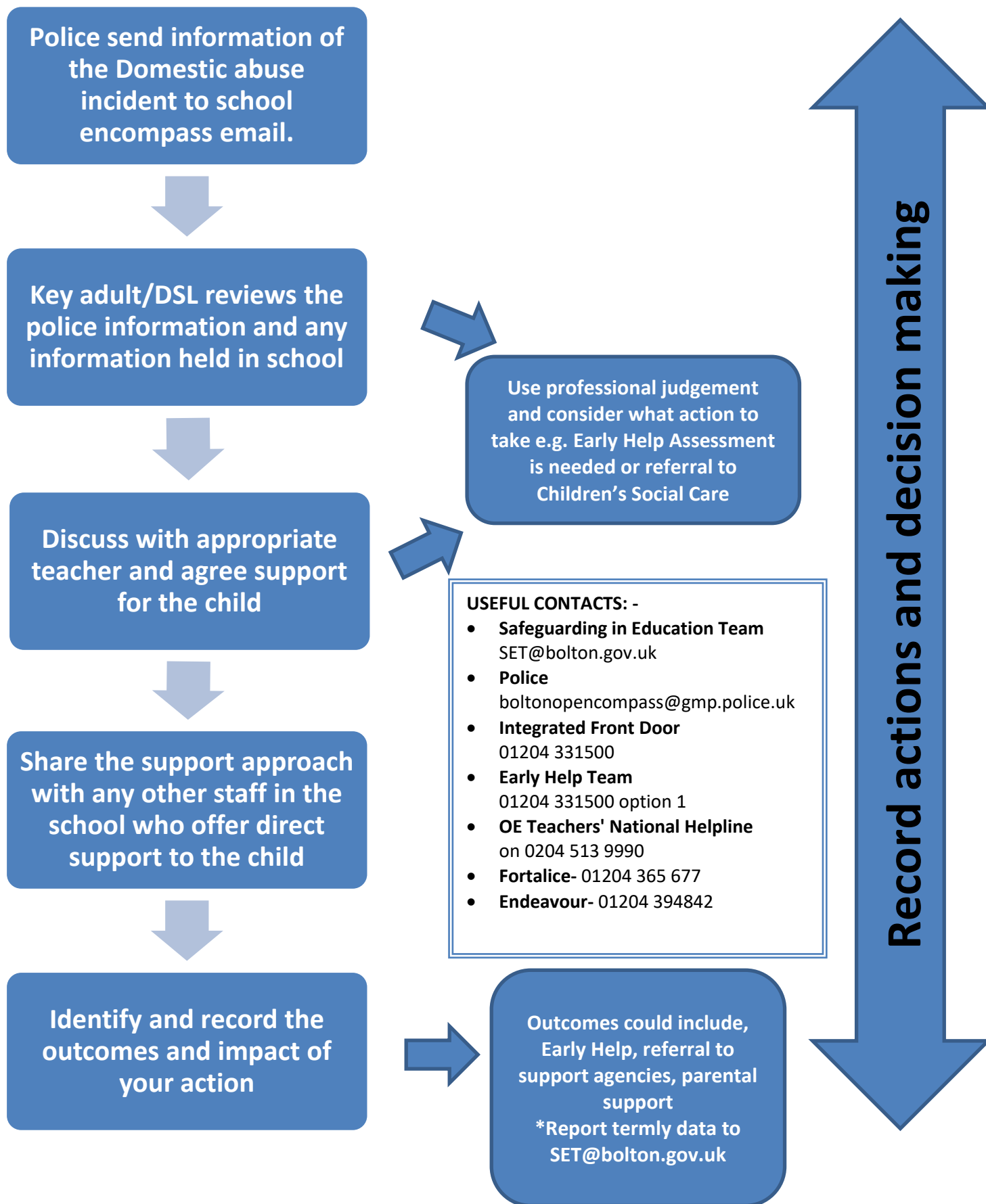
At the end of the call you should know what is going to happen next, the timescales for action and what your role in this will be. When making a referral refer to 'Making a good referral' found here -[Worried about a child? – Bolton Safeguarding Children](#)

If the Integrated Front Door does not agree that social work involvement is needed you should listen to their reasoning for this and their advice about alternative action – including recommendations to use early help processes; if at the end of this you still do not agree then you should refer to [Bolton's Challenge and Escalation Process](#).

