



Child Protection Policy

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Reviewed by: Martin Ledgard (Headteacher)

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Designated Safeguarding Lead: Martin Ledgard (Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Jasminder Sahota (Deputy Headteacher) and Michelle Heath (Learning Mentor)

Named Governor for Safeguarding: Colin Marscheider

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Vice Chair of Governors: Yet to be elected – name and contact will be available via school office

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Designated Lead for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children: Jasminder Sahota (Deputy Headteacher)



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1 Definitions

1.1 'Safeguarding' is defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) as;

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

1.2 'Child Protection' is the intervention that occurs when children have been significantly harmed or are at risk of significant harm.

1.3 'Child' refers to everyone under the age of 18.

1.4 'Parent' refers to birth parents and other adults in a parenting role for example adoptive parents, step parents and foster carers.

1.5 'Staff' or 'members of staff' refers to all teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff, governors, volunteers and trustees working in or on behalf of Grange Farm Primary School.

2 Introduction

2.1 We recognise that safeguarding and child protection is an essential part of our duty of care to all students and all staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn. We understand that safeguarding, child protection and promoting the welfare of all children is everyone's responsibility and everyone has a role to play in protecting children. We recognise that our school is part of a wider safeguarding system for children and work closely with other agencies to promote the welfare of children. We maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' and will consider the wishes of, and at all times, what is in the best interests of each child.

2.2 The purpose of this policy is to;

- Promote safeguarding and child protection and to demonstrate Grange Farm's commitment to keeping children safe;
- Provide all members of staff with the information required to meet their safeguarding duty and protect children from harm;
- Provide stakeholders with clear information relating to Grange Farm's safeguarding and child protection procedures;



- Ensure that staff understand, can recognise and can respond to the indicators of abuse;
- Ensure that all staff are aware of their mandatory reporting duty in relation to Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003; and
- Ensure that children are protected from maltreatment or harm.

2.3 Grange Farm Primary School is committed to the following principles;

- All children have the right to be protected from harm.
- Children should feel safe and secure and cannot learn unless they do so.
- All staff are responsible for keeping children safe and have a responsibility to act if they think a child is at risk of harm.
- All staff take on a responsibility to promote children's welfare.
- Working with other agencies is essential to promote safeguarding and protect children from harm.
- Early help and providing support to families and/or children as soon as a problem emerges is essential to improving outcomes for children and families.

2.4 Safeguarding aims

The safeguarding aims of Grange Farm Primary School, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) are to;

- work to identify children who are suffering or likely to suffer abuse, exploitation or neglect and act to protect them;
- work with relevant services and agencies to ensure that children are protected from harm;
- provide a learning environment for children which is safe and secure;
- teach children how to keep themselves safe and provide structures for them to raise concerns if they are worried or at risk of harm;
- support children's mental health and wellbeing;
- Support children's mental health and wellbeing
- ensure that we adhere to safer recruitment guidance and legislation, deal promptly with allegations of abuse against staff and take bullying and harassment seriously;
- train staff effectively in all safeguarding issues (including online safety) and in their responsibilities for identifying and protecting children that are or may be at risk of harm;
- have a designated safeguarding lead and designated deputies, who will provide support to staff, students and families;



- recognise that all children may be vulnerable to abuse, but be aware that some children have increased vulnerabilities due to special educational needs or disabilities;
- maintain a robust recording system for any safeguarding or child protection information;
- ensure that everyone in Grange Farm Primary School understands the safeguarding procedures; and to
- regularly review policies and procedures to ensure that children are protected to the best of our ability.

2.5 This policy adheres to the following documents;

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(September 2021\)](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(Parts updated December 2020\)](#)
- [Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings \(May 2019\)](#)
- [Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings addendum \(April 2020\)](#)
- [What to do if you are worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners \(2015\)](#)
- [Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges \(September 2021\)](#)

2.6 Keeping Children Safe in Education remains in force throughout the Covid-19 emergency period. In addition, we have regard to non-statutory interim guidance on safeguarding schools, colleges and other providers during the coronavirus outbreak. We continue to work closely with the Local Authority and the Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership to safeguard children during this time.

2.7 Please note that there are a number of other documents (statutory and non-statutory) that inform our policy and practice. A list of these can be found in Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021)

2.8 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies;

- [Allegations Against Staff or Persons in a Position of Trust Policy \(CSCP\)](#)
- [Anti – Bullying Policy](#)
- [Behaviour Policy](#)
- [Complaints Procedure](#)
- [Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice](#)



- Drugs Policy
- EASEE Advice and Support for Educational Establishments: Grange Farm Procedures
- Educational Visits Policy
- [eSafety Policy](#)
- [Escalation and Resolution of Professional Disagreements \(CSCP\)](#)
- Health & Safety Policy
- HR & Governance Policies
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Medicine Policy (supporting children with medical needs)
- Outside Visitors and Volunteers Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Physical Intervention and Restraint Policy
- SRE Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Security Policy
- [SEND Policy](#)
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy

2.9 Scope

2.9.1 This policy applies to all teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff, governors and volunteers working on behalf of Grange Farm Primary School. All references in this document to 'staff' or 'members of staff' should be interpreted as relating to the aforementioned unless otherwise stated.

2.9.2 Rather than duplicating content from Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) in this policy, it should be understood that Grange Farm Primary School will always refer to this document as the benchmark for all safeguarding practice.

3 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 The Role of the Governing Body

3.1.1 The school has a named governor to take leadership responsibility for safeguarding. This role is carried out by Colin Marscheider. Part 2 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) sets out the



responsibilities of governing bodies. As part of these overarching responsibilities the Governing Body will;

- Have a strategic leadership responsibility for Grange Farm Primary School safeguarding arrangements;
- Ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation;
- Ensure a whole school approach to safeguarding, including the use of mobile technology in school;
- Ensure that policies, procedure and training in Grange Farm are effective and comply with the law at all times and that they allow concerns to be responded to in a timely manner;
- Ensure that Grange Farm takes into account local authority and Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership policies and supply information as requested by the three safeguarding partners (the Local Authority, a clinical commissioning group for an area within the local authority and the chief office of police for a police area within the local authority);
- Ensure that Grange Farm has an effective child protection policy, that it is published on the school website or available by other means and review this annually;
- Ensure that Grange Farm has a staff behaviour policy or Code of Conduct;
- Ensure that all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training on induction (including online safety);
- Ensure the school contributes to multi-agency working in line with statutory guidance;
- Consider a whole-school approach to online safety, including the use of mobile technology in school;
- Ensure that there are clear systems and processes in place for identifying when children may be experiencing mental health problems;
- Ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety as a whole school approach and curriculum planning but recognising that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all children. See section 12 of this policy for further information;
- Ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety. See section 12 of this policy for further information.
- Put in place appropriate safeguarding responses for children who go missing from education;
- Appoint an appropriate member of staff from the senior leadership team to the role of designated safeguarding lead;
- Understand the local criteria for action and local protocol for assessment;



- Recognise the importance of information sharing between practitioners and local agencies;
- Ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to keep children safe online; and
- Respond to allegations of abuse against the headteacher whilst ensuring there are procedures in place to manage safeguarding concerns, or allegations against staff (including supply staff, volunteers and contractors).

