

# Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy of Bushbury Nursery School

Date adopted by the Board of Governors:	<b>September 2022 (chairs actions)</b>
Date for review:	<b>September 2023</b>

*September 2022 updates and amendments in green*

## Contact Information

Role/Agency	Name	Telephone	E-mail
Headteacher	Heidi Bullock	01902 558118	<a href="mailto:bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk">bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
DSL	Heidi Bullock	01902 558118	<a href="mailto:bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk">bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Deputy DSL	Surrinder O'Leary	01902 558118	<a href="mailto:bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk">bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Chair of Governors	Joanne Aston	01902 558118	<a href="mailto:bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk">bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Link Governors for Safeguarding	Joanne Aston/Annette Pugh	01902 558118	<a href="mailto:bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk">bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Designated Teacher for children who are Looked after Children and Previously Looked After Children Lead	Heidi Bullock	01902 558118	<a href="mailto:bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk">bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Mental Health Lead	Heidi Bullock	01902 558118	<a href="mailto:bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk">bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Designated E-Safety	Pamela Willcox	01902 558118	<a href="mailto:bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk">bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Data Protection Officer	Carl Banks	0333 772 1272 (Ext 305)	<a href="mailto:carl.banks@services4schools.org.uk">carl.banks@services4schools.org.uk</a> [undefined:carl.banks@services4schools.org.uk]
Designated lead for online safety	Surrinder O'Leary	01902 558118	<a href="mailto:bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk">bushburynurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
MASH	Social Care	555392	
Social Care out of hours	Social Care	552999	
Children's Disability Team	Social Care	550911	<a href="mailto:childrenandyoungpeople's.disabilityservice@wolverhampton.gov.uk">childrenandyoungpeople's.disabilityservice@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Adult's Disability Team	Social Care	553653 or 556780	Contact through Wolverhampton city council website
Designated Officer/LADO	Kenny Edgar	550477/550661	<a href="mailto:lado@wolverhampton.gov.uk">lado@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Prevent – Counter Community Safety Team	Wolverhampton Prevent Team	01902 551214	<a href="mailto:Safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
FGM	Police	101 or 999	
Police	Police	101 Option 3 for WMP or 999	
Operate Encompass	PC 9121 -Richard Poulton	101 ext 871 3281	<a href="mailto:richard.poulton@westmidlands.police.uk">richard.poulton@westmidlands.police.uk</a> <a href="http://www.west-midlands.police.uk">www.west-midlands.police.uk</a>
Wolverhampton Virtual School Head*	Darren Martindale	551039	<a href="mailto:Darren.Martindale@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Darren.Martindale@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
Wolverhampton CSE Lead	Sandeep Gill	550523	<a href="mailto:Sandeep.gill@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Sandeep.gill@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
NSPCC Whistleblowing helpline -	NSPCC	0800 028 0285	Link available from KCSiE– NSPCC's 'What you can do to report abuse available at: <a href="mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk">help@nspcc.org.uk</a>

## **Contents**

1. Aims
  2. Safeguarding definition
  3. Legislation and statutory guidance
  4. Related policies
  5. Equality statement
  6. Roles and responsibilities
  7. Confidentiality and information sharing
  8. Recognising abuse and taking action
  9. Online safety and the use of mobile technology
  10. Notifying parents or carers
  11. Pupils with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), or certain medical or physical health conditions
  12. Children who are lesbian, gay, bi or trans (LGBT)
  13. Pupils with a social worker
  14. Looked-after children and previously looked-after children
  15. Complaints and concerns about school safeguarding policies
  16. Record- keeping
  17. Safeguarding training
  18. Monitoring arrangements
- Appendix 1: Procedure if you have concerns about a child's welfare
- Appendix 2: Contextual safeguarding
- Appendix 3: What is child abuse?
- Appendix 4: Safer working practices
- Appendix 5: Safer recruitment and DBS checks
- Appendix 6: Safeguarding concerns and allegations made about staff, supply teachers, volunteers and contractors
- Appendix 7: Specific safeguarding issues we should be aware of – in alphabetical order

## 1.Aims

**‘Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.’**  
(Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022, paragraph 2 p.6).

Our Safeguarding and Child protection Policy ensures that everyone at Bushbury Nursery School adopts a **zero-tolerance approach** to abuse. The school aims to ensure that:

- **Appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children’s welfare**
- **All staff are aware of their statutory responsibilities with respect to safeguarding**
- **Staff are properly trained in recognising and reporting safeguarding issues**

We will achieve the schools aims to safeguard and promote the welfare of our children by:

- Knowing that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility, whilst maintaining a professional attitude of ***it could happen here*** and acting without delay to protect our children by reporting anything that might suggest a child is being abused or neglected.
- Creating and maintaining an environment where all children feel secure, are encouraged to communicate, and are listened to.
- Making sure that all children know they can approach any adult in the school, if they have any worries or concerns.
- Teaching children to keep themselves safe from all forms of abuse including child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, extremism, radicalisation, and **child-on-child abuse** including sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Providing a PHSE curriculum, which covers the mandatory Relationships and Sex education (RSE) and health education requirements set out by the DFE (2020), and which should also address, online safety, sharing nudes and bullying (including cyber bullying) and any local issues or issues which are reported on in the media.
- **Appointing a senior member of staff from the school leadership team to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and one or more Deputy Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) as appropriate. All of those appointed will be trained to the same standard as the DSL.**
- Providing effective, relevant, and ongoing training and development for all staff, governors, trustees, and volunteers.
- Swiftly and effectively addressing any concerns and ensuring robust, timely referrals are made to other agencies and ensuring effective links with relevant agencies in all matters regarding safeguarding and child protection.
- Reviewing and supporting children who are subject to child protection plans and contributing to the implementation of the plan.
- Keeping meticulous, written confidential records of concerns about children, (this includes recording dates, times, people responsible, and actions), and ensuring all records are kept securely within the school’s manual system and shared appropriately.
- Ensuring the suitability of all staff through safe recruitment practice and maintaining an accurate and up to date Single Central Register.
- Making sure that all **school staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors** understand their responsibilities regarding safeguarding and child protection.
- Ensuring that parents and carers understand the responsibility placed on the school and its staff for safeguarding and child protection.
- Maintaining awareness of those children who are persistently absent or missing from school, notifying the local authority in line with ‘Children Missing in Education’ protocols.
- Maintaining clear procedures in line with the latest guidance for reporting allegations against staff members (**including supply staff, volunteers and contractors**).

This policy is provided to all staff (including temporary staff and volunteers) at induction, alongside,

- Bushbury Nursery School’s Behaviour Policy for children
- Bushbury Nursery School’s Staff Behaviour Policy (Code of Conduct)
- The Safeguarding response to children who go missing from education

- The role of the DSL/DDSL(s) (including the identity of the DSL/DDSL)
- Part One, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and staff are asked to sign to say they have read and understood it

## **2. Safeguarding definition**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance 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
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

**Child protection** is part of this definition and refers to activities undertaken to prevent children suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm.

**Abuse** is a form of maltreatment of a child and may involve inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Appendix 1 explains the different types of abuse.

**Neglect** is a form of abuse and is the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development. Appendix 1 defines neglect in more detail.

**Sharing of nudes and semi-nudes** (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery) is where children share nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams.

**Children** includes everyone under the age of 18.

The following 3 **safeguarding partners** are identified in Keeping Children Safe in Education (and defined in the Children Act 2004, as amended by chapter 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017). They will make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs:

- The local authority (LA)
- A clinical commissioning group for an area within the LA
- The chief officer of police for a police area in the LA area

**Victim** is a widely understood and recognised term, but we understand that not everyone who has been subjected to abuse considers themselves a victim or would want to be described that way. When managing an incident, we will be prepared to use any term that the child involved feels most comfortable with.

**Alleged perpetrator(s)** and **perpetrator(s)** are widely used and recognised terms. However, we will think carefully about what terminology we use (especially in front of children) as, in some cases, abusive behaviour can be harmful to the perpetrator too. We will decide what’s appropriate and which terms to use on a case-by-case basis.

## **3. Legislation and guidance**

This policy is based on the Department for Education’s statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and the Governance Handbook. We comply with this guidance and the arrangements agreed and published by our 3 local safeguarding partners.

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, which places a duty on schools and local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils
- The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009, which set out what must be recorded on the single central record and the requirement for at least one person conducting an interview to be trained in safer recruitment techniques
- The Children Act 1989 (and 2004 amendment), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children
- Section 5B(11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015, which places a statutory duty on teachers to report to the police where they discover that female genital mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18
- Statutory guidance on FGM, which sets out responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM
- 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 Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism
- The Human Rights Act 1998, which explains that being subjected to harassment, violence and/or abuse, including that of a sexual nature, may breach any or all the rights which apply to individuals under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- The Equality Act 2010, which makes it unlawful to discriminate against people regarding protected characteristics (including disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and race). This means our governors and headteacher should carefully consider how they are supporting their pupils regarding these characteristics. The Act allows our school to take positive action to deal with disadvantages affecting pupils (where we can show it's proportionate). This includes making reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils. For example, it could include taking positive action to support girls where there's evidence that they're being disproportionately subjected to sexual violence or harassment
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which explains that we must have due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation. The PSED helps us to focus on key issues of concern and how to improve pupil outcomes. Some pupils may be more at risk of harm from issues such as sexual violence; homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying; or racial discrimination.
- The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 referred to in this policy as the "2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations") and Childcare Act 2006, which set out who is disqualified from working with children
- This policy also meets requirements relating to safeguarding and welfare in the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

Other statutory provisions and guidance relevant to child protection and safeguarding include:

- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
- The non-maintained Special schools (England) regulations 2015
- Wolverhampton Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements – Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together
- Multi-Agency Children Services Threshold Guidance: Continuum of Help and Support 2020
- Thresholds of Support to Children and Families in Wolverhampton
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018, updated February 2019 and December 2020)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(September 2022\)](#)
- Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (July 2018)
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (March 2015)
- Sections 26 & 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Disqualification under the Children Act 2006 (July 2018 Regulations)

#### **4. Related policies**

Our policy relates to safeguarding and child protection concerns and sits within a suite of other safeguarding policies. Safeguarding covers more than the contribution made to child protection in relation to individual young people. It also encompasses issues such as staff conduct, health and safety, bullying, online safety, arrangements for meeting medical needs, providing first aid and/or intimate care, drugs and substance misuse, positive behaviour management, and the use of physical intervention and restraint.

Our policy applies to all staff (teaching and non-teaching), [governors and volunteers, supply staff and volunteers working in our school](#). It will be reviewed at least annually by the governing body and is in line with our local safeguarding procedures and the expectations of the Department of Education and Ofsted which inspects schools' safeguarding arrangements.

This document must therefore be read, used, and applied alongside Bushbury Nursery School's policies and procedures referred to below:

#### **School & Staff**

- Staff recruitment and selection processes
- The Single Central Record of identity, qualification, and vetting checks for all staff and volunteers
- Staff Induction Policy and Procedures
- Individual school policies on monitoring and supervision

- Policy on dealing with allegations against members of staff
- Whistleblowing policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Safe Touch & Positive Handling Policy
- Acceptable Use of IT/E-Safety Policy

## **Pupils**

- Thrive Approach Policy.
- Trips and Visits Policy.
- Behaviour Policy
- 

Please note all these policies and procedures are available on Bushbury Nursery School's website and available from Bushbury Nursery School's admin office on request.

## **5. Equality statement**

Some children have an increased risk of abuse, and additional barriers can exist for some children with respect to recognising or disclosing it. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children's diverse circumstances. We ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

We give special consideration to children who:

- Have special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities or health conditions (see section 11)
- Are young carers
- May experience discrimination due to their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identification or sexuality
- Have English as an additional language
- Are known to be living in difficult situations – for example, temporary accommodation or where there are issues such as substance abuse or domestic violence
- Are at risk of FGM, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, or radicalisation
- Are asylum seekers
- Are at risk due to either their own or a family member's mental health needs
- Are looked after or previously looked after (see section 14)
- Are missing from education
- Whose parent/carer has expressed an intention to remove them from school to be home educated

## **6. Roles and responsibilities**

Safeguarding and child protection is **everyone's** responsibility. This policy applies to all **staff, supply staff, volunteers and governors** in the school and is consistent with the procedures of the 3 safeguarding partners. Our policy and procedures also apply to extended school and off-site activities.

The school plays a crucial role in preventative education. This is in the context of a whole-school approach to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain, and a culture of zero tolerance of sexism, at a level relevant to EYFS. This will be underpinned by our:

- Behaviour policy
- PSED

### **6.1 All staff**

The Teacher Standards (2012) state that teachers, including headteachers should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties. We extend this level of duty to include all the staff, **supply staff, volunteers and contractors** who work at Bushbury Nursery School.

All class-based staff and those who work directly with **children are expected to read** Part One of Keeping children safe in education 2022. **Some staff members will only receive annexe A, this decision will be made by our Governing Body. Staff who work directly with children are also expected to read annex B of KCSIE (about specific safeguarding issues), but you may expect all your staff, including those who don't work directly with children, to read it too.**

- All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn

- All staff have a responsibility to identify children who may benefit from early help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm
- Any staff member who has a concern about a child must follow the referral process
- All staff have a responsibility to take appropriate action, our staff will be expected to support social care and other agencies following referrals
- In addition to working with the DSL staff members should be aware that they may be asked to support social workers to take decisions about individual children
- During induction, all staff members will be made aware of the systems within our school which support safeguarding systems, and these will be explained to them as part of their induction. This includes: the safeguarding and child protection policy, which includes the policy and procedures to deal with **child-on-child** abuse ; the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct; the school behaviour policy, which includes measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying; safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; Keeping Children Safe in Education -part 1 and Annex A ( for staff who are not working directly with pupils this will be just Annex A), Annex C- the role of the designated safeguarding lead and the names of the designated safeguarding lead and deputies. (Please refer to our Induction policy and procedures)
- All staff members will receive appropriate safeguarding/child protection updates regularly, but at least annually
- All staff will be made aware of the local early help process and understand their role in it
- All staff will be made aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments, especially children in need (section 17) and a child suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm (Section 47) that may follow a referral along with the role that they may be expected to play in such assessments
- All staff will be made aware of what to do if a child discloses that he/she is being abused or neglected
- All staff members will be made aware of the signs of abuse and neglect so that they are able to identify cases of children who may need help or protection
- Staff members working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the best interests of the child and always speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy immediately
- Staff should ensure that if a child has made a disclosure, they are aware that the information will only be shared with the designated safeguarding lead and children's social care. Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse
- Our staff will be alert to the potential need for any child who: is disabled and has specific needs; has special educational needs; is a young carer; is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social behaviour including gangs and organised crime; frequently goes missing from care or home, is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves; is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation; is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child; has returned home to their family from care; is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect; is at risk of being radicalised or exploited and is a privately fostered child
- All staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead with regards to any concerns about female genital mutilation. Our teachers know that there is a legal duty placed upon, teachers must report to the police if they discover that an act of female genital mutilation appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18
- If staff have concerns, or an allegation is made about another member of staff (including volunteers and supply staff) posing a risk of harm to children, then the concern should be referred to the Headteacher. If the concern is about the Headteacher the member of staff should report this to the chair of governors. Our staff will comply with the guidelines in part four of keeping children safe in education
- All staff and volunteers should raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in our school's safeguarding regime. Staff should follow the school's whistleblowing policy and procedures or contact the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline
- A child going missing from an education setting is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. Staff members should follow the school procedures for dealing with children who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions. This includes reporting concerns of absence
- 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 the victim be made to feel ashamed for making the report
- **All staff should be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and /or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or being threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. This should not prevent staff from having a professional curiosity and speaking to the DSL if they have concerns about a child. It is also important that**



staff determine how best to build trusted relationships with children and young people which facilitate communication.

- All staff should be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues.

### ***Supply staff, volunteers, contractors, work experience and students' responsibilities***

The DSL (headteacher) and DDSL will explain the responsibility of reporting any concerns about children's safety and welfare to the DSL. Further, they will be briefed on the school's confidentiality policy and the code of conduct that we expect from all in our school. Therefore, supply staff, volunteers, contractors and students have the responsibility to:

- Work within the school's code of conduct, KCSIE, safeguarding/child protection policy and confidentiality/information sharing expectations; and
- Immediately share any concerns about a child's welfare with the DSL or Deputy DSL.

## **6.2 Governing Body (PART TWO – KCSIE)**

**Our Safeguarding Link Governor is: Annette Pugh/Joanne Aston**

**Our Chair of Governors is: Joanne Aston**

Our governing body have a strategic leadership responsibility for the safeguarding arrangements and will ensure they comply with their duties under legislation, they will have regard to 'Keeping Children safe in Education' to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in our schools are effective and always comply with the law.

Our governing body will ensure that they facilitate a whole school approach to safeguarding. This will ensure that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. They will ensure that all systems. Processes and policies operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

Our school will have a member of the Senior Leadership Team (or equivalent) to take leadership responsibility for our school's safeguarding arrangements.

Our governing body will ensure that all governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place at Bushbury Nursery School are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole school approach to safeguarding. Their training will be regularly updated.

Our governing body should be aware of their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (paragraph 82), and their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Where another body is providing services or activities (regardless of whether or not the children who attend these services/activities are children on the school roll):

- Seek assurance that the other body has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies/procedures in place, and inspect them if needed
- Make sure that there are arrangements for the body to liaise with the school about safeguarding arrangements where appropriate
- Make sure that safeguarding requirements are a condition of using the school premises, and that any agreement to use the premises would be terminated if the other body fails to comply

The chair of governors will act as the 'case manager' if an allegation of abuse is made against the headteacher, where appropriate.

**Our governing body will also ensure:**

- Appropriate policies and procedures are in place for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare. These policies will include an effective safeguarding/child protection policy, a code of conduct for adults which will amongst other things include – **low level concerns, allegations against staff, whistle blowing**, acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communications including the use of social media and Bushbury Nursery School Behaviour Policy.

