



PRESTFELDE

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Academic Year 2021/22

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

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CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY

KEY EXTERNAL CONTACT DETAILS

Local Authority Designated Officer	Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): Michelle Taylor First Point of Contact (LADO) on 03456 789021 . lado@shropshire.gov.uk
Local Authority Children’s Social Services	First Point of Contact (FPOC) (Compass and Initial Contact Team) 0345 678 9021 Shropshire Out of hours Emergency Duty Team: 0345 678 9040
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	FPOC) (Compass and Initial Contact Team) 0345 678 9021
Support and Advice about Extremism	Police Public Protection Unit (West Mercia Police) 0300 333 3000 Police Emergency 999 Police Non-emergency 101 Local Authority Shropshire Local Authority Mount McKinley, Shrewsbury Business Park, Anchorage Avenue, Shrewsbury SY2 6FG Phone: 0345 678 9021 Concerns / referral are directly emailed to police PREVENT Team prevent@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/scb/ Department for Education NON EMERGENCY NUMBER: 020 7340 7264 EMAIL: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk
NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line	ADDRESS: Weston House, 42 Curtain Road London EC2A 3NH TEL: 0800 028 0285 EMAIL: help@nspcc.org.uk
Disclosure and Barring Service	ADDRESS: PO Box 181, Darlington, DL1 9FA TEL: 01325 953795 EMAIL: dbdispatch@dbs.gsi.gov.uk
Teaching Regulation Agency	ADDRESS: 53-55 Butts Road, Earlsdon Park, Coventry, CV1 3BH TEL: 0207 593 5393

	EMAIL: misconduct.teacher@education.gov.uk
OFSTED Safeguarding Children	TEL: 0300 123 4666 (Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm) EMAIL: Whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk

KEY SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Governors	<p>Chair of Governors Mr Rex Sartain on 01743 245 400 rsartain@prestfelde.co.uk</p> <p>Nominated Safeguarding Governor Mrs Nicki Cooper on 01743 245 400 office@prestfelde.co.uk</p>
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy Designed Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	<p>Main DSL for the School Mr Michael Haswell Deputy Head Pastoral and SLT mhaswell@prestfelde.co.uk 01743 245400</p> <p>Deputy DSL's</p> <p>Fiona Orchard Head forchard@prestfelde.co.uk</p> <p>Holly Keogh-Jones Head of Boarding Hjones@prestfelde.co.uk</p> <p>Jake Wyatt – Wellbeing Officer Jwyatt@prestfelde.co.uk</p> <p>Katie Warner Little Prestfelde Kwarner@prestfelde.co.uk</p> <p>EYFS DSL Mrs Emma Thelwell: (Deputy Head Academic) 01743 245400 ethelwell@prestfelde.co.uk</p> <p>Kay Wynne Middle School DSL Kwynne@prestfelde.co.uk</p>
Designated Teacher for Looked After Children	Mr Michael Haswell Deputy Head Pastoral and SLT
Head	<p>Mrs Fiona Orchard</p> <p>01743 245 400</p> <p>forchard@prestfelde.co.uk</p>

Public Protection Unit (West Mercia Police)	0300 333 3000
Police Emergency	999
Police Non-emergency	101
Childline:	0800 1111

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

<https://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/>

POLICY STATEMENT

At Prestfelde we believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognise that safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people is everyone's responsibility. We follow Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership (SSCP) procedures and acknowledge that the welfare of the child is paramount.

At Prestfelde it is our duty to respond promptly and appropriately to all concerns, incidents or allegations of abuse or neglect of a child. We work in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies. Our statutory duties and supporting guidance are set out in The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021, the Ofsted Compulsory Childcare Register, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this policy as:

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

Corporal punishment is prohibited for all pupils in Prestfelde School and its use would ordinarily result in a crime being committed; a threat to use corporal punishment may constitute assault and the defence of reasonable chastisement is not available to school staff.

The prohibition includes the administration of corporal punishment to a pupil during any activity, whether or not within the school premises. The prohibition applies to all 'members of staff'. These include all those acting *in loco parentis*, such as unpaid, volunteer supervisors.

There is no justification for inflicting pain on a child or young person as a parent (or any other adult carer). Any form of physical punishment that leaves a mark on a child or young person is considered an assault and is illegal under the [Section 58 of the Children Act 2004](#) ([S47 of Offences Against the Person Act 1861](#)). It is also against the [UN Convention of the Rights of a Child \(Article 19\)](#).

This policy is also based on the following legislation and guidance:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004 - Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as; protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children's health or development, ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and undertaking that role to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Section 3 (5) of the Children Act 1989 states that the law empowers anyone who has care of a child to do all that is reasonable in the circumstances to safeguard his/her welfare.

- Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 – preventing people being drawn into terrorism and promotion of British values to ensure children are kept safe from radicalisation

- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 – Serious Crime Act 2015 - mandatory reporting of FGM from 31st October 2015
- Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021
- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children
- Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which defines what ‘regulated activity’ is in relation to children
- Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty, which explains schools’ duties under the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#)
- [Keeping children safe in Education Part 1 2021](#)
- [The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) 2021](#)
- The Ofsted Compulsory Childcare Register
- [Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership Threshold Guidance](#)
- [West Midlands Procedures](#)
- [Relationships Education- Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education 2019](#)

During COVID-19 Prestfelde have implemented a Safeguarding and Child Protection Addendum to ensure that additional safeguarding measures have been put in place. Staff are to refer to the Addendum for specific procedures during COVID-19 as well as following this policy.

This policy and procedure will also link to other setting/school policies & procedures;

- Anti-Bullying
- Attendance
- Behaviour Management
- E-safety/ICT
- Health and Safety
- Relationship, sex and health education (RSE)
- PSHE
- Safer Recruitment
- Learning Support Policy (Special Educational Needs)
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Trips and Visits
- Whistleblowing procedure

2.1 Adult Roles and Responsibilities

- All staff (including students and volunteers) in Prestfelde are familiar with the definitions and signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect stated in Working Together to Safeguard Children March 2018 as set out in the West Midlands Procedures.
- The Governing Body recognise their role and take full responsibility for the safeguarding in the school. The safeguarding link governor who oversees this work is: Mrs Nicki Cooper.

The safeguarding Governor meets with the DSL and Deputy Head Pastoral half termly and prior to all Education and Governor meetings. This meeting is planned in advance and focuses upon the review of the Safeguarding policy and procedures alongside a review of training for staff and governors and any current safeguarding concerns. This review and meeting support the overall safeguarding report to governors each term.

An annual review of safeguarding is carried out every Autumn term, discussed in Education Committee (Terms of Reference) and reported to full council meeting.

MANAGEMENT OF SAFEGUARDING

The School's DSL is Mr Michael Haswell who is a member of the Senior leadership team.

Deputy DSLs for each part of the school are in place and the person to whom reports should be made in the absence of the DSL. This ensures there is the required cover for the role at all times.

COVID-19

During the pandemic during a part or whole school closure, contingency was made to ensure that there was always a Designated DSL onsite and contactable. This person was communicated to all staff along with their contact details. See contingency plans within School Drives and Firefly.

Any safeguarding concerns continued to be recorded via 'Safeguard my school' to ensure that all DSL's had sight of the concerns and could respond appropriately and effectively at speed.

The DSL and DDSL's contact details can be found on the Key Contacts page at the start of this policy.

The DSL's role is to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection matters in the School. The DSL's responsibility is to maintain an overview of safeguarding within the School, to open channels of communication with local statutory agencies, support staff in carrying out their safeguarding duties and to monitor the effectiveness of the School's policies and procedures in practice. The DSL works with the governors to review and update the School's safeguarding policy. Where a pupil leaves the School, the DSL will also ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school (separately from the main pupil file) as soon as possible. The DSL will ensure secure transit and obtain confirmation of receipt.

The DSL regularly reviews the School's and their own practices and concerns about welfare and safeguarding matters. This includes the personal and professional duty of all staff to report welfare and safeguarding concerns to the DSL, or in the absence of action, directly to local children's services⁸⁷.

The DSL or Deputy DSL will always be available to discuss safeguarding concerns. During term time, the DSL and/ or DDSLs will always be available (during school hours) for staff in the School to discuss any safeguarding concerns. For out of hours/out of term activities, the School's arrangements are email: mhaswell@prestfelde.co.uk or 01743 245400.

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

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

- All staff are aware of their individual roles in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children including their responsibility to be alert to any issues for concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere. We ensure that all staff (including students and volunteers) undergo an induction process where they are given copies of the procedures they must follow if they suspect abuse or

neglect. On-going support is provided through regular supervision and appraisals to ensure these policies and procedures are put into practice to protect children.

- As part of induction, training will include the school's behaviour policy and the school's procedures for managing children who are missing education, as well as the staff code of conduct, and the child protection policy. [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 Part 1](#) must be read by all members of the staff. Governing bodies and proprietors, working with the senior leadership team and especially the designated safeguarding lead, should ensure that those staff who do not work directly with children read either Part one or Annex A. All Designated Safeguarding Leads, management and governing bodies should read KCSiE 2021 in its entirety.
- All staff are expected to update their safeguarding and child protection training at least every three years. In addition, all staff members should receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates. The DSL updates staff at every Inset. A eSafety newsletter is produced every month for Parents, staff and children. Any important information is sent to staff via email during the term and or discussed at the weekly staff meetings as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will take the lead for safeguarding and child protection issues is: Mr Mike Haswell Deputy Head Pastoral.
- The deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Emma Thelwell Deputy Head Academic and Fiona Orchard Head, Mr Jake Wyatt Wellbeing dept, Mrs Kay Wynne Middle School, Miss Katie Warner Little Prestfelde, Mrs Holly Keogh Jones Boarding.
- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead will update their child protection/safeguarding training every two years (for school settings) regularly (early years settings) and has specific responsibilities as listed in [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 Part 1](#)

2.2 Record Keeping

When a concern about a child's welfare or safety is raised it will be discussed with the designated lead and recorded. The designated lead will decide if the concern should be shared with another agency (see **decision making** below) or kept on record in case future concerns arise.

Records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

All records will be stored in a separate confidential file in a locked cabinet. Prestfelde uses an electronic record system called Safeguard my school which was implemented in the Summer term of 2021. Information is stored in a secure place with restricted access only to the DSL and Deputy DSLs.

Where children leave Prestfelde (including in year transfers) the designated safeguarding lead should 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. When a child/pupil transfers to another school/setting within this or another authority, the confidential information held is forwarded under confidential cover and separate from the child's/pupil's main file to the DSL for child protection in the receiving school/setting. This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained (**Appendix C**).

In addition to the child protection file the DSL will consider sharing information with the new setting/school/college in advance of a child leaving.

Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect, and in promoting children's welfare, including their educational outcomes. Schools and colleges have clear powers to share, hold and use information for these purposes. We follow the guidance in the HM Government (HMG) 2018 guide 'Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to

children, young people, parents and carers' and the HMG 2015 guide 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused'.

Staff should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess, and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to the local authority children's social care. Governing bodies and proprietors are aware that among other obligations, the Data Protection Act 2018, and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) place duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure.

When information is being accumulated prior to possible referral we will start a chronology of events. Prestfelde uses the [Shropshire chronology template](#). Some chronologies will need to be produced for a specific reason for example, when a new relationship is started, during multi-agency meetings, from the start of a significant event, or from the start of the date parameters set by a statutory case review. The chronology should then continue throughout the intervention, or for as long as is required.

The designated lead will regularly review all child protection chronologies to decide if the accumulation of events is having a detrimental impact on a child and must be referred to Compass. If the designated lead decides not to refer, the reason will be noted on the child's chronology. The DSL will review the chronologies on a termly basis.

2.3 Decision making – 'Accessing the right service at the right time'

We take a holistic approach to safeguarding all children in our care and recognise that different families need a different level of support at different times. To enable us to recognise at which level a family might require support; we use the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Multi-Agency Guidance on Threshold Criteria to help support Children, Young People and their Families in Shropshire. [Shropshire Threshold Document](#)

This guidance identifies four levels to ensure all children receive the support and intervention they need to achieve a positive life experience. Of central importance in understanding where a child's needs might lie on this continuum, is the cooperation and engagement of parents and carers and we aim to develop good, professional relationships to ensure that we have a shared understanding of each child's needs.