3.2 The Role of the Headteacher

3.2.1 The headteacher will;

- Ensure that this policy is reviewed annually at minimum and ratified by the governing body;
- Ensure that this policy and associated procedures are adhered to by all staff;
- Ensure that all staff are made aware of the named governor for safeguarding and the designated safeguarding lead;
- Ensure that the role of 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' is explicit in the role-holder's job description;
- Decide whether to have one or more deputy safeguarding leads and ensure they are trained to the same standard as the Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- Organise appropriate cover for the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead for any out of hour/out of term activities;
- Appoint a 'Designated Teacher for Looked-After Children and Previously Looked-After Children' to promote the educational achievement of children looked after;
- Appoint a lead for online safety;
- Promote a whole school approach to safeguarding;
- Promote resilience to social and emotional wellbeing, which is tailored to the needs of the children;
- Ensure that all recruitment follows the 'Safer Recruitment' guidance and a single, central record is maintained with details of all members of staff who are in contact with children;
- Respond to allegations of abuse against all other members of staff including supply staff, volunteers and contractors;
- Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required;
- Ensure that the school works with Children's Services, the police, health services and other services to; promote the welfare of children; provide a coordinated offer of early help when need is



identified; contribute to inter-agency plans for children subject to child protection plans and to protect children from harm.

- Safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties (Teaching Standards, 2012); and
- Ensure that children's Services (from the host local authority or placing authority) have access to Grange Farm to conduct, or to consider whether to conduct a section 47 or section 17 assessment, as per Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021).

3.3 The Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

3.3.1 The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Grange Farm Primary School is Martin Ledgard (supported by Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads Jasminder Sahota and Michelle Heath). The Designated Safeguarding Leads will;

- Take overall lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) in the school;
- Liaise with the safeguarding partners and work with other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2020);
- Always be available during term time (during school hours) for staff in the school to discuss safeguarding concerns. In the event that they are not available, a deputy will be made available;
- Undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out this role and update this every two years;
- Act as a source of support and expertise on matters relating to safeguarding and child protection to ensure that other members of staff can carry out their safeguarding duty;
- Be best placed to advise on the response to safeguarding concerns;
- Identify if children may benefit from early help;
- Act as a point of contact with the safeguarding partners;
- Make referrals to Coventry's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) where children are at risk of significant harm.
- Make referrals to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern and/or support staff that make a referral to Channel;
- Support the school with regards to their responsibilities under the Prevent duty and provide advice and support on protecting children from radicalisation;
- Refer cases to the police where a crime may have been committed¹;
- Ensure all staff have read and understood Part 1 and/or Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021);



- Update their knowledge and skills regularly and keep up with any developments relevant to their role;
- Provide staff in school with the knowledge, skills and support required to safeguard children;
- Take responsibility for the accurate and timely recording of safeguarding and child protection concerns and take overall responsibility for safeguarding and child protection files;
- Take responsibility for the transfer of safeguarding files when a child leaves the school;
- Attend or ensure an appropriate representative attends multi-agency safeguarding or child protection meetings;
- Promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- Work closely with other relevant education professionals (e.g. SENCO, Virtual School Head) to ensure children with additional vulnerabilities are safeguarded;
- Help to promote educational outcomes of child who have experienced or are experiencing safeguarding or child protection issues by sharing relevant information with teachers and the school leadership team;
- Promote a 'culture of safeguarding', in which every member of the school community acts in the best interests of the child;
- Ensuring the school knows who its cohort of children or have or have had a social worker are, understanding their academic progress and attainment, and maintaining a culture of high aspirations;
- Regularly meet with the safeguarding link governor and/or Chair of Governors to review safeguarding in the school; and
- Liaise with the headteacher regarding safeguarding cases and issues.

3.3.2 Further details on the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead can be found in Annex C of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021).

3.4 The Role & Responsibilities of all Staff within School

3.4.1 School staff play a particularly important role because they are in a position to identify concerns early in order to provide help for children. All staff in the school;

- Have a responsibility to provide a safe environment, where children can learn;



- Should know what to do if a child tells them that he/she is being abused, exploited or neglected;
- Will be able to identify indicators of abuse;
- Will be made aware of; the safeguarding and child protection policy; the school behaviour policy; the staff behaviour policy; information about the safeguarding response to children missing in education; the role of the designated safeguarding lead and systems in the school that support safeguarding and child protection;
- Will be provided with a copy of Part 1/Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) annually and receive annually updated training on their safeguarding roles and responsibilities;
- Should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that put children at risk of harm and behaviours associated with these;
- Should know what to do if a child makes a disclosure of abuse and never promise confidentiality when a child makes a disclosure;
- Will be made aware of the early help process and understand their role in it;
- Should be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help and will discuss early help requirements with the safeguarding lead in the first instance;
- May be required to support social workers and other agencies following a referral;
- Will be made aware of the process for making referrals to Children's Services (through the MASH), understand statutory assessments and the role that they may be expected to play in such assessments;
- Should be prepared to make referrals to the MASH if they have concerns about a child's welfare and understand the role that they may be expected to play in such assessments;
- Will receive regularly updated safeguarding and child protection training including online safety;
- Will receive safeguarding updates throughout the year as part of continuous professional development;
- Should be able to contribute to the development of safeguarding policy and practice.
- Should always seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Lead if they are unsure; and
- All teachers should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties (Teaching Standards, 2012).



3.5 Multi-Agency Working

- 3.5.1 The school is committed to multi-agency working and operates under Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and local safeguarding arrangements
- 3.5.2 The school will work with Children’s Services, the police, health services, local Early Help practitioners and other relevant agencies to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm
- 3.5.3 We work closely with our local Family Hub to ensure children receive appropriate coordinated Early Help (our local family hub is the Mosaic hub, based in Tile Hill).
- 3.5.4 The Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) have designated that schools and colleges are a named ‘relevant agency’. As such, the school is under a statutory duty to cooperate with published CSCP arrangements (including responding to the Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership’s annual safeguarding audit).

4 Types of abuse

4.1 As outlined above, all staff will be trained in indicators of abuse and should be able to recognise signs of abuse. We recognise that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are complex and can rarely be covered by one label. Abuse can take many forms and can involve directly inflicting harm on a child, or failing to protect a child from harm online as well as face to face.

The four main types of abuse that staff are trained to recognise are;

- Physical abuse;
- Sexual abuse;
- Emotional abuse;
- Neglect.

4.2 Types of abuse (Taken from Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021)

Type of abuse	Information
Abuse	A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g.