- Bushbury Nursery School safeguarding policies and procedures will be transparent, clear, and easy to understand for staff, pupils, students, supply staff, volunteers and contractors.
- These policies, along with our **Behaviour Policy** and **part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education** for all staff who work directly with the pupils or **annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education** for staff who do not work directly with the pupils. Information regarding the role of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies, will be provided to all staff on induction. Our governing body will take a proportional risk-based approach to the level of information that is provided to supply / temporary staff and volunteers.
- Our safeguarding/child protection policy will describe procedures which are in accordance with government guidance and refer to locally agreed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements put in place by the safeguarding partners. It will be updated annually (as a minimum) and be available publicly either via our school website or by other means.
- The above policies and procedures, adopted by our governing body, particularly concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect, are followed by all staff.
- Appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place to children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect including sexual abuse or exploitation and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.
- Where reasonably possible, our school will hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil.
- Reflects the whole school approach to **child-on-child abuse**. Includes policies reflected elsewhere e.g. online safety and SEND.
- The behaviour policy will include measures to prevent bullying (including cyberbullying), prejudice based and discriminatory bullying.

#### ***Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Lead (DSL/DDSL)***

- They have appointed an appropriate senior member of staff, from our school's leadership team to the role of designated safeguarding lead. The designated safeguarding lead will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection matters. Their role will be made explicit in the role-holder's job description (see Annex B which describes the broad areas of responsibility and activities related to the role.
- They should ensure the designated safeguarding lead has the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post. The role carries a significant level of responsibility and the postholder should be given the additional time, funding, training, resources, and support to:
  - Provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters
  - Take part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings and /or support other staff to do so
  - Contribute to the assessment of children
  - Refer suspected cases, as appropriate, to the relevant body (local authority children's social care, Channel programme, Disclosure and Barring Service, and/or police), and support staff who make such referrals directly
  - Have a good understanding of harmful sexual behaviour

The DSL will also:

- Keep the headteacher informed of any issues
- Liaise with local authority case managers and designated officers for child protection concerns as appropriate
- Discuss the local response to sexual violence and sexual harassment with police and local authority children's social care colleagues to prepare the school policies
- Be confident that they know what local specialist support is available to support children involved (including victims and alleged perpetrators) in sexual violence and sexual harassment, and be confident as to how to access this support
- Be aware that children must have an 'appropriate adult' to support and help them in the case of a police investigation or search

The full responsibilities of the DSL and deputy/deputies are set out in their job description.

## **Multi-agency working**

- Bushbury Nursery School contributes to multi-agency working in line with statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- The SLT and the DSL/DDSLs understand their role in the new safeguarding partner arrangements
- We co-operate and engage fully with the new published safeguarding arrangements
- Bushbury Nursery School will work with social care, the police, health services and other services to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This includes providing a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified and contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support to children subject to child protection plans. Bushbury Nursery School will allow access for children's social care from the host local authority and, where appropriate, from a placing local authority, for that authority to conduct, or to consider whether to conduct, a section 17 or a section 47 assessment.
- That our safeguarding arrangements consider the procedures and practice of the local authority as part of the inter-agency safeguarding procedures set up by the three safeguarding partners. This will include understanding and reflecting local protocols for assessment and the threshold document along with supplying information as requested by the three safeguarding partners.

## **Information Sharing**

Our governing body understand that sharing information is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect and in promoting children's welfare, including their educational outcomes. They understand that we have clear powers to share, hold and use information for these purposes.

- Our governors understand and recognise the importance of information sharing between practitioners and local agencies. Our governors will ensure arrangements are in place that set out clearly the process and principles of information sharing within the school and with the three safeguarding partners, other organisations, agencies and practitioners as required
- Our governors understand the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR places duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure.
- Our Governors understand the DPA 2018 and the GDPR are not barriers to sharing information where the failure to do so would result in a child being placed at risk of harm, they understand that fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.
- Our governors will ensure relevant staff have due regard to the data protection principles, which allow them to share personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018, and the GDPR. Relevant staff should be confident of the processing conditions under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR which allow them to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information, which is sensitive and personal, and should be treated as 'special category personal data'.
- Our governors will ensure that staff who need to share 'special category personal data' are aware that the Data Protection Act 2018 contains 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' as a processing condition that allows practitioners to share information. This includes allowing practitioners to share information without consent, if it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent, or if to gain consent would place a child at risk.
- If our school is unable to provide pupils' personal data where the serious harm test under the legislation is met. For example, in a situation where a child is in a refuge or another form of emergency accommodation, and the serious harms test is met, we should withhold providing the data in compliance with schools' obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR. Where in doubt our school will seek independent legal advice.
- Where children leave our school, the designated safeguarding lead will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt will be obtained from the receiving school or college. The file will be transferred separately from the main pupil file. Our school will ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads and SENCOs are aware as required.
- In addition to the child protection file, our designated safeguarding lead will also consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving. For example, information that would allow the new school or college to continue supporting victims of abuse or those who are currently receiving support through the Channel programme and have that support in place for when the child arrives.

## **Staff Training**

- All staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training including online safety at induction. The training will be regularly updated. Induction and training will be in line with advice from the three safeguarding partners. In addition, all staff members will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-

bulletins, staff meetings), as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

- The governing body recognise the expertise staff build by undertaking safeguarding training and managing safeguarding concerns daily. Our staff will be provided with the opportunity to contribute to and shape safeguarding arrangements and child protection policy.
- Safeguarding training, including online safety training, is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole school safeguarding approach and wider staff training and curriculum planning
- Whilst consider training requirements there will be regard to the Teachers' Standards which set out the expectation that all teachers manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe educational environment and requires teachers to have a clear understanding of the needs of pupils.

### ***Online Safety***

Our governing body understand that our school increasingly work online and that it is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

- Appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place and take care that "over blocking" does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.
- Remote learning - Where children are being asked to learn online at home our school will refer to and use the links and resources provided by the DfE: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers, and safeguarding and remote education.
- Technology and the risks and harms associated with it evolve rapidly. We will review our approach to online safety annually, supported by an annual risk assessment.

### ***Opportunities to Teach Safeguarding***

- Governing bodies will ensure that children are taught about how to keep themselves and others safe, including online. It should be recognised that effective education will be tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of individual children, including children who are victims of abuse, and children with special educational needs or disabilities.
- We will make parents/carers aware of online challenges and hoaxes and share this information.
- Relevant topics will be included within PSED In teaching these subjects we will have regard to the statutory guidance.
- Preventative education is most effective in the context of a whole-school approach that prepares our pupils and students for life in modern Britain and creates a culture of zero tolerance for sexism etc at an age-appropriate level. We will have a clear set of values and standards, upheld and demonstrated throughout all aspects of school life. These will be underpinned by the school's behaviour policy, as well as PSED delivered throughout the whole curriculum. The programme will be fully inclusive and developed to be age and stage of development appropriate (especially when considering the needs of children with SEND and other vulnerabilities).

### ***Inspection***

- They are familiar with the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework and safeguarding: Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings.

### ***Safer recruitment***

- They prevent people who pose a risk of harm from working with pupils by adhering to statutory responsibilities to check staff, supply staff and volunteers who work with children, taking proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required; and ensuring volunteers are appropriately supervised. Our school has written recruitment and selection policies and procedures in place; and
- At least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken appropriate safer recruitment training.
- We will ensure that the policies and procedures are monitored to ensure they are effective and embedded.

### ***Dealing with concerns about staff who may pose a risk of harm to children***

- There are procedures in place to manage concerns/allegations against teachers and support staff (including supply staff and volunteers), that might indicate they would pose a risk of harm to children. These allegations or concerns will be referred to the designated officer at the local authority, **Kenny Edgar**, by the appropriate person. Our school will follow the procedures outlined in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- "Lower level" concerns will be addressed as set out in Section 2 of Part for of KCSIE.
- Procedures are in place to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns or would have been had they not resigned.

- Our governing body is aware that this is a legal duty and failure to refer when the criteria are met is a criminal offence.

### **Child-on-child abuse**

- ALL staff should recognise that children can abuse their peers. Our governing body will ensure that ALL staff are clear about our school's policy and procedures regarding **child-on-child abuse**.

Our safeguarding/child protection policy includes:

- Procedures to minimise the risk of **child-on-child abuse**.
- Systems in place (and they are well promoted, easily understandable and easily accessible) for children to confidently report abuse, knowing that their concern will be treated seriously.
- Sets out how allegations of **child-on-child abuse** will be recorded, investigated and dealt with.
- Recognition that even if there are no reported cases of **child-on-child abuse**, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not reported.
- Clear processes as to how victims, perpetrators and any other child affected by of **child-on-child abuse** will be supported.
- A statement that makes clear there should be a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and it will never be tolerated or passed off as "banter" "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".
- Recognition of the gendered nature of **child-on-child abuse**, that all **child-on-child abuse** is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.
- The different forms of **child-on-child abuse**, such as: bullying - including cyberbullying, prejudice based and discriminatory bullying; sexual violence and harassment, physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; up-skirting; consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos; causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent; abuse in intimate relationships between peers and initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

### **The Child's wishes**

- The child's wishes and feelings are considered when determining what action to take and what services to provide. Systems are in place for children to express their views and give feedback. Systems and processes will operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

### **Children potentially at greater risk of harm**

#### **For children who need a social worker (Child in Need and Child Protection Plans):**

- The school DSL/or deputies are aware that some children may need a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs. Local authorities should share the fact a child has a social worker. Children may need this help due to abuse, neglect and complex family circumstances. A child's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educationally disadvantaged in facing barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health. The designated safeguarding lead 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. Where children need a social worker, this will inform decisions about safeguarding (for example, responding to unauthorised absence or missing education where there are known safeguarding risks) and about promoting welfare (for example, considering the provision of pastoral and/or academic support, alongside action by statutory services).

#### **For children requiring mental health support:**

- School has an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their pupils. Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Our governing body ensures our school has clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible mental health problems, including routes to escalate and clear referral and accountability systems

#### **For children and young people in care and Previously Looked After Children**

- Staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep looked after children safe
- That 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. They should 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

LAC Lead should have details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual school head in the authority that looks after the child.

- All staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep previously looked after children safe. When dealing with looked after and previously looked after children we will ensure that all agencies work together, and prompt action will be taken when necessary to safeguard these children.

### ***Designated Teacher***

- The school appoint a designated teacher to work with local authorities to promote the educational achievement of registered children who are looked after and to ensure that this person has appropriate training. With the commencement of the sections 4-6 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the designated teacher will also have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales
- The designated teacher has appropriate training and relevant qualifications and experience.

### ***Care leavers***

- Our governing body knows that the local authority has ongoing responsibilities to young people who cease to be looked after and become care leavers.
- Designated safeguarding leads will obtain details of the local authority Personal Advisor appointed to guide and support the care leaver and should liaise with them as necessary regarding any issues of concern affecting the care leaver.

### ***Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or certain medical or physical health conditions***

- Our governors know that children with special educational needs and disabilities or **certain medical or physical health conditions** may face additional safeguarding challenges
- Our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy reflects the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in children with special educational needs and disabilities **or certain medical or physical health conditions**.

These can include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- Being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children;
- Children with SEN and disabilities **or certain medical or physical conditions** can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying- without outwardly showing any signs; and
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

To address these additional challenges our school will consider extra pastoral support for these pupils when necessary.

### ***Elective home education***

Many home educated children have an overwhelmingly positive leaning experience. Bushbury Nursery School expects the parents' decision to home educate to be made with their child's best education at the heart of the decision. Where a parent/carer has expressed their intention to remove a child from Bushbury Nursery School with the view to educating at home a meeting between the LA, school and other key professionals and parents/carers will take place. This meeting is particularly important where a child has SEND, is vulnerable and/or has a social worker.

### ***The use of 'reasonable force' in schools and colleges***

Our governing body know and understand there are circumstances when it is appropriate for our staff to use reasonable force to safeguard children and young people. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a young person needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'. The use of force may involve either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of the classroom.

Our school does not adopt a 'no contact' policy, we have a policy which allows and supports our staff to make appropriate physical contact that enables staff to fully support and protect our children. The decision on whether to use reasonable force to control or restrain a child is down to the professional judgement of the staff concerned and will always depend on individual circumstances.

When using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving children with SEN or disabilities or with medical conditions, our school will consider the risks carefully and recognise the additional vulnerability of these groups. We will also consider our duties under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to making reasonable adjustments, non-discrimination and our Public Sector Equality Duty. By planning positive and proactive behaviour support, for instance through drawing up individual behaviour plans for more vulnerable children, and agreeing them with parents and carers, our school can reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviour and the need to use reasonable force.

### **6.3 The Headteacher**

The headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, including, ensuring that staff (including supply staff and volunteers and contractors):

- Are informed of our systems which support safeguarding, including this policy, as part of their induction/introduction
- Understand and follow the procedures included in this policy, particularly those concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect
- Communicating this policy to parents/carers when their child joins the school and via the school website
- Ensuring that the DSL has appropriate time, funding, training and resources, and that there is always adequate cover if the DSL is absent
- Ensuring that all staff undertake appropriate safeguarding and child protection training, and updating the content of the training regularly
- Acting as the 'case manager' in the event of an allegation of abuse made against another member of staff or volunteer, where appropriate
- Making decisions regarding all low-level concerns, though they may wish to collaborate with the DSL on this
- Ensuring the relevant staffing ratios are met, where applicable
- Making sure each child in the Early Years Foundation Stage is assigned a key person

#### ***Virtual school heads***

Virtual school heads have a non-statutory responsibility for the strategic oversight of the educational attendance, attainment and progress of pupils with a social worker.

### **6.4 Designated and Deputy Safeguarding Leads (ANNEX C)**

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is:** Heidi Bullock

**The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) is:** Surrinder O'Leary

Our governing body will ensure that a senior member of staff from the leadership team is appointed to the role of designated safeguarding lead. The designated safeguarding lead will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection including online safety. Their responsibilities will be explicit in the role holder's job description.

Our governing body will ensure that this person has the appropriate status and authority within the school 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 inter-agency meetings, and/or supporting other staff to do so, and to contributing to the assessment of children.

Our governing body will determine whether to appoint additional deputy designated safeguarding leads, they will be trained to the same level as the designated safeguarding lead and their responsibilities will be explicit in their job description.

Our designated safeguarding lead may delegate safeguarding activities to the deputy safeguarding lead however the designated safeguarding lead will retain the lead responsibility for child protection and safeguarding. This responsibility will not be delegated.

At Bushbury Nursery School the DSL in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education is expected to:

## **Manage referrals**

- Refer cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care as required;
- Support staff who make referrals to local authority children's social care;
- Refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required;
- Support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme;
- Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required; and
- Refer cases where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required.

## **Working with others**

- Liaise with the headteacher to inform her of issues especially on-going enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations. **This will include being aware of the requirement for children to have an Appropriate Adult (PACE Code C 2019)**
- Act as a point of contact with the three safeguarding partners.
- As required, liaise with the "case manager" (as per Part four KCSIE) and the designated officer at the local authority for child protection concerns (all cases which concern a staff member); and
- Liaise with staff **(especially pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT technicians and SENDCos or the named person with the oversight for SEN in a college and Senior Mental Health Leads)** on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies so that children's needs are considered holistically.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff.
- 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:
  1. ensure that the school 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,
  2. 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.

## **Training, knowledge and skills:**

- The DSL and DDSs will undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training will be updated at least every two years.
- The DSL will 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 the 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 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, the 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.

### ***Raise Awareness***

- Ensure the school's child protection policies are known, understood and used appropriately especially new and part time staff;
- Ensure the school'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 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's in this;
- Link with the safeguarding partner arrangements to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on local safeguarding arrangements.
- Help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children, including children with a social worker, are experiencing, or have experienced, with teachers and school leadership staff. Their role could include ensuring that the school and their staff, know who these children are, understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort; supporting teaching staff to identify the challenges that children in this group might face and the additional academic support and adjustments that they could make to best support these children.

### ***Information sharing and 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 Part one and Part two of KCSIE.
- 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.

### ***Availability***

- The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will be available (during school hours) for staff in the school to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Whilst our designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) will be available in person, there may be

occasions, in exceptional circumstance when this is not possible however they may be available via e-mail, phone and or Skype or other such mediums.

- Our school will arrange adequate and appropriate arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities.
- The LA will be updated with contact details for emergencies.

Name	Role	Contact details
Heidi Bullock	Headteacher	<a href="mailto:hbullock@bushburynursery.co.uk">hbullock@bushburynursery.co.uk</a> 01902 556933
Surrinder O’Leary	Lead Teacher	<a href="mailto:soleary@bushburynursery.co.uk">soleary@bushburynursery.co.uk</a> 01902 558118

### ***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 KCSIE, 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 Safeguarding Report for Governors. The DSL will complete a Safeguarding Report for Governors at least every term.

For more information refer to KCSIE ANNEX C.

## **6.5 Parental Responsibilities**

At Bushbury Nursery School we have an open-door policy where we encourage parents to share any concerns regarding their own children or any other child/children who they feel may be at risk of harm. All concerns will be explored in a sensitive and timely manner. Parents /carers should ensure their child attends school and that they arrive on time and are collected on time. We expect parents/carers to notify us of any changes in family circumstances and inform us of any changes of address and contact numbers and where reasonably possible to provide more than one emergency contact number.

## **6.6 Pupil’s Responsibilities**

At Bushbury Nursery School we respect our pupils. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all pupils to do their best and to talk freely about any concerns or worries. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make

decisions for themselves. Pupils will always be taken seriously and listened to if they seek help from a member of staff. Our school encourages all pupils to share any worries or concerns with any adult in the school at any time.