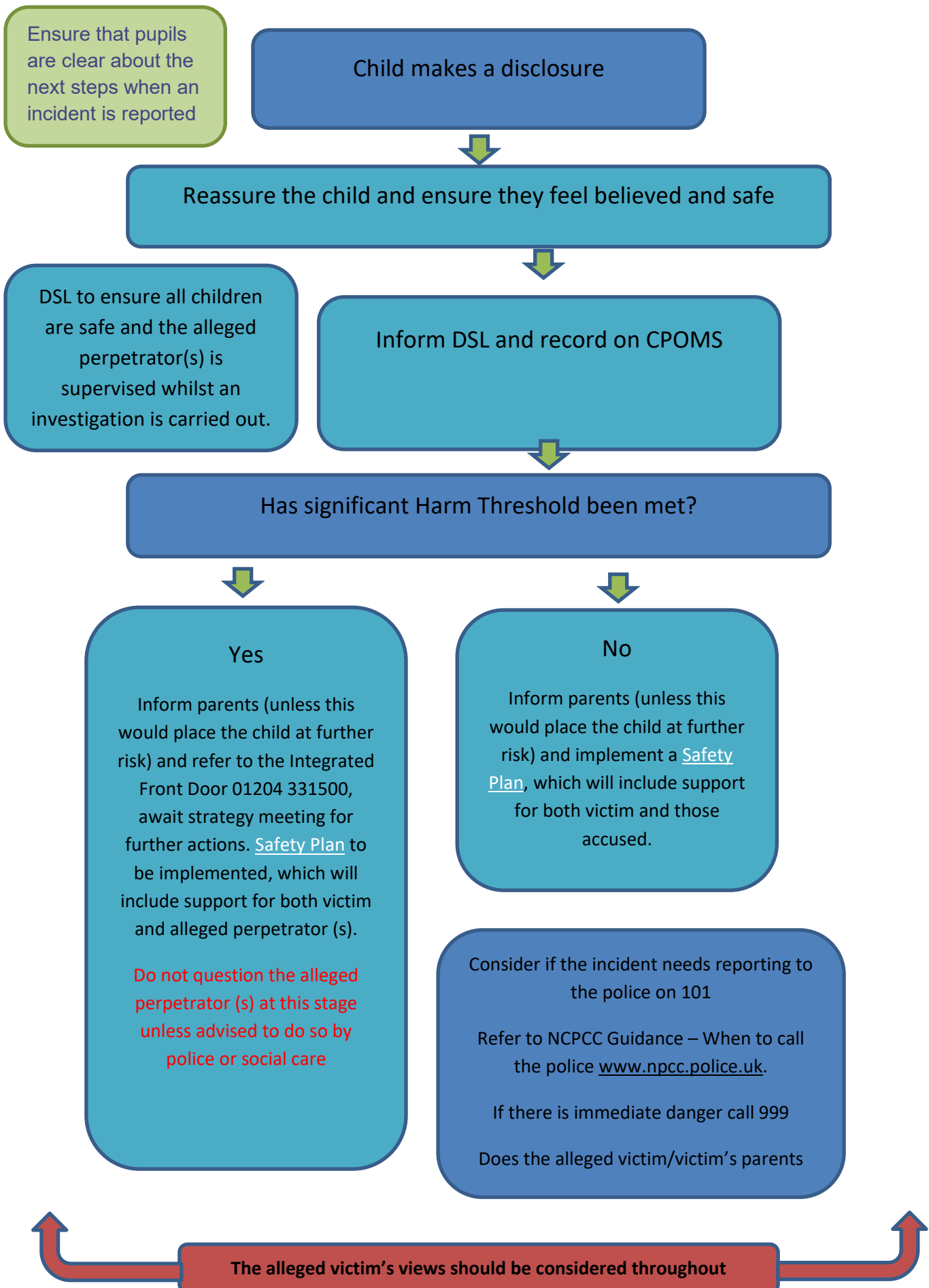
You should ensure that the child and their family continue to be supported and kept safe while awaiting resolution.

If you know there is an Early Help Assessment and Plan open but you are not the Lead Professional, you should tell the Lead Professional about the action you have taken and why as soon as possible; if you are not sure if there is an Early Help Assessment you can check with the Early Help Access Point (01204 331500 option 1) who will let you know and share details of the Lead Professional where one is identified – it would be good practice to share this information with the Lead Professional. If you are the current Lead Professional making the referral and there is an Early Help Assessment and Plan in place, this should be updated to include the referral information - this helps to avoid duplication and gives the social worker the best possible information from which to start their assessment.