Type of abuse	Information
	via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.
Physical abuse	A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
Emotional abuse	The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
Sexual abuse	Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and



Type of abuse	Information
	<p>touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.</p> <p>The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education and all staff should be aware of it and of the school policy and procedures for dealing with it.</p>
Child sexual exploitation (CSE)	<p>CSE 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 and/or through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.</p>
Neglect	<p>The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy, for example, as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure</p>



Type of abuse	Information
	adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

4.3 Indicators of abuse can be found in Appendix B.

4.4 If a child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, a referral will be made to Children's services (through the MASH) and any member of staff can make this referral. A Designated or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead should be available at all times, but in exceptional circumstances the member of staff should speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team or seek advice directly from Children's Services and then take appropriate action. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should be made aware as soon as possible.

4.5 Staff, parents and the wider community should report any concerns that they have about the welfare of children, however minor or seemingly insignificant. Staff should not assume that someone else will report concerns.

4.6 The school recognises that any child can be the victim of abuse and may benefit from early help. However, the school will be particularly vigilant to potential need for early help if a child;

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs;
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan);
- has a mental health need;
- is a young carer;
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines;
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- is a risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual or criminal exploitation;
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;



- has a family member in prison, or is affected by parental offending;
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse;
- 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;
- is at risk of 'honour-based' abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage;
- is persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day.
- is a privately fostered child.¹

4.7 Grange Farm Primary School recognises that abuse can take many different forms. Staff will also receive training on the following issues and action will be taken if the school believes that a child is at risk of or is the victim of;

- bullying, including cyber- or online-bullying;
- child criminal exploitation (including involvement in county lines);
- child sexual exploitation;
- domestic abuse;
- emotional abuse;
- fabricated or induced illness;
- faith-based abuse;
- female genital mutilation;
- forced marriage;
- gangs or youth violence;
- gender-based violence;
- hate;
- mental health;
- neglect;
- peer on peer abuse;
- physical abuse;
- radicalisation;
- relationship abuse;
- serious violence and harassment;
- sexual abuse;

¹ Taken from paragraph 18, Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021)



- sexual violence or sexual harassment (including peer on peer abuse);
- sharing of consensual or non-consensual nude and semi-nude images/videos;
- So-called 'honour-based' abuse;
- trafficking and modern slavery.

4.8 Grange Farm Primary School will also take action to protect;

- Children missing education;
- Children missing from home or care.

4.8.1 There are other familial issues that can have a detrimental impact on children.

We work with other agencies in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) to support children and families in the following circumstances;

- Children facing the court procedures and/or children in the court system;
- Children with family members in prison;
- Children who are homeless;
- Children who need a social worker.

4.9 Children potentially at greater risk of harm:

4.9.1 The school recognises that some children need a social worker due to abuse, neglect or complex family circumstances and that abuse and trauma can leave children vulnerable to further harm, as well as educational disadvantage

4.9.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will hold information relating to social workers working with children in the school

4.9.3 This information will inform decisions about safeguarding and promoting welfare (including the provision of pastoral and/or academic support)

4.10 Children missing from Education

4.10.1 The school understands that children missing from education can be a warning sign to a variety of safeguarding concerns.

4.10.2 The school will report information to the Local Authority when removing a child from roll.



4.11 Elective Home Education

4.11.1 The school recognises that many home educated children have a positive learning experience and the decision is one with the child's best interests at heart.

4.11.2 Since 2016, the school has a statutory duty to inform the Local Authority of all deletions from roll. When Elective Home Education is the reason for this removal, the Local authority and other key professionals will work alongside the school to coordinate a meeting with parents where possible ideally before a final decision is made.

4.12 Mental Health:

4.12.1 The school recognises that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children includes preventing the impairment of children's mental health or development

4.12.2 All staff will be aware that mental health problems may be an indicator that a child is suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation

4.12.3 Staff will not attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem unless they are appropriately trained

4.12.4 We recognise that staff are well-placed to observe behaviour that may indicate that a child is experiencing a mental health problem, or is at risk of developing one. There are clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible mental health problems. If staff are concerned that a child is suffering a mental health problem, they should share this concern with their phase leader or one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads who will liaise with external professional colleagues (e.g. School Health, CAMHS, Behaviour Support Service) as appropriate.

4.12.5 If staff are concerned that a child is experiencing a mental health problem that is also a safeguarding concern, they must report this to one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads immediately.

4.12.6 Further information, guidance and advice regarding mental health can be found in paragraph 41 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021)

4.13 Grange Farm Primary School have a duty to refer any children who are living in a private fostering arrangement to the local authority.

4.14 All schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 in the exercise of their functions to



have “due regard” to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. See Appendix B for further information on Grange Farm’s Prevent duty.

- 4.15 If any member of staff is unsure about signs of abuse or neglect, they should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- 4.16 See Appendix B for further information and guidance on the above issues.²

5 Responding to signs of abuse

5.1 If a member of staff, parent or member of the public is concerned about a child’s welfare, they should report it to the designated safeguarding lead as soon as possible. On occasions when the designated safeguarding lead is not available, it should be reported to the deputy safeguarding lead without delay. Although any member of staff can make a referral to Children’s Services, where possible there should be a conversation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

5.2 If anyone other than the Designated Safeguarding Lead makes a referral to Children’s Services or to the police, they should inform the DSL as soon as possible.

5.3 All staff will be alert to indicators of abuse and will report any of the following to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately;

- Any concern or suspicion that a child has sustained an injury outside what is reasonably attributable to normal play;
- Any concerning behaviours exhibited by children that may indicate that they have been harmed or are at risk of harm, including unusual changes in mood or behaviour, concerning use of language and/or concerning drawings or stories.
- Any significant changes in attendance or punctuality;
- Any significant changes in a child’s presentation;
- Any concerns relating to people who may pose a risk of harm to a child; and/or
- Any disclosures of abuse that children have made;

² Please note that definitions of physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect are contained in the main body of the policy. Further information about other safeguarding issues and indicators of abuse can be found in Appendix B.



5.4 There will be occasions where a child discloses abuse directly to a member of staff. If this happens, the member of staff will;

- listen carefully to the child and believe what they are saying;
- not promise confidentiality, as information may need to be passed on so the child and family can receive additional support;
- only ask for clarification if something is unclear and will not ask 'leading' questions;
- report disclosure to the designated safeguarding lead as soon as possible, certainly by the end of the day
- only discuss the issue with colleagues that need to know about it; and
- will write up the disclosure and pass it to the designated safeguarding lead. It is likely they will have a discussion with the DSL prior to this.