## **7. Confidentiality and Information sharing**

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential. The Head teacher, DSL or DDSLs will disclose any information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need-to-know basis only. **We also understand that:**

- Timely information sharing is essential to effective safeguarding
- Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare, and protect the safety, of children
- The Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe
- If staff need to share 'special category personal data', the DPA 2018 contains 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' as a processing condition that allows practitioners to share information without consent if: it is not possible to gain consent; it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent; or if to gain consent would place a child at risk
- Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse, as this may not be in the child's best interests
- If a victim asks the school not to tell anyone about the sexual violence or sexual harassment:
  - There's no definitive answer, because even if a victim doesn't consent to sharing information, staff may still lawfully share it if there's another legal basis under the UK GDPR that applies
  - The DSL will have to balance the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and other children
  - The DSL should consider that:
    - Parents or carers should normally be informed (unless this would put the victim at greater risk)
    - The basic safeguarding principle is: if a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger, or has been harmed, a referral should be made to local authority children's social care
    - Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault are crimes. Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, this should be referred to the police. While the age of criminal responsibility is 10, if the alleged perpetrator is under 10, the starting principle of referring to the police remains
- Regarding anonymity, all staff will:
  - Be aware of anonymity, witness support and the criminal process in general where an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system
  - Do all they reasonably can to protect the anonymity of any children involved in any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment, for example, carefully considering which staff should know about the report, and any support for children involved
  - Consider the potential impact of social media in facilitating the spreading of rumours and exposing victims' identities

The government's information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners includes 7 'golden rules' for sharing information and will support staff who have to make decisions about sharing information. If staff are in any doubt about sharing information, they should speak to the DSL (or deputy).

### ***Communication with Parents***

Bushbury Nursery School will always discuss concerns with parents/carers and consent for any referrals should be sought unless to do so would:

- Place the child at risk of significant harm or further risk of significant harm;
- Place a vulnerable adult at risk of harm; and
- Compromise any enquiries that need to be undertaken by children's social care or the police.

The school will endeavour to ensure that parents understand the responsibilities placed on the school and staff for safeguarding children. In the best interests of safeguarding children there may be occasions when the school must consult with other

agencies without a parent or carer's prior knowledge. Our first concern and responsibility is the child's welfare and we have a duty to protect children first and always. Such consultation may result in a formal referral which could prompt visits from social care and/or the police. We fully understand that this can be a very distressing set of circumstances. Our school will follow the procedures required by the multi-agency partnership arrangements.

The visit may take place at the school at the request of the police or social care. In the event of the meeting being held at school parents/carers will be asked by the school to remain on the school premises until such time that the police or social care can attend. If parents/carers choose to leave school premises with their child, the school will contact the police or social care to inform them of the parent's/carer's decision. Our school will employ the services of an interpreter if required.

## **8. Recognising abuse and taking action**

Staff, volunteers and governors must follow the procedures set out below in the event of a safeguarding issue. **If a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm, or in immediate danger.**

Make a referral to children's social care and/or the police **immediately** if you believe a child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm or is in immediate danger. **Anyone can make a referral – (refer to Appendix 1).**

### ***If a child makes a disclosure to you***

All staff at Bushbury Nursery School will also refer to 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused' DFE March 2015. They will:

- Listen to and believe them. Allow them time to talk freely and do not ask leading questions
- Stay calm and do not show that you are shocked or upset
- Tell the child they have done the right thing in telling you. Do not tell them they should have told you sooner
- Explain what will happen next and that you will have to pass this information on. Do not promise to keep it a secret
- Write up your conversation as soon as possible in the child's own words. Stick to the facts, and do not put your own judgement on it
- Sign and date the write-up and pass it on to the DSL. Alternatively, if appropriate, make a referral to children's social care and/or the police directly, and tell the DSL as soon as possible that you have done so. Aside from these people, do not disclose the information to anyone else unless told to do so by a relevant authority involved in the safeguarding process

Bear in mind that some children may:

- Not feel ready, or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited or neglected
- Not recognise their experiences as harmful
- Feel embarrassed, humiliated or threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability, sexual orientation and/or language barriers

None of this should stop you from having a 'professional curiosity' and speaking to the DSL if you have concerns about a child.

### ***Recording a reporting concerns and disclosures procedures***

#### **Recording information**

- Make some brief notes at the time or immediately afterwards; record the date, time, place and context of disclosure or concern, facts and not assumption or interpretation.
- If it is observation of bruising or an injury try to record detail, using the body maps (See Appendix B/C) e.g. "right arm above elbow" **Do not take photographs!**
- Note the non-verbal behaviour and the key words in the language used by the child.
- It is important to keep these original notes and use them to complete the Bushbury Nursery School Record of Concern Form Appendix A), this is a white form kept at the front of the safeguarding cabinet found in the Headteacher's office and in the Perspex wall mounted document holder in the staffroom, if necessary attach

your notes/body map. The report of concern should be made to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible after the concern was recognised. The record of concern form should be completed as soon after the concern was raised as possible, but, no later than the end of that school day.

### **Transfer of files**

All child protection files will be transferred securely and we will obtain a receipt from the receiving school  
**Disclosure forms and body maps are kept in the safeguarding drawer found in the headteacher's office and in the Perspex wall mounted document holder in the staffroom.**

Also in the safeguarding drawer:

Good practice guidelines including NSPCC guidance

- Accidental/non- accidental guidelines
- EHAT (CAF) information
- Safeguarding board information
- Individual files for children on School concerns (blue) EHAT ( yellow )
- CIN ( green ), CP ( pink ) and LAC ( red )
- Behaviour log
- Multi- agency referrals – EMARF information and forms
- Safeguarding and child protection contact details
- LADO information and forms
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022
- Other useful documents and guidelines

### ***Making a referral to children's social care – points to be considered***

#### ***Child protection procedures***

Upon receipt of a school concern form the DSL will decide and seek advice to determine whether the concern/disclosure meets a threshold for support.

The DSL or DDSL will consider: Is this a child with unmet needs where health, development or achievement may be affected? Wolverhampton Supporting Children' Model says practitioners should form a Team around the Family (TAF) and complete an Early Help Assessment (EHA) when:

- Age-appropriate progress is not being made and the causes are unclear; or
- The support of more than one agency is needed to meet the child or young person's needs.

If this is a child with additional needs the DSL or deputy will discuss the issues with the child's parents/carers. The DSL or Deputy DSL will obtain parental consent for an Early Help Assessment to be completed.

**Is this a child in need?** Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 says:

- The child is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have opportunity to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development.
- The child's health or development is likely to be impaired, or further impaired without the provision of such services; and
- The child has a disability.

**Is this a Child Protection matter?** Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 says:

- Children at risk or who are suffering significant harm.
- Children suffering the effects of significant harm.
- Serious health problems.

All concerns, child with unmet needs, Child in Need and Child Protection matters, **must** be discussed with the DSL or deputy and will need to be assessed and referred using the correct channels by the school as soon as possible. It is important to recognise anybody can make a referral where they believe a child to be in imminent danger or at risk of harm

Where a case reaches the 'significant harm' threshold that justifies statutory intervention into family life. A professional making a child protection referral under Section 47 must therefore provide information which clearly outlines that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

It is not possible to rely on one absolute criterion when judging what constitutes significant harm. Consideration of the severity of ill-treatment may include the extent of the harm suffered, the context within which it occurred and its duration.

Significant harm may also arise from a combination of significant events which are both acute and long standing and which impair the child's physical, psychological and social development. To both understand and establish significant harm, it is necessary to consider the family context, together with the child's development within their wider social and cultural environment. It is also necessary to consider any special needs, e.g. medical condition, communication difficulties or disability that may affect the child's development and care within the family. The nature of harm, in terms of ill-treatment or failure to provide adequate care also needs consideration alongside the impact on the child's health and development and the adequacy of care provided.

### ***Making a referral***

If, a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm a referral should be made to children's social care and /or the police immediately.

Anybody can make a referral. Although, where a child is registered at school, consultation should take place with the school's DSL or DDSL, who will often be the most appropriate person to initiate any referral. A written record of the concerns should be made using the schools internal recording form. This should be used to aid in the decision-making process if a referral is needed to the MASH/Central Referral Hub.

For referral to the **MASH/Central Referral Hub**, phone **01902 555392** and speak to a social worker. Any action will need to be followed up with a written confirmation on the E-MARF (Electronic Multi Agency Referral form). **Out of hours: 01902 55299**

### ***Voice of the child – (children's wishes)***

Children's wishes and feelings are considered if appropriate when determining what action to take and what services to provide to protect individual children through ensuring there are systems in place for children to express their views and give feedback. Staff members do not promise confidentiality and always act in the best interests of the child.

### ***If you discover that FGM has taken place, or a pupil is at risk of FGM***

Keeping Children Safe in Education explains that FGM comprises "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs". FGM is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting, harmful consequences. It is also known as 'female genital cutting', 'circumcision' or 'initiation'.

Possible indicators that a pupil has already been subjected to FGM, and factors that suggest a pupil may be at risk, are set out in appendix 4 of this policy.

**Any teacher** who either:

- Is informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her; or
- Observes physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out on a girl under 18 and they have no reason to believe that the act was necessary for the girl's physical or mental health or for purposes connected with labour or birth

Must immediately report this to the police, personally. This is a **mandatory statutory duty**, and teachers will face disciplinary sanctions for failing to meet it. Unless they have been specifically told not to disclose, they should also discuss the case with the DSL and involve children's social care as appropriate.

**Any other member of staff** who discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a **pupil under 18** must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures. The duty for teachers mentioned above does not apply in cases where a pupil is *at risk* of FGM or FGM is suspected but is not known to have been carried out. Staff should not examine pupils.

**Any member of staff** who suspects a pupil is *at risk* of FGM or suspects that FGM has been carried out must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures.

**If you have concerns about a child (as opposed to believing a child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or is in immediate danger)**

Where possible, speak to the DSL first to agree a course of action.

If in exceptional circumstances the DSL is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Speak to a member of the senior leadership team and/or take advice from local authority children's social care **MASH/Central Referral Hub, phone 01902 555392**. You can also seek advice at any time from the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. Share details of any actions you take with the DSL as soon as practically possible.

Make a referral to local authority children's social care directly, if appropriate (see 'Referral' below). Share any action taken with the DSL as soon as possible.

### ***Early help assessment***

If an early help assessment is appropriate, the DSL will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead practitioner.

We will discuss and agree, with statutory safeguarding partners, levels for the different types of assessment, as part of local arrangements.

The DSL will keep the case under constant review and the school will consider a referral to local authority children's social care if the situation does not seem to be improving. Timelines of interventions will be monitored and reviewed.

### ***Referral***

If it is appropriate to refer the case to local authority children's social care or the police, the DSL will make the referral or support you to do so. If you make a referral directly you must tell the DSL as soon as possible.

The local authority will decide within 1 working day of a referral about what course of action to take and will let the person who made the referral know the outcome. The DSL or person who made the referral must follow up with the local authority if this information is not made available, and ensure outcomes are properly recorded.

If the child's situation does not seem to be improving after the referral, the DSL or person who made the referral must follow local escalation procedures to ensure their concerns have been addressed and that the child's situation improves.

### ***If you have concerns about extremism***

If a child is not suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or in immediate danger, where possible speak to the DSL first to agree a course of action. If in exceptional circumstances the DSL is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Speak to a member of the senior leadership team and/or seek advice from local authority children's social care. Make a referral to local authority children's social care directly, if appropriate. Inform the DSL or deputy as soon as practically possible after the referral.

Where there is a concern, the DSL will consider the level of risk and decide which agency to make a referral to. This could include Channel, the government's programme for identifying and supporting individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, or the local authority children's social care team.

The Department for Education also has a dedicated telephone helpline, 020 7340 7264, which school staff and governors can call to raise concerns about extremism with respect to a pupil. You can also email [counter.extremism@education.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gov.uk) Note that this is not for use in emergency situations.

In an emergency, call 999 or the confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 if you:

- Think someone is in immediate danger
- Think someone may be planning to travel to join an extremist group
- See or hear something that may be terrorist-related

### ***If you have a mental health concern***

Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Staff will be alert to behavioural signs that suggest a child may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. If you have a mental health concern that is **not** also a safeguarding concern, speak to the DSL to agree a course of action.

### ***If you have a concern about a staff member, supply teacher, volunteer or contractor***

If you have concerns about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor), or an allegation is made about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor) posing a risk of harm to children, speak to the headteacher as soon as possible. If the concerns/allegations are about the headteacher, speak to the chair of governors.

Where you believe there is a conflict of interest in reporting a concern or allegation about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor) to the headteacher, report it directly to the local authority designated officer (LADO).

Where appropriate, the school will inform Ofsted of the allegation and actions taken, within the necessary timescale.

### ***Allegations of abuse made against other pupils***

We recognise that children can abuse their peers. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”, as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for pupils.

We also recognise the gendered nature of **child-on-child abuse**. Girls are more likely to be victims and boys are more likely perpetrators, however all **child-on-child abuse** is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under our school’s behaviour policy, but this child protection and safeguarding policy will apply to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. This might include where the alleged behaviour:

- Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence
- Could put pupils in the school at risk
- Is violent
- Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol
- Involves sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment, such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, upskirting or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos (including the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes)

The school recognises that **child-on-child abuse** is a problem and is happening, even when the issues are not reported. This sort of abuse has a serious impact on those who are victims, in terms of self-esteem and relationships but also educational outcomes.

### ***Procedures for dealing with allegations of child-on-child abuse***

If a pupil makes an allegation of abuse against another pupil:

- You must record the allegation and tell the DSL, but do not investigate it
- The DSL will contact the local authority children’s social care team and follow its advice, as well as the police if the allegation involves a potential criminal offence
- The DSL will put a risk assessment and support plan into place for all children involved (including the victim(s), the child(ren) against whom the allegation has been made and any others affected) with a named person they can talk to if needed. **This will include considering school transport as a potentially vulnerable place for a victim or alleged perpetrator(s)**
- The DSL will contact the children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), if appropriate



If the incident is a criminal offence and there are delays in the criminal process, the DSL will work closely with the police (and other agencies as required) while protecting children and/or taking any disciplinary measures against the alleged perpetrator. We will ask the police if we have any questions about the investigation.

### ***Creating a supportive environment in school and minimising the risk of child-on-child abuse***

We recognise the importance of taking proactive action to minimise the risk of **child-on-child abuse**, and of creating a supportive environment where victims feel confident in reporting incidents. To achieve this, we will:

- Challenge any form of derogatory or sexualised language or inappropriate behaviour between peers, including requesting or sending sexual images
- Be vigilant to issues that particularly affect different genders – for example, sexualised or aggressive touching or grabbing towards female pupils, and initiation or hazing type violence with respect to boys
- **Ensure pupils can easily and confidently report abuse using our reporting systems**
- Ensure our curriculum helps to educate pupils about appropriate behaviour and consent
- Ensure pupils can easily and confidently report abuse using our reporting systems
- Ensure staff reassure victims that they are being taken seriously
- **Be alert to reports of sexual violence and/or harassment that may point to environmental or systemic problems that could be addressed by updating policies, processes and the curriculum, or could reflect wider issues in the local area that should be shared with safeguarding partners**
- Support children who have witnessed sexual violence, especially rape or assault by penetration. We will do all we can to make sure the victim, alleged perpetrator(s) and any witnesses are not bullied or harassed
- Consider intra familial harms and any necessary support for siblings following a report of sexual violence and /or harassment

### ***Ensure staff are trained to understand:***

- How to recognise the indicators and signs of **child-on child abuse**, and know how to identify it and respond to reports
- That even if there are no reports of child-on-child abuse in school, it does not mean it is not happening – staff should maintain an attitude of “it could happen here”

That if they have any concerns about a child’s welfare, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told, and that victims may not always make a direct report. For example:

- Children can show signs or act in ways they hope adults will notice and react to
- A friend may make a report
- A member of staff may overhear a conversation
- A child’s behaviour might indicate that something is wrong
- That certain children may face additional barriers to telling someone because of their vulnerability, disability, gender, ethnicity and/or sexual orientation
- That a pupil harming another child could be a sign that the child is being abused themselves, and that this would fall under the scope of this policy
- The important role they must play in preventing peer-on-peer abuse and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it
- That they should speak to the DSL if they have any concerns
- **That social media is likely to play a role in the fall-out from any incident or alleged incident, including the potential contact between the victim, alleged perpetrator(s) and friends from either**

The DSL will take the lead role in any disciplining of the alleged perpetrator(s). We will provide support at the same time as taking any disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action can be taken while other investigations are going on, e.g. by the police. The fact that another body is investigating or has investigated an incident doesn’t (in itself) prevent our school from coming to its own conclusion about what happened and imposing a penalty accordingly. We will consider these matters on a case-by-case basis, considering whether:

- Acting would prejudice an investigation and/or subsequent prosecution – we will liaise with the police and/or LA children’s social care to determine this
- There are circumstances that make it unreasonable or irrational for us to reach our own view about what happened while an independent investigation is ongoing

### ***Sharing of nudes and semi-nudes ('sexting')***

If you are made aware of an incident involving the consensual or non-consensual sharing of nude or semi-nude images/videos (also known as 'sexting' or 'youth produced sexual imagery'), you must report it to the DSL immediately.

You must **not**:

- View, copy, print, share, store or save the imagery yourself, or ask a pupil to share or download it (if you have already viewed the imagery by accident, you must report this to the DSL)
- Delete the imagery or ask the pupil to delete it
- Ask the pupil(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery (this is the DSL's responsibility)
- Share information about the incident with other members of staff, the pupil(s) it involves or their, or other, parents and/or carers
- Say or do anything to blame or shame any young people involved

You should explain that you need to report the incident and reassure the pupil(s) that they will receive support and help from the DSL.

### ***Initial review meeting***

Following a report of an incident, the DSL will hold an initial review meeting with appropriate school staff – this may include the staff member who reported the incident and the safeguarding or leadership team that deals with safeguarding concerns. This meeting will consider the initial evidence and aim to determine:

- Whether there is an immediate risk to pupil(s)
- If a referral needs to be made to the police and/or children's social care
- If it is necessary to view the image(s) to safeguard the young person (in most cases, images or videos should not be viewed)
- What further information is required to decide on the best response
- Whether the image(s) has been shared widely and via what services and/or platforms (this may be unknown)
- Whether immediate action should be taken to delete or remove images or videos from devices or online services
- Any relevant facts about the pupils involved which would influence risk assessment
- If there is a need to contact another school, college, setting or individual
- Whether to contact parents or carers of the pupils involved (in most cases parents/carers should be involved)

The DSL will make an immediate referral to police and/or children's social care if:

- The incident involves an adult
- There is reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed, or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example owing to special educational needs)
- What the DSL knows about the images or videos suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the young person's developmental stage, or are violent
- The imagery involves sexual acts and any pupil in the images or videos is under 13
- The DSL has reason to believe a pupil is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes (for example, the young person is presenting as suicidal or self-harming)

If none of the above apply then the DSL, in consultation with the headteacher and other members of staff as appropriate, may decide to respond to the incident without involving the police or children's social care. The decision will be made and recorded in line with the procedures set out in this policy.