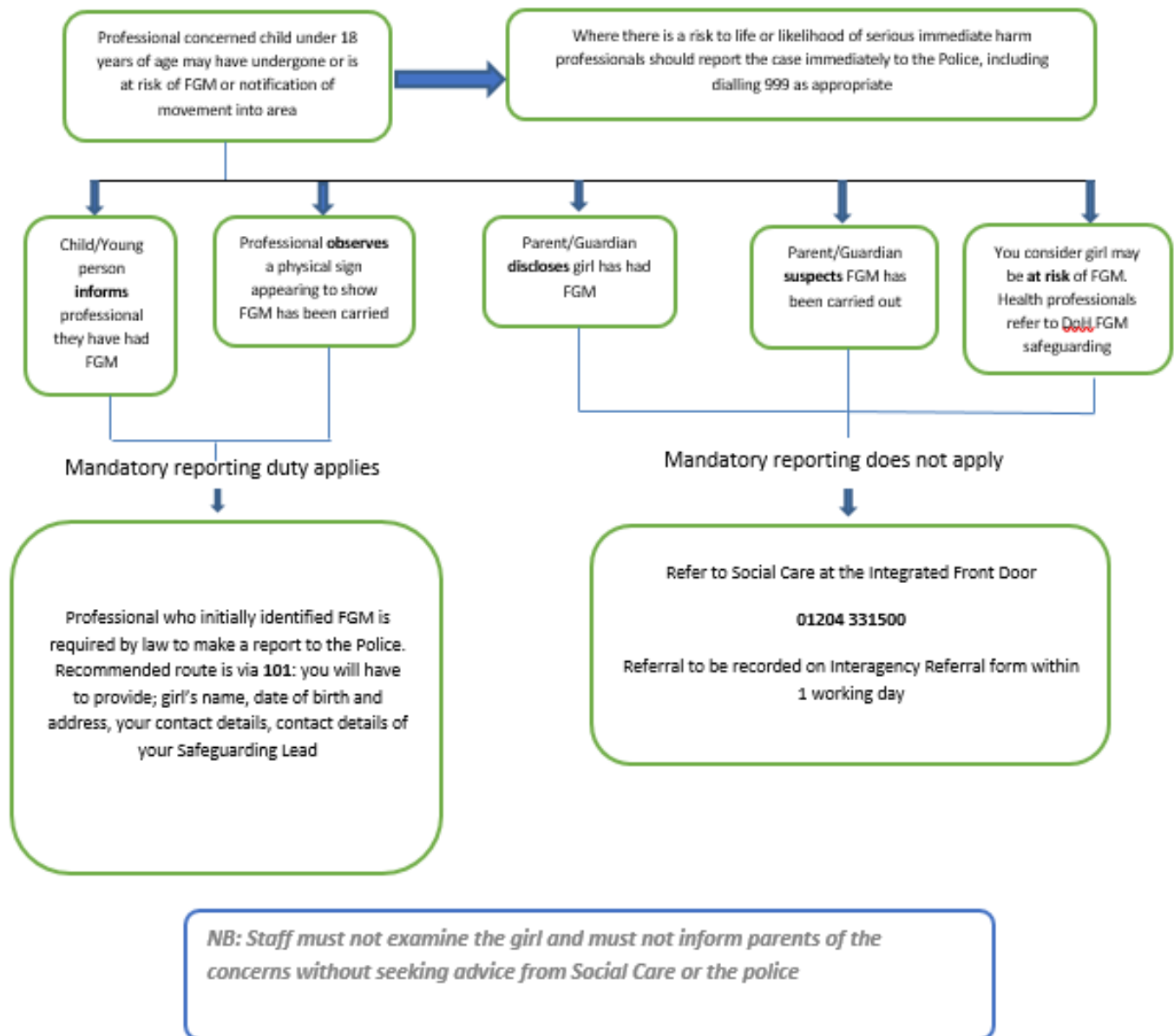
Appendix 13 Encompass flow chart



Appendix 14 Child on Child Abuse, Sexual Violence and Harassment Flowchart



REPORTING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



Appendix 16

To be completed annually BY ALL STAFF and kept in Personnel Files

Staff Member:..... Post:.....

I have received a copy* of the Westhoughton High School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

I have received a copy* of Part 1 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education -2025'

I have read and understood the standards and guidelines outlined in the Westhoughton High School Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.

I have read and understood the standards and guidelines outlined in Part 1 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education -2025'

I agree with the principles contained therein and accept the importance of implementing the policies and practices whilst working at Westhoughton High School.

I understand that in addition to these documents I am also required to complete an online training module on the National College Online Platform:

1) Certificate in Safeguarding for staff for Secondary Schools

I have received a copy* of additional guidance relating to dealing with disclosures of sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools and PREVENT and I understand the school procedures and approach to dealing with incidents or concerns relating to these areas.

I am aware that if I require any clarification about any aspect of the safeguarding information or training materials I can contact the DSL Caroline Unsworth – Deputy Headteacher

Signed (Staff).....

Date

Please sign and return this form to A Hodson

* All staff will receive an electronic copy via e-mail unless a paper copy is specifically requested