It should be noted that if parents demonstrate a lack of co-operation or appreciation about the concerns we identify, this may raise the level of the need and required level of action.

Level 1 – Universal

Children with no additional needs and where there are no concerns. Typically, these children are likely to live in a resilient and protective environment where their needs are met. These children will require no additional support beyond that which is universally available.

We follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021 to provide individual support for all children. Each child is allocated a key person who will make a relationship both with the child and his or her family. The key person will make observations and keep records to ensure there are no barriers to a child's learning and establish stable and affectionate relationships.

Consent must be sought to access services and share information with others. Any information sharing between agencies without consent must be clear as to its legal basis.

Ensure privacy information is shared with the family and a consent form completed.

Support is provided by services identified as universal in local communities and are available to all. These include: schools, colleges, early years and childcare provision, primary healthcare provision (i.e. GP, hospitals), and the voluntary and community sector.

Universal support will most likely be provided by a single agency and/or existing support from family, friends, the community.

It is these Universal Services who are best placed to ensure children and families have access to the Early Help Offer. The needs of the child/young person are appropriately met within this framework.

Universal Services are constant and remain involved if/when the child/family move up to other levels of need.

Level 2 – Children in need of Early Help

These children can be defined as needing some additional support without which they would be at risk of not meeting their full potential.

Their identified needs may relate to their health, educational, or social development, and are likely to be short term needs. If ignored these issues may develop into more worrying concerns for the child.

In addition to the Whole Family Assessment, specific local tools and pathways should be used where there are concerns about possible harm to the child.

Early Help aims to provide a multi-agency response when a single agency is not able to progress and help the child and their family.

The existing single agency or multi-agency team should work with the family and each other to complete a Whole Family Assessment and Action Plan.

At this stage a lead professional/practitioner should be identified who can build a relationship with the whole family and ensure that the whole family's needs are met, and any actions progressed.

Consent must be sought to access services. Any information sharing between agencies without consent must be clear as to its legal basis.

Ensure privacy information is shared with the family and a consent form completed.

Please refer to the Counselling and Mental health Policy to see how Prestfelde supports children and families.

Level 3 –Targeted Early Help

This level applies to those children identified as requiring targeted support and who meet at least 2 of the 6 Strengthening Families criteria in the Whole Family Assessment. It is likely that for these children their needs and care are compromised.

These children will be those who are vulnerable to harm or experiencing adversity. In addition to the Whole Family Assessment, specific local tools and pathways should be used where there are concerns about possible harm to the child.

These children are potentially at risk of developing acute/ complex needs if they do not receive targeted early help.

If a child continues to have unmet needs which cannot be met by Universal or Early Help support, then the existing single agency or multi-agency team should work with the family and each other to review the Whole Family Assessment and Action Plan and follow the Request for Intervention Pathway to request more intensive family support from a Targeted Early Help Family Support Worker.

Consent must be sought from the family to access services. Any information sharing between agencies without consent must be clear as to its legal basis.

Ensure privacy information is shared with the family and a consent form completed

Level 4 – Complex Significant Needs

These are children whose needs and care at the present time are likely to be significantly compromised and or they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm and so who require intervention from Shropshire Council Children's Social Care.

An immediate referral to Compass should be made for assessment under Section 17 or Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

Specific local tools and pathways and the Shropshire Threshold Matrix should be used to support their referral and help practitioners to assess significant harm to the child.

Child in Need

Section 17 of the Children Act (1989) states that a child shall be considered in need if:

- They are unlikely to achieve, maintain or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by a local authority.
- Their health and development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provisions of such services

and/or;

- They are disabled.

Child Protection

Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 states that the authority shall make necessary enquiries to enable them to decide whether they should take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare where there is reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Where it is suspected that a child may be suffering or be at risk of suffering significant harm; referring practitioners must inform parents or carers that they are making a referral to Compass, and seek consent unless to do so may:

- Place the child at increased risk of significant harm; or
- Place any other person at risk of injury; or
- Obstruct or interfere with any potential Police investigation; or
- Lead to unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm.

Guidance for assessment practice can be found on page 13 of the Shropshire Threshold document.

(Taken from: Multi-agency Guidance on Threshold Criteria to help support Children, Young People and their Families in Shropshire 2021) [Threshold Document](#)

2.4 Partnership with families

A copy of this policy is made available to all parents prior to their child joining our school/setting as well as details of the complaints procedure. In general, any concerns will be discussed with parents, and we will offer support. All conversations, whatever the outcome, should be recorded appropriately to show that they took place, identify what was agreed and evaluate how effectively they enabled needs to be met. In this way quality conversations can demonstrate their impact on successful practice, including improvements in decision making and joint working. Conversations should continue to inform the on-going planning and reviewing.

Practitioners working with families at a Universal, Early Help or Targeted level will need to obtain the consent of the family before any information is held or shared with other agencies. If the practitioner does not gain the family's consent and in future has ongoing concerns, they should consider contacting Compass for advice and guidance. Except for child protection matters, referrals to Compass cannot be accepted without parents having been consulted first.

Consent is not required for child protection referrals where it is suspected that a child may be suffering or be at risk of suffering significant harm; however, the referring practitioner, would need to inform parents or carers that they are making a referral, unless to do so may:

- Place the child at increased risk of Significant Harm; or

- Place any other person at risk of injury; or
- Obstruct or interfere with any potential Police investigation; or
- Lead to unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm.

The child's interest must be the overriding consideration in making such decisions. Decisions should be recorded. If consent is withheld by the parent:

- If it is felt that the child's needs can be met through Early Help, then discussion with the family should take place about the completion of an Early Help Assessment and provision of services through an Early Help Plan. Early help consultations are available from the Early Help Advisors for support in managing these situations.
- For another agency familiar with the child and family to make the approach about information sharing to the family.
- No assessment should take place. The rationale for this decision will be recorded on the concerns form.
- The combination of the concerns and the refusal to consent to enquiries being made may result in the concerns being defined as child protection concerns. In this case, information sharing may proceed without parental consent. The consultation and the decision to proceed without consent must be recorded on the case papers.

If a child has been injured or is in imminent danger of being injured then we will contact the emergency services, medical or police, immediately on 999.

When making a level 4 referral to Compass we will ensure we have a record of all details required detailed on a [Shropshire Multi-Agency Referral Form](#)

2.5 Specific legal duties to report

Legislation has recognised and criminalised the following types of abuse and placed duties on education settings to report offences to the authorities:

- **Radicalisation and the Prevent Duty**

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2015 Prevent Strategy – this promotes the values of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Prestfelde promotes these values to ensure that children build resilience.- See Appendix D

If a member of staff has a concern about a pupil/s they should follow the school's/settings normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's/settings designated safeguarding lead as set out in the Child Protection/safeguarding policy.

The designated lead should contact West Mercia Prevent Team:

Sgt Calum Forsyth – 07970 047227

DC Holly Aungiers – 01386 591815

Prevent@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

Whilst all staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) about any concerns about female genital mutilation (FGM), there is a specific legal duty on teachers. If a teacher, during their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher must report this to the police.

Please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-leaflet>

I/We may not seek parental consent if this may put the girl at increased risk.

- **Domestic abuse and honour-based violence**

Children living in households where there is domestic abuse such as coercion or violence, including honour-based violence, could be at significant risk of harm. We will seek support for victims and their children through Compass.

Depending on the level of risk, I/we may or may not consult parents before contacting Compass.

2.6 Specific safeguarding issues

To ensure that our children and young people are protected from harm, we need to understand what types of behaviour constitute abuse and neglect. Staff are made aware of specific safeguarding issues (listed below) through child protection training, reading up to date guidance such as Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021, Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage stated in Section 3 – The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements and accessing SSCP procedures at <http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/>

- Physical abuse –
Physical abuse is when someone hurts or harms a child or young person on purpose.
- Sexual Abuse –
When a child or young person is sexually abused, they're forced or tricked into sexual activities. They might not understand that what's happening is abuse or that it's wrong. And they might be afraid to tell someone. Sexual abuse can happen anywhere – and it can happen in person or online.
- Emotional Abuse –
Emotional abuse is any type of abuse that involves the continual emotional mistreatment of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare, humiliate, isolate or ignore a child.
Emotional abuse is often a part of other kinds of abuse, which means it can be difficult to spot the signs or tell the difference, though it can also happen on its own.
- Neglect –
Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse². A child might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care. This can put children and young people in danger. And it can also have long term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing.

[Types of abuse NSPCC](#)

[Link to INSET and CP training within School Drives](#)

Mental Health

All staff are made aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator of abuse. The DSL will liaise with the school mental health lead/Welfare Officer/Pastoral Team to ensure information is being shared.(Please refer to the Mental Health and Counselling Policy) If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following the child protection policy, and speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy. [The Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools](#) guidance sets out how schools and colleges can help prevent mental health

problems by promoting resilience as part of an integrated, whole school/college approach to social and emotional wellbeing, which is tailored to the needs of their pupils.

Children may need a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs. Local authorities will share this information with the school, and the DSL will hold and use this information so that decisions can be made in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes.

Prestfelde ensures that the DSL is continually updated in all areas below. They are familiar with the referral pathways and specific toolkits and guidance available on the [SSCP website](#).

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

Expert and professional organisations are best placed to provide up-to-date guidance and practical support on specific safeguarding issues. For example, information for schools, colleges and early years settings can be found on the TES, MindEd and the NSPCC websites. Staff can access government guidance as required on the issues listed below via [Annex B in Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and other government websites.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bullying including cyberbullying (cyber crime). Child Abduction and community safety incidents Child Criminal Exploitation: County Lines (CCE) Child missing from education, home or care Child sexual exploitation (CSE) Children and the court system Children with family members in prison Cyber Crime Domestic violence Drugs Health and Wellbeing e.g. fabricated or induced illness, medical conditions, mental health and behaviour. Faith based abuse Forced marriage So - called honour-based abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage. County lines & or Gangs and youth violence Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG) Homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homelessness Hate Hate related Incident Reporting Form Missing children and adults' strategy Modern Slavery & the national referral mechanism Private fostering Preventing radicalisation - Channel Relationship abuse Peer on Peer Abuse e.g., Sexting (youth produced sexual imagery), Sexual Violence & Sexual Harassment Trafficking Private Fostering Online safety Upskirting
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All staff are aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school or college and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the DSL and deputy DSLs should consider whether children are at risk of abuse and exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence. Please see link [Contextual Safeguarding](#):

Both Child sexual exploitation (CSE) and Child criminal exploitation (CCE) are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation. The DSL can obtain local information regarding Exploitation from SSCP and by attending local briefings.

Response to a report of sexual violence and or harassment

[Sexual violence and harassment](#)

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex from primary through to secondary stage and into colleges. It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable. As set out in Part one of Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE), all staff working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'. Addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment, wherever it happens, will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same school.

Prestfelde school will follow the procedures contained within the DFE guidance to effectively respond to a report of sexual violence or harassment.

Peer on Peer / child on child abuse (Please also see Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Policy)

Staff should recognise that children can abuse their peers. Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter" or "part of growing up". Victims of peer abuse should be supported as they would be if they were the victim of any other form of abuse, in accordance with this policy. A zero-tolerance approach will be adopted by all staff at Prestfelde school.

All staff will challenge abusive behaviours between peers and report any concerns to the DSL directly or/and via Class Charts/Safeguard my school.

Peer on peer abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and/or harmed by their peers who are the same age or similar age.

Staff are aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer-on-peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying);
- we recognise that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys perpetrators but all peer-on-peer abuse is unacceptable.
- Abuse in personal intimate relationships between peers
- 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 or online
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- sexual or sexist name calling
- inappropriate or unwanted sexualised touching
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery); Up skirting, typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery);
- revenge porn
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

Children can experience peer-on-peer sexual abuse in a wide range of settings, including:

- at school
- at home or in someone else's home
- in public spaces
- online

It can take place in spaces which are supervised or unsupervised. Within a school context, for example, peer-on-peer sexual abuse might take place in spaces such as toilets, the playground, corridors and when children are walking home. All staff should understand, that even if there are no reports in their schools or colleges it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported

All staff should be aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

All staff should be aware of the associated risks and understand the measures in place to manage these. Advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance.