### ***Further review by the DSL***

If at the initial review stage a decision has been made not to refer to police and/or children's social care, the DSL will conduct a further review to establish the facts and assess the risks. They will hold interviews with the pupils involved (if appropriate).

If at any point in the process there is a concern that a pupil has been harmed or is at risk of harm, a referral will be made to children's social care and/or the police immediately.

### ***Informing parents/carers***

The DSL will inform parents/carers at an early stage and keep them involved in the process, unless there is a good reason to believe that involving them would put the pupil at risk of harm.

### ***Referring to the police***

If it is necessary to refer an incident to the police, this will be done through the local neighbourhood police by dialling 101.

### ***Recording incidents***

All incidents of sharing of nudes and semi-nudes, and the decisions made in responding to them, will be recorded. The record-keeping arrangements set out in section 14 of this policy also apply to recording these incidents.

### ***Curriculum coverage***

We use the Talk Pants approach - Talk **PANTS** is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse

Talk PANTS helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

### ***Reporting systems for our pupils***

Where there is a safeguarding concern, we will take the child's wishes and feelings into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. We recognise the importance of ensuring pupils feel safe and comfortable to come forward and report any concerns and/or allegations.

To achieve this, we will:

- Put systems in place for pupils to confidently report abuse
- Ensure our reporting systems are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for pupils
- Make it clear to pupils that their concerns will be taken seriously, and that they can safely express their views and give feedback

## **9. Online safety and the use of mobile technology**

Online safety curriculum and computing, use of mobile technology (See separate policies for further information).

### **The Online Safety/ E-Safety lead is: Surrinder O'Leary**

We recognise the importance of safeguarding children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material, and we understand that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues.

To address this, our school aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- Protect and educate the whole school community in its safe and responsible use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as mobile phone/smart watches etc) see Bushbury Nursery School's Acceptable Use Policy
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for the whole school community
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incidents or concerns, where appropriate

### ***The 4 key categories of risk***

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

- **Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism
- **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as 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, such as 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

The best protection is to make pupils aware of the dangers through curriculum teaching particularly computing and on-line safety, PSHE and SRE.

At Bushbury Nursery School to meet our aims and address the risks above we will:

Educate pupils about online safety as part of our curriculum, see section below about our curriculum and e-safety. Train staff, as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber-bullying and the risks of online radicalisation. All staff members will receive refresher training at least once each academic year. Educate parents/carers about online safety via our website, communications sent directly to them and during parents' evenings. We will also share clear procedures, so they know how to raise concerns about online safety. Make sure staff are aware of any restrictions placed on them with regards to the use of their mobile phone/smart watches and cameras, for example that:

- Staff are allowed to bring their personal phones to school for their own use, but will limit such use to non-contact time when pupils are not present
- Staff will not take pictures or recordings of pupils on their personal phones or cameras
- Make all pupils, parents/carers, staff, volunteers and governors aware that they are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the internet in school, use of the school's ICT systems and use of their mobile and smart technology
- Explain the sanctions we will use if a pupil is in breach of our policies on the acceptable use of the internet and mobile phones
- Make sure all staff, pupils and parents/carers are aware that staff have the power to search pupils' phones, as set out in the DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation
- Put in place robust filtering and monitoring systems to limit children's exposure to the 4 key categories of risk (described above) from the school's IT systems
- Carry out an annual review of our approach to online safety, supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks faced by our school community

This section summarises our approach to online safety and mobile phone use. For comprehensive details about our school's policy on online safety and the use of mobile phones, please refer to our online safety policy and mobile phone policy, which you can find on our website.

This section summarises our approach to online safety. For comprehensive details about our policy on online safety, please refer to our online safety policy, which you can find on our website.

### ***Curriculum and online safety***

Child safety issues and child protection will be addressed through the curriculum where appropriate, especially through PSHE, Computing and On-Safety, Citizenship, Sex and Relations Education (SRE), Health Education and British values.

Governing bodies will ensure online safety is a running and interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing their whole school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and procedures. This will include considering how online safety is reflected as required in all relevant policies and considering online safety whilst planning the curriculum, any teacher training, the role and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) and any parental engagement.

School is likely to be in regular contact with parents and carers. Those communications will be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online and parents and carers are likely to find it helpful to understand what systems we use to filter and monitor online use. It will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and be clear who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online.

We use a variety of resources and approaches to teach the children how to keep themselves safe, build their resilience and manage risks. The curriculum, and the personal, social and health education development strand of the curriculum, includes an emphasis on relationships, building confidence and resilience in pupils and in developing preventative strategies to ensure their own protection and that of others.

Opportunities are provided for pupils to develop the skills and strategies they need to stay safe from abuse, including age-appropriate discussions about healthy relationships, their bodies and being able to say no to requests that they do not want to carry out. Through the Key Worker system children in nursery develop strong relationships with staff, so feel safe enough to talk and ask for help when they feel unsafe or are unhappy about the way they are being treated.

Our school teaches the children how to keep themselves safe through:

Talk Pants  
Stranger Danger  
People who help us  
Kind hands and feet

Through the school's curriculum the children can go on school visits to enhance their learning. All off site visits are recorded. Permission slips and medical forms are collected and kept with the office and the lead member of staff. Risk assessments are completed and filed within the 'Visits Folders.' (See Educational Visits Policy for further information).

## **10. Notifying parents or carers**

Where appropriate, we will discuss any concerns about a child with the child's parents or carers. The DSL will normally do this in the event of a suspicion or disclosure. Other staff will only talk to parents or carers about any such concerns following consultation with the DSL.

If we believe that notifying the parents or carers would increase the risk to the child, we will discuss this with the local authority children's social care team before doing so.

In the case of allegations of abuse made against other children, we will normally notify the parents or carers of all the children involved. *We will think carefully about what information we provide about the other child involved, and when. We will work with the police and/or local authority children's social care to make sure our approach to information sharing is consistent.*

The DSL will, along with any relevant agencies (this will be decided on a case-by-case basis):

- Meet with the victim's parents or carers, with the victim, to discuss what's being put in place to safeguard them, and understand their wishes in terms of what support they may need and how the report will be progressed
- Meet with the alleged perpetrator's parents or carers to discuss support for them, and what's being put in place that will impact them, e.g. moving them out of classes with the victim, and the reason(s) behind any decision(s)

## **11. Pupils with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), or certain medical or physical health conditions**

At Bushbury Nursery School we are aware that children with special educational needs and disabilities or certain health issues may face additional safeguarding challenges *both online and offline*. Barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group, including:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- Pupils being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other pupils
- Children with SEN and disabilities and certain medical conditions can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying- without outwardly showing any signs;
- Communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges
- *Cognitive understanding – being unable to understand the difference between fact and fiction in online content and then repeating the content/behaviours in schools or colleges or the consequences of doing so.*

We will ensure we have appropriate mechanisms in place to assist these children. *Any reports of abuse involving children with SEND will therefore require close liaison with the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) and the SENDCo. We will consider extra pastoral support and attention for these children, along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place.*

Examples of mechanisms:

- Suitably qualified professionals Resource Base Co-ordinator/SENDCo)
- Referrals to specialist agencies

- Use of communication packages
- Use of signs and symbols
- One to one support for communication
- Appropriate IT aides
- Art therapy
- Thrive Approach

## **12. Children who are lesbian, gay, bi or trans (LGBT)**

The fact that a child or a young person may be LGBT is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm. However, children who are LGBT can be targeted by other children. In some cases, a child who is perceived by other children to be LGBT (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as children who identifies as LGBT. Risks can be compounded where children who are LGBT lack a trusted adult with whom they can be open. It is therefore vital that staff endeavour to reduce the additional barriers faced and provide a safe space for them to speak out or share their concerns with members of staff.

## **13. Pupils with a social worker**

Pupils may need a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs. We recognise that a child's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm as well as potentially creating barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health.

The DSL and all members of staff will work with and support social workers to help protect vulnerable children.

Where we are aware that a pupil has a social worker, the DSL will always consider this fact to ensure any decisions are made in the best interests of the pupil's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. For example, it will inform decisions about:

- Responding to unauthorised absence or missing education where there are known safeguarding risks
- The provision of pastoral and/or academic support

## **14. Looked after children and previously looked after children**

Our designated teacher for looked after children and previously looked after children is Heidi Bullock

Our designated teacher will undertake any relevant training to update their skills, understanding and knowledge to enable them to keep CYPiC and previously looked after children safe. Our designated teacher will promote the educational, physical, social and emotional welfare of children who are looked after and previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales. Our designated teacher will ensure:

- They are aware of the legal status (interim care order, full care order, voluntary arrangements of any looked after child at Bushbury Nursery School;
- They obtain information regarding, contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility;
- They obtain information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him or her;
- They obtain the name of the child's social worker;
- They obtain the name and contact details of the virtual head in the local authority that looks after the child; and
- They liaise with the virtual school headteacher to discuss how the funding for that child can be best used to support the child's need outlined in the personal education plan.
- **The role of virtual school heads includes a non-statutory responsibility for the strategic oversight of the educational attendance, attainment, and progress of children with a social worker. In offering advice and information to workforces that have relationships with children with social workers, virtual school heads should identify and engage with key professionals, helping them to understand the role they have in improving outcomes for children. This should include Designated Safeguarding Leads, social workers, headteachers, governors, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators, mental health leads, other local authority officers, including Designated Social Care Officers for SEND, where they exist.**

### ***Care leavers***

Local authorities have on-going responsibilities to young people who cease to be looked after and become care leavers. That includes keeping in touch with them, preparing an assessment of their needs and appointing a personal advisor who develops a pathway plan with the young person. This plan describes how the local authority will support the care leaver to participate in education or training. Our designated safeguarding lead or deputy should be given details of the local authority personal advisor

appointed to guide and support the care leaver, our designated safeguarding lead or deputy will liaise with the personal advisor as necessary regarding any issues of concern affecting the care leaver.

## **15. Complaints and concerns about school safeguarding policies**

### ***Complaints against staff***

Complaints against staff that are likely to require a child protection investigation will be handled in accordance with our procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against staff.

### ***Whistleblowing (Please refer to our whistleblowing policy for further information)***

All staff, volunteers and parents at Bushbury Nurssery School should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in our safeguarding regime and such concerns will be taken seriously by our headteacher.

Our school has adopted the local authority/Connect-Ed Whistleblowing Policy and appropriate whistleblowing procedures, which are suitably reflected in staff training and staff behaviour policies, are in place for such concerns to be raised with our headteacher, governing body or senior leadership team.

Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with our headteacher, governing body or senior leadership team or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels are open to them, for example: **The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline – What you can do to report abuse is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: help@nspcc.org.uk**

## **16. Record keeping**

At Bushbury Nursery School all records of concerns and safeguarding/child protection files are stored separately from the child's/student's school file. They are locked in a secure location.

If a pupil moves school, we will transfer the files, wherever possible, this will be done in person if not the file will be transferred securely and separately from the pupil's main file within 5 days We will obtain a receipt from the receiving school. If our school is the last known school the child attend, records will be retained until the child's 25th birthday.

If a child arrives at our school with a child protection file we will ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads, designated teacher and SENDCos **or the named person with oversight for SEN in colleges**, are aware as required.

In addition to the child protection file, our designated safeguarding lead will also consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new school or college in advance of a pupil leaving. For example, information that would allow the new school or college to continue supporting victims of abuse and have that support in place for when the pupil arrives.

## **17. Safeguarding training**

### ***All staff***

All staff members will undertake safeguarding and child protection training, including on whistle-blowing procedures and online safety, to ensure they understand the school's safeguarding systems and their responsibilities, and can identify signs of possible abuse or neglect.

This training will be regularly updated and will:

- Be integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole-school safeguarding approach and wider staff training, and curriculum planning
- Be in line with advice from the 3 safeguarding partners
- Have regard to the Teachers' Standards to support the expectation that all teachers: **Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe environment and have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils**

All staff will have training on the government's anti-radicalisation strategy, Prevent, to enable them to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

Staff will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including on online safety, as required but at least annually (for example, through emails, e-bulletins and staff meetings).

### **Induction**

All staff members **including governors** will undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. The training will be regularly updated. Induction and training provided will be in line with advice from the WST. Upon appointment and starting the new post, new staff, students and volunteers will be issued with an induction pack, which includes: Safeguarding policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education -Part 1, annex A (if this is decided appropriate for certain members of staff) and annex c, Whistleblowing Policy, Management of Allegations Policy, Code of Conduct, Acceptable use of IT policy, Behaviour policy, our school's **children missing in education procedures and other relevant safeguarding training information e.g. the names of the DSL and DDSL(s)**. They will sign to say that they have received it, read and understood it. A meeting will be arranged on appointment to clarify and check understanding and to respond to any questions.

### **The DSL and DDSLs**

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

Our designated safeguarding lead and deputies will undertake Prevent awareness training. In addition to the formal training set out above, their knowledge and skills will 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, but at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role so they:

- understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as early help assessments;
- 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;
- ensure each member of staff has access to and understands our school's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff;
- are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
- understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation.
- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and college, and with the three safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners.
- can keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals;
- Understand and support our school 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 SEN and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support SEND children to stay safe online;
- 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.

### **Governors**

All governors receive training about safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) at induction, which is regularly updated. This is to make sure that they:

- Have the knowledge and information needed to perform their functions and understand their responsibilities, such as providing strategic challenge
- Can be assured those safeguarding policies and procedures are effective and support the school to deliver a robust whole-school approach to safeguarding

As the chair of governors may be required to act as the 'case manager' if an allegation of abuse is made against the headteacher, they receive training in managing allegations for this purpose.



### ***Recruitment – interview panels***

At least one person conducting any interview for any post at the school will have undertaken safer recruitment training. This will cover, as a minimum, the contents of Keeping Children Safe in Education, and will be in line with local safeguarding procedures.

### ***Staff who have contact with pupils and families***

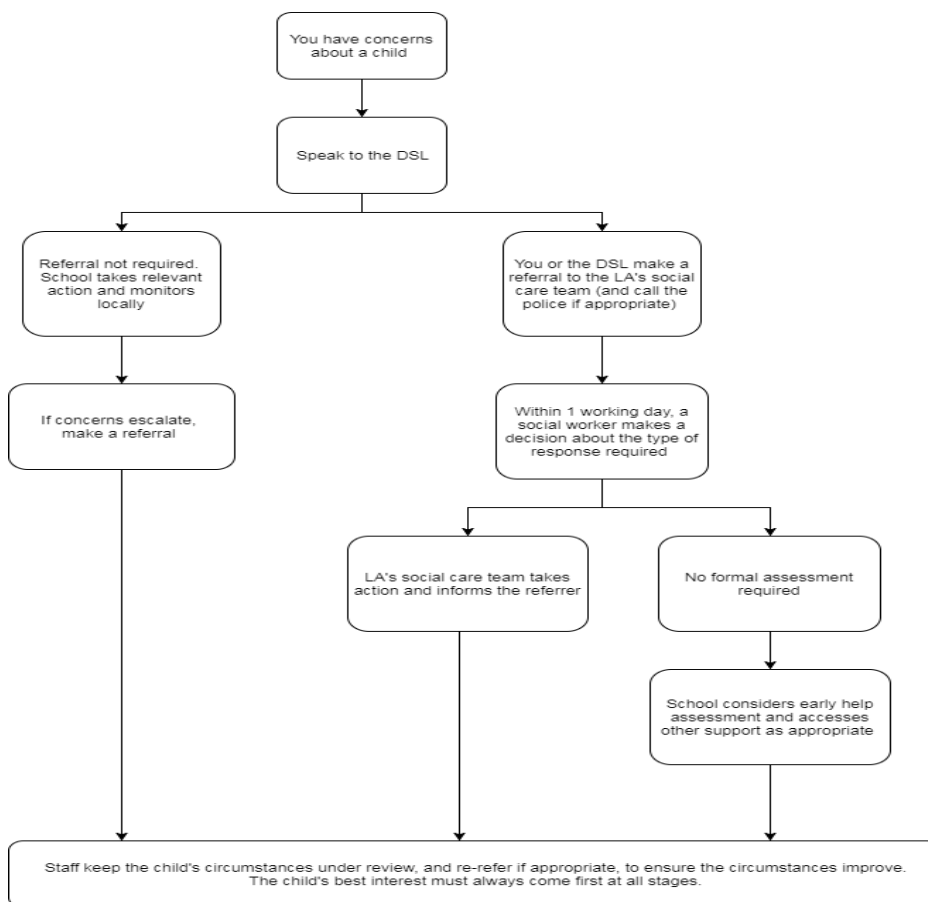
All staff who have contact with children and families will have supervisions which will provide them with support, coaching and training, promote the interests of children and allow for confidential discussions of sensitive issues.

## **18. Monitoring arrangements**

Our safeguarding policy and procedures will be reviewed **annually** or sooner if required. All staff and stakeholders may contribute to the development of our policies and procedures. Our policy will be published on our website and paper copies are available upon request. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

## Appendix 1 - Procedure if you have concerns about a child's welfare (as opposed to believing a child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or in immediate danger)

(Note – if the DSL is unavailable, this should not delay action)



## Appendix 2 - Contextual safeguarding

Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school/ and/or can occur between children outside the school. All our staff, especially the DSL/DDSL should be considering the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur.

Assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. <https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/about/what-is-contextual-safeguarding>. This can be evidenced in informal and formal assessments of need/risk for the child and can be included in case discussions in DSL/DDSL supervision sessions.

All staff should be aware of safeguarding issues and aware that behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse, sexual abuse, truancy and the sharing of nudes put children in danger.

