

Whole-School Policy on Child Protection

SCHOOL: RIBBLESDALE HIGH SCHOOL

A. Named staff/personnel with specific responsibility for Child Protection

Academic Year	Designated Safeguarding Lead & 'Back-Up' or Deputy DSL	Nominated Governor
2014-15	I Hemingway (DSL) L Heaton (Deputy DSL)	Janine Atkinson
2015-16	I Hemingway (DSL) L Heaton (Deputy DSL)	Janine Atkinson
2016-17	I Hemingway (DSL) L Heaton (Deputy DSL)	Janine Atkinson
2017-18 (Sept – May)	I Hemingway (DSL) L Heaton (Deputy DSL)	Joanne Geldard
2017 – 18 (June – July)	Z Dewhurst (DSL) L Heaton (Deputy DSL) J Parkinson (Deputy DSL)	Joanne Geldard

B. Training for Designated Staff in School (DSLs should refresh their training every 2 years KCSIE 2016)

Name of Staff Member / Governor	Date when last attended CP Training	Provided by Whom (e.g. LCC, Governor Services)
I Hemingway	18/04/17	LCC
L Heaton	18/04/17	LCC
Z Dewhurst	24/05/18	LCC
J Geldard	24/05/17	LCC Governor Services
Joanne Parkinson	20/04/18	LCC

C. Whole School Child Protection Training (all staff should receive induction and "regular" updated training KCSIE 2016). Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board Best practice guidance for education states that minimally this should be every 3 years.

Who attended (e.g. all teaching and welfare / support staff, Governors, volunteers)	Date	Training Delivered by
New staff	Sept 2014	I Hemingway
All staff level 3 training	Feb 2015	I Hemingway
Key Reminders for staff and induction documentation distributed to new staff.	Sept 2015	I Hemingway
Briefing for student teachers – key messages	Sept 2015	I Hemingway
Safeguarding training all staff	April 2016	I Hemingway
Catch up training.	July 2016	I Hemingway
Safeguarding update	Sept 2016	I Hemingway
Training for all staff	June 2017	I Hemingway
Adoption of Online Safeguarding Training for new starters (records available).	October 2017	Hays
Online Safety Training for teachers / digital leaders and key staff.	May 2018	Rob Musker, LA consultant for Online Safety
All staff completed Online Safeguarding training.	June 2018	Hays
Whole staff training	June 2018	Hays Online Training

D. Safer Recruitment Training in line with KCSiE 2016 at least one person on any recruitment and selection panel has to have undertaken Safer Recruitment training (LCC recommends this is updated every 5 years)

Name of Staff Member / Governor	Date when attended	Provided by Whom (e.g. LCC, Governor Services, on line training)
I Hemingway	January 2018	Hays Online Training
S Cox	July 2015	P Threlfall Safeguarding Ltd
S Cowking	March 2018	Hays Online Training
A Williams	February 2018	Hays Online Training
Jenny Woodward (Chair of Governors)	January 2018	Hays Online Training
Georgina Partington	February 2018	Hays Online Training
Lee Small	January 2018	Hays Online Training
Mark O'Donoghue	February 2018	Hays Online Training
Paul Edge	January 2018	Hays Online Training

Zaneta Dewhurst	January 2018	Hays Online Training
Susan Cowking	March 2018	Hays Online Training
J Geldard (Governor)	October 2015	Hays Online Training
SLT	January 2018	Hays Online Training

Review Date	Changes made	By whom
02/06/15	New policy in place to respond to advice for the Schools Safeguarding Service and changes to statutory responsibilities in April 2015.	Updated I Hemingway (DSL) and approved by governing body.
June 2016	Policy updated and approved.	Governing body
June 2017	Policy updated and approved.	Governing body
June 2018	Amended to include new DSL	Updated by Z Dewhurst (DSL)

E. Review dates for this policy (annual review required KCSIE 2016)

1. PURPOSE OF A CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

An effective whole school child protection policy is one which provides clear direction to staff and others about expected codes of behaviour in dealing with child protection issues. An effective policy also makes explicit the school's commitment to the development of good practice and sound procedures. This ensures that child protection concerns and referrals may be handled sensitively, professionally and in ways which prioritise the needs of the child.

2. INTRODUCTION

This policy was written by Mary Aurens, previously the Schools Safeguarding Officer, Lancashire County Council, based on the previous template which originated in the Child Protection Information Pack 2004 and has been updated on an as and when required basis and acknowledges that it did and does include information from the CAPE sample school policy. It has been adapted to fit the particular context of Ribblesdale High School.