Compliance with the Public-Sector Equality Duty (PSED) is a legal requirement for schools and colleges that are public bodies.

Under the PSED, schools and colleges that are public bodies have a general duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between different groups and to foster good relations between different groups. The duty applies to all protected characteristics and means that whenever significant decisions are being made or policies developed, thought must be given to the equality implications such as, for example, the elimination of sexual violence and sexual harassment.

Prestfelde school will ensure that the following areas are covered within the curriculum to try and minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse:

- healthy and respectful relationships;
- what respectful behaviour looks like;
- consent;
- gender roles, stereotyping, equality;
- body confidence and self-esteem;
- prejudiced behaviour;
- that sexual violence and sexual harassment is always wrong; and
- addressing cultures of sexual harassment.

Schools often deliver this currently, through planned, high-quality, Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE). Please refer to the school RSHE policy for more information.

If staff have any concerns regarding peer on peer abuse, they should speak to their designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). The school would respond to an incident of Peer on Peer abuse by recording the incident on a Concern Reporting Form (Appendix F) and by following guidance as set out in [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#) published by Department for Education and [Part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#). In summary the process and procedures for managing a sexual violence or sexual harassment incident are;

Whole school approach:

Pre-planned risk assessment proforma in place

Training for staff on how to report incidents
Training on how to manage reports
Peer on peer policy in place

Responding to a report:

Victims are reassured, supported and kept safe
Record the concern
Inform the DSL if not involved in the initial report.

Risk Assessment:

Risk assessment for victim
Risk assessment for alleged perpetrator
Risk assessment for all other children involved
Initial consideration of children sharing a classroom and/or having direct contact in school
Initial consideration of contact between children travelling to and from school

Support

Support for victim and alleged perpetrator

Managing the report:

Consider the options to manage the report, including manage internally, early help, referral to children's social care and report to police
Consider bail conditions
Manage delays in the criminal process

The school monitors whether there are any patterns of peer-on-peer abuse by recording on Class Charts and will determine necessary support and intervention.

It is vital that staff at Prestfelde understand that the child who is perpetrating the abuse may also be risk of harm. Staff should make every effort to ensure that the perpetrator is also treated as a victim and undertake assessments to conclude this. Sensitive work must be undertaken with the child who is perpetrating, by helping them to understand the nature of their behaviour and the effect it has on others may prevent abuse.

Staff must be able to use their professional judgement in identifying when what may be perceived as "normal developmental childhood behaviour" becomes abusive, dangerous and harmful to others. Designated leads may need to consult with the SSCP Threshold document to help with their decision making.

Children do not always feel able to speak out about their experiences of peer-on-peer sexual abuse. They may be afraid of:

- being considered a 'snitch'
- getting in trouble themselves
- how they will be perceived by others
- teachers or other adults not being discrete
- their parents being informed

A helpline was launched by the NSPCC on 1st April 2021 to support potential victims of sexual harassment and abuse. Run by the NSPCC it aims to provide advice and support to both children and adults who are victims of abuse in school. It will also include how to contact the police to report crimes. The advice line is also available to support professionals and parents. **NSPCC helpline number is 0800 136 663.**

This dedicated helpline will offer support to:

- all children and young people making current and non-recent disclosures of abuse
- any children or young people who want to talk about being involved or witnessing any incidents
- any adults who have experienced non-recent abuse
- parents and carers who have any concerns about their own or other children

- professionals who work in schools and need support in this or related issues.

This school promotes the use of this helpline by;

- Posters around the school
- Promoted in school assemblies and staff meetings
- Newsletters to parents
- On the school website

Children can also report any type of abuse via Firefly. This is monitored daily by our DSL and Wellbeing officer. All concerns will be treated seriously and followed through in line with our behaviour/ safeguarding policy and procedures.



Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images or videos

At Prestfelde school we will use the guidance attached to support our investigations. UK council internet safety [GUIDANCE](#)

[Childline support and guidance for parents](#)

All children accessing the Prestfelde Wifi complete a internet safety workshop in the Autumn term, alongside signing an IT acceptable use agreement, which is also shared with parents. This states our whole school expectations regarding the safe use of ICT within our school. See e-safety policy.

The school also has SENSO which is a cloud-based monitoring service. This informs our DSL's if there is any breach in expectations when working on-line.

2.7 Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities

It is recognised that children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) can present additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These can include: assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury, relate to the child's impairment without further exploration; children with SEND can be disproportionately impacted by issues such as bullying, without necessarily showing outward signs; communication barriers.

It is important, therefore, to be particularly sensitive to these issues when considering any aspect of the welfare and safety of such children, and to seek professional advice where necessary.

Any reports of abuse involving children with SEND will therefore require close liaison with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) and the SENCO (name) or the named person with oversight for SEN in a college.

2.8 Alternative Provision

Prestfelde School does not have alternative provision.

2.9 Children Missing Education

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full-time education, which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. 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. Effective information sharing between parents, schools, colleges and local authorities is critical to ensuring that all children are safe and receiving suitable education.

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and such children are at risk of being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation. School and college staff should follow their procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of going missing in future. Where reasonably possible the school will hold at least two emergency contacts for every child in the school in case of emergency and in case there are welfare concerns at home.

Schools and colleges should put in place appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and responses for children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. It is essential that all staff are alert to signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns such as travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. Further information about children at risk of missing education can be found in the Children Missing Education guidance or Shropshire Council Learning Gateway. [Children missing education information \(Shropshire Council\)](#)

There are many reasons why we want young children to have regular attendance at our setting. As well as supporting their learning and development, we want to try to make sure that children are kept safe, their wellbeing is promoted, and they do not miss out on their entitlements and opportunities. In a small minority of cases, good attendance practice may also lead to the earlier identification of more serious concerns for a child or family and may have a vital part to play in keeping a child or other family members safe from harm.

In our setting, we have procedures for recording and following up any unexplained non-attendance and know how to respond to different problems and where to access advice, support or whom to alert if concerns arise.

What staff should do if a child goes missing from education

Children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. The School's procedures for unauthorised absence (Please refer to the Attendance and Registration Policy) and for dealing with children who go missing from education are detailed in 2.9.1:

Prestfelde has in place appropriate safeguarding responses to ensure effective recording of children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect including sexual abuse or Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future. Detailed risk assessments are to be completed as appropriate i.e SSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Guidance for practitioners; Appendices 1 and 2 (Risk Identification form).

2.9.1 Missing Child Procedures

Missing Child during the school day

Upon discovering that a child is missing from their form or any other supervised activity during the school day, the following procedures should be activated.

1. An incident form opened and the time recorded.
2. Classmates and friends should be asked of the child's whereabouts and any relevant information noted. Also, where and when the child was last seen.
3. A check on the absence sheet located on the Head's notice board in the Common Room.
4. A check made with the School Office regarding absences or permission for leave, such as medical appointments.
5. Matron should be contacted to discover whether the child has reported to the Health care centre.

Should these lines of investigation prove unsuccessful, then the following staff should be notified as a matter of urgency.

Mrs F.Orchard, Head

Tel: Office Ext 003

Mr M Haswell, Deputy Head (DSL)

Tel: Office Ext 026

Mrs Kerry Jones, Matron

Tel: Office Ext 006

Miss Luciana Vallonchini, Boarding Matron (Boarding After Hours number) 07486979224

If they are unavailable, the Heads of School will take responsibility as designated leads until such time as they can be contacted.

A thorough search of the school premises will be organised and co-ordinated by the DSL who will inform the relevant Head of Year and Form Teachers of the child's disappearance.

Appropriate cover for their lessons will be via staff available in the Common Room at that time or in the adjacent classroom.

A base will be made in the visitor's room of Prestfelde House from which the search will be co-ordinated. This will include the assistance of the grounds and maintenance staff via the two-way radio's available from the bursar's office.

This search should be concluded within half an hour of the initial report of absence. The DSL will extract personal files on the child from the core database, and a recent photograph, if available. Parents will be contacted and the police may then be informed. The Chaplain should also be contacted.

Missing during boarding hours

If they are unavailable, the duty staff will take responsibility until such time as they can be contacted.

If a boarder goes missing during your boarding night, you should remember to stay calm and think logically and fast. You should first conduct a visual search in the building and check the following locations:

- Other boarders' dorms
- Bathrooms
- Games Room
- Boarder's Lounge
- House Mistress' accommodation
- Medical Centre

If you have checked all the above locations and can still not find the boarder within the building, you should advise the House Mistress/other member of duty staff and question the other boarders about their whereabouts. More often than not, other boarders will know where the child is.

In the instance that the other boarder's do not know, you should press the emergency bell so that the Head of Boarding comes into the boarding house and begin a visual search of the remainder of the school buildings and immediate outside area. With the support of Gap Students, you should check the following locations:

- The Head's office/front office
- The grounds immediately outside the Harry Potter door
- The dining room
- Beckbury
- The senior school building
- The middle school building
- The cage/tennis courts/adventure playground
- The boys' changing rooms
- The school fields

Meanwhile, the House Mistress should question the boarders to ascertain any information that may support in locating the missing child.

- If the child is not to be found on the school grounds, the Head of Boarding will contact the Deputy Head Pastoral, who lives in proximity, and will also contact the boarder's parents.
- **If the child has not been located within 60 minutes of going missing, the police should be called immediately.**
- **If the child in question is subject to a child protection plan, the child's social worker should be contacted by the DSL (Deputy Head Pastoral) immediately.**
- **If the child in question may be at serious risk, or has gone missing under concerning circumstances, the Head of Boarding must contact the police and report the child missing immediately.**

Missing on an outing

- An immediate head count would be carried out in order to ensure that all the other children were present and checked against the transport risk assessment form.
- An adult would search the immediate vicinity.
- The remaining children would be kept under supervision by a member of staff until it was time to return to school.
- The venue manager would be contacted in order to arrange a search.
- The Head and/or the Deputy Head/DSL will be contacted by mobile phone
- Ask the Head to ring the child's parents and explain what has happened, and what steps have been set in motion. Ask them to come to [the venue/ the school] immediately.

Follow Up Procedure

1. Interview child's friends and record possible reasons for the disappearance.
2. Look for evidence of unhappiness, bullying, etc.,
3. Convene emergency staff meeting to discuss the incident, if required.
4. Arrange some refreshments for parents, if required.

Reintroducing the child into school and their Form / Class

1. Explain to the Form, and then to the school as a whole, the foolishness and Consequences of running away. Highlight the positive aspects of being able to talk to someone about the problem before it becomes a serious issue. i.e. friends, teachers, matron, Chaplain, Child-line etc.
2. Discuss how the child may be feeling: apprehensive, frightened etc., and suggest ways of helping him / her back into the Form. Beware of making him or her a hero.
3. The child should be monitored by each teacher in every lesson, and the DSL kept informed of any developments until such time that the risk of further problems have diminished.
4. Parents will be informed on a daily basis of how the child is settling back in, until it is deemed appropriate to finish.
5. A full written report of the incident and follow up actions will be compiled by the DSL and entered into the child's records. A copy will be filed for reporting to the governor with responsibility for safeguarding.

Reintroduction to Boarding

Staff are aware the most common reason for children becoming looked after is because of abuse and/or neglect. Appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility. Appropriate staff members also have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her. The designated safeguarding lead has details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual school head in the authority that looks after the child.

The designated teacher for looked after children will work with the Local Authority to promote the educational achievement of registered pupils who are looked after or who have left care through adoption, special guardianship, child arrangement orders or who are adopted from state care outside of England and Wales. The appointment of a designated teacher is a statutory requirement for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies.

The designated safeguarding lead should have details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual head teacher. The designated safeguarding lead should work closely with the designated teacher.

The Designated Teacher for LAC at Prestfelde is Mike Haswell.