### Appendix 3 - What is child Abuse? (Based on statutory guidance KCSIE 2022)

**Abuse**, including neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap.

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

**Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

#### **Emotional abuse may involve:**

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

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

- Physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing
- Non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet)

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

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy because of maternal substance abuse.

Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

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

### Appendix 4 - Safer working practices

Our school has a code of conduct; all staff, supply staff and volunteers are issued with this at induction. You should seek to keep your personal contact with children under review and seek to minimise the risk of any situation arising in which misunderstandings can occur. The following sensible precautions can be taken when working alone with children:

- Work in a room where there is a glass panel in the door or leave the door open;
- Make sure that other adults visit the room occasionally;
- Avoid working in isolation with children unless thought has been given to safeguards;
- Must not give out personal mobile phone numbers or private e-mail addresses;
- Must not give pupils lifts home in your cars;
- Must not arrange to meet them outside of school hours; and

- Must not chat to pupils on social websites.

Under the sexual Offences Act 2003 it is a criminal offence for anyone working in an educational setting to have a sexual relationship with a pupil even when the pupil is over the age of consent.

Any use of physical force or restraint of pupils carried out and documented in accordance with the relevant physical restraint/positive handling policy. If it is necessary to use physical action to prevent a child from injury to themselves or others, parents will be informed.

## **Appendix 5 - Safer recruitment – Refer to our Safer recruitment policy for further information**

To create a safe environment for our children our school will adopt the safer recruitment procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might abuse children, outlined in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education. We will monitor to ensure that the policy and procedures are embedded and effective.

Our school will ensure that at least one member of any recruitment panel has received safer recruitment training.

Our school adheres to statutory responsibilities to check staff who work with children, making decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required; and ensuring volunteers are appropriately supervised. We expect all staff to have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of children. They should adopt high standards of personal conduct to maintain confidence and respect of the public and those with whom they work.

There may be times where an individual's actions in their personal life come under scrutiny from the community, the media or public authorities, including regarding their own children, or children or adults in the community. Staff should be aware that their behaviour, either in or out of the workplace, could compromise their position within the work setting in relation to the protection of children, loss of trust and confidence, or bringing the employer into disrepute. Such behaviour may also result in prohibition from teaching by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) a bar from engaging in regulated activity, or action by another relevant regulatory body.

The Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2018 set out grounds for disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 where the person meets certain criteria set out in the Regulations. For example, an individual will be disqualified where they have committed a relevant offence against a child; been subject to a specified order relating to the care of a child; committed certain serious sexual or physical offences against an adult; been included on the DBS children's barred list; been made subject to a disqualification order by the court; previously been refused registration as a childcare provider or provider or manager of a children's home or had such registration cancelled. A disqualified person is prohibited from providing relevant early or later years childcare as defined in the Childcare Act 2006 or being directly concerned in the management of such childcare. At school we understand that schools are also prohibited from employing a disqualified person in respect of relevant early or later years childcare.

At school all shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children e.g.

- if they have a criminal history;
- whether they are included on the barred list;
- whether they are prohibited from teaching;
- whether they are prohibited from taking part in the management of an independent school;
- information about any criminal offences committed in any country in line with the law as applicable in England and Wales, not the law in their country of origin or where they were convicted;
- if they are known to the police and children's social care;
- have they been disqualified from providing childcare and,
- any relevant overseas information

As part of the shortlisting process we will consider carrying out an online search as part of our due diligence. This may help identify any incidents or issues that have happened and are publicly available online, which we might want to explore with the applicant at interview.

Any offer of appointment made to a successful candidate, including one who has lived or worked abroad will be conditional on satisfactory completion of the necessary pre-employment checks and satisfactory references. Upon appointment of new staff our school will:

- Verify a candidate's identity. Best practice is to check the birth certificate, where this is available;
- Obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS certificate (including barred list information, for those who will be engaging in regulated activity);
- Obtain a separate barred list check if an individual will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available;
- Verify the candidate's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities. A job applicant can be asked relevant questions about disability and health to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role;
- Verify the person's right to work in the UK. If there is uncertainty about whether an individual needs permission to work in the UK, we will follow advice on the GOV.UK website;
- if the person has lived or worked outside the UK, make any further overseas checks the school consider appropriate including the EEA check;
- Verify professional qualifications, as appropriate; we will use The Teacher Services' system to verify any award of qualified teacher status (QTS) and the completion of teacher induction and probation
- Check that a person taking up a management position is not subject to a section 128 direction made by the Secretary of State.
- Check that the candidate is not disqualified under the Childcare Act 2006 (2018 regulations) where relevant.
- 

These checks are part of a wider safeguarding regime which will carry on following appointment.

Our school that it is a criminal offence to allow any individual who is barred to carry out any form of regulated activity. Our school will comply with the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult; where the harm test is satisfied in respect of that individual; where the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence, or if there is reason to believe that individual has committed a listed relevant offence; and that individual has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left.

Our school makes decisions about the suitability of any prospective employees based on checks and evidence including; criminal record checks (DBS), barred list checks and prohibition checks together with references and interview information.

Consideration is given to the regulated activity prospective employees will be engaged in. In summary, a person will be engaging in regulated activity, if because of their work they:

- Will be responsible, on a regular basis in a school, for teaching, caring for or supervising children;
- Will carry out paid or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children; and
- Engage in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once.

For all other staff who have opportunity for regular contact with children who are not engaging in regulated activity, the school requires an enhanced DBS certificate, which does not include a barred list check.

For anyone appointed to carry out teaching work, an additional check will be undertaken to ensure they are not prohibited from teaching (including directions, sanctions and restrictions)

Since 1st January 2021 the TRA Teacher Services system no longer maintains a list of those teachers who have been sanctioned in EEA member states. Schools will apply the same approach for any individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK regardless of whether or not it was in an EEA country or the rest of the world. These checks could include, where available:

- criminal records checks for overseas applicants - Home Office guidance can be found on GOV.UK; and for teaching positions
- obtaining a letter (via the applicant) from the professional regulating authority in the country (or countries) in which the applicant has worked confirming that they have not imposed any sanctions or restrictions, and or that they are aware of any reason why they may be unsuitable to teach. Applicants can find contact details of regulatory bodies in the EU/EEA and Switzerland on the Regulated Professions database. Applicants can also contact the UK Centre for Professional Qualifications who will signpost them to the appropriate EEA regulatory body.

Our school keeps a Single Central Record that complies with all the requirements. It is monitored by the headteacher and Chair of Governors at regular intervals.

The Single Central Record covers the following people:

- all staff (including supply staff, and teacher trainees on salaried routes) who work at the school: in colleges, this means those providing education to children;
- Volunteers;
- Governors; and
- Agency, third-party staff and contractors

The following information will be recorded on the Single Central Record:

- An identity check;
- A **standalone children's** barred list check;
- An enhanced DBS check/certificate;
- Prohibition, directions, sanctions and restrictions checks;
- A section 128 check
- Further checks on people who have lived or worked outside the UK;
- A check of professional qualifications; and
- A check to establish the person's right to work in the United Kingdom.
- The date upon which the current and original DBS certificate was seen (applicable for employees appointed after 1/9/16)

Our school will obtain written confirmation that the employment business supplying staff has carried out the relevant checks and obtained the appropriate certificates. Our school will also check that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made (Identity check).

We will obtain written confirmation from alternative providers we use to confirm they have undertaken the relevant pre-employment and DBS checks for their staff. All applicants MUST show their current original DBS certificate to the school as soon as they take up post.

## **Appendix 6 - Safeguarding concerns and allegations made about staff, supply teachers, volunteers and contractors (Refer to our Management of Allegations policy for further information)**

**It is important that all staff understand the process and procedures to follow if they have a safeguarding concern about another staff member.**

Our school has adopted the Connect-Ed/LA Managing Allegations Policy.

Our policy complies with the guidance set out in part four of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

All allegations of abuse of children carried out by any staff member or volunteer will be taken seriously. If an allegation is made regarding a member of staff, a supply teacher or volunteer, the following will be considered:

Has the member of staff/supply teacher/volunteer;

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

If an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer or supply staff the headteacher school must be informed immediately or as soon as possible within 1 working day and he or she must contact the Designated Officer (Kenny Edgar) immediately to discuss the allegation to consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action.

If our school must consider an allegation against an individual not directly employed by us, where our disciplinary procedures do not fully apply, for example, supply teachers provided by an employment agency or business. Whilst our school is not the employer of supply teachers, we will ensure allegations are dealt with properly. In no circumstances will our school decide to cease to use a supply teacher due to safeguarding concerns, without finding out the facts and liaising with the local authority designated officer (LADO) to determine a suitable outcome. Our governing body will discuss with the agency whether it is

appropriate to suspend the supply teacher, or redeploy them to another part of the school, whilst they carry out their investigation. Our school will comply with all aspects of the guidance in Part 4 of KCSIE.

If an allegation is made against the headteacher, the member of staff who has the concern must contact the chair of governors who must then contact the Designated Officer (Paul Cooper) immediately or as soon as possible within 1 working day to discuss the allegation to consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action.

Our procedures and approach to dealing with allegations will be applied with sensitivity and common sense. Our school will exercise its duty of care to employees, we will act appropriately to manage and minimise the stress inherent in the allegation process. Our school will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity while an allegation is being investigated or considered.

Bushbury Nursery School, we understand that there is a legal requirement for employers to make a referral to the DBS where we 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. If the accused person resigns, or ceases to provide their services, this will not prevent an allegation being followed up and a referral to the DBS must be made if the criteria are met (outlined in KCSIE).

As part of our whole school approach to safeguarding, we 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. We policies and processes to deal with concerns (including allegations) which do not meet the harm threshold.

The Designated Officer in Wolverhampton is **Kenny Edgar**.

### **Low-level concerns**

If staff have a safeguarding concern or an allegation about another member of staff (including supply staff, volunteers or contractors) that does not meet the harm threshold, then this should be shared in accordance with the low-level concerns policy.

At Bushbury Nursery School we create a culture in which all concerns about adults (including allegations that do not meet the harms threshold are shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with appropriately, is critical. The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the threshold for referral.

A low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' - that an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college may have acted in a way that:

- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and
- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

Low-level concerns may arise in several ways and from several sources. For example: suspicion; complaint; or disclosure made by a child, parent or other adult within or outside of the organisation; or because of vetting checks undertaken. It is crucial that all low-level concerns are shared responsibly with the right person and recorded and dealt with appropriately.

Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:

- being over friendly with children
- having favourites
- taking photographs of children on their mobile phone, contrary to school policy
- engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door, or
- humiliating pupils.

If the concern has been raised via a third party, the headteacher should collect as much evidence as possible by speaking:

- directly to the person who raised the concern, unless it has been raised anonymously, and
- to the individual involved and any witnesses.

Our governing body will set out their low-level concerns policy within their staff code of conduct and safeguarding policies. It will contain procedures for sharing confidentiality such concerns which is clear, easy to understand and implement.

Low-level concerns about a member of staff, supply staff, volunteer or contractor will be reported to the headteacher. Reports about supply staff and contractors will be notified to their employers, so any potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

We will create an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer, where, for example, they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.

All low-level concerns will be recorded in writing. The record should include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, and the action taken. The name of the individual sharing their concerns should also be noted, if the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible. Records will be retained by the Headteacher and will be reviewed regularly so that potential patterns of concerning behaviour can be identified. Should the level of concern reach the harms threshold the case will be referred to the LADO. Records will be retained until the individual ceases to be employed by The City of Wolverhampton Council.

For references we should only provide substantiated safeguarding allegations in references. Low level concerns 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. It follows that a low-level concern which relates exclusively to safeguarding (and not to misconduct or poor performance) should not be referred to in a reference. However, where a low-level concern (or group of concerns) has met the threshold for referral to the LADO and found to be substantiated, it should be referred to in a reference. The Designated Officer in Wolverhampton is **Kenny Edgar**.

## **Appendix 7 - Specific safeguarding issue – in alphabetical order**

### **Breast ironing/flattening**

Breast flattening, also known as breast ironing, is the process during which young pubescent girls' breasts are ironed, massaged, flattened and/or pounded down over a period of time (ranging from a few weeks to years) for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts entirely. In some families, large stones, a hammer or spatula that have been heated over hot coals can be used to compress the breast tissue. Other families may opt to use an elastic belt or binder to press the breasts to prevent them from growing. Breast flattening usually starts with the first signs of puberty, it is usually carried out by female relatives. It should also be acknowledged that some adolescent girls and boys may choose to bind their breast using constrictive material due to gender transformation or questioning their identity, and this may also cause health problems.

**Health Implications** -Due to the type of instruments that may be used, the type of force and the lack of aftercare, significant health and developmental issue may occur, such as: Severe pain, fever, dissymmetry or disappearance of breast/s, itching, tissue damage, infection, discharge of milk, breast cancer, abscesses or cysts. There may also be an impact on the child's social and psychological well-being

**Justifications** -In many cases, the abuser thinks they are doing something good for the girl by delaying the effects of puberty and the practice is designed to: prevent pregnancy and rape, make teenage girls look less "womanly" and no-longer sexually attractive to men, enable the girl to continue her education, prevent dishonour being brought upon the family if the girl begins sexual relations outside of marriage, prevent early marriage and deter unwanted attention.

### **Prevalence**

There has not been extensive research done on breast flattening and the few studies that have been carried out indicate that the practice occurs predominantly in Cameroon. Other countries include: Togo, Chad, Kenya, Guinea Bissau, South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin and Zimbabwe.

Signs that a girl could be at risk:

- A girl is embarrassed about her body
- A girl is born to a woman who has undergone breast flattening
- A girl has an older sibling or cousin who has undergone breast flattening
- References to breast flattening in conversation, for example a girl may tell other children about it
- A girl may request help from a teacher or another adult if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk
- A girl from an affected community is withdrawn from PSHE and/or Sex and Relationship Education as her parents wish to keep her uninformed about her rights and her body.
- One of both parents or elder family members consider breast flattening integral to their cultural identity.



- The family indicate that there are strong levels of influence held by elders who are involved in bringing up female children and support breast flattening.

As well as keeping in mind the signs that indicate a girl may be at risk of breast flattening, professionals and others should be mindful that:

- A girl may disclose to a teacher, social worker, GP or another medical professional
- Some girls may ask for help, perhaps talk about pain or discomfort in their chest area, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear
- A girl may display reluctance to undergo medical examination
- A girl may be fearful of changing for physical activities due to scars showing or bandages being visible

There are no specific laws in the UK regarding breast flattening. If you suspect a girl is at risk of/undergoing breast flattening speak to the DSL/DDSL immediately. The DSL /DDSL will contact the MASH and make a referral.

## CCE - Child criminal exploitation

Child criminal exploitation (CCE) is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using technology. CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (county lines) forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people. Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

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

## Child on child abuse

At Bushbury Nursery School we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other children. We recognise that some children will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's relevant policy e.g. behaviour policy.

ALL staff recognise that children can abuse their peers and that it can happen inside and outside of school **or online**. **ALL staff should be clear about the school's policy and procedures about child-on-child abuse and the important role they must play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk.**

ALL allegations will be taken seriously, at Bushbury Nursery School we understand that 'abuse is abuse and should never be passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up". We have a zero tolerance approach to this behaviour. ALL allegations will be carefully considered, and all decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis in consultations with social care. Referrals under safeguarding arrangements may be necessary, key specific considerations will include:

- The age, maturity and understanding of the children; and
- Any disability or special needs of the children

The school recognises that **child-on-child abuse** is a problem and is happening, even when the issues are not reported. This sort of abuse has a serious impact on those who are victims, in terms of self-esteem and relationships but also educational outcomes.

### ***Allegations against other children which are safeguarding issues***

Some allegations may be of such a serious nature that they may raise safeguarding concerns. These allegations may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, sexual violence and harassment, up-skirting and sexual exploitation, causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent; and consensual and non-consensual use of nude and semi-nude images/videos.

We understand the gendered nature of **child-on-child abuse** (it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys will be perpetrators) but all peer-on-peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. Other gender issues that can be prevalent when dealing with **child-on-child abuse** could, for example, include girls being sexually touched or assaulted or boys being subject to initiation or hazing type violence. It is also likely that incidents may involve older students and their behaviour towards younger students or those who are vulnerable. It is likely that, to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a child, some of the following features will be found. If the allegation:

- Is made against an older child and refers to their behaviour towards a younger child or a more vulnerable child;
- Is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence;
- Raises risk factors for other children in the school;
- Indicates that other children may have been affected by this child; and
- Indicates that young children outside the school may be affected by this child.

Examples of safeguarding issues against a child could include:

#### **Physical Abuse**

- Violence, particularly pre-planned;
- Forcing others to use drugs or alcohol; and
- Initiation and hazing violence.

#### **Emotional Abuse**

- Blackmail or extortion;
- Threats and intimidation; and
- Bullying and cyber-bullying.

#### **Sexual Abuse including sexting and gender-based violence**

- Indecent exposure, indecent and inappropriate touching or serious sexual assaults;
- Forcing others to watch pornography or consensual or non-consensual sharing of images/videos
- Initiation and hazing violence.
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- **'Teenage relationship abuse' is abuse in intimate personal relationships between children**

#### **Sexual Exploitation/violence and harassment**

- Encouraging other children to engage in inappropriate sexual behaviour (For example - having an older boyfriend/girlfriend, associating with unknown adults or other sexually exploited children, staying out overnight); and
- Photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts.

#### **Prevention, assessing and minimising the risks**

At Bushbury Nursery School we will minimise the risk of allegations against other children by:

- Providing a developmentally age appropriate PSHE, RSE, British Values curriculum which develops children's understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe;
- Having clear systems in place for any child to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be taken seriously
- Delivering targeted work on assertiveness, protective behaviours and keeping safe those children identified as being at risk;
- Developing robust risk assessments & providing targeted work for children identified as being a potential risk to other children; and
- Training and awareness sessions will be provided for staff.
- Staff recognising, acknowledging or understanding the scale of harassment and abuse and not downplaying some behaviours related to abuse which can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment and in worst care scenario a cultural that normalises abuse and leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it report it.