All schools are expected to play their part in keeping children safe. These responsibilities are set out in section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (made under section 94 of the Education and Skills Act 2008). These require Governing Bodies and Proprietors to ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at the school.

This policy updates the LA sample template policy issued last in April 2014 and is in response to Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and Section 94 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 and:

- Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board 'Safeguarding Children Procedures' (2011) - www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildrenboard/
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) (DfE 2016) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- Working Together To Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (DfE 2015); <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
- What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused (DfE 2015) [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416455/What to do if you re worried a child is being abused.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416455/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)

RHS fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children and support pupils in school'.

There are three main elements to our Child Protection Policy'.

(a) **Prevention:**

Creating a positive school atmosphere, teaching and pastoral support to pupils where children have opportunities to have a voice and that their wishes and feelings are listened to and taken into account.

(b) **Protection:**

By following agreed procedures, ensuring staff are trained to recognise possible signs and symptoms of abuse and are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to child protection concerns.

(c) **Support:**

To pupils and school staff and to children who may have been abused.

This policy applies to all adults, including volunteers, working in or on behalf of the school.

3. SCHOOL COMMITMENT

We recognise that high self- esteem, confidence, peer support and clear lines of communication with trusted adults helps all children, and especially those at risk of or suffering abuse.

Our school will therefore:

- (a) Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to. That they have opportunities to talk and their wishes and feelings are sort, listened to and taken into account. The school's form tutor system places teaching staff in a key role in terms of daily contact and care. In addition, Pastoral Co-ordinators (non-teachers linked to specific year groups) offer freely available advice and support.
- (b) Ensure that children know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty. This is clearly indicated on posters throughout school. In addition messages are clearly established during transition, and are reinforced regularly through assemblies, CASCADE sessions in form tutor time and the PHSE curriculum.
- (c) Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe and / or communicate their fears or concerns about abuse.
- (d) Include in the curriculum material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills. To enable them to develop to their full potential and enter adulthood successfully.
- (e) Ensure that every effort will be made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies.

4. FRAMEWORK

Effective safeguarding systems are those where:

- The child's needs are paramount, and the needs and wishes of a child, should be put first, so that every child receives the support they need before a problem escalates;
- All professionals who come into contact with children and families are alert to their needs and any risks of harm that individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to those children;
- All professionals share appropriate information in a timely way and can discuss concerns about an individual child with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and recognise their responsibilities in sharing information with the local authority children's social care where they feel that appropriate action has not been taken by the DSL or their concerns have not been taken seriously.
- High quality professionals are able to use their expert judgement to put the child's needs at the heart of the safeguarding system so that the right solutions can be found for each individual child;
- All professionals contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote the child's welfare and take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the child against specific and outcomes.
- Child protection is the responsibility of *all* adults and especially those working with children. The development of appropriate procedures and the monitoring of good practice are the responsibilities of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Body/proprietor should ensure that:

- There is a clear accountability for the commissioning and / or provision of services designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- There is a senior board level lead to take leadership responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements (e.g. nominated governor) the school has a child protection policy and procedures in place which are provided to and read by all staff – including temporary staff and volunteers on induction.
- Policy is in accordance with government guidance and refer to locally agreed inter-agency procedures put in place by the LSCB, are updated annually, and available publicly either via the school or college website or by other means.
- All staff read at least part one of DfE statutory Guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education* all staff undertake appropriate child protection training a senior member of the school's leadership team is designated to take lead responsibility for child protection (Designated Safeguarding Lead).
- This is explicit in the DSL's job description (Annex B KCSiE) and there is always "cover for the role" i.e. a backup DSL.
- The DSL has the appropriate authority and the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters, to take part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings – and/or to support other staff to do so – and to contribute to the assessment of children.
- A designated teacher is appointed to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after by the local authority.
- The school has a staff code of conduct provided to all staff – including temporary staff and volunteers, on induction.
- The school operates safe recruitment procedures and makes sure that it adheres to statutory responsibilities to check staff who work with children, taking proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required; and ensures volunteers are appropriately supervised.
- The school has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers that comply with guidance from the local authority and locally agreed inter-agency procedures. The chair of governors is responsible for liaising with the LA and/or partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse being made against the head teacher. There are procedures 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.
- It considers how children may be taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. This may include covering relevant issues through personal, social health and economic education (PSHE), and/or through sex and relationship education (SRE).