2.12 Injuries

At the beginning of each session or school day parents are requested to notify us of any accidents, incidents or injuries which may affect their child before leaving him/her at the setting/school. A note will be made of any existing injuries and how the injury was received will be recorded. A body map may be used to indicate any marks/bruises (Refer to body map in [Multi-agency referral form \(MARF\)](#))

Any serious injury occurring in the school/setting e.g. broken bone, is reported to Health and Safety Executive (HSE) via RIDDOR. This is also reported to Ofsted/ISI within 14 days (see **Appendix F**).

2.13 Safe use of ICT and mobile phones (please refer to ICT and Acceptable Use Policy)

It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. At Prestfelde school we ensure that there are appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems in place. We have an effective whole school/college approach to online safety empowers us as a school, to protect and educate pupils, students, our staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

- **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.
- **contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.
- **conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- **commerce** - risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams. If you feel your pupils, students or staff are at risk, please report it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group(<https://apwg.org/>).

Training – The Governing bodies and proprietors ensure that, as part of the requirement for staff to undergo regular updated safeguarding training, including online safety and the requirement to ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, that safeguarding training for staff, including online safety training, is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole school or college safeguarding approach and wider staff training and curriculum planning. Inset Training, Raising Awareness and update training delivered by the DSL. All staff have regular training through Educare which is provided by the school.

Where children are being asked to learn online at home the school will follow advice from the Department of Education; [safeguarding and remote education](#).

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices such as computers, tablets, and game devices are commonplace. However, as a society, we are beginning to recognise that although these devices have brought great benefit, we also need to ensure that we help children to understand there are dangers and how to keep themselves safe. This includes:

- Keeping personal details secure
- Understanding that not all content is appropriate, truthful or legal
- What to do if they do accidentally access inappropriate or illegal content
- What to do if they are upset by something they receive
- What to do if they are going to physically meet someone they have met on-line

Appropriate use of mobile phones is essential at Prestfelde.

Staff can use their personal mobile phones during their break times in the Staff Common Room. During working hours, they must be kept out of the reach of children, a secure area accessible only to staff. All staff are made aware of their duty to follow this procedure, and to challenge anyone not adhering to it.

Visitors to the setting (including/ excluding parents) explain your procedure for visitors' mobile phone use.

We believe that photographs validate children's experiences and achievements and are a valuable way of recording milestones in a child's life. Parental permission for the different ways in which we use photographs is gained as part of the initial registration at Prestfelde We take a mixture of photos that reflect the preschool environment, sometimes this will be when children are engrossed in an activity either on their own or with their peers. To safeguard children and adults and to maintain privacy, cameras are not to be used during intimate care situations by adults or children.

Prestfelde uses Tapestry to record children's learning This website, Tapestry, is run by 'The Foundation Stage Forum Ltd' on behalf of Prestfelde School.

Legally, The Foundation Stage Forum Ltd is a data processor and Prestfelde School is a data controller and their relationship is governed by a contract that you can read [here](#).

Because of this, The Foundation Stage Forum Ltd cannot do anything with the data in Tapestry unless instructed to do so by Prestfelde School. All logins are password protected for staff and children.

Prestfelde uses Smoothwall as our filtering and monitoring system. The Deputy DSL with the IT Manager monitor and oversee Smoothwall. All staff and children that access the internet at Prestfelde are monitored and protected by Smoothwall. All staff and pupils have to sign an Acceptable use Policy before they can access the Prestfelde wifi. (Please refer to Acceptable Use Policy). We have created short cuts to various programmes, favourite and suitable sites to avoid any mistakes. for staff and children. Children at Prestfelde are continually reminded and taught about keeping themselves safe online and what to do if they have a problem. Staff regularly visit sites to ensure they are suitable and we therefore can talk to children about what they are doing.

Through induction, staff and volunteers are made aware of our 'acceptable use of technology' policy both at home and in the workplace. If any staff or volunteers breach this policy, then we will take disciplinary action which may result in a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Children are not allowed to use their own mobile device at Prestfelde. Children are allowed to access a computer at school and this is done only in the care of a teacher.

2.14 Escalating / de-escalating concerns

Just because a child is assessed at a point in time as meeting certain threshold criteria does not mean that they always will. An assessment is an on-going process, not an event; children's needs often change over time. The Designated Lead for Safeguarding will maintain an overview of all children with a plan to ensure children's needs are being met at the right level of intervention. Of central importance in understanding

where a child's needs might lie on this continuum, is the cooperation and engagement of the parents and carers – a lack of co-operation or appreciation about the concern may of itself raise the level of the need and required response.

2.15 The impact of abuse

The impact of child abuse should not be underestimated. Many children do recover well and go on to lead healthy, happy and productive lives, although most adult survivors agree that the emotional scars remain, however well buried. For some children, full recovery is beyond their reach, and the rest of their childhood and their adulthood may be characterised by anxiety or depression, self-harm, eating disorders, alcohol and substance misuse, unequal and destructive relationships and long-term medical or psychiatric difficulties.

2.16 Taking action

Key points to remember for taking action are:

- in an emergency take the action necessary to help the child, for example, call 999
- report your concern to the DSL immediately
- if the DSL is not able to be contacted ensure action is taken to report the concern to children's social care
- do not start your own investigation
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends or family
- complete a record of concern (Appendix F)
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed.

If you suspect a child is at risk of harm

There will be occasions when you suspect that a child may be at serious risk, but you have no 'real' evidence. The child's behaviour may have changed, or you may have noticed other physical but inconclusive signs. In these circumstances, you should try to give the child the opportunity to talk. The signs you have noticed may be due to a variety of factors and it is fine to ask the child if they are alright or if you can help in any way. Staff at Prestfelde have been made aware of the Shropshire [Children Reporting Concern guidance](#).

Use the welfare concern form (see **Appendix F**) to record these early concerns. If the child does begin to reveal that they are being harmed, you should follow the advice in the section below 'If a child discloses information to you'.

If, following your conversation, you remain concerned, you should discuss your concerns with the designated person.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following the procedures set out in this policy and by speaking with the DSL.

If a child tells you that they've been abused

It takes a lot of courage for a child to tell someone that they are being neglected and or abused. They may feel ashamed, particularly if the abuse is sexual, their abuser may have threatened what will happen if they tell, they may have lost all trust in adults, or they may believe, or have been told, that the abuse is their own fault.

If a child talks to you about any risks to their safety or wellbeing you will need to let them know that you must pass the information on – you are not allowed to keep secrets. The point at which you do this is a matter for professional judgement. If you jump in immediately the child may think that you do not want to listen, if you leave it till the very end of the conversation, the child may feel that you have misled them into revealing more than they would have otherwise.

All staff should be able to reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

During your conversation with the child:

Allow them to speak freely.

- Remain calm and do not overreact – the child may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting you.
- Give reassuring nods or words of comfort – ‘I’m so sorry this has happened’, ‘I want to help’, ‘this isn’t your fault’, ‘You are doing the right thing in talking to me’.
- Do not be afraid of silences – remember how hard this must be for the child.
- Under no circumstances ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings too, or what does the child’s mother think about all this.
- At an appropriate time tell the child that to help them you must pass the information on.
- Do not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort. It may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused.
- Avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing earlier. Saying ‘I do wish you had told me about this when it started’ or ‘I can’t believe what I’m hearing’ may be your way of being supportive but the child may interpret it that they have done something wrong.
- Tell the child what will happen next. The child may agree to go with you to see the designated person. Otherwise let them know that someone will come to see them before the end of the day.
- Report verbally to the designated person.
- Write up your conversation as soon as possible on the record of concern form and hand it to the designated person.
- Seek support if you feel distressed.

Refer to **Appendix F**

2.17 Prevention in the Curriculum

Prestfelde recognises the importance of developing pupils’ awareness of behaviour that is unacceptable towards them and others, and how they can help keep themselves and others safe. In Chapel/assemblies and during PSHE, ICT, Form lessons and RSHE we enhance children’s understanding and awareness of safeguarding issues. (Please refer to the PSHE and RSE policies.

Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education and/or PSHE programmes in each key stage provides personal development opportunities for pupils to learn about keeping safe and who to ask for help if their safety is threatened. As part of developing a healthy, safer lifestyle, pupils are taught to, for example.

- Safely explore their own and others’ attitudes.
- Recognise and manage risks in different situations and how to behave responsibly.
- Judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable and unacceptable.
- Recognise when pressure from others (including people they know) threatens their personal safety and well-being and develop effective ways of resisting pressure; including knowing when and where to get help.
- Use assertiveness techniques to resist unhelpful pressure.
- The importance of Internet safety

2.18 Managing allegations of abuse made against staff (this includes apprentices & supply staff), students or volunteers (see Appendix H)

As part of our whole school approach to safeguarding, this school will ensure that we promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the school or college (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

There are two levels of concern;

1. Allegations that may meet the harms threshold.
2. Allegation/concerns that do not meet the harms threshold – which may be referred to as ‘low level concerns’.

Allegations which might indicate that a person would pose a risk of harm to children if they continue to work in regular or close contact with children in their present position will be taken seriously. We have a duty to inform authorities, LADO and ISI of any serious allegations made against a person which suggests he or she has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to children; or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

We also have a duty of care towards our staff. We provide support for anyone facing an allegation and provide employees with a named contact if they are suspended. It is essential that any allegations of abuse made against members of staff or volunteers are dealt with very quickly, in a fair and consistent way that provides effective protection for the child and at the same time supports the person who is the subject of the allegation.

If there are concerns about a staff member then this should be referred to the headteacher. Where there are concerns about the headteacher, this should be referred to the chair of governors.. In the event of allegations of abuse being made against the headteacher, allegations should be reported directly to the designated officer of the local authority. Staff may consider discussing any concerns with the schools designated safeguarding lead and make any referral via them.

Where the school identify a child has been harmed, that there may be an immediate risk of harm to a child or if the situation is an emergency, they should contact children’s social care and as appropriate the police immediately. There are two aspects to consider when an allegation is made:

- Looking after the welfare of the child - the designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that the child is not at risk and referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children’s social care.
- Investigating and supporting the person subject to the allegation - the case manager should discuss with the LADO, the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action.

The LADO may ask for additional information, such as previous history, whether the child or their family have made similar allegations previously and the individual’s current contact with children. There may be situations when the LADO will want to involve the police immediately, for example if the person is deemed to be an immediate risk to children or there is evidence of a possible criminal offence.

The initial sharing of information and evaluation may lead to a decision that no further action is to be taken regarding the individual facing the allegation or concern; in which case, this decision and a justification for it will be recorded by both the Registered Person/Headteacher and the LADO, and agreement reached on what information should be put in writing to the individuals concerned and by whom. The Registered

Person/Headteacher will then consider with the LADO what action should follow both in respect of the individual and those who made the initial allegation.

If further action is required, we will follow the advice of the LADO and co-operate with any investigations. We will follow instructions about what can be disclosed to the accused and whether he/she should be suspended whilst further investigations take place. This is not an indication of admission that the alleged incident has taken place but is to protect the staff as well as children and families throughout the process. Clear advice will be given to workers on the process of investigation by other agencies. We will follow advice about how to inform families about the allegation.

In all cases, we will notify ISI within 14 days of the allegations first being made.

If the member of staff/volunteer is found to be a risk to children and vulnerable adults, the Disclosure & Barring Service will be notified. You will need to consider who makes the referral if an allegation is made against the Designated Safeguarding Lead e.g., if an allegation is made against the Designated Safeguarding Lead the Registered Person will make the referral. If we are aware of the details of a child who has or may have been harmed by a member of staff or volunteer, we will contact Compass to make a referral to seek support for the child.

In the event a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service or Teaching Regulation Agency should be made where an allegation is substantiated and the person is dismissed or the School ceases to use their services, or the person resigns or otherwise ceases to provide their services. The School has a legal obligation to report promptly to the Disclosure and Barring Service any person (whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or a student) who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left. Further, or in the alternative, if an investigation leads to the dismissal or resignation prior to dismissal of a member of teaching staff specifically, the School must consider making a referral to the Teaching Regulation Agency and a prohibition order may be appropriate (because that teacher has displayed unacceptable professional conduct, conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute or a conviction at any time for a relevant offence).