#### **Procedure to manage and record **child-on-child** allegations**

- When an allegation is made by a child against another child, members of staff should consider whether the complaint raises a safeguarding concern. If there is a safeguarding concern the designated safeguarding lead or deputy will be informed;
- A factual record will be made of the allegation, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances;

- The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will contact social care/multi-agency agency safeguarding hub (MASH) to discuss the allegation and seek advice;
- The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a referral where appropriate;
- If the allegation indicates that a potential criminal offence has taken place, this will be referred to the multiagency agency safeguarding hub MASH where the police will become involved;
- Following advice from Social Care and/or the police, parents of both the child being complained about and the alleged victim, should be informed and kept updated on the progress of the referral;
- The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both children's files;
- It may be appropriate to exclude the pupil being complained about for a period of time according to the school's behaviour policy and procedures;
- Where neither social services nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school's usual behaviour procedures;
- In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan; and
- The plan should be monitored and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned.
- Abuse that occurs online or outside of school will not be downplayed and will be treated equally seriously.

### ***Support and care***

At Bushbury Nursery School we recognise and understand that peer on peer allegations will be very distressing situations for all concerned – the victim, perpetrator, other children, family members and staff. We will seek to provide any support required and make any necessary referrals for counselling and support services.

### **Child on child sexual violence and harassment**

If an incident of sexual violence or sexual harassment occurs at our school will follow the guidance set out in Part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education and we will use the DfE guidance - Sexual violence and harassment between children in schools and colleges.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, likely, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal), inside or outside of school and are never acceptable. At Bushbury Nursery School we take a zero-tolerance approach and any inappropriate behaviour will be addressed, even if it appears to be relatively innocuous.

At Bushbury Nursery School all victims will be taken seriously and offered appropriate support. We know that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at greater risk. Staff are aware and know the importance of:

- making clear that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment, that it is never acceptable, and it will not be tolerated. It should never be passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh”, “a part of growing up” or “boys being boys”. Failure to do so can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse, leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.
- recognising, acknowledging, and understanding the scale of harassment and abuse and that even if there are no reports it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported.
- challenging physical behaviour (potentially criminal in nature) such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

### ***Sexual violence***

Our staff are aware of sexual violence and the fact children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way. When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This covers a wide range of behaviours so a single act of kissing someone without consent, can still constitute sexual assault.

## **Consent**

Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g. to vaginal but not anal sex or penetration with conditions, such as wearing a condom. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs. Someone consents to vaginal, anal or oral penetration only if s/he agrees by choice to that penetration and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice.

- A child under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity
- The age of consent is 16
- Sexual intercourse without consent is rape

## **Sexual harassment**

Sexual harassment means 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline. For this policy, reference to sexual harassment, is in the context of child-on-child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment. Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexual harassment can include:

- sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names;
- sexual "jokes" or taunting;
- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone's clothes (we will consider when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence - it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim) and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature; and
- online sexual harassment. This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. It may include:
  - consensual and non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos;
  - sharing of unwanted explicit content
  - sexualised online bullying;
  - unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media; and
  - sexual exploitation; coercion and threats, and
  - **coercing others into sharing images of themselves or performing acts they're not comfortable with online**

We will consider sexual harassment in broad terms. Sexual harassment (as set out above) creates a culture that, if not challenged, can normalise inappropriate behaviours and provide an environment that may lead to sexual violence.

## **Harmful sexual behaviour**

Children's sexual behaviour exists on a wide continuum, ranging from normal and developmentally expected to inappropriate, problematic, abusive and violent. Problematic, abusive and violent sexual behaviour is developmentally inappropriate and may cause developmental damage. A useful umbrella term is "harmful sexual behaviour" (HSB). The term has been widely adopted in child protection and is used in this advice. HSB can occur online and/or face-to-face and can also occur simultaneously between the two. HSB will be considered in a child protection context.

When considering HSB, both ages and the stages of development of the children are critical factors.

The designated safeguarding lead (and their deputies) to have a good understanding of HSB. This will form part of their safeguarding training. This will aid in our planning preventative education, implementing preventative measures, drafting and implementing an effective child protection policy and incorporating the approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment into the whole school approach to safeguarding.

HSB can, in some cases, progress on a continuum. Addressing inappropriate behaviour can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. Children displaying HSB have often experienced their own abuse and trauma. It is important that they are offered appropriate support.

## **Preventing abuse**

Effective safeguarding practice is demonstrated when we are clear, in advance, about what local processes are in place and what support can be accessed when sexual violence or sexual harassment has occurred. The DSL (or a deputy) will understand local procedures and where there is local specialist support.

## ***Our school response to a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment***

Our school will follow the guidance set out in part 5 Keeping Children Safe in Education and the DfE guidance Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges -Sept 2021

- Any decisions made upon receipt of a concern will be made on a case-by-case basis by the designated safeguarding lead or deputy who will liaise with social care and or the police if necessary.
- All staff who have a concern regarding sexual violence or sexual harassment will speak with and report their concern to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy immediately
- All victims will be reassured that they are being taken seriously and they will be supported.
- **It is important to explain that the law is in place to protect children and young people rather than criminalise them, and this should be explained in such a way that avoids alarming or distressing them.**
- All staff will act in the best interest of the children
- Our staff will be supportive and respectful of the child
- Our staff will listen carefully to the child/student, they will be non-judgemental and will not ask leading questions
- Our staff will not promise confidentiality and will explain that the information will be shared with those people who will be able to help and progress the report.
- A record of the report will be made. Best practice is to wait until the end of the report and immediately write up a thorough summary. It may be appropriate to make notes during the report however staff must remain engaged with the children, listen very carefully and not be distracted by note taking.
- The record will only include the facts as the child presents them. We understand that the notes should not reflect the personal opinion of the note taker and we are aware that the notes could become part of a statutory assessment by social care or part of a criminal investigation
- Where the concern includes an online element, we know we should not view or forward any images unless there is a valid reason to do so and we will follow the DfE guidance set out in Screening, searching and confiscation advice.
- Where possible we will try to manage and record an initial report with two members of staff present preferably one of them being the designated safeguarding lead or deputy.
- If the designated safeguarding lead or deputy is not involved in the initial report the staff member will speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy immediately.

### ***Considering confidentiality and anonymity***

We will only engage staff and agencies who are required to support the children involved and/or be involved in any investigation. The victim may ask us not to tell anyone about the sexual violence or sexual harassment. There are no easy or definitive answers when a victim makes this request. If the victim does not give consent to share information, staff may still lawfully share it, if there is another legal basis under the UK GDPR that applies. For example, the public task basis may apply, where the overall purposes are to perform a public interest task or exercise official authority, and the task or authority has a clear basis in law. Advice will be sought from the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy), who should consider the following:

- parents or carers should normally be informed (unless this would put the victim at greater risk)
- the basic safeguarding principle is: if a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger, or has been harmed, a referral should be made to local authority children's social care, and
- rape, assault by penetration and sexual assaults are crimes. Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, this should be referred to the police. Whilst the age of criminal responsibility is ten, if the alleged perpetrator is under ten, the starting principle of referring to the police remains. The police will take a welfare, rather than a criminal justice approach, in these cases.

Ultimately, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will have to balance the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and other children. If the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) decide to go ahead and make a referral to local authority children's social care and/or a report to the police against the victim's wishes, this will be handled extremely carefully, the reasons will be explained to the victim and appropriate specialist support should be offered.

### ***Anonymity***

Where an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system, we should be aware of anonymity, witness support and the criminal process in general so we can offer support and act appropriately.

We will do all we reasonably can to protect the anonymity of any children involved in any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment. We will also consider the potential impact of social media in facilitating the spreading of rumours and exposing victims' identities.

## ***Risk assessment***

If we receive a report of sexual violence or harassment, the designated safeguarding lead or deputy will make an immediate risk and needs assessment. This will be considered on a case-by case basis. Our risk and needs assessment will consider:

- the victim, especially their protection and support;
- whether there have been other victims
- the alleged perpetrator; and
- all the other children (and, if appropriate, adult students and staff) at our school, especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them from the alleged perpetrator(s) or from future harms.
- **The time and location of the incident, and any action required to make the location safer.**

Our risk assessment will either be a written record and will be reviewed and updated regularly. We will continually and actively consider the risks posed to all children/students and we will put adequate measures in place to protect and keep them safe.

Our designated safeguarding lead or deputy will engage with children's social care and specialist services as required. Where there has been a report of sexual violence, it is likely that professional risk assessments by social workers and or sexual violence specialists will be required. Any such professional assessments should be used to inform the school's approach to supporting and protecting our children/students and will be used to update our own risk assessment.

## ***Actions to consider following a report of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment***

The starting point regarding any report made at Bushbury Nursery School is that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment and it is never acceptable and it will not be tolerated. We will not pass off any sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children.

Following a report of sexual violence and/or harassment we will consider:

- the wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed (in an age-appropriate way.) This is especially important in the context of sexual violence and sexual harassment. Victims will be given as much control as is reasonably possible over decisions regarding how any investigation will be progressed and any support that they will be offered. This will however need to be balanced with our duty and responsibilities to protect other children;
- the nature of the alleged incident(s), including: whether a crime may have been committed and consideration of harmful sexual behaviour;
- the ages of the children involved;
- the developmental stages of the children involved;
- any power imbalance between the children. For example, is the alleged perpetrator significantly older, more mature or more confident? Does the victim have a disability or learning difficulty?
- if the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse (sexual abuse can be accompanied by other forms of abuse and a sustained pattern may not just be of a sexual nature)
- **Importance of understanding intra familial harms and any necessary support for siblings following incidents**
- that sexual violence and sexual harassment can take place within intimate personal relationships between peers;
- are there ongoing risks to the victim, other children, adult students or school or college staff; and
- other related issues and wider context e.g. contextual safeguarding, any links to CSE and CCE

## ***Managing a report***

We will consider every report on a case-by-case basis. When to inform the alleged perpetrator will be carefully considered. Where a report is going to be made to children's social care and/or the police, then, generally, our school will speak to the relevant agency and discuss next steps and how the alleged perpetrator will be informed of the allegations. However, as per general safeguarding principles, this will not stop our school taking immediate action to safeguard our children, where required.

Our school will consider four likely scenarios when managing any reports of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment. We will either manage the report:

1. Internally
2. Consider early help
3. Refer to social care
4. Report to the police

In all scenarios decisions and actions will be regularly reviewed and relevant policies will be updated to reflect lessons learnt. We will look out for potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour. Where a pattern is identified, we will decide on a course of action. We will consider whether there are wider cultural issues within the school or college that enabled the inappropriate behaviour to occur and where appropriate extra teaching time and/or staff training could be delivered to minimise the risk of it happening again. *Bushbury Nursery School should be part of discussions with statutory safeguarding partners to agree the levels for the different types of assessment and services to be commissioned and delivered, as part of the local arrangements.*

### ***Unsubstantiated, unfound, false and malicious reports***

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing *Safeguarding and supporting the victim*. Records will be reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified, and addressed.

If a report is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the designated safeguarding lead will consider whether the child and/or the person who has made the allegation needs help or may have been abused by someone else and this is a cry for help. In such circumstances, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate.

If a report is shown to be deliberately invented or malicious, we will consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual who made it as per our behaviour policy.

### ***Safeguarding and supporting the victim***

The following principles are based on effective safeguarding practice and will help shape any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the victim.

- The age and the developmental stage of the victim
- The needs and wishes of the victim will be paramount (along with protecting the child) in any response. It is important they feel in as much control of the process as is reasonably possible. Wherever possible, the victim if they wish, should be able to continue in their normal routine. Overall, the priority will be to make the victim's daily experience as normal as possible, so that our school/college is a safe space for them.
- The victim should never be made to feel they are the problem for making a report or made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- Consider the proportionality of the response. Support should be tailored on a case-by-case basis. The support required regarding a one-off incident of sexualised name-calling is likely to be vastly different from that for a report of rape.
- *We are aware that sexual assault can result in a range of health needs, including physical, mental, and sexual health problems and unwanted pregnancy. Children and young people that have a health need arising from sexual assault or abuse can access specialist NHS support from a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).*
- *It will be important in all scenarios that decisions and actions are regularly reviewed and that relevant policies are updated to reflect lessons learnt. It is particularly important to look out for potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour. Where a pattern is identified, we will decide on a course of action. Consideration will be given as to whether there are wider cultural issues within the school that enabled the inappropriate behaviour to occur and where appropriate extra teaching time and/or staff training could be delivered to minimise the risk of it happening again.*

Victims may not disclose the whole picture immediately. They may be more comfortable providing information on a piecemeal basis. It is essential that dialogue is kept open and encouraged. When ongoing support will be required, we will ask the victim if they would find it helpful to have a designated trusted adult (for example, their form tutor or designated safeguarding lead) to talk to about their needs. The choice of any such adult should be the victims. We will respect and support this choice.

We are aware that sexual assault can result in a range of health needs, including physical, mental and sexual health problems and unwanted pregnancy. We understand that a victim of sexual violence is likely to be traumatised and, in some cases, may struggle in a normal classroom environment. While we will avoid any action that would have the effect of isolating the victim, in particular from supportive peer groups, there may be times when the victim finds it difficult to maintain a full-time timetable and may express a wish to withdraw from lessons and activities. This should be because the victim wants to, not because it makes it easier to manage the situation. If required, we will provide a physical space for victims to withdraw.

We will do everything we reasonably can to protect the victim from bullying and harassment because of any report they have made. Whilst the victim will be given all the necessary support to remain in our school, if the trauma results in the victim being

unable to do this, alternative provision or a move to another school should be considered to enable them to continue to receive suitable education. This should only be at the request of the victim (and following discussion with their parents or carers).

If the victim does move to another educational institution (for any reason), the new educational institution will be made aware of any ongoing support needs. The designated safeguarding lead will take responsibility to ensure this happens (and should discuss with the victim and, where appropriate their parents or carers as to the most suitable way of doing this) as well as transferring the child protection file. *Children who have experienced sexual violence display a very wide range of responses to their experience, including in some cases clear signs of trauma, physical and emotional responses, or no overt signs at all. We will remain alert to the possible challenges of detecting those signs and show sensitivity to the needs of the child (e.g. about attendance in lessons) irrespective of how overt the child's distress is.*

### ***Safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator(s) and children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour***

The following principles are based on effective safeguarding practice and will help shape any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator:

We will have a difficult balancing act to consider. On one hand, we need to safeguard the victim (and the wider pupil body) and on the other hand provide the alleged perpetrator(s) with an education, safeguarding support as appropriate and implement any disciplinary sanctions. Taking disciplinary action and still providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions. They can, and should, occur at the same time if necessary.

The age and the developmental stage of the alleged perpetrator(s) and nature of the allegations. Any child will likely experience stress because of being the subject of allegations and/or negative reactions by their peers to the allegations against them.

Consider the proportionality of the response. Support (and sanctions) will be considered on a case-by-case basis. An alleged perpetrator(s) may potentially have unmet needs (in some cases these may be considerable) as well as potentially posing a risk of harm to other children. Harmful sexual behaviours in young children may be (and often are) a symptom of either their own abuse or exposure to abusive practices and or materials. We will seek advice, as appropriate, from children's social care, specialist sexual violence services and the police.

It is important that the perpetrator(s) is/are also given the correct support to try to stop them re-offending and to address any underlying trauma that may be causing this behaviour. Addressing inappropriate behaviour can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. Advice on behaviour and discipline in schools is clear that teachers can discipline pupils whose conduct falls below the standard which could be reasonably expected of them. If the perpetrator(s) is to be excluded the decision must be lawful, reasonable and fair.

School can be a significant protective factor for children who have displayed HSB, and continued access to school, with a comprehensive safeguarding management plan in place, is an important factor to consider before final decisions are made. It is important that if the alleged perpetrator(s) does move to another educational institution (for any reason), that the new educational institution is made aware of any ongoing support needs and where appropriate, potential risks to other children and staff. The designated safeguarding lead will take responsibility to ensure this happens as well as transferring the child protection file.

#### ***Discipline and the alleged perpetrator(s)***

*Disciplinary action can be taken whilst other investigations by the police and/or local authority children's social care are ongoing. We will carefully consider this on a case-by-case basis. The designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will take a leading role. We will consider if, by taking any action, it would prejudice an investigation and/or any subsequent prosecution. Careful liaison with the police and/or local authority children's social care should help us decide. It will also be important to consider whether there are circumstances that make it unreasonable or irrational for us to reach our own view about what happened while an independent investigation is considering the same facts.*

#### ***Discipline and support***

*Taking disciplinary action and still providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions. They can, and should, occur at the same time if necessary. We will be very clear as to what our approach is. On the one hand there is preventative or forward-looking action to safeguard the victim and/or the perpetrator(s), especially where there are concerns that a perpetrator themselves may have been a victim of abuse; and, on the other, there is disciplinary action to punish a perpetrator for their past*



conduct. We will be very clear as to which category any action they are taking falls or whether it is really both and should ensure that the action complies with the law relating to each relevant category.

### ***Working with parents and carers***

We will, in most instances, engage with both the victim's and the alleged perpetrator's parents or carers when there has been a report of sexual violence (this might not be necessary or proportionate in the case of sexual harassment and should be considered on a case-by-case basis). The exception to this rule is if there is a reason to believe informing a parent or carer will put a child at additional risk. We will carefully consider what information we provide to the respective parents or carers about the other child involved and when they do so. In some cases, local authority children's social care and/or the police will have a very clear view and will work with the relevant agencies to ensure a consistent approach.

We will meet the victim's parents or carers, with the victim present, to discuss what arrangements are being put into place to safeguard them and to understand their wishes in terms of support and how the report is progressing.

We will meet with alleged perpetrator's parents or carers to discuss any arrangements that are being put into place that impact an alleged perpetrator, such as, for example, moving them out of classes with the victim and what this means for their education. The reason behind any decisions will be explained. Support for the alleged perpetrator will be discussed.

### ***Safeguarding other children***

Consideration will be given to supporting children (and adult students) who have witnessed sexual violence, especially rape and assault by penetration. Witnessing such an event is likely to be traumatic and support may be required. Following a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment, it is likely that some children will take "sides". We will do all we can to ensure both the victim and alleged perpetrator(s), and any witnesses, are not being bullied or harassed – this includes online and school transport.