5.5 The designated safeguarding lead will make a decision about the action that needs to be taken following a member of staff raising a concern about a child, or following a direct disclosure. The DSL may

- Manage support for the child internally;
- Seek advice from the social worker advice line in the MASH;
- Instigate single agency intervention and work directly with the family to improve the situation;
- Offer an Early Help Assessment to provide multi-agency help to a family;
- In cases where children are deemed to be at significant risk of harm, the DSL will refer cases to the MASH for statutory intervention. Parental consent will be obtained wherever possible before referring cases to the MASH. However, if the school is worried that telling parents will mean the child is at greater risk of harm, we may do this without informing them.
- If parents do not consent to a referral but the school believes that a child is at significant risk of harm, a referral will still be made to Children's Services.

5.6 For further information about the Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership's 'Right Help, Right Time' guidance, which is used by the school to make decisions about protecting children, please visit <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/righthelprighttime>.

5.7 See page 25 for flowchart of actions that will be taken where there are concerns about a child (taken from Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2021).



5.8 In cases where members of staff become aware that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been carried out on a female below the age of 18, they have a mandatory duty to report this to the police without delay and will do so. Staff should refer this to the DSL, but the legislation requires regulated health and Children's Services professionals and teachers in England and Wales to make a report to the police where, in the course of their professional duties, they either;

- are informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her; or
- observe 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.³

5.9 Peer on Peer Abuse

- 5.9.1 Grange Farm understands that both adults and other children can perpetrate abuse, and can happen inside and outside of school. Peer on peer abuse is taken very seriously. Peer on peer abuse can include bullying (including cyber-bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying), abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers, physical abuse, sharing of consensual or non-consensual images of videos, causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, sexual violence and/or harassment, upskirting, and initiation/hazing ceremonies. The school recognise that safeguarding issues can manifest as peer on peer abuse.
- 5.9.2 All members of staff will be made aware of the school's policy and procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse. The school will ensure staff understand what is meant by peer on peer abuse and the school policy on peer on peer abuse through annual training and policy sharing.
- 5.9.3 The school will work to prevent peer on peer abuse through maintaining high profile and awareness through staff training and through taking any possible instances extremely seriously
- 5.9.4 In the event that an allegation of peer on peer abuse is made, the school will investigate this – this will be led by the Designated Safeguarding Leads and will be recorded on CPOMs with relevant information shared with stakeholders as required.

³ *introduced in Section 5B of the FGM Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015



- 5.9.5 In the event that an allegation of peer on peer abuse is made, victims and alleged perpetrators will be supported by key staff including their class teacher and also potentially the school's Learning Mentor and school counsellor.
- 5.9.6 The school will never pass off peer on peer abuse as 'banter' or 'part of growing up' and recognise that even if there are no reported cases, such abuse may still be taking place. This should be a Zero-tolerance approach as this could lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours.
- 5.9.7 Peer on peer abuse can be associated with older children but Grange Farm recognises this can take place between children of any ages. Staff are trained to be observant and children are taught the principles of Protective Behaviour throughout their time at school.
- 5.9.8 The school will adhere to guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) and Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment in Schools (September 2021) when responding to incidents of peer on peer abuse.
- 5.9.9 All staff will be made aware that 'upskirting' is a criminal offence

5.10 Sharing of consensual or non-consensual nude and semi-nude images or videos

- 5.10.1 'Sexting' refers to any sharing of youth-produced sexual imagery between children. This includes;
- A person under the age of 18 creating and sharing sexual imagery of themselves with a peer under the age of 18;
 - A person under the age of 18 sharing sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18 with a peer under the age of 18 or an adult;
 - A person under the age of 18 being in possession of sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18.

5.10.2 The school has a responsibility to educate children in the risks relating to 'sharing consensual or non-consensual nude images or videos' and how to keep themselves safe online. See the school's eSafety Policy (listed in Appendix B) for more details.

5.10.3 Any incidents or suspected incidents of 'sharing consensual or non-consensual nude images or videos' should be reported to the DSL without delay.



5.10.4 Once reported to the DSL, the DSL will decide on the appropriate course of action. This could include;

- Referrals to the MASH in regards to both peers (also the police if urgent response required);
- Confiscation of mobile phones in line with guidance 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation, (January 2018);
- Support for young people involved to prevent reoccurrence;
- Sanctions in accordance with behaviour policy;

5.10.5 Any incidents of 'sharing consensual or non-consensual nude images or videos' involving the following will result in a MASH and sometimes a Police referral;

- Adult involvement;
- Coercion or blackmail;
- Children under the age of 13;
- Extreme, or violent content;
- Immediate risk of harm.

5.10.6 Staff will not view images or videos on pupil devices. Confiscated devices will be stored securely and passed to the relevant agencies.

5.10.7 We will work with parents as necessary if their child is involved in the sharing of consensual or non-consensual nude images or videos.

5.10.8 We operate a culture of safeguarding and young people should feel confident to disclose if they have sent an inappropriate image of themselves. Children will always be supported to retrieve and delete the images.

5.11 Peer on Peer Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

5.11.1 Sexual Violence and sexual harassment, just like the above types of Peer on Peer abuse, can occur both in and out of school (online and face to face) between children of any age and sex and is never acceptable. This includes children from Primary school through to Secondary and higher. Examples of this are:

- rape;
- assault by penetration;
- sexual assault;
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent;
- sexual comments including on social media;
- sexual jokes;
- physical behaviour;



- online sexual harassment;
- sharing of unwanted explicit content;
- upskirting;
- sexualised online bullying;
- sexual exploitation, coercion and threats.

All members of staff at The school maintains the attitude of 'It can happen here' to ensure all children are safeguarded. One way this is done is by addressing inappropriate behaviour (see school's Behaviour Policy). All staff understand that by not addressing this promptly, children's educational attainment may be impacted if the alleged perpetrator attends the same setting.

5.11.2 The school will reassure the victim that they are being taken seriously and will be support and kept safe. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) will take a lead role on reports whilst using their professional judgement, and liaising with other agencies by following the below protocol;

- when possible, two members of staff will be present where the report includes an online element. Staff will not view illegal images of children;
- will not promise confidentiality as reports will need to be passed onto Children's Service (and in some cases, the Police);
- recognises that a child is more likely to disclose to a member of staff they have the strongest relationship with;
- an initial disclosure may be the first incident that is reported rather than a singular event;
- some children may face barriers to disclosing such as, additional needs, vulnerability, sex, ethnicity and possibly sexual orientation;
- will always listen carefully to the child whilst being non-judgemental;
- write up the factual parts of the disclosure as soon as the child has finished disclosing;
- liaise with the MASH (and police if urgent response required).

5.11.3 Nevertheless, the victim will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence and/or harassment. Staff will be aware of the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours; making it clear it is never accepted, tolerated and is not a part of growing up or banter.

5.11.4 In some cases, a risk assessment may be required but will be kept under constant review.



5.12 Serious Violence

5.12.1 All staff will be made aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk of, or are involved with serious violent crime such as absence from school, a change in friendship/relationship, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or change in wellbeing, or sign of unexplained injury.