There is a legal requirement for employers to make a referral to the DBS where they think that an individual has engaged in conduct that harmed (or is likely to harm) a child; or if a person otherwise poses a risk of harm to a child. [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)

Low Level Concerns

As part of its whole school approach to safeguarding, the School promotes an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the School (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

Creating a culture in which **all** concerns about adults (including allegations that do not meet the harm threshold) are shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with appropriately, is critical. If implemented correctly, this should encourage an open and transparent culture; enable the School to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of the School are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of the School. [Low Level concerns Policy](#)
Appendix K

Whistleblowing

Whistle blowing is a mechanism by which adults can voice their concerns in good faith, without fear of repercussion. Any behaviour by colleagues that raises concern regardless of source will be recorded and reported to the designated practitioner or appropriate agency.

2.19 Recruiting Staff (please Refer to Safer Recruitment Policy)

We provide adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of children. (More information can be found in our recruitment policy).

Job adverts and application packs refer to our safeguarding policy and procedures.

Applicants for posts are clearly informed that positions are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. We ensure that we meet our responsibilities under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

Where applicants are rejected because of information that has been disclosed, we will inform the applicant about their right to know and to challenge incorrect information.

We comply with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021 and the Compulsory Childcare Register, [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#) in respect of references and Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks for staff and volunteers to ensure that no disqualified or unsuitable person works with or has access to the children.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 states that schools will be required to complete a risk assessment for each volunteer to decide whether they need to do an enhanced DBS check or not. (Note that even if it is decided an enhanced DBS is to be requested, if the volunteer is not in regulated activity, then schools are not legally allowed to do a barred list check).

We have procedures for recording the details of visitors, including prospective candidates, to the setting and ensure that we have control over who comes into the premises so that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children.

Where pupils are placed in an alternative provision, the schools should obtain a written statement from the provider that they have completed all the vetting and barring checks that are necessary on their staff.

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

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

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

2.20 Staff Supervision (including students and volunteers)

To ensure that all staff are alert to any issues for concern, staff receive regular training and updates in safeguarding and child protection through a range of training and supervision activities. This includes both formal and informal supervision, annual appraisals, staff meetings and access to SSCP and Educare approved training. Individual supervision offers staff an opportunity to receive coaching to improve their practice with children and address any issues resulting in poor performance. Individual supervision also provides a safe space in which to raise any concerns they may have about the conduct of other adults connected with the setting. (please refer to Supervision Policy)

Staff supervision is also used to ensure that all staff remain suitable to work with children. If a member of staff is taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children, the staff member should seek medical advice. The setting will ensure that staff members only work directly with children if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair that staff member's ability to look after children properly.

Staff are also required to disclose any information, which may lead to their disqualification as outlined in The Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2021 3.14-3.18 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021.

2.21 Resolution of professional disagreements

When practitioners are working together in the complex business of safeguarding children there will inevitably be occasions when there are professional differences of opinion or concerns about practice decisions, actions or lack of actions to a referral, assessment or the progress of child's plan. In these circumstances practitioners have a duty to take action to address professional disagreements as soon as they arise in a way that is appropriate and proportionate

Examples of case-specific professional disagreements include:

- When there is disagreement about the response to a referral made by one agency to another agency or service (e.g. decision making).
- When there is disagreement about the outcome of an assessment.
- When there is serious concern about the implementation of a child's Plan and disagreement about how this should be addressed (e.g. agreed actions not being followed through).
- When there is serious concern about the effectiveness of a child's Plan in bringing about the necessary changes and disagreement about how this should be addressed (e.g. drift/delay).
- When there is disagreement over the sharing of information in a case.

Designated Safeguarding Leads and managers will consult with the procedures for resolving professional disagreements by accessing it on the West Midlands Child Protection Procedures [website](#) . Designated Safeguarding Leads will record any actions taken and outcomes on file.

2.22 Use of school/setting premises for non-school/college activities

Prestfelde hire or rent out school premises to organisations or individuals (for example to community groups, sports associations, and service providers to run community or extra-curricular activities) they ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to keep children safe.

When services or activities are provided by the governing body or proprietor, under the direct supervision or management of their school or college staff, their arrangements for child protection will apply. However, where services or activities are provided separately by another body this is not necessarily the case. The governing body or proprietor should therefore seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place (including inspecting these as needed); and ensure that there are arrangements in place to liaise with the school or college on these matters where appropriate. The governing body or proprietor should also ensure safeguarding requirements are included in any transfer of control agreement (i.e. lease or hire agreement), as a condition of use and occupation of the premises; and that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement

APPROVED DATE	3 September, 2021		
REVIEW DATE	August 2022		
SIGNED HEAD		PRINT NAME	Fiona Orchard
SIGNED CHAIR OF GOVERNORS		PRINT NAME	Mr. Rex Sartain

Appendix A

Early Years

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Registered Person/Body should ensure an appropriate practitioner must be designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children as the designated safeguarding lead.

The designated safeguarding lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety). This should be explicit in the role holder's job description.

This person should have the appropriate status and authority within the setting to carry out the duties of the post. The role of the designated safeguarding lead carries a significant level of responsibility, and they should be given the additional time, funding, training, resources and support they need to carry out the role effectively.

Their additional responsibilities include providing advice and support to other staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, taking part in strategy discussions and interagency meetings, and/or supporting other staff to do so, and to contributing to the assessment of children.

Deputy designated safeguarding leads

It is a matter for individual settings as to whether they choose to have one or more deputy designated safeguarding leads. Any deputies should be trained to the same standard in safeguarding (incl. online safety) as the designated safeguarding lead and the role should be explicit in their job description.

Whilst the activities of the designated safeguarding lead can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for child protection, as set out above, remains with the designated safeguarding lead, this lead responsibility should not be delegated.

Availability

There must be a designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) always be available for staff in the setting to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

Whilst generally speaking the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) would be expected to be available in person, it is a matter for individual setting, working with the designated safeguarding lead, to define what "available" means and whether in exceptional circumstances availability via phone and or Skype or other such media is acceptable.

It is a matter for the setting and the designated safeguarding lead to arrange adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities.

Manage referrals

The designated safeguarding lead is expected to refer cases:

- of suspected abuse and neglect to the local authority children's social care as required and support staff who make referrals to local authority children's social care;
- to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required and support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme;

- where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required; and
- where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required. NPCC - When to call the police should help understand when to consider calling the police and what to expect when working with the police.

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 safeguarding partners;
- 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;
- as required, liaise with the “case manager” (as per Part four) and the local authority designated officer(s) (LADO) for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member;
- liaise with staff (especially special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs), or the named person with oversight for SEN in a setting) on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies so that children’s needs are considered holistically;
- promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances;
- work with the Registered Person/Body and relevant senior staff, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on children’s attendance, engagement and achievement at the setting. This includes:
 - ensure that the setting knows who its cohort of children who have or have had a social worker are, understanding their academic progress and attainment, and maintaining a culture of high aspirations for this cohort; and,
 - support staff to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help children who have or have had 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

The designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that child protection files are kept up to date. Information should be kept confidential and stored securely. It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate child protection file for each child.

Records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

They should 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 guidance.

Where children leave the setting the designated safeguarding lead should ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new setting/school as soon as possible. This should be transferred separately from any other files on the child being shared, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.

Receiving settings/schools should ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads and SENCOs, are aware as required. Lack of information about their circumstances can impact on the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. In addition to the child protection file, the designated safeguarding lead should also consider if it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new setting/school in advance of a child leaving to help them put in place the right support to safeguard this child and to help the child thrive in the next setting/school. For example, information that would allow the new setting/school 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 designated safeguarding lead should:

- ensure each member of staff has access to, and understands, the setting's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part-time staff;
- ensure the setting's child protection policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with the Registered Person/Body regarding this;
- ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents know referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the setting in this;
- link with the safeguarding partner arrangements to make sure staff are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies, procedures and guidance and required audit processes from the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership (SSCP).
- help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children who have or have had a social worker are experiencing with appropriate staff.

Training, knowledge and skills

The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role.

The designated safeguarding lead should undertake Prevent awareness training. Training should provide designated safeguarding leads with a good understanding of their own role, how to identify, understand and respond to specific needs that can increase the vulnerability of children, as well as specific harms that can put children at risk, and the processes, procedures and responsibilities of other agencies, particularly children's social care, so they:

- understand the assessment process for providing early help and statutory intervention, including local criteria for action and local authority children's social care referral arrangements;
- have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so;
- understand 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;

- 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;
- are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), those with relevant health conditions and young carers;
- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the setting, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners;
- understand and support the setting with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and can provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation;
- can 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;
- can recognise the additional risks that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support children with SEND to stay safe online;
- obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses; and,
- encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the setting may put in place to protect them.

In addition to the formal training set out above, their knowledge and skills should be refreshed (this might be via e-bulletins, meeting other designated safeguarding leads, or simply taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals, as required, and at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role.

Providing support to staff

Training should support the designated safeguarding lead in developing expertise, so they can support and advise staff and help them feel confident on welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters. This includes specifically to:

- ensure that staff are supported during the referrals processes; and
- support staff to consider how safeguarding, welfare and educational outcomes are linked.

Listen to the voice of children and understand their views.

It is important that children feel heard and understood. Therefore, designated safeguarding leads should be supported in developing knowledge and skills to:

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

Holding and sharing information

The critical importance of recording, holding, using and sharing information effectively is set out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021) Section 3 – The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements 3.69 – 3.72 and the Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers 2018 and therefore the designated safeguarding lead should be equipped to:

- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the setting and with other setting's/school's on transfer, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners;
- understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR); and
- be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals and understand the purpose of this record-keeping

Appendix B



PRESTFELDE

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure an appropriate senior member of staff, from the school or college leadership team, is appointed to the role of designated safeguarding lead.

The designated safeguarding lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety). This should be explicit in the role holder's job description.

This person should have the appropriate status and authority within the school or college to carry out the duties of the post. The role of the designated safeguarding lead carries a significant level of responsibility, and they should be given the additional time, funding, training, resources and support they need to carry out the role effectively.

Their additional responsibilities include providing advice and support to other staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, taking part in strategy discussions and interagency meetings, and/or supporting other staff to do so, and to contributing to the assessment of children.

Deputy designated safeguarding leads

It is a matter for individual schools and colleges as to whether they choose to have one or more deputy designated safeguarding leads. Any deputies should be trained to the same standard as the designated safeguarding lead and the role should be explicit in their job description.

Whilst the activities of the designated safeguarding lead can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for child protection, as set out above, remains with the designated safeguarding lead, this lead responsibility should not be delegated.

Availability

During term time the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should always be available (during school or college hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

Whilst generally speaking the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) would be expected to be available in person, it is a matter for individual schools and colleges, working with the designated safeguarding lead, to define what “available” means and whether in exceptional circumstances availability via phone and or Skype or other such media is acceptable.

It is a matter for individual schools and colleges and the designated safeguarding lead to arrange adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities.

Manage referrals

The designated safeguarding lead is expected to refer cases:

- of suspected abuse and neglect to the local authority children’s social care as required and support staff who make referrals to local authority children’s social care;
- to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required and support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme;
- where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required; and
- where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required. NPCC - When to call the police should help understand when to consider calling the police and what to expect when working with the police.

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 safeguarding partners;
- 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;
- as required, liaise with the “case manager” (as per Part four) and the local authority designated officer(s) (LADO) for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member;
- ensure the safety of children when working on-line, working closely with the IT support department to oversee the on-line safety policy and SENSO alerts.
- liaise with staff (especially teachers, pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians, senior mental health leads and special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs), or the named person with oversight for SEN in a college and Senior Mental Health Leads) on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies so that children’s needs are considered holistically;
- liaise with the senior mental health lead and, where available, the Mental Health Support Team, 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;
- work with the headteacher and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on children’s attendance, engagement and achievement at school or college. This includes:

- ensure that the school or college knows who its cohort of children who have or have had a social worker are, understanding their academic progress and attainment, and maintaining a culture of high aspirations for this cohort; and,
- support teaching staff to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help children who have or have had 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

The designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that child protection files are kept up to date. Information should be kept confidential and stored securely. It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate child protection file for each child.