Our whole school approach to safeguarding, a culture that makes clear that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment and that it is never acceptable, and it will not be tolerated, and a strong preventative education programme will help create an environment in which all children at Bushbury Nursery School are supportive and respectful of their peers when reports of sexual violence or sexual harassment are made.

We will keep our policies, processes, and curriculum under constant review to protect all their children. Reports of sexual violence and/or harassment (especially where there is evidence of patterns of behaviour) may point to environmental and/or systemic problems that could and will be addressed by updating relevant policies, processes, or relevant parts of the curriculum. Alongside this, patterns identified in school may also be reflective of the wider issues within a local area and it would be good practice to share emerging trends with our safeguarding partners.

## **Childhood Mental Health**

At Bushbury Nursery School we are aware that mental illness and suicidal thoughts can affect anyone, of any age, of any background, at any time. It can be difficult to know if a child is suffering as they often keep it to themselves, but we know some characteristics for childhood mental health may be:

- Becoming withdrawn from family and friends
- Persistent low moods and unhappiness
- Tearfulness and irritability
- Worries that stop them carrying out day to day tasks
- Sudden outbursts of anger directed towards others or themselves
- Loss of interest in activities that they used to enjoy
- Problems eating or sleeping

In our school this means that:

- All staff will be alert to signs of mental ill-health and be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation
- All staff will take immediate action and speak to a DSL (and record their concerns using the concerns sheet) if they have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern
- We take seriously our organisational and professional role in supporting and promoting mental health and wellbeing of children/young people through:
- **Prevention:** creating a safe and calm environment where mental health problems are less likely, improving the mental health and wellbeing of the whole school population, and equipping pupils to be resilient so that they can manage the

normal stress of life effectively. This will include teaching pupils about mental wellbeing through the curriculum and reinforcing this teaching through school activities and ethos;

- **Identification:** recognising emerging issues as early and accurately as possible;
- **Early support:** helping pupils to access evidence based early support and interventions; and
- **Access to specialist support:** working effectively with external agencies to provide swift access or referrals to specialist support and treatment.

## Child abduction and community safety incidents

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers. Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation.

As children get older and are granted more independence (for example, as they start walking to school on their own) it is important they are given practical advice on how to keep themselves safe. Many schools provide outdoor-safety lessons run by teachers or by the local police staff. It is important that lessons focus on building children's confidence and abilities rather than simply warning them about all strangers.

## Children and the court system

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. Our school will use the age-appropriate guides to support children, 5–11-year olds and 12-17 year olds. Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children. Our school will use the Ministry of Justice online child arrangements information tool to support this process and will make this information available to parents and carers if they require our assistance.

## Children Missing from 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. Effective information sharing between parents, settings, schools/colleges and the local authority is critical to ensure that all children are safe and receiving suitable education.

Staff at Bushbury Nursery School are aware that a child going missing from education, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and child criminal exploitation. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of children going missing in future.

Our staff are aware of and adhere to the school's procedures for unauthorised absence and children missing from education.

Our school has appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and responses for children who go missing from education. Our school has an admission register and an attendance register. All children are placed on these registers at the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed, or been notified, that the pupil will attend our school. If the child fails to attend on the agreed or notified date, our school will notify the local authority at the earliest possible opportunity to prevent the child from going missing.

Our attendance and admission registers are kept up to date. We actively encourage our parents and carers to inform us of any changes whenever they occur.

Our school monitors attendance regularly and we address any issues that may cause concern and where attendance fails to meet the expected level.

Our school will notify the local authority of any child who fails to attend school regularly or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or, more at such intervals as are agreed by the school and the local authority.

Where a parent notifies our school that a pupil will live at another address, our school will record in the admission register:

- the full name of the parent with whom the pupil will live;
- the new address; and
- the date from when it is expected the pupil will live at this address.

Where a parent of a pupil notifies our school that the pupil is registered at another school or will be attending a different school in future, our school will record in the admission register:

- the name of the new school; and
- the date on which the pupil first attended or is due to start attending that school.

Our school will notify the local authority within five days when a pupil's name is added to the admission register. We will provide the local authority with all the information held within the admission register about the pupil.

Our school will also notify the local authority when a pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register under any of the fifteen grounds set out in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended as soon as the ground for deletion is met and no later than the time at which the pupil's name is deleted from the register.

Our school will only delete a pupil's name from the admission register under regulation 8(1), sub-paragraph (f)(iii) or (h)(iii) if our school and the local authority have failed to establish the pupil's whereabouts after jointly making reasonable enquiries.

When our school notifies the local authority that a pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register, our school will provide the local authority with:

- the full name of the pupil;
- the full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil lives;
- at least one telephone number of the parent with whom the pupil lives;
- the full name and address of the parent with whom the pupil is going to live, and the date the pupil is expected to start living there, if applicable;
- the name of pupil's destination school and the pupil's expected start date there, if applicable; and
- the ground in regulation 8 under which the pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register.

Our school will work with the local authority to agree on methods of making returns. When making returns, we will highlight to the local authority where we have been unable to obtain the necessary information from the parent, for example in cases where the child's destination school or address is unknown. We will also consider whether it is appropriate to highlight any contextual information of a vulnerable child who is missing education, such as any safeguarding concerns.

It is essential that schools comply with these duties, so that local authorities can, as part of their duty to identify children of compulsory school age who are missing education, follow up with any child who might be at risk of not receiving an education and who might be at risk of being harmed, exploited or radicalised.

Our school uses a secure internet system – school2school – we use this to transfer pupil information to another school when the child moves. As a maintained school, we are required, when a pupil ceases to be registered at our school and becomes a registered pupil at another school in England or Wales, to send a Common Transfer File (CTF) to the new school. Our school complies with this requirement. If a child arrives at our school and the previous school is unknown, we will contact the local authority for assistance.

### **Children with family members in prison**

Some children who attend our school may have a parent who has been sent to prison. Our school will utilise the information NICCO provides designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

## County lines

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in several locations including schools, further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, special educational needs schools, children’s homes and care homes. Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations and are known to be exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging’, where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network. One of the ways of identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes (both from home and school), when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered. If a child is suspected to be at risk of or involved in county lines, a safeguarding referral should be considered alongside consideration of availability of local services/third sector providers who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation.

Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

## CSE - Child sexual Exploitation

The definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:

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

Like all forms of child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17year olds who can legally consent to have sex;
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity; can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- may occur without the child or young person’s immediate knowledge (through others copying videos or images they have created and posting on social media, for example);
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Child sexual exploitation is never the victim’s fault, even if there is some form of exchange: all children and young people under the age of 18 have a right to be safe and should be protected from harm.

At Bushbury Nursery School we understand that any child in any community may be vulnerable to child exploitation, we will be alert to the fact that child sexual exploitation is complex and rarely presents in isolation of other needs and risks of harm (although this may not always be the case, particularly in relation to online abuse). Child sexual exploitation may be linked to other crimes, and we will be mindful that a child who may present as being involved in criminal activity is being exploited.

At Bushbury Nursery School we are aware that the following vulnerabilities are examples of the types of things children can experience that might make them more susceptible to child sexual exploitation:

- Having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse;
- Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example);
- Recent bereavement or loss;
- Social isolation or social difficulties;
- Absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality;
- Economic vulnerability;
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status;
- Connections with other children and young people who are being sexually exploited;
- Family members or other connections involved in adult sex work;
- Having a physical or learning disability;
- Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories); and
- Sexual identity.

We understand that not all children and young people with these vulnerabilities will experience child sexual exploitation. Child sexual exploitation can also occur without any of these vulnerabilities being present. Children rarely self-report child sexual exploitation so we understand it is vitally important that all staff at Bushbury Nursery School are aware that some of the following signs may be indicators of child sexual exploitation:

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

We will remain open to the fact that child sexual exploitation can occur without any of these risk indicators being obviously present and be alert to the potential signs of abuse and neglect and to understand the procedures set out by local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

At Bushbury Nursery School we will provide information and raise awareness of CSE including the signs, vulnerabilities and reporting procedures in line with WST guidelines. Our staff will report any concerns regarding children at risk of CSE to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy who will then make a referral and liaise with other relevant statutory agencies, for example, social care, police and health professionals as required. We know that different forms of harm often overlap, and that perpetrators may subject children and young people to multiple forms of abuse, such as criminal exploitation (including county lines and sexual exploitation). Wolverhampton Exploitation Lead is **Sandeep Gill**.

## Cybercrime

Cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either 'cyber-enabled' (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer). Cyber-dependent crimes include;

- unauthorised access to computers (illegal 'hacking'), for example accessing a school's computer network to look for test paper answers or change grades awarded;
- denial of Service (Dos or DDoS) attacks or 'booting'. These are attempts to make a computer, network or website unavailable by overwhelming it with internet traffic from multiple sources; and
- making, supplying or obtaining malware (malicious software) such as viruses, spyware, ransomware, botnets and Remote Access Trojans with the intent to commit further offence, including those above

Children with a particular skill and interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime. If there are concerns about a child in this area, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy), will consider referring into the Cyber Choices programme.

## Domestic Abuse

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

- psychological;
- physical;
- sexual;
- financial; and
- emotional

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result. Domestic abuse affecting young people can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life.

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of child-on-child abuse is sometimes referred to as ‘teenage relationship abuse’. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of ‘domestic abuse’ (if one or both parties are under 16). However, as with any child under 18, where there are concerns about safety or welfare, child safeguarding procedures should be followed and both young victims and young perpetrators should be offered support.

## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences. ALL staff will speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy about any concerns about female genital mutilation.

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

It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies.

**Teachers must personally report to the police** cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should also still consider and discuss any such case with our school’s designated safeguarding lead or deputy and involve children’s social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers will follow local safeguarding procedures.

At Bushbury Nursery School teachers must also report their concerns and share the information with the designated safeguarding lead or deputy following the school's procedures for recording and reporting. The teacher will be supported by the designated safeguarding lead to fulfil their duty to report FGM cases to the police and social care.

Some warning signs:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing;
- Unusual behaviour after an absence from school;
- Age of the young girl (0-15 years);
- A young girl may visit the bathroom more frequently or spend more time than usual in the bathroom;
- A young girl may have frequent, urinary, menstrual or stomach problems;
- Prolonged or repeated absence from school;
- A young girl may try to avoid PE lessons;
- Travel to a country known to practise FGM (School holiday times);
- An Elder family member visiting from a country known to practise FGM;
- Over hearing conversations related to FGM;
- A young girl may disclose, ask questions or ask for advice;
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examination; and
- Girls that are withdrawn from PSHE or SRE.

## Forced Marriage

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some communities use religion and culture to coerce a person into marriage.

The Forced Marriage Unit has published multi-agency guidelines, with pages 35-36 focusing on the role of schools and colleges. School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information. Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email: [fmufco.gov.uk](mailto:fmufco.gov.uk).

## Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. When required our designated safeguarding lead or deputies will obtain contact details and know referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Whilst referrals and or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, this does not, and will not, replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

Our staff will consider homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis.

## 'Honour based Abuse'

So-called 'honour-based' Abuse (HBA) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. Our staff will be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such.

If our staff have any concerns regarding a child that might be at risk of HBA or who has suffered from HBA they will speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy. As appropriate the designated safeguarding lead or deputy will activate the local safeguarding procedures by contacting the police and or social care.

## Modern slavery and the National Referral Mechanism

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs.

## Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass operates in all police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the police will inform the key adult (usually the designated safeguarding lead) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can enable support to be given to the child according to their needs.

Our school will make use of the advice and links available in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Annex B) to identify and support children who are affected by domestic abuse and how they can be helped.

## Private Fostering Arrangements

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of the local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18 if disabled) who is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer; for 28 days or more. Close relatives are defined as step parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts, (whether of full blood, half blood, or marriage/ affinity.)

School staff will notify the designated safeguarding lead or deputy when they become aware of private fostering arrangements. The designated safeguarding lead or deputy will speak to the family of the child involved to check that they are aware of their duty to inform the LA.

Our school is aware that we need to report any private fostering arrangements that we become aware of to the Local Authority. On admission to the school, we will take steps to verify the relationship of the adults to the child who is being registered and where reasonably possible we will obtain more than one emergency contact number.

## Radicalisation

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Like protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk will be a part of our school's safeguarding approach. Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

We understand there is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media) and settings (such as the internet). However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with other safeguarding risks, our staff will be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may need help or protection. Staff will use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) making a Prevent referral to the Channel programme.

From 1 July 2015, specified authorities, including all schools (and since 18 September 2015 all colleges) as defined in the summary of this guidance, are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ("the CTSA 2015"), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard" to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies. Bodies to which the duty applies must have regard to statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the CTSA 2015. Paragraphs 57-76 of the statutory "Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales" (for schools) summarises the requirements on schools in terms of four general themes. At Bushbury Nursery School we will:

- Assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology;
- Work in partnership with parents, children, families and statutory agencies;



- Assess the risk in our local area and as a minimum our designated safeguarding lead will undertake Prevent awareness training to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation; and
- Ensures that suitable filtering and monitoring is in place. Our pupils are taught to stay safe on-line. Our E-safety is integral to the school's IT curriculum.

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- Showing sympathy for extremist causes;
- Glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures;
- Making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school;
- Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature;
- Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups;
- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent);
- Secretive behaviour;
- Online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles;
- Intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality;
- Graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes;
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others;
- Verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views; and
- Advocating violence towards others.

At Bushbury Nursery School we aim to build the children's resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment and through aspects of the curriculum including SMSC, British Values, PSHE, RSE and Citizenship.

Training on Prevent will be delivered as required to the relevant staff. Our school will use the e-learning links outlined in KCSIE if required. Our school will utilise The Department for Education advice for schools on the Prevent duty and other links and guidance outlined in KCSIE.

### **Channel**

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from our school, if required, will attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. Our staff understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme. Channel guidance is available at: **Channel Guidance**.

Our staff will co-operate with local Channel panel as required. Our school will contact the Wolverhampton Community Safety Team at: [safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk) or call: 01902 551214

### **Serious violence**

All staff should be aware of indicators which may signal children are at risk from or 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 significant change in well-being, 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 (more information can be found in Home Office guidance).

There are several indicators, which may signal 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 and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

The likelihood of involvement in serious violence may be increased by factors such as:

- being male
- having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school
- having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery

Staff should also be aware that violence can often peak in the hours just before or just after school, when pupils are travelling to and from school. These times can be particularly risky for young people involved in serious violence.

### Up-Skirting

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

Other types of abuse to be aware of include: • Bullying • Drugs • Fabricated and Induced illness • Faith abuse • Gangs and youth violence • Gender based violence/violence against women and girls • Hate • Trafficking • Modern slavery • Adverse childhood experiences.

Whilst it is important for our staff to be always vigilant regarding the types and signs of abuse it does not necessarily mean that a child or young person has been abused because the signs have been noted or observed. However, **ALL concerns MUST** be shared with the designated safeguarding lead or deputy.

# Bushbury Nursery School—Record of Concern



<b>Name of Child</b>	
<b>Date of Birth</b>	
<b>Group</b>	
<b>Parent/Carer</b>	
<b>Contact number</b>	
<b>Siblings</b>	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Recorded by:</b>
-------------	--------------	---------------------

Record of concerns: (include ALL relevant details, ensure the account is accurate and factual, use the child’s words, use full names not initials. DO NOT ask leading questions, ask questions to clarify)

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Reported to:</b>
--------------	--------------	---------------------

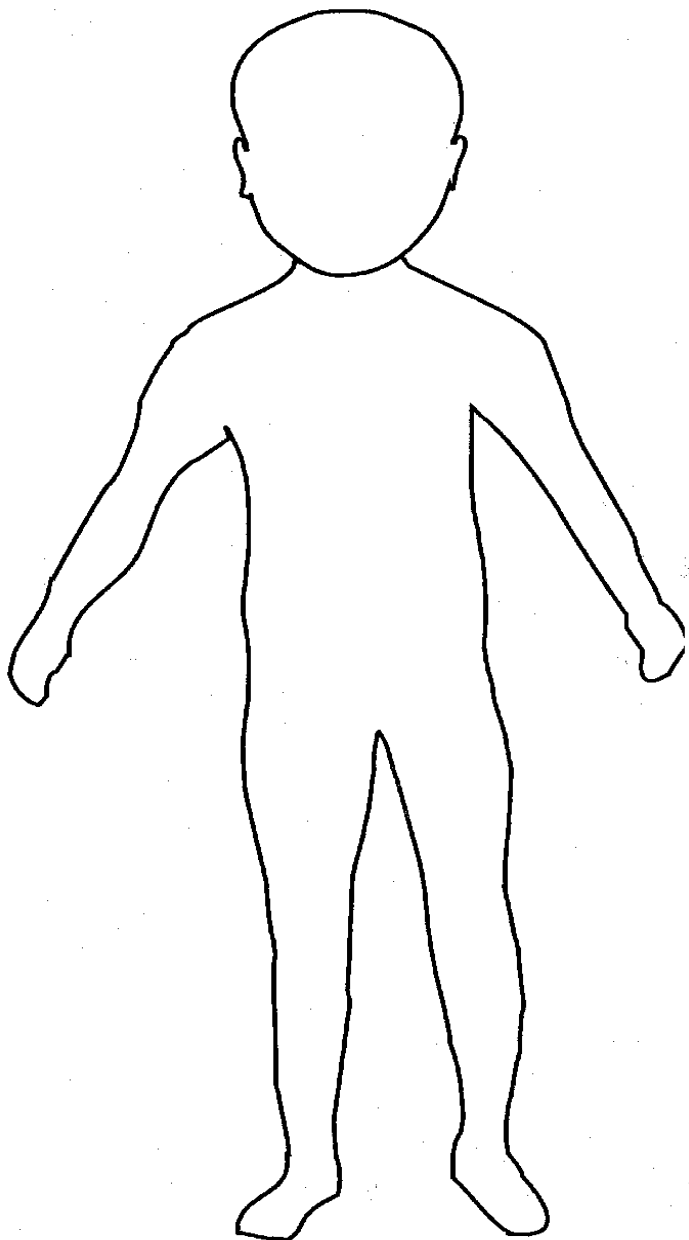
<b>Initial feedback given to person recording and reporting:</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Date:</b>
------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------	--------------