5.12.2 All staff will be made aware of the range of risk factor which will increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, criminal networks and gangs and understand the measures in place to prevent these.

5.12.3 All staff will have an awareness of Child Criminal Exploitation and behaviours linked to Child Criminal Exploitation. Further information about Child Criminal Exploitation can be found in paragraph 51 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021).

5.13 Searching, Screening and Confiscation

5.13.1 Where necessary, searching, screening and confiscation will be used to safeguard a child/children in the school.

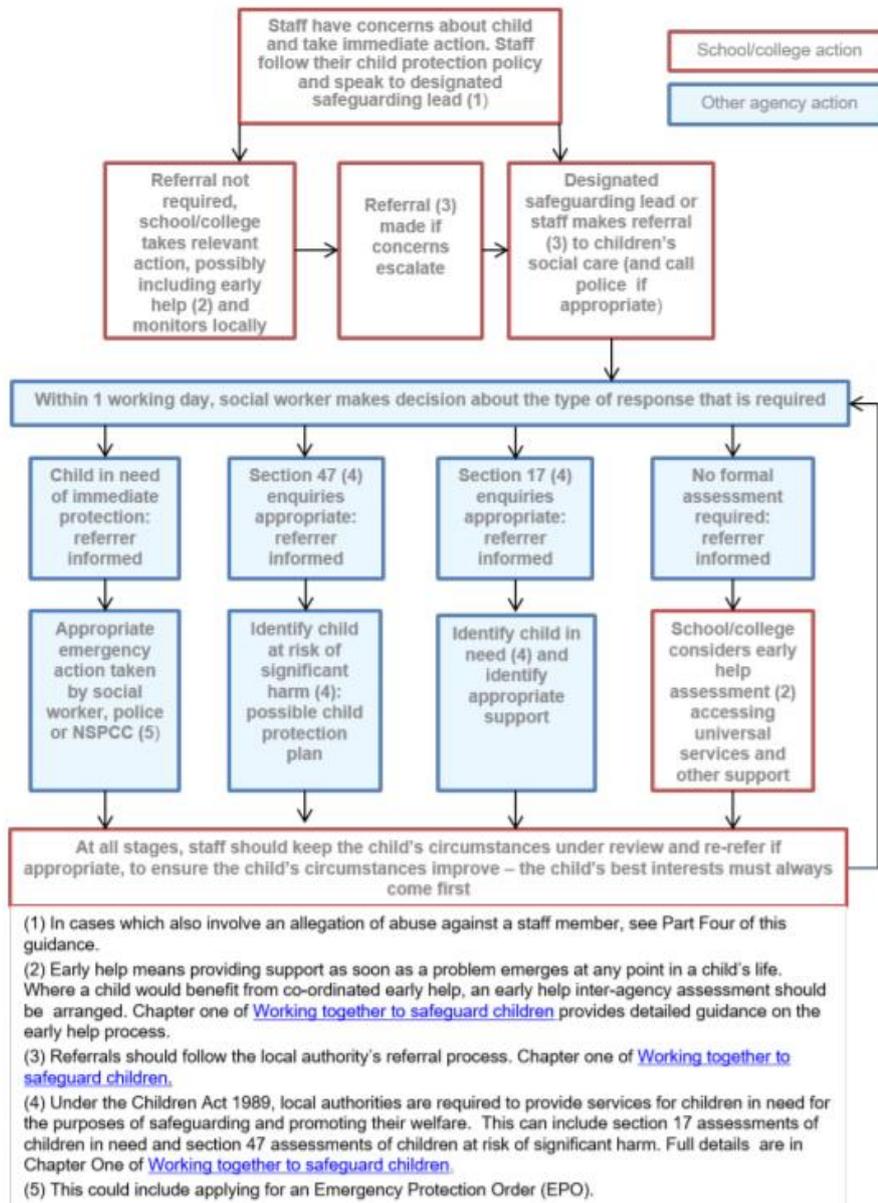
5.13.2 The school adheres to 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for Schools (January 2018) and has a dedicated policy in place.

5.14 Extra-Familial Harm

5.14.1 The school recognises that safeguarding incidents can be associated with factors outside the school and may take place outside of school. We also recognise that safeguarding incidents or behaviours can occur between children outside of school. We will always consider contextual safeguarding factors when responding to safeguarding incidents.

5.14.2 All staff will be made aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside these environments.

Actions where there are concerns about a child



5.15 To raise concerns about children, members of staff should contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by telephone to discuss the referral. They should then complete the online Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) and submit this to the MASH. The school will follow up referrals if we do not receive feedback from Children's Services.

MASH Telephone number: 02476 788 555



MASH online referral form:

<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren>

Out of hours Emergency Duty Team: 02476 832 222

Prevent/Channel Referrals: Refer to MASH (mash@coventry.gov.uk) and to CTU_GATEWAY@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

5.16_If a child's situation does not appear to be improving following a referral, the school may re-refer the child. We will also consider using the [Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership's Managing Professional Disagreements policy](#). to ensure that our concerns have been addressed and that the situation improves for the child.

6 Record-keeping

6.1 Information will be kept confidential and stored securely.

6.2 A written record of all safeguarding and/or child protection concerns, discussions and decisions made will be kept in individual children's files. This will be separate from the main school file and will only be accessed by the relevant safeguarding staff.

6.3 The school keeps all safeguarding files electronically, using a system called CPOMs.

6.4 Staff will submit all concerns in writing to the DSL at the earliest opportunity. This may be after having a verbal conversation, but conversations will also be followed up in writing.

6.5 In the event that a child moves school, the safeguarding file will be transferred to the new setting securely and separately from the main school file. Once received by the new school, this school will not retain the information.

6.6 The school will seek at least two emergency contacts for every child.

6.7 All data processed by Grange Farm is done so in line with the General Data Protection Guidelines and the Data Protection Act (2018). Please see the following policies for additional information;

- [GDPR Data Protection Policy](#)



- [GDPR Data Privacy Policy](#)

6.8 Further information regarding information sharing and data processing in relation to safeguarding can be found in Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021).

7 Photography and Images

7.1 Consent from parents to photograph children at school events for promotional reasons will be sought when the child joins Grange Farm. The school will then seek permission each September thereafter whilst the child remains at the school.

7.2 Parents can withdraw consent at any time and must notify the school if they do not wish their child's photographs to be used.

7.3 Photographs of children used publicly will not be displayed with their full name or other personal information.

7.4 Photographs of children will be processed in line with the General Data Protection Regulation.

7.5 Additional information is available in the school's Photos and Images of Children Policy which is available on request from the school office

8 Early Help

8.1 Grange Farm is committed to supporting families as soon as a possible problem arises. It is more effective to support a family through early help than reacting to a problem later. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers have a role to play in safeguarding children. The school works closely with its neighbouring family hub to work with families in the community to improve outcomes for children.

Grange Farm's Family Hub is:
Mosaic Family Hub
Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill, Coventry, CV4 9PL
024 76787801

8.2 The school works within the Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership's ['Right Help, Right Time'](#) framework, available on the CSCP website.



9 Staff training

9.1 In order for staff to be able to understand and discharge their safeguarding and child protection duties, Grange Farm has committed to training staff throughout the academic year. All staff members will be made aware of the school's safeguarding processes and structures and will receive training on these as part of their induction. As part of this training and their annual refresher, they will also receive;

- This 'Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy';
- The staff Code of Conduct
- Copies of Part 1 and/or Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021)
- School procedures for Children Missing Education
- The school Behaviour Policy

9.2 Each year, training at Grange Farm will involve;

- Annual Safeguarding update for all staff (September)
- Additional training throughout the year to develop awareness of specific areas and issues including mental health, Team Teach and Prevent
- Governor training (updates for all governors and initial training for new governors as part of induction)
- DSL training according to the necessary update cycle
- DSLs attending safeguarding briefings
- DSLs accessing e-bulletins from the LSCB
- Safeguarding training on induction for all volunteers
- Safeguarding information to be read by all visitors and contractors as part of the signing-in to school system

9.3 Grange Farm Primary School recognises that children may engage in risky behaviours that may put them at additional risk of danger. These can include drug taking, alcohol abuse, truancing and 'the sharing of consensual or non-consensual nude images or videos'⁴. Staff will be training in these areas in order to be able to further recognise if a child is at risk of harm.

10 Safer Recruitment

10.1 Grange Farm is committed to providing children with a safe environment, in which they can learn. We take safer recruitment seriously and all staff are subject to the following checks;

⁴ Also known as 'youth produced sexual imagery'.



- Identity check;
- DBS clearance;
- Prohibition from teaching checks (where required);
- Barred List check;
- Section 128 checks (as required - leadership and management);
- Reference check (two references required);
- Professional qualifications check ;
- Right to work in the UK check;
- Further checks for those who have lived outside the UK;
- Disqualification Under the Childcare Act 2006 checks (as required).
- Verification on the candidate's mental and physical fitness may also be checked.

10.2 A record of all checks on members of staff will be held on the Single Central Record.

10.3 All new members of staff will be required to obtain DBS clearance. The school reserves the right to re-check DBS clearance for any member of staff where information is received that indicates that they may pose a risk to children and may ask candidates to be registered on the DBS update service.

10.4 At least one member of every interview panel will have undergone Safer Recruitment training which will be refreshed every 2 years.

10.5 We take proportionate decisions on whether to check individuals beyond what is required.

10.6 Any visitor to the school who has not been subject to the necessary checks will be supervised at all times and risk assessed.

10.7 All safer recruitment practices at Grange Farm comply with Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021). See Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) for further information.

10.9 More detail and information is available in the school's Safer Recruitment Policy

11 Allegations of abuse against staff

11.1 Grange Farm Primary School takes all safeguarding concerns and /or allegations against staff seriously and will manage them in line with this



policy, Part Four of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) and the CSCP Guidance, '[Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers](#)'.

11.2 Allegations or concerns may include:

- Staff having behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- Staff possibly committing a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- Staff behaving towards a child or children in a way that indicates that he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; or
- Staff behaving or possibly behaving in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children (including behaviour outside of work). This is known as 'Transferable risk'.

11.3 If a concern or allegation of abuse arises against the Headteacher, it must be reported to the Chair of Governors without delay.

11.4 If a concern or allegation of abuse arises against any member of staff other than the Headteacher, it must be reported to the Headteacher without delay. This includes supply staff, volunteers and all staff outlined in paragraph 1.5 of this policy

11.5 Concerns or allegations of abuse against staff must be reported to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors as appropriate and not discussed directly with the person involved.

11.6 The Headteacher or Chair of Governors should consider if the allegation meets the threshold for Designated Officer intervention. The details of the LADO can be found on the front of this policy (and on the Safeguarding display in the staffroom lobby).

11.7 Concerns relating to a position of trust issue will be referred to the Local Authority designated officer within 24 hours.

11.8 If a child has suffered or may have suffered from abuse or harm, a MASH referral will also be made.

11.9 In the instances where an allegation is dealt with internally, the Local Authority designated officer will provide information and support to the school in managing the allegation.

11.10 A referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service will be made if a member of staff is dismissed or removed from their post as a result of safeguarding concerns, or would have been removed if they had not have resigned.



11.11 Supply teachers and all contracted staff:

11.11.1 Although the school does not directly employ supply teachers, the school will ensure that any concerns or allegations against supply teachers are handled properly.

11.11.2 The school will never cease to use a supply teacher for safeguarding reasons without liaising with the Local Authority Designated Officer and reaching a suitable outcome.

11.11.3 The governing body will liaise with the supply agency to determine whether to suspend or redeploy the supply teacher whilst an investigation is carried out

11.11.4 The school will inform supply agencies of its processes for managing allegations including inviting the agency's human resources manager (or equivalent) to meetings and regularly updating agencies on relevant school policies. The school will usually take the lead because agencies do not have direct contact with children or staff, so will not be able to collect facts.

11.12 Governors

11.12.1 If an allegation or concern is about a Governor, the school will follow local procedures.

11.13 Volunteers

11.13.1 Risk assessments and a DBS check will be requested for all volunteers. Under no circumstances will a volunteer whereby no checks have been carried out will be alone with children or allowed to work in regulated activity.

11.14 Whistleblowing

11.14.1 Grange Farm operates a culture of safeguarding and all staff should report any concerns about poor or unsafe practice, or the school's safeguarding processes to the senior leadership team.

11.14.2 The senior leadership team will take all concerns seriously.

11.14.3 In the event that a member of staff is unable to raise an issue with senior leadership in school, they should refer to Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education for additional guidance on whistleblowing procedures.



12 Promoting safeguarding and welfare in the curriculum

12.1 Grange Farm recognises the importance of teaching children how to stay safe and look after their mental health and are committed to equipping children with the skills and knowledge to have successful and happy lives.

12.2 The school will teach children about safeguarding, including online safety. As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, the school will cover relevant issues in line with government guidance on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (see school policy).

12.3 Children at Grange Farm will receive the following as part of our promotion of safeguarding across the curriculum:

- Relationships and Sex education
- Drug education
- eSafety education
- Anti-Bullying (including Cyberbullying) education
- Protective Behaviours education

When such programmes are taught, parents are kept informed with an aim of working with a close parent/school partnership.

12.4 Grange Farm as a Remote Teaching and Learning policy for staff – safeguarding is a core element of this policy

13 Children Looked After

13.1 The most common reason for children to be looked-after is because they have experienced abuse and/or neglect. Grange Farm recognises that children looked after may have additional vulnerabilities. The Designated Lead for Looked-After and Previously Looked-After Children is Jasminder Sahota (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Headteacher).

13.2 Staff will receive training on how to best safeguard children who are Looked-After and Previously Looked-After.

13.3 The school will work with Personal Advisors when children leave care (where applicable).



13.4 Grange Farm is committed to working with other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for Looked-After and Previously Looked-After children.

14 Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or physical health needs

14.1 As outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021), Grange Farm is aware that children with additional needs or disabilities may be more vulnerable to abuse and additional barriers may exist when recognising abuse and neglect. This could be because;

- 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 than other children;
- the potential for children with SEN and disabilities or certain medical conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.⁵

14.2 Staff will be trained in recognising signs of abuse in children with SEN and disabilities or certain medical conditions

14.3 Staff will take into account the needs of a child when responding to concerns of abuse or when taking a disclosure. We recognise that some children require specialist intervention to communicate and advice from the SENCO will be sought in these circumstances.

14.4 Safeguarding learning opportunities within the curriculum will be appropriately differentiated to ensure all children can access it.

15 Use of reasonable force

15.1 There may be occasions when staff are required to use reasonable force to safeguard children. We will not use any more force than is necessary.

⁵ Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2021



15.2 Staff at Grange Farm are trained in Team Teach strategies to enable them to manage such occasions safely for pupils and adults. Team Teach focusses on positive de-escalation strategies prior to the use of any physical strategies

15.3 Any such incident is recorded in a bound and numbered book which is kept securely in the headteacher's office

15.4 In the event of any such occasion, parents will always be informed.

16 Work Experience

16.1 Grange Farm Primary School will work with work experience students from the age of 15 years and over

16.2 Work experience students complete the same, thorough, induction procedure as all other volunteers to ensure they are aware of the safeguarding expectations of taking on a role of responsibility within the school

16.3 Additional practical measures are put into place regarding work experience students – e.g., they have a designated common area for break and lunchtimes

17 Summary

17.1 The school is committed to safeguarding children and will always make safeguarding decisions that are in the best interests of each child. For further information or if you have any queries about this policy, please contact the school.

18 Appendix A

The school's safeguarding policy is intended to be used in conjunction with the following policies;

The school adheres to Coventry Local Safeguarding Children Board's Policies, which can be found here:

<http://www.proceduresonline.com/covandwarksscb/contents.html>

- [Allegations Against Staff or Persons in a Position of Trust Policy \(CSCP\)](#)



- [Anti – Bullying Policy](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)
- [Behaviour Policy](#)
- Children Missing in Education Procedures
- [Complaints Procedure](#)
- [Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice](#)
- Drugs Policy
- EASEE Advice and Support for Educational Establishments: Grange Farm Procedures
- Educational Visits Policy
- [eSafety Policy](#)
- [Escalation and Resolution of Professional Disagreements \(CSCP\)](#)
- Health & Safety Policy
- HR & Governance Policies
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Medicine Policy (supporting children with medical needs)
- Outside Visitors and Volunteers Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Physical Intervention and Restraint Policy
- SRE Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Security Policy
- [SEND Policy](#)
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy

19 Appendix B – Further Safeguarding Information

Types of Abuse

As outlined in paragraph 4.4, the school will take action if we believe a child is at risk of or is suffering from abuse. Abuse is not limited to physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect. For further information on the definitions of the types of abuse below, please refer to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021, Annex B.

See below for policy information relating to other key safeguarding issues. All decisions taken in responding to concerns of abuse will be taken in the best interests of the child.



For all these areas, the school's general stance on approaching safeguarding applies:

Proactively, children are taught Protective Behaviours to help them understand when, how and who to ask for help.

Staff are trained to use their knowledge of children to identify where behaviours have changed or whether there are other causes for concern. They then know to report these concerns to a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will progress the concern with MASH and the police as required.

For each area below, additional information is given as required including links to useful documents, guidance and policies.

Bullying, including cyber- or online-bullying

The school takes all forms of bullying seriously and will respond sensitively and quickly to any reported bullying. Children should report any bullying to their form tutor, to the DSL or to any trusted member of staff and we will work to resolve it.

We also teach children about the dangers of bullying through our PSHE curriculum.

Bullying can take many forms and we have several policies that cover different aspects of bullying. Please see the [Anti-Bullying Policy](#), the Behaviour Policy and paragraph 5.8 of this policy for further information.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Consent cannot be given, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point.

Staff are trained that if they have any concerns regarding CSE or if this is raised as a concern by a child, this needs to be reported immediately to a



Designated Safeguarding Lead who will then seek advice and information from MASH and/or the police as appropriate.

Government advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-you-suspect-a-child-is-being-sexually-exploited>

Local Authority Advice can be found here:

http://www.proceduresonline.com/covandwarkssc/p_ch_sexual_exploit.html

Criminal exploitation (including involvement in county lines)

The school is aware that even young children can become involved in criminal activity through a variety of routes including misguidance by others and through coercion.

In the event where we have information that a child at the school can become involved in such a situation, or we have concerns that they might, we will contact the police and MASH for advice and support.

Domestic abuse

The school is aware that domestic abuse, whether that be physical, verbal, financial or otherwise and whether it be experience directly or indirectly, can have a seriously detrimental effect on the wellbeing of a child.

If concerns are raised regarding domestic abuse, we will contact MASH and, if appropriate, the police for advice and support.

If the police are called to a domestic abuse incident where a Grange Farm child is present, a notification is sent to the designated person within the school as part of Operation Encompass. Parents are notified that this process is in operation because it involves information sharing between agencies.

Government advice can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

Fabricated or induced illness

Fabricating or inducing illness in children can represent a form of physical and emotional abuse and neglect.



Where the school has concerns, it will work in partnership with other agencies including healthcare professionals and MASH.

Government advice can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-in-whom-illness-is-fabricated-or-induced>

Faith-based abuse

We are a multi-cultural school and we value the range of different belief systems represented in our community. It is a strength of the school for the children to see members of different cultures, backgrounds and faiths working together as part of one community.

We strive to ensure we have an openness to talking about different faiths both for the children (for example, in the RE curriculum) and also for all adults. Having an open culture for discussing faith reduces the risk of not challenging abusive behaviour on grounds of not understanding about another person's culture. Abuse is abuse regardless of where and how it is carried out and staff are trained to raise concerns whenever they become aware of them.

Government advice can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-action-plan-to-tackle-child-abuse-linked-to-faith-or-belief>

Female genital mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation is the practice of physically altering female genitals. There is no medical purpose for the practice. It is abuse and often leads to serious physical and psychological harm.

All women and girls have the right to have control of their bodies including the right to say "no" to FGM. Staff know that if they are approached by a child with a concern regarding FGM (or if they have any other concerns raised through the behaviour of the child or things they have said) they are to seek immediate advice from a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will refer to MASH and the police.

Government advice can be found that:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>



Forced marriage

Forced marriage is illegal in England and Wales.

Forced marriage is when someone faces physical pressure to marry (for example, threats, physical violence or sexual violence) or emotional and psychological pressure (e.g. if they are made to feel like they are bringing shame on their family).

It is an offence to:

- take someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place)
- marry someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured to or not)

Staff are trained to inform a Designated Safeguarding Lead if they have any concerns regarding Forced Marriage.

Government advice can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>

Gangs or youth violence

The school is aware that even young children can become involved in gang activity and youth violence through a variety of routes including misguidance by others and through coercion.

In the event where we have information that a child at the school can become involved in such a situation, or we have concerns that they might, we will contact the police and MASH for advice and support.

Government advice can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-to-schools-and-colleges-on-gangs-and-youth-violence>

Gender-based violence

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) are serious crimes. Such crimes are recognised by the government as having a huge impact on our economy, health services, and the criminal justice system.

At Grange Farm, we are mindful that all forms of abuse are unacceptable and we will raise concerns through MASH and the police whenever they are



raised. When there is evidence that these involve gender-based aspects, we will include these when we report information to these other agencies.

Government advice can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/violence-against-women-and-girls>

Hate, Extremism and Radicalisation

The government's campaign against hate crime includes an onus on schools to protect children and the wider community against radicalisation and extremism.

Our PSHE, RE and assembly curriculums give opportunities for children to learn positively about cultures throughout the world and our values and behaviour policy focus on tolerance, understanding and acceptance.

Staff receive Prevent training on an annual basis with relevant training updates as necessary in between.

Where we have concerns regarding radicalisation and extremism, we will proactively tackle these in partnership with appropriate agencies including the police and to Channel. Where a child has suffered or is at risk of abuse, we will refer to MASH.

Government advice can be found at:

<http://educateagainsthate.com/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Homelessness

Homelessness can have a significant impact on children's safety and their ability to thrive. Where school has concerns over a child's welfare in this regard, we will aim to engage with a family and instigate an Early Help process if appropriate.

If we are unable to engage or our concerns are greater, we will seek advice from MASH.

(So-called) 'Honour-based' abuse

There is no legal definition of HBV but the Crown Prosecution Service work by the following definition: "'Honour-based' violence is a crime or



incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community."

There is no specific offence of "honour-based" crime". It is an umbrella term to encompass various offences covered by existing legislation. HBV can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

Staff are trained to report to Designated Safeguarding Leads if they have a concern relating to Honour-Based violence (which can link to concerns regarding Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and Gender-based Violence).

Relationship abuse

Relationship abuse can involve physical, sexual and emotional abuse. It can take place within any relationship. If one person in a relationship feels scared, intimidated or controlled, it is a possible this is an abusive relationship. Abusive relationships are never acceptable.

If staff feel relationship abuse if having an effect on any child in school they are trained to report this to a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will refer to MASH as appropriate.

Further advice can be found at:

<https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/relationship-abuse/what-is-relationship-abuse/>

Serious Violence

Serious violence is defined as any violence which could cause serious injury up to and including death. This could be linked to a range of the other issues and concerns described and defined within this policy.

Where a member of staff has a concern that a child has been, or is at risk of being, involved in serious violence (either as perpetrator, onlooker or



victim), this should be directed to a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will seek advice as appropriate from MASH and the police as necessary

Sexual violence or sexual harassment (including peer-on-peer abuse)

Sexual abuse or sexual harassment, either from peers or adults, is always unacceptable. No child should be engaging in sexual activity (either physical, verbal or by watching others engaging in such activity). It is not possible for a child to give consent.

Where a concern is raised either by a child themselves, by another party or due to observation by a member of staff, this will always be directed to a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will seek advice as appropriate from MASH and the police as necessary

Sexting

Sexting is when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video. This includes sending 'nude pics', 'rude pics' or 'nude selfies'. Pressuring someone into sending a nude pic can happen in any relationship and to anyone, whatever their age, gender or sexual preference.

Putting pressure on someone to send a nude pic, or sharing someone's picture without their permission, even if it's a friend and they say it's just banter, is wrong and even illegal.

Any concerns regarding sexting in school should be reported directly to a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will refer to MASH and the police (if appropriate) for advice and support.

Government advice can be found here:

<https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/sexting/what-is-sexting/>

Trafficking and modern slavery

Child trafficking is a very serious issue which can have a devastating and lasting impact on its victims. Children can be trafficked into, within and out of the UK for various purposes. Any child transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim, whether or not they have been forced or deceived. This is partly because it is not considered possible for children to



give informed consent. Even when a child understands what has happened, they may still appear to submit willingly to what they believe to be the will of their parents or accompanying adults. It is important that these children are protected too.

At Grange Farm, we conduct checks as children arrive at school or leave the school roll to ensure we know as much as possible about the context of their movement.

If we have concerns, we refer these to MASH and/or the police.

Government advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-who-may-have-been-trafficked-practice-guidance>

Children missing from education, home or care

The school will also take action to protect;

- Children missing education
- Children missing from home or care

Children Missing Education (Home or Care)

Government advice can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education?mc_cid=d280aae7e1&mc_eid=c75bf8929e

As a school, we follow advice from the LCSB which is available here (Section 8):

http://www.proceduresonline.com/covandwarksscb/p_missing_ch_pol.html#education

More information can be found in the school's [Attendance Policy](#).

Private Fostering

The school have a duty to refer any children who are living in a private fostering arrangement to the local authority.

We will do this through a MASH referral. It is important that parents/carers inform us if a child is going to be staying at an alternative address to that of their primary care-givers for more than 28 days.



Indicators of abuse

See below for possible indicators of abuse. (Taken from *What to do if you are worried a child is being abused*, 2015)

- Children whose behaviour changes – they may become aggressive, challenging,
- disruptive, withdrawn or clingy, or they might have difficulty sleeping or start
- wetting the bed;
- Children with clothes which are ill-fitting and/or dirty;
- Children with consistently poor hygiene;
- Children who make strong efforts to avoid specific family members or friends,
- without an obvious reason;
- Children who don't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in
- physical activities;
- Children who are having problems at school, for example, a sudden lack of
- concentration and learning or they appear to be tired and hungry;
- Children who talk about being left home alone, with inappropriate carers or with
- strangers;
- Children who reach developmental milestones, such as learning to speak or walk,
- late, with no medical reason;
- Children who are regularly missing from school or education;
- Children who are reluctant to go home after school;
- Children with poor school attendance and punctuality, or who are consistently late
- being picked up;
- Parents who are dismissive and non-responsive to practitioners' concerns;
- Parents who collect their children from school when drunk, or under the influence
- of drugs;
- Children who drink alcohol regularly from an early age;
- Children who are concerned for younger siblings without explaining why;
- Children who talk about running away; and
- Children who shy away from being touched or flinch at sudden movements.

The school recognises that the above list of indicators is not exhaustive and staff will receive training on indicators of abuse.