Records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

They should 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 2021 Part one and Part two of the guidance.

Where children leave the school or college (including in year transfers) the designated safeguarding lead should 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 should be transferred separately from the main pupil 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. Lack of information about their circumstances can impact on the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. In addition to the child protection file, the designated safeguarding lead should also consider if it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving 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 designated safeguarding lead should:

- ensure each member of staff has access to, and understands, the school's or college's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part-time staff;
- ensure the school's or college's child protection policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies or proprietors regarding this;
- ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents know referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school or college in this
- link with the safeguarding partner arrangements to make sure staff are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies, procedures and guidance and required audit processes from the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership (SSCP)
- help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children who have or have had a social worker are experiencing with teachers and school and college leadership staff.

Training, knowledge and skills

The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training should be updated at least every two years.

The designated safeguarding lead should undertake Prevent awareness training. Training should provide designated safeguarding leads with a good understanding of their own role, how to identify, understand and respond to specific needs that can increase the vulnerability of children, as well as specific harms that can put children at risk, and the processes, procedures and responsibilities of other agencies, particularly children's social care, so they:

- understand the assessment process for providing early help and statutory intervention, including local criteria for action and local authority children's social care referral arrangements;
- have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so;
- understand 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;
- 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;
- are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), those with relevant health conditions and young carers;
- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and college, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners;
- understand and support the school or college with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and can provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation;
- can understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at school or college;
- can recognise the additional risks that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support children with SEND to stay safe online;
- obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses; and,
- encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school or college may put in place to protect them.

In addition to the formal training set out above, their knowledge and skills should be refreshed (this might be via e-bulletins, meeting other designated safeguarding leads, or simply taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals, as required, and at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role.

Providing support to staff

Training should support the designated safeguarding lead in developing expertise, so they can support and advise staff and help them feel confident on welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters. This includes specifically to:

- 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.

Understanding the views of children

It is important that children feel heard and understood. Therefore, designated safeguarding leads should be supported in developing knowledge and skills to:

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

Holding and sharing information

The critical importance of recording, holding, using and sharing information effectively is set out in Parts one, two and five of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 guidance, and therefore the designated safeguarding lead should be equipped to:

- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and college, and with other schools and colleges on transfer including in-year and between primary and secondary education, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners;
- understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR); and
- be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals and understand the purpose of this record-keeping

Appendix C



PRESTFELDE

FILE TRANSFER RECORD AND RECEIPT

PART 1: To be completed by sending / transferring setting, school or college

NAME OF CHILD:	
DOB:	
NAME OF SCHOOL/SETTING SENDING CP FILE:	
ADDRESS OF SCHOOL/SETTING SENDING CP FILE:	
METHOD OF DELIVERY:	BY HAND SECURE POST ELECTRONICALLY
DATE FILE SENT:	
NAME OF DSL TRANSFERRING FILE:	
NAME OF PERSON TRANFERRING TO:	
SIGNATURE:	

PART 2: To be completed by receiving setting, school or college

NAME OF SCHOOL/SETTING RECEIVING FILE:	
ADDRESS OF SCHOOL/SETTING RECEIVING FILE:	
DATE RECEIVED:	
NAME OF PERSON RECEIVING FILE:	
DATE CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT SENT:	
SIGNATURE:	

Receiving School: Please complete Part 2 and return this form to the Designated Safeguarding Lead listed in Part 1 above. You are advised to keep a copy for your own reference.

Appendix D

Fundamental British Values in the Early Years

Democracy: making decisions together

As part of the focus on self-confidence and self-awareness as cited in Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- Managers and staff can encourage children to see their role in the bigger picture, encouraging children to know their views count, value each other's views and values and talk about their feelings, for example when they do or do not need help. When appropriate demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views on what the theme of their role play area could be with a show of hands.
- Staff can support the decisions that children make and provide activities that involve turn taking, sharing and collaboration. Children should be given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.

Rule of law: understanding rules matter as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development

As part of the focus on managing feelings and behaviour:

- Staff can ensure that children understand their own and others' behaviour and its consequences and learn to distinguish right from wrong.
- Staff can collaborate with children to create the rules and the codes of behaviour, for example, to agree the rules about tidying up and ensure that all children understand rules apply to everyone.

Individual liberty: freedom for all

As part of the focus on self-confidence & self-awareness and people & communities as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development and Understanding the World:

- Children should develop a positive sense of themselves. Staff can provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities, for example through allowing children to take risks on an obstacle course, mixing colours, talking about their experiences and learning.
- Staff should encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions, for example in a small group discuss what they feel about transferring into Reception Class.

Mutual respect and tolerance: treat others as you want to be treated

As part of the focus on people & communities, managing feelings & behaviour and making relationships as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development and Understanding the World:

- Managers and leaders should create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued, and children are engaged with the wider community.
- Children should acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures; know about similarities and differences between themselves and others and among families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences.

Staff should encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions.

Staff should promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping.

A minimum approach, for example having notices on the walls or multi-faith books on the shelves will fall short of 'actively promoting'.

It is NOT acceptable to:

- actively promote intolerance of other faiths, cultures and races
- fail to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregate girls and boys
- isolate children from their wider community
- fail to challenge behaviours (whether of staff, children or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs

Appendix E

- Applicable to early years settings only

Serious injuries, accidents and illnesses

The setting must tell Ofsted about any of the following in relation to serious injuries, accidents and illnesses:

- the death of a child
- anything that requires resuscitation
- admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours
- a broken bone or fracture
- dislocation of any major joint, such as the shoulder, knee, hip or elbow
- any loss of consciousness
- severe breathing difficulties, including asphyxia
- anything leading to hypothermia or heat-induced illness
- any confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in staff or children

Minor injuries

The setting does not need to tell Ofsted about minor injuries, even if treated at a hospital (for less than 24 hours). These include:

- animal and insect bites, such as a bee sting that doesn't cause an allergic reaction
- sprains, strains and bruising, for example if a child sprains their wrist tripping over their shoelaces
- cuts and grazes
- minor burns and scalds
- dislocation of minor joints, such as a finger or toe
- wound infections

Eyes

The setting must report to Ofsted if a child suffers any loss of sight, whether it is temporary or permanent. You must also tell us about any:

- penetrating injury to the child's eye
- chemical or hot metal burn to the child's eye

Substances and electricity

If a child in our care suffers any injury from, or requires medical treatment for, any of the following situations we must tell Ofsted:

- from absorption of any substance:
 - by inhalation
 - by ingestion
 - through the skin
- from an electric shock or electrical burn
- where there is reason to believe it resulted from exposure to:
 - a harmful substance
 - a biological agent
 - a toxin
 - an infected material

The setting must fulfil our legal requirements and submit the online report to Ofsted as soon as reasonably practicable, but no later than 14 days by completing the on-line reporting process at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident>

Appendix F



PRESTFELDE

CONCERN REPORTING FORM

Logging a concern about a child's safety or welfare

Part 1 – For staff use

Child Name:			
Date of birth:		Year Group / class:	
Name of referrer:		Role of referrer:	
Details of concern:	<i>(Use body map if appropriate)</i>		
<p><i>What are you worried about? Who? What (if recording a verbal disclosure by a child use their words)?</i></p> <p><i>Where? When (date and time of incident)?</i></p> <p><i>Any witnesses?</i></p> <p><i>What is the pupil's account/perspective?</i></p>			
Reported to:		Role of person reported to:	
Signed:			
Date:			

Part 2: For DSL/Deputy DSL to complete

Action taken:		Advice sought: <i>(from whom and what was advice given)</i>	
Concern / referral discussed with parent / carer? If yes note discussion		If not, state reasons why	
Referral made: <i>Record names of individuals/agencies who have given information regarding outcome of any referral (if made).</i>		If not, state reasons why	
Feedback to referring member of staff:			By whom
Response to / action taken with pupil:			By whom
Other notes / information: <i>When making a referral about an acute specialist need/child protection follow up with a MARF</i> Any other action required:			
Signature of DSL		Date	

Appendix G

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Duty to refer

In addition to informing Ofsted, the Case Manager (e.g., Registered Person, Designated Safeguarding Lead) has a duty to refer any concerns to the LADO where it is alleged that a person who works* with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child and/or;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

Responsibility would also include reporting applications to work or volunteer with children and young people from adults who are barred from doing so as this poses a potential risk of significant harm to children and young people.

The LADO should be informed of ALL allegations that come to the Registered Persons/Designated Safeguarding Lead's (DSL) attention within 1 working day of the manager becoming aware of the allegation.

In cases where the nature of the allegation has not required immediate referral to the Compass or the Police, the Registered Person/DSL and the LADO will decide jointly as to whether such a referral is necessary and who will make it.

The LADO should also be informed of any allegations that are made directly to the police or Compass. It is important that even apparently less serious allegations are seen to be followed up objectively by someone independent of the organisation concerned. Therefore, the LADO should be informed of ALL allegations that come to the employers' attention.

The role of the Local Authority Designated Officer

The LADO will advise the employer of any action that may be necessary, whether an investigation will take place, and if so, what form the investigation will take. It is their role to provide on-going advice and liaison and to monitor the progress of cases. This may include:

- Advising the employer on next steps, such as the need to inform the child's parents; advice on dismissal or suspension of the member of staff accused; the decision as to whether the case will be investigated and by whom.
- Regularly monitoring the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible consistent with a fair and thorough process.
- Liaising with the employer to provide advice and support when required/requested.

- Oversight and management of individual cases.

If an allegation is substantiated and the employer dismisses the person or ceases to use that person's services, the employer should consult with the LADO about whether a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service is required.

Referral to the LADO should form part of your disciplinary and whistleblowing procedures.

The role of the setting's Designated Safeguarding Lead

The DSL or Registered Person making the referral will be expected to play a key role in the investigative process and follow the advice given by the LADO. This may involve:

- Gathering any additional information which may have a bearing on the allegation, for instance: previous concerns, care and control incidents and so on;
- Providing the subject of the allegation with information and advising them to inform their union or professional body;
- Attending Strategy Meetings where required;
- Liaising with the LADO;
- Ensuring that risk assessments are undertaken where and when required;
- Ensuring that effective reporting and recording systems are in place which allow for the tracking of allegations through to the outcome;
- Should the allegation be unfounded, considering a referral either to Compass or the police if the allegation is deemed to be deliberately malicious or invented.

Record keeping

It is important that employers keep a clear and comprehensive summary of any allegations made, details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved. This record should be placed on the person's confidential personnel file with a copy given to the individual.

The record should be kept at least until the person reaches retirement or for ten years if that would be longer.

The purpose of the record is to enable accurate information to be given in response to any future request for a reference.

Details of allegations that are found to be malicious should be removed from personnel records.

For further information see localised child protection procedures for West Midlands:

<https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/yqjN/localised-content-lado-managing-allegations/?b=Shropshire>

*The term 'works with children' refers to any individual employed to work with children or acting in a voluntary capacity.

Please note: Registered providers must inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working, or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere). Registered providers must also notify Ofsted of the action taken in respect of the allegations. These notifications must be made **as soon as is reasonably practicable**, but at the latest within 14 days of the allegations being made. A registered provider who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with this requirement, commits an offence.

Appendix H

• EARLY YEARS PROVISION SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Use of mobile phones and cameras

Photography and images

The vast majority of people who take or view photographs or videos of children do so for entirely innocent and legitimate reasons. Sadly, some people abuse children through taking or distributing images, so we must ensure that we have some safeguards in place. There is evidence that some people have used sporting events as an opportunity to obtain inappropriate photographs or film footage of children in vulnerable positions. It is advised that any concerns be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

In commissioning professional photographers or inviting the press to an activity, it is important that they are made aware of what is expected of them in terms of child protection.

As with all school visitors, they should be signed in at the school office, and wear a visitor's badge.

Parental permission is sought for all photographs in relation to school activities.

Photographs can be used as a means of identifying children when accompanied by personal information. Caution is advised in using first and surnames of individuals in photographs, and should be avoided if possible.

Passport size photographs of each child in the school are held on file for the purposes of identification in cases of missing child/children.

To protect pupils we will:

- seek their consent for photographs to be taken or published (for example, on our website or in newspapers or publications)
- seek parental consent
- use only the pupil's first name with an image
- ensure pupils are appropriately dressed
- encourage pupils to tell us if they are worried about any photographs that are taken of them

Mobile Phones and Cameras in Early Years and Foundation Stage

Appropriate use of mobile phones is essential at Prestfelde. The use of mobile phones does not detract from the quality of supervision and care of children. All parents have the mobile phone number that is used and are encouraged to text or phone. Practitioners are able to use their personal mobile phones during their break times. During working hours they must be kept out of the reach of children and parents, in a secure area accessible only to staff. All staff are made aware of their duty to follow this procedure which is set out in the Code of Conduct.

The concerns are mainly based around these issues:

- Staff being distracted from their work with children
- The use of mobile phones around children
- The inappropriate use of mobile phones

Ensuring the Safe and Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones

Prestfelde allows staff to bring in mobile phones for their own personal use. However, they must be always kept in their lockers and are not allowed to be used in the toilets, changing rooms or in the play

areas at any time. If staff fail to follow this guidance, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance to Prestfelde school staff code of conduct. If staff need to make an emergency call, they must do so either in the main or head's office. Staff must ensure that there is no inappropriate or illegal content on the device.

Mobile phone technology may not be used to take photographs anywhere within the nursery/school grounds. There are digital cameras and tablets available within the nursery/school and only these should be used to record visual information within the consent criteria guidelines of the local authority and the nursery/school.

Members of staff may only contact a parent/carer on school approved mobile phones.

Pupils should not use mobile phones within the school grounds and should not bring in a mobile.

Use of Mobile Phones for Volunteers and Visitors

Upon their initial visit volunteers and visitors are given information informing them they are not permitted to use mobile phones on the premises. If they wish to make or take an emergency call, they may use either the main or the manager's office. Neither are volunteers or visitors permitted to take photographs or recordings of the children without the head's permission.

Important contact details of the children are kept on the school's mobile phone in case of an emergency.

We believe that photographs validate children's experiences and achievements and are a valuable way of recording milestones in a child's life. Parental permission for the different ways in which we use photographs is gained as part of the initial registration at Prestfelde. We take a mixture of photos that reflect the pre-school environment, sometimes this will be when children are engrossed in an activity either on their own or with their peers. Children are encouraged to use the camera to take photos of their peers. In order to safeguard children and adults and to maintain privacy, cameras are not to be taken into the toilets by adults or children. All adults whether teachers/practitioners or volunteers at Prestfelde understand the difference between appropriate and inappropriate sharing of images. All images are kept securely in compliance with the Data Protection Act.

Visitors to the setting are requested not to bring their mobile phones onto the premises.

We believe that photographs validate children's experiences and achievements and are a valuable way of recording milestones in a child's life. Parental permission for the different ways in which we use photographs is gained as part of the initial registration at Prestfelde. We take a mixture of photos that reflect the pre-school environment, sometimes this will be when children are engrossed in an activity either on their own or with their peers. Children are encouraged to use the camera to take photos of their peers. In order to safeguard children and adults and to maintain privacy, cameras are not to be taken into the toilets by adults or children. All adults whether teachers/practitioners or volunteers at Prestfelde understand the difference between appropriate and inappropriate sharing of images. All images are kept securely in compliance with the Data Protection Act

E-Safety

Our pupils increasingly use electronic equipment on a daily basis to access the internet and share content and images via social networking sites such as facebook, twitter, MSN, tumblr, snapchat and instagram.

Unfortunately some adults and young people will use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts and emails, to grooming and enticing children to engage in sexually harmful conversations, webcam photography or face-to-face meetings.

Pupils may also be distressed or harmed by accessing inappropriate websites that promote unhealthy lifestyles, extremist behaviour and criminal activity.

The school's **Safeguarding on the internet and ICT policy** found on the website and on the school's, intranet explains how we try to keep pupils safe in school and protect and educate pupils in the safe use of technology. Cyberbullying and sexting by pupils will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. Serious incidents may be managed in line with our sexual exploitation policy or child protection procedures.

Many pupils own or have access to handheld devices and parents are encouraged to consider measures to keep their children safe when using the internet and social media at home and in the community. The ICT co-ordinator Mr Simon Sowden runs a Digital citizenship course where he clearly explains the rules and pupils on site usage in school.

Staff/pupil relationships

The school provides advice to staff regarding their personal online activity and has strict rules regarding online contact and electronic communication with pupils. Staff found to be in breach of these rules may be subject to disciplinary action or child protection investigation.

DSL for the EYFS

The practitioner designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in the Early Year's setting is Mrs Emma Thelwell.

Duty to notify Ofsted

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

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

Appendix I

Date

Missing Child Report Form

Date:

Name of missing child:
(Please print full name)

Age:

Form Teacher:
(Please print name)

Day / Boarder:

Head of year:
(Please print name)

Person reporting missing child:
(Please print name)

Time child was first missed:

Place where child was last seen:

Apparent reason for disappearance if known:

School buildings check list:

- Main teaching block
- Middle School
- Dovey Centre
- Gymnasium
- Art & C.D.T.
- Music School
- Swimming pool
- Chapel
- Little Prestfelde
- Prestfelde House
- Beckbury House
- Highfield House
- Grounds and Maintenance

School grounds check list.

- Beckbury garden and the Lodge area
- Around Middle School
- Rear of Gym
- Rear of Art & C.D.T.
- Garages
- Highfield boundary & woodland
- Top field
- U10 Cricket area.
- Lower sports fields.
- The pond

- Little Prestfelde
- Prestfelde House car park

Personnel informed:

- Head
- DSL
- Deputy Head Academic
- Chaplain
- Housemaster
- Form Teacher

Outcome:

Child found by:

Full details of location:

Visual assessment of child's health and mental state:

Reaction of parents/guardian:

Signature of person finding the child.
(Please print name below signature)

Time:

Date:

Any other comments:

Search Check list

The school site

Area	Searched by	Time	Completed
Classroom Block			
Middle School			
Dovey Centre			
Gymnasium			

Art, C.D.T. & Garages			
Music School			
Adventure Playground			
Little Prestfelde			
Chapel & Learning Support			
Swimming Pool			
Old Classrooms			
Prestfelde House			
Beckbury House			
Lodge Grounds			
Lower Games Field			
Highfield House			
Highfield lawn & grounds			
Upper Games Field			
Pavilion & outbuildings			

Areas surrounding the school site

Area	Searched by	Time	Completed
London Road right to Column			
London Road left to A5 island			
Preston Street to Column			
Preston Street to Sub Station			

Sub Station to River			
River bank right for 500m			
River bank left for 500m			

Little Prestfelde

Area	Searched by	Time	Completed
Nursery			
Cloakroom & Toilets			
Library/Foyer/Office			
Reception Classrooms			
Year 1 Classrooms			
Year 2 Classrooms			
Indoor play area			
Adventure Playground			
Surrounding external areas			

Appendix J

Low-Level Concerns Policy

Policy Statement

1. Prestfelde School (“the School”) understands the importance of a positive culture where concerns can be identified and spoken about openly and acknowledges that this is a key element of a strong safeguarding system. This Low-Level Concerns Policy seeks to ensure that all staff who work with children behave appropriately and to enable the early identification and prompt and appropriate management of concerns.
2. As part of its whole school approach to safeguarding, the School will ensure that it promotes an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the School (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately.
3. Creating a culture in which **all** concerns about adults (including allegations that do not meet the harm threshold) are shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with appropriately, is critical. If implemented correctly, this should encourage an open and transparent culture; enable the School to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of the School are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of the School.
4. This Low-Level Concerns Policy operates in conjunction (as appropriate) with the following¹¹:
 - a) School’s Staff Code of Conduct
 - b) Safeguarding Policy
 - c) Disciplinary Procedure
 - d) Capability Procedure
 - e) Grievance Procedure
 - f) Whistleblowing Policy
 - g) Data Protection Policy
5. Introduction to the concept and importance of sharing low-level concerns
 - a) Behaviour which is not consistent with the standards and values of an organisation, and which does not meet the organisational expectations encapsulated in the School’s Staff Code of Conduct, needs to be addressed. Such behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum – from the inadvertent or thoughtless, through to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse.
 - b) All staff need to be informed about and be able to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour and understand the importance of sharing concerns when they observe behaviour which violates the School’s Staff Code of Conduct.
6. What is the Low-Level Concerns Policy?
 - a) The Low-Level Concerns Policy enables all staff to share any concerns – **no matter how small** – about their own or another member of staff’s behaviour with the Head. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility.
7. What is the purpose of the Low-Level Concerns Policy?
 - a) The purpose of the Low-Level Concerns Policy is to create and embed a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the clear values and expected behaviour which are set out in the School’s Staff Code of Conduct are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff.

8. What are the aims of the Low-Level Concerns Policy?
- a) The aims of the Low-Level Concerns Policy are to:
 - a) ensure that staff are clear about what appropriate behaviour is, and are confident in distinguishing expected and appropriate behaviour from concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour – in themselves and others, and the delineation of professional boundaries and reporting lines;
 - b) empower staff to share any low-level concerns with the Head, and to help all staff to interpret the sharing of such concerns as a neutral act;
 - c) address unprofessional behaviour and support the individual to correct it at an early stage;
 - d) identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour – including any patterns – that may need to be consulted upon with (on a no-names basis if appropriate), or referred to, the Local Authority Designated Officer (“LADO”);
 - e) provide for responsive, sensitive and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised; and
 - f) help identify any weaknesses in the School’s safeguarding system.

9. Definitions

Who does the policy apply to?

- a) The policy applies to all **staff** whether working in or on behalf of the School, engaged as a paid employee (including supply teacher), worker or contractor, or unpaid member of staff or volunteer. It also includes anyone who is part of the Governance Body.
- b) **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** means the DSL at the School.
- c) **Governance Body** means those individuals who are responsible for the School’s governance -i.e. [Governors].
- d) **Headteacher** means the Head of the School.

Details of the individuals currently in these roles can be found at Annexe 1.

Allegation that may meet the harm threshold. The term ‘allegation’ means it is alleged that an adult who works with children has:

- a) behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child; and/or
- b) possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; and/or
- c) behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
- d) behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

In terms of managing cases of allegations that may meet the harm threshold, these might indicate a person would pose a risk of harm if they continue to work in their present position, or in any capacity with children in a school.

10. Concern (including an allegation) that does not meet the harm threshold – i.e. a low-level concern. The term ‘low-level concern’ does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that an adult’s behaviour towards a child does not meet the harm threshold set out above. 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 may have acted in a way that:

- a) is inconsistent with the School’s Staff Code of Conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and

- b) does not meet the allegation threshold or is otherwise not serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO – but may merit consulting with and seeking advice from the LADO, and on a no-names basis if necessary.

Although it is important that staff feel comfortable with, and are clear about, the concept of low-level concerns, and know what to do if they have such a concern, they do not need to be able to determine in each case whether their concern is a low-level concern, or if it is not serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO, or whether it meets the threshold of an allegation. Once staff share what they believe to be a low-level concern, that determination should be made by the Head.

11. School Culture

- a) The School promotes an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the School are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

12. Data Protection and Confidentiality / Respecting the rights of all

- a) The School will always respect the personal data of staff (and others, where they may be identifiable) in implementing the Low-Level Concerns Policy and in keeping records of low-level concerns secure.
- b) The Data Protection Act 2018 includes a specific provision which permits organisations to process even the most sensitive personal data where necessary for the purposes of protecting children from harm. Although sharing of low-level concerns will not always involve legally sensitive categories of data, the safeguarding purpose is the same as that under the School's Safeguarding Policy, Employment Manual - Allegations Against Staff Policy.
- c) A proportionate approach must be taken by all to considering what personal data is in fact necessary to share and record by way of low-level concern(s) in each case in order to support the safeguarding purpose and to ensure the information is accurate, fair and as far as possible recorded in neutral terms^[2].
- d) If a member of staff who raises a low-level concern does not wish to be named, then the School will respect their wishes as far as possible. However, staff should be aware that in certain circumstances this anonymity may need to be waived.
- e) All staff are entitled, under data protection law, to ask to see the content of any low-level concern(s) retained by the School under the Low-Level Concerns Policy as it relates to them personally and to make any reasonable objection as to the fairness or accuracy of that content^[3]. The School will process such requests within the period prescribed by law, subject always to any necessary protection of the rights of third parties and unless any other relevant exemptions apply (including if complying with the request would be likely to prejudice the safeguarding purpose of the Low-Level Concerns Policy). If the content of a low-level concern is disputed, it may not be appropriate for the School to delete or alter the original record, but a note may be recorded alongside reflecting the staff member's alternative account or objection(s).
- f) All personal data processed in connection with the Low-Level Concerns Policy will be processed in accordance with the School's Privacy Notices and its Data Protection Policy.

13. Who should staff share low-level concerns with?

- a) It is important that low-level concerns are shared with the Head as soon as reasonably possible and, in any event, within 24 hours of becoming aware of it (where the concern relates to a particular incident) – although it is never too late to share a low-level concern.
- b) If the Head is absent for any reason, low-level concerns should be shared with the Deputy Head who will ensure they inform the Head immediately on their return.
- c) If any low-level concern relates to the behaviour of the Head it should be referred to the Chair of Governors .
- d) If there is a conflict of interest in sharing a low-level concern with the Head the low-level concern should be shared with the Chair of Governors , unless there is conflict of interest in doing so, in which case it should be reported directly to the LADO^[4].

14. Should staff who share low-level concerns be able to remain anonymous?

- a) Staff are encouraged to consent to be named when sharing low-level concerns, as this will help to create a culture of openness and transparency. If the staff member who raises a low-level concern does not wish to be named, the School will respect that person's wishes as far as possible. However, there may be circumstances where the staff member will need to be named (for example, where disclosure is required by a court or local authority, or under a fair disciplinary process) and, for this reason, the School will not promise anonymity to members of staff who share low-level concerns.

15. Should staff share concerns about themselves (i.e. self-report)?

- a) Occasionally a member of staff may find themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted or might appear compromising to others. Equally, a member of staff may, for whatever reason, have behaved in a manner which, on reflection, they consider falls below the standard set out in the School's Staff Code of Conduct. Self-reporting in these circumstances can be positive for a number of reasons, and staff are encouraged to self-report on the basis that:
 1. it is self-protective, in that it enables a potentially difficult issue to be addressed at the earliest opportunity;
 2. it demonstrates awareness of the expected behavioural standards and self-awareness as to the member of staff's own actions or how they could be perceived; and
 3. crucially, it is an important means of maintaining a culture where everyone aspires to the highest standards of conduct and behaviour.
- b) The School's aim is to create an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer.

16. How should low-level concerns be shared and recorded?

- a) The concern can be shared verbally with the Head or a written summary of it can be provided to them and with the option of submitting a Low-Level Concerns Form
- b) Where the low-level concern is provided verbally, the Head will make an appropriate record of the conversation, either contemporaneously or immediately

following the discussion and will exercise sound professional judgment in determining what information is necessary to record for safeguarding purposes.

- c) Where a low-level concern relates to a person employed by a supply agency or a contractor, the School will notify that person's employer so that any potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

17. How should a low-level concern be responded to?

- a) Once the Head has received the low-level concern, they will – not necessarily in the below order but in an appropriate sequence according to the nature and detail of the particular concern shared with them:

- a) Speak to the person who raised the low-level concern (unless it has been raised anonymously).
- b) Speak to any potential witnesses (unless advised not to do so by the LADO/other relevant external agencies, where they have been contacted).
- c) Speak to the individual about whom the low-level concern has been raised (unless advised not to do so by the LADO/other relevant external agencies, where they have been contacted).
- d) If they are in any doubt, seek advice from the LADO – on a no-names basis if necessary.

1. Review the information and determine whether the behaviour in question:

- a) is entirely consistent with the School's Staff Code of Conduct and the law;
- b) constitutes a low-level concern;
- c) is not serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO but may merit consulting with and seeking advice from the LADO, and on a no-names basis if necessary;
- d) when considered with any other low-level concerns previously raised about the same person, could now meet the threshold of an allegation, and should be referred to the LADO/other relevant external agencies, and in accordance with the School's [[Safeguarding Policy]][Managing Allegations Against Staff Policy], Part 4 of KCSIE 2021, and the relevant procedures and practice guidance stipulated by the School's Local Safeguarding Partnership; or
- e) in and of itself meets the threshold of an allegation and should be referred to the LADO/other relevant external agencies, and in accordance with the School's Safeguarding Policy Managing Allegations Against Staff Policy, Part 4 of KCSIE 2021, and the relevant procedures and practice guidance stipulated by the School's Local Safeguarding Partnership.

2. Ensure that appropriate and detailed records are kept of all internal and external conversations regarding the concern, their determination, the rationale for their decision and any actions taken, and retain records in accordance with the Low-Level Concerns Policy.

3. Consider whether the concern also potentially raises misconduct or capability issues – taking advice from HR / the Bursar / In-house legal on a named or no-names basis where necessary – and, if so, refer the matter to HR / the Bursar / In-house legal.

18. What action will be taken if it is determined that the behaviour is entirely consistent with the School's Staff Code of Conduct and the law?
- a) The Head will update the individual in question and inform them of any action taken (as above).
 - b) The Head will speak to the person who shared the low-level concern – to provide them with feedback about how and why the behaviour is consistent with the School's Staff Code of Conduct and the law.
19. What action will be taken if it is determined that the behaviour constitutes a low-level concern?
- a) The Head will respond in a sensitive and proportionate way – on the one hand maintaining confidence that such concerns when raised will be handled promptly and effectively, whilst on the other hand protecting staff from any potential false allegations or misunderstandings. Any investigation of low-level concerns will be done discreetly and on a need-to-know basis.
 - b) Most low-level concerns by their very nature are likely to be minor. Some will not give rise to any ongoing concern and, accordingly, will not require any further action. Others may be most appropriately dealt with by means of management guidance and/or training. In many cases, a low-level concern will simply require a conversation with the individual about whom the concern has been raised.
 - c) Any such conversation with individuals in these circumstances will include being clear with them as to why their behaviour is concerning, problematic or inappropriate, what change is required in their behaviour, enquiring what, if any, support they might need in order to achieve and maintain that and being clear about the consequences if they fail to reach the required standard or repeat the behaviour in question. Ongoing and transparent monitoring of the individual's behaviour may be appropriate. An action plan or risk assessment which is agreed with the individual, and regularly reviewed with them, may also be appropriate.
 - d) Some low-level concerns may also raise issues of misconduct or poor performance. The Head will also consider whether this is the case – by referring to the School's disciplinary and/or capability procedure and taking advice from HR / the Bursar / In-house legal taking specialist advice as necessary on a named or no-names basis where necessary.
 - e) If the Head considers that the School's disciplinary or capability procedure may be triggered, they will refer the matter to HR / the Bursar / In-house legal. If HR / the Bursar / In-house legal advise that the School's disciplinary or capability procedure is triggered, the individual will have a full opportunity to respond to any factual allegations which form the basis of capability concerns or a disciplinary case against them.
 - f) Staff should be aware that when they share what they believe to be a low-level concern, the Head will speak to the adult who is the subject of that concern (unless advised not to do so by the LADO/other relevant external agencies, where they have been contacted) – no matter how 'low' level the concern may be perceived to be, to gain the subject's account – and to make appropriate records (as above), which may be referenced in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.
 - g) How the School responds to a low-level concern may be different depending on the employment status of the individual who is the subject of the concern - i.e. whether they are an employee or worker to whom the School's disciplinary and/or capability procedure would apply; or a contractor, Governor, Trustee, Director or volunteer. The School's response will be tailored accordingly.
20. What action will be taken if it is determined that the behaviour:
- a) **Whilst not sufficiently serious to consider a referral to the LADO nonetheless merits consulting with and seeking advice from the LADO, and**

on a no-names basis if necessary? Then action (if/as necessary) will be taken in accordance with the LADO's advice; or

b) When considered with any other low-level concerns that have previously been shared about the same individual, could now meet the threshold of an allegation, or in and of itself meets the threshold of an allegation? Then it will be referred to the LADO/other relevant external agencies, and in accordance with the School's Safeguarding Policy - Managing Allegations Against Staff Policy, Part 4 of KCSIE 2021 and the relevant procedures and practice guidance stipulated by the School's Local Safeguarding Partnership.

21. How should low-level concerns be held?

- a) The School will retain all records of low-level concerns (including those which are subsequently deemed by the Head to relate to behaviour which is entirely consistent with the School's Staff Code of Conduct) in a central low-level concerns file⁵¹.
- b) Where multiple low-level concerns have been shared regarding the same individual these will be kept in chronological order as a running record, and with a timeline alongside. These records will be kept confidential and held securely with access afforded only to a limited number of individuals such as the Head and Chair of Governors and [Senior HR officer and the individual they report to e.g. Head of HR)

22. How often should the central low-level concerns file be reviewed?

- a) The Head will review the central low-level concerns file periodically to ensure that all such concerns are being dealt with promptly and appropriately, and that any potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour are identified. A record of these reviews will be made.
- b) Where a pattern of behaviour is identified in respect of a specific individual, the Head will also consider whether any wider cultural issues are at play that may have enabled the behaviour and/or whether the School should arrange for additional training or a review of any of its policies to reduce the risk of it happening again.

23. How long should records of a low-level concern be kept?

- a) Low-level concerns will be retained securely by the School for as long as deemed relevant and necessary for a safeguarding purpose unless the School is required to disclose by law (for example, where the threshold of an allegation is met in respect of the individual in question). In most cases, once a staff member leaves the School, any low-level concerns which are held relating to them:
 1. will be retained at least until the individual leaves the School / for the same duration as that individual's personnel file and
 2. will not be included in any onward reference, except as set out at paragraph 20
- b) Low-level concerns will be retained on the School's central low-level concerns file (securely and applying appropriate access restrictions) unless and until further guidance provides otherwise.

24. References

- a) Where a low-level concern (or group of concerns) has met the threshold for referral to the LADO and is found to be substantiated, it will be referred to in a reference.
- b) Low-level concerns (or a group of concerns) which have not met the threshold for referral to the LADO which relate only to safeguarding will not be included in references unless they relate to issues which would normally be included in a reference, for example, misconduct or poor performance.

25. What is the role of the Governance Body?

- a) The Head will regularly inform the Governance Body about the implementation of the Low-Level Concerns Policy and any evidence of its effectiveness, e.g. by

including reference to it in any safeguarding reports and providing any relevant data.

- b) The Governance Body will also review an anonymised sample of low-level concerns at regular intervals, in order to ensure that these concerns have been responded to promptly and appropriately.

26. Monitoring and Review

- a) The Low-Level Concerns Policy will be monitored to ensure that it is being effectively implemented in practice and will be reviewed annually by the Head and in response to any relevant legislative, statutory or regulatory changes and/or changes in relevant guidance and/or safeguarding best practice. The next scheduled review for the Low-Level Concerns Policy is Sept 2022



Signed **...Date 12.1.22.....**

Review date ...January 2023.....

Details of individuals currently in the roles defined within the Low-Level Concerns Policy

Mr Mike Haswell	Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school
Mrs Emma Thelwell	Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead
Mr Jake Wyatt	Assistant Designated Safeguarding lead
Mrs Holly Keogh Jones	Assistant Designated Safeguarding lead
Mrs Kay Wynne	Assistant Designated Safeguarding lead
Miss Katie Warner	Assistant Designated Safeguarding lead