<b>Record of Actions</b>		
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Action (eg meeting, email, phone call etc...)</b>	<b>Name/signature of person completing action</b>

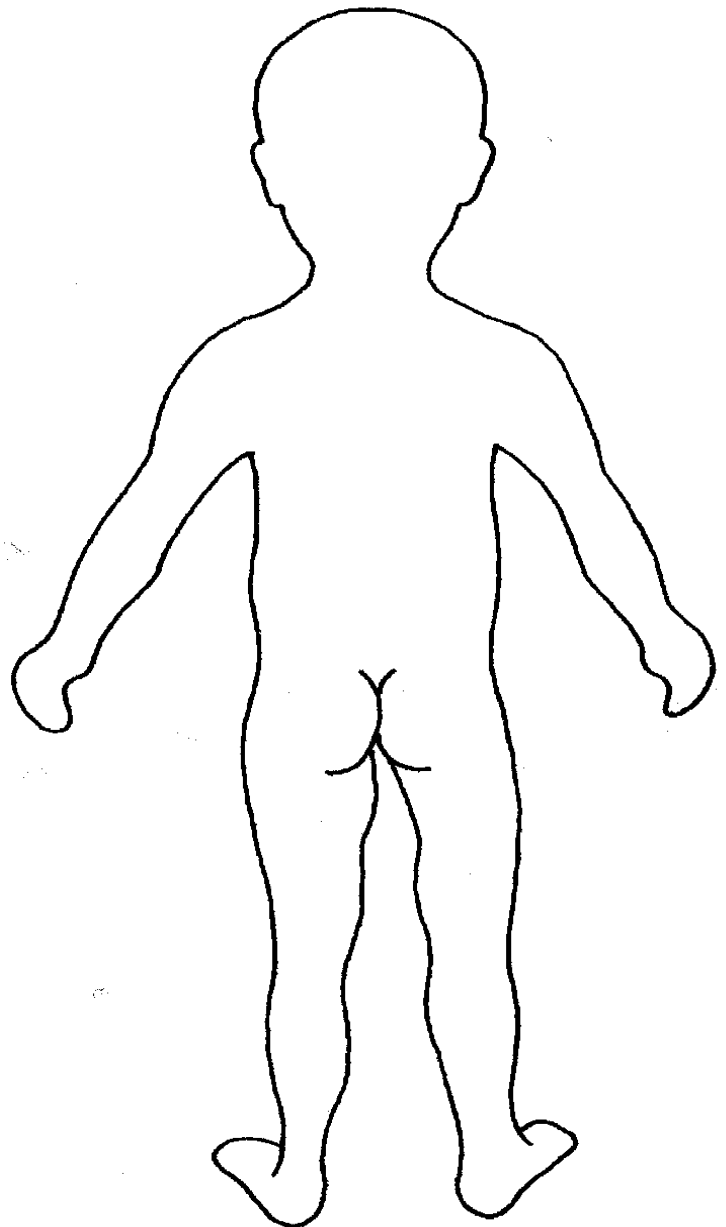
Name of Child: .....

Staff Name: .....

Date of Observation: .....

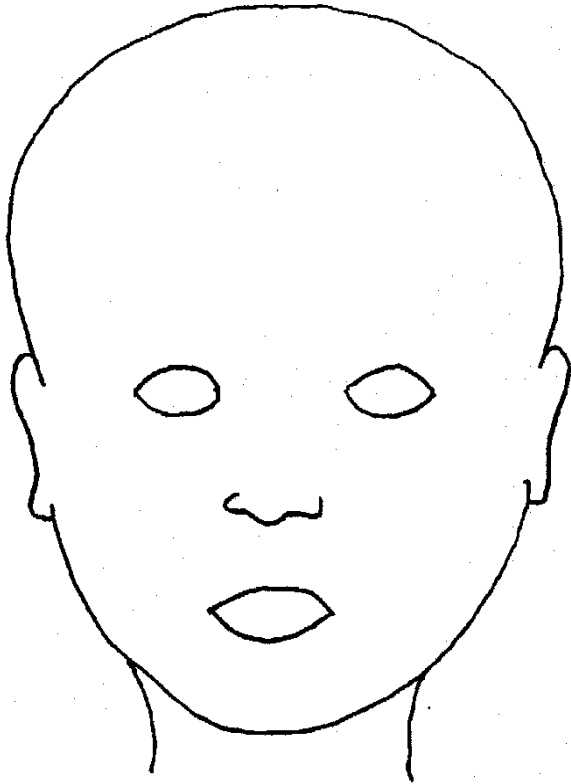


**FRONT**

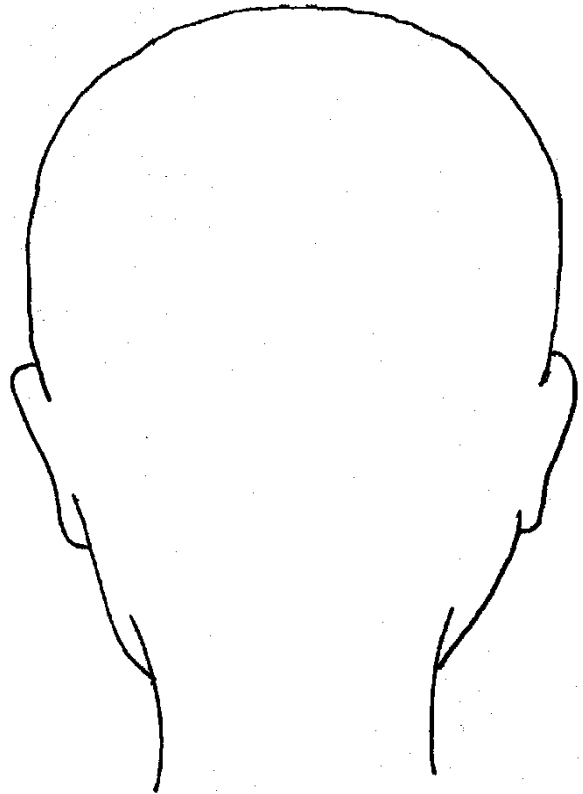


**BACK**

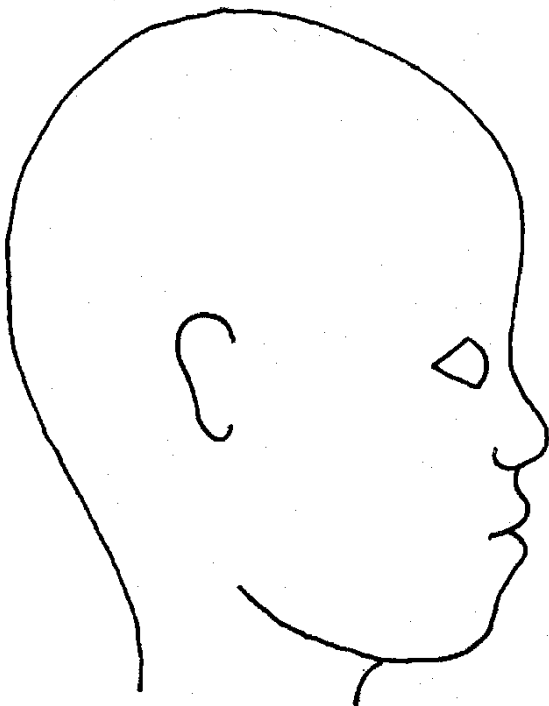
Name of Child: .....  
Staff Name: .....  
Date of Observation: .....



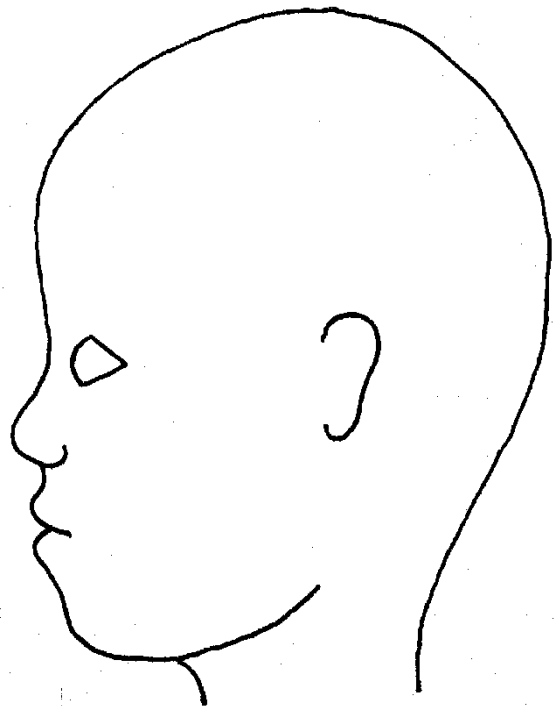
**FRONT**



**BACK**



**RIGHT**

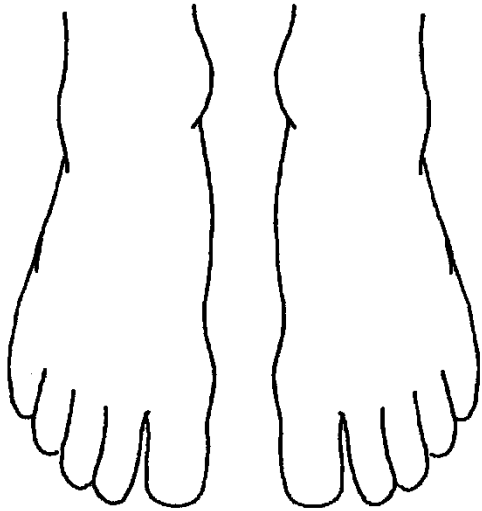


**LEFT**

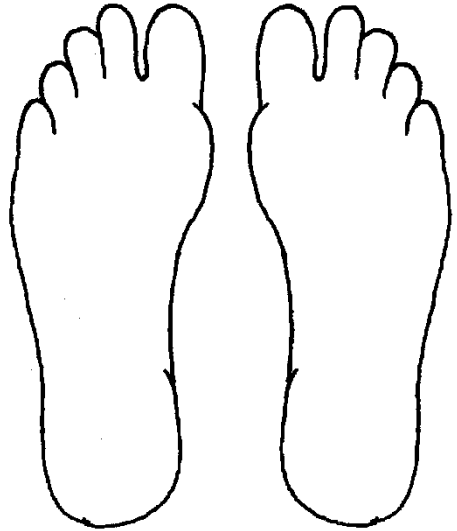
Name of Child: .....

Staff Name: .....

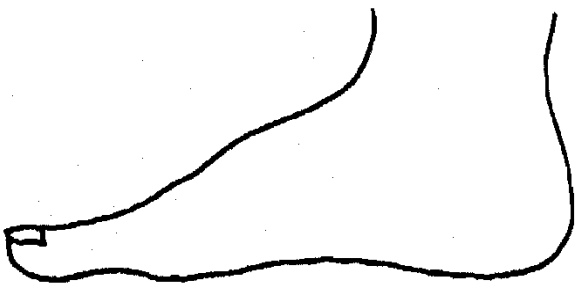
Date of Observation: .....



R TOP L

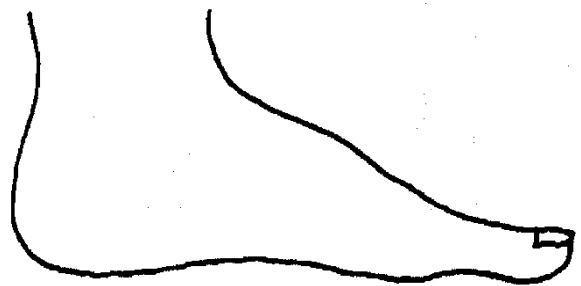


R BOTTOM L



R

INNER

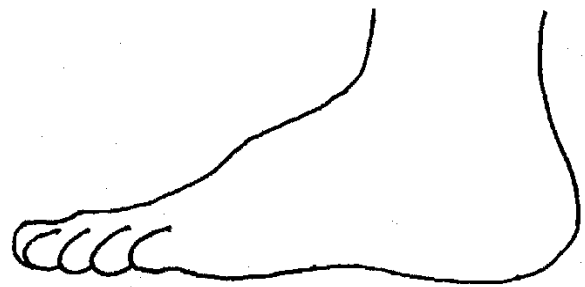


L



R

OUTER

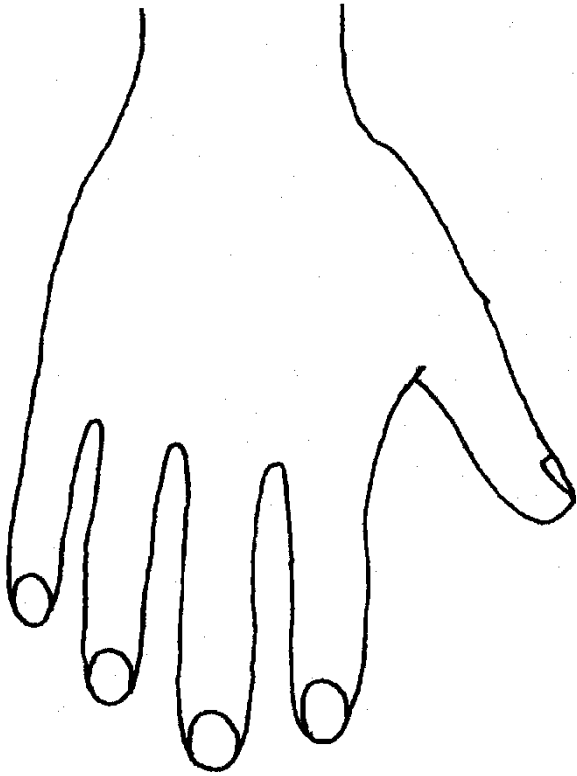


L

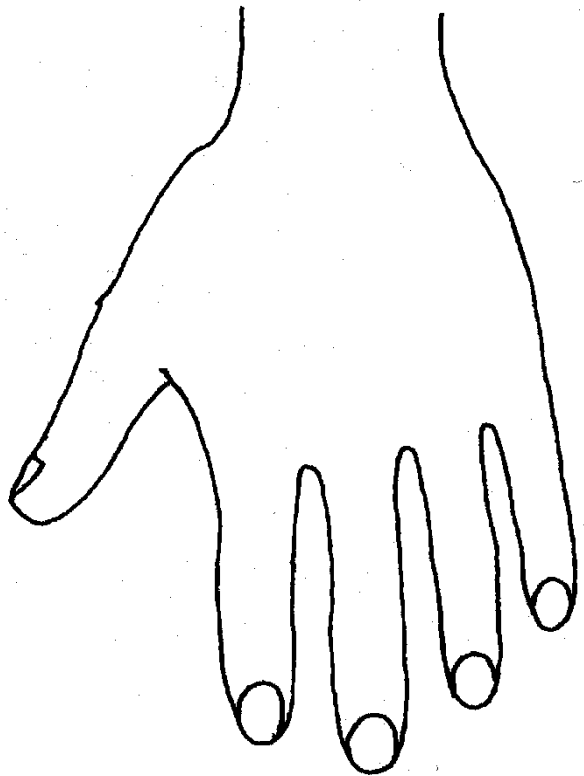
Name of Child: .....

Staff Name: .....

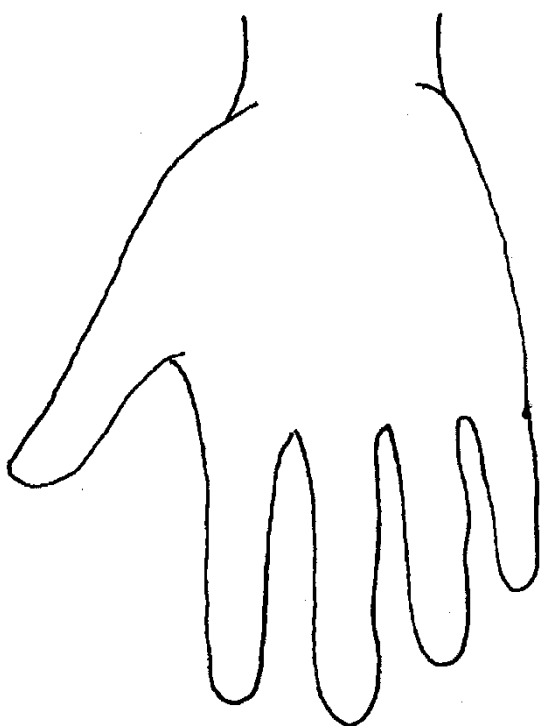
Date of Observation: .....



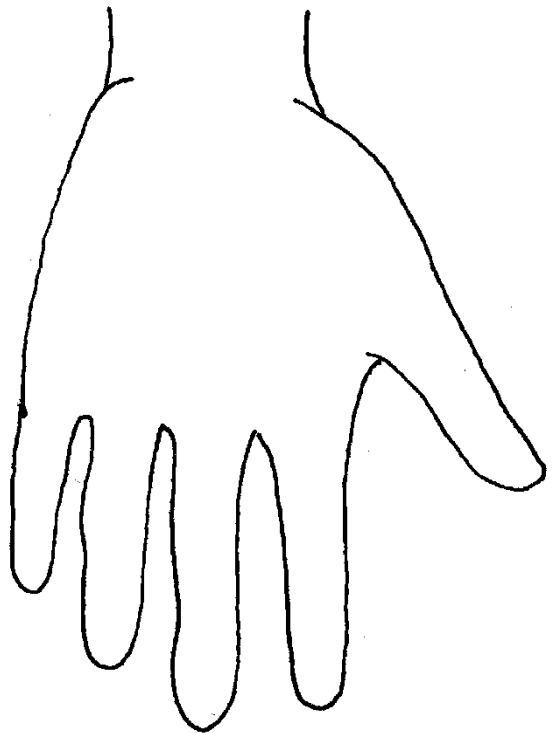
**BACK RIGHT**



**BACK LEFT**



**PALM RIGHT**



**PALM LEFT**