- There are procedures in place to handle allegations against other children where services or activities are provided on the school premises by another body, the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place in regard to safeguarding children and child protection and liaises with the school on these matters where appropriate.
- There is an annual review of policies and procedures/safeguarding arrangements. Without delay, any deficiencies or weaknesses regarding child protection arrangements are remedied.

The Headteacher should ensure that:

- the policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body, particularly concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect, are fully implemented and followed by all staff;
- He will be the case manager and liaises with the LA designated officer (LADO) in the event of allegations of abuse being made against a member of staff or volunteer
- He receives appropriate child protection training which is regularly updated.
- He will ensure that sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the staff to discharge their responsibilities, will help to create an environment where all staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and will address any concerns sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with the agreed whistle blowing policies.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should ensure that:

- That there is always cover for this role including arrangements for any out of school provision that the school is responsible for and how managers contact the DSL if they are not in school at the time.

Managing referrals

The DSL will:

- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies
- Refer all cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care
- Liaise with the headteacher to inform him or her of issues ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations

Training

The DSL will access appropriate training carried out every two years in order to:

- 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 the school's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
- Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals
- Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses
- 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

Raising Awareness

The DSL will ensure the school or college's policies are known and used appropriately:

- Ensure the school or college's child protection policy is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies or proprietors regarding this
- Ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect maybe made and the role of the school or college in this
- Link with the LSCB to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding
- Where children leave the school or college ensure their child protection file is copied for any new school or college as soon as possible (LSCB best practice guidance is that this is within 15 working days of the child going off role) but transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.
- School will retain the original CP file in line with National Record Office guidelines along with a record of when and to which establishment the copy was sent. Minimally this will be for all children until their 25th Birthday.

Ensure that all staff and volunteers:

- read at least part one of *Keeping Children Safe in Education*
- be aware of systems within their school which support safeguarding and these will be explained to them as part of staff induction. This includes: the school's child protection policy; the school's staff behaviour policy (sometimes called a code of conduct); and the identity and role of the DSL
- receive appropriate child protection training which is regularly updated
- be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect so that they are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection

- 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 interests of the child
- where there are concerns about a child, raise these with the DSL and ensure that they are recording using the school’s standard proforma and certainly within 24 hours
- understand that, whilst anyone can make a referral to CSC, that the correct school procedure is to report their concerns to the DSL in the first instance. They should however, escalate their concerns for the child if they do not feel those concerns have been taken seriously &/ or procedures have not been followed &/or the child’s situation does not appear to be improving. They can make a referral to CSC by ringing 0300 1236720 and follow this up in writing on the CSC referral form within 48 hours and emailing it securely to cypreferals@lancashire.gov.uk. Prior to this, they can access advice from the safeguarding in education team on 01772 531196

Who is available within the Local Authority to offer advice and support?

Schools safeguarding service	LCC	01772 531196
Tim Booth	LADO	01772 536694
Claire Neville	Schools HR Advisor	01772 530435
Lynn Brewer	Legal Services	01772 530849

It is recognised that child protection is an emotive area of work and staff will be made aware that there are support networks available to them outside to school:- LCC Employee Welfare and Counselling Service 08000 214 154 www.youreap.co.uk or <http://lccintranet2/corporate/web/?siteid=5193&pageid=27239>

6. PROCEDURES

Where it is believed that a child is suffering from, or is at risk of significant harm, we will follow the procedures set out in the document produced by Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (2011) and follow the action chart in the appendices within this policy.

All staff will have access to the Child Protection policy and will work within it.

A copy of the policy will be made publically available via the school’s website or by other means

All parents/carers will be made aware of the school’s responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and that the school will refer all cases of suspected abuse to Children’s Social Care via a statement in the prospectus.

All staff will receive induction documentation on day one including a copy of part one of KCSiE and the school policy.

All staff via staff meetings will be advised of changes to policy and procedures including when the CP policy has been updated.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY (also see Ribblesdale's confidentiality policy).

Confidentiality is an issue which needs to be discussed and fully understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of child protection.

The basic principles of information sharing are the 7 Golden Rules of Information sharing (Data Protection Act 1998 (2008))

Within child protection training will be informed that they must never promise to keep secrets, that if a child asks them to keep a secret they will tell them that they cannot keep secrets and that any information that indicates that they or another child or adult is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed will be shared with DSL's/backup DSL's named within this policy.

See appendix 2 of the attached Procedures template

Professionals can only work together to safeguard children if there is an exchange of relevant information between them. This has been recognised in principle by the courts. Any disclosure of personal information to others, [including Children's Social Care Services], must always have regard to both common and statute law.

Normally, personal information should only be disclosed to third parties (including other agencies) with the consent of the subject of that information (*Data Protection Act 1998, European Convention on Human Rights, Article 8*). Wherever possible, consent should be obtained before sharing personal information with third parties. In some circumstances, consent may not be possible or desirable but the safety and welfare of a child dictate that the information should be shared. The law permits the disclosure of confidential information necessary to safeguard a child or children. Disclosure should be justifiable in each case, according to the particular facts of the case, and legal advice should be sought if in doubt.

9. RECORDS AND MONITORING

Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. Our school is clear about the need to record any concerns held about a child or children within our school, the status of such records and when these records, or parts thereof, should be shared with other agencies.

All concerns regarding children and any disclosures made will be recorded on one of two dedicated school pro-formas. A CP / welfare concern should be recorded in pen on a school 'Notification of CP / Welfare Concern' pro-forma available in the staffroom. A disclosure from a child or about a child should be recorded on a 'Record of Disclosure' pro-forma. Ensure that any document is fully completed and signed and dated. This should then be passed to the DSL / Deputy DSL without delay. This will be done as soon as possible and within 24

hours of the disclosure and then given to the DSL / deputy DSL. It is recognised that in some cases the initial reporting to the DSL will be verbal to enable a timely response to the concerns raised, but a written record should be completed as a matter of urgency thereafter.

The DSL will then make a decision regarding any further action in accordance with the LSCB Continuum of Need and thresholds guidance.

Where a referral to Children's Social Care and/or the police is required, it will normally be the DSL that undertakes this action, but recognising that anyone can make a referral to CSC and/or the police.

The child protection files will be stored under lock and key in a central place and only those who are DSL trained will have open access to them. The DSL/backup DSL will share information on a need to know basis.

Where children leave the school/college will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible and in accordance with LSCB best practice guidance, this will be within 15 working days of the child going off role. It is recognised that best practice is that there will be a verbal handover between the DSL and the DSL at the receiving school/college prior to the file transfer happening. This will be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.

10. SUPPORTING PUPILS AT RISK

Our school recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world in a positive way. This school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Whilst at school, their behaviour may still be challenging and defiant and there may even be moves to consider suspension or exclusion from school.

It is also recognised that some children who have experienced abuse may in turn abuse others. This requires a considered, sensitive approach in order that the child can receive appropriate help and support¹.

This school will endeavour to support pupils through:

- (a) The curriculum, to encourage self-esteem and self- motivation;
- (b) The school ethos, encapsulated in the Ribblesdale Way, which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and which gives all pupils and adults a sense of being respected and valued;
- (c) The implementation of school behaviour for learning policy.
- (d) A consistent approach, which recognises and separates the cause of behaviour from that which the child displays. This is vital to ensure that all children are supported within the school setting;

¹ Guidance for schools on the management and support of young people who display problematic or sexually harmful behaviour, for example is available via school safeguarding team.

- (e) Regular liaison with other professionals and agencies who support the pupils and their families, in-line with appropriate confidentiality parameters;
- (f) A commitment to develop productive, supportive relationships with parents, whenever possible and so long as it is in the child's best interests to do so;
- (g) The development and support of a responsive and knowledgeable staff group trained to respond appropriately in child protection situations.

This policy should be considered alongside other related policies in school e.g. confidentiality and the anti-bullying policy.

We recognise that, statistically, children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse. School staff who work, in any capacity, with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory impairment and/or emotional and behaviour problems will need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

Teachers and other adults in school are well placed to observe any physical, emotional or behavioural signs which indicate that a child may be suffering significant harm. The relationships between staff, pupils, parents and the public which foster respect, confidence and trust can lead to disclosures of abuse, and/or school staff being alerted to concerns.

Definitions

As in the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, a **child** is anyone who has not yet reached his/her 18th birthday.

Abuse and neglect are forms 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. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

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 persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children 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 and how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the 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 a high level of 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 touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

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

- 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 caregivers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

11. TAKING ACTION TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN ARE SAFE.

All staff and volunteers follow the LSCB Child Protection Procedures

www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildrenboard/

It is **not** the responsibility of the school staff to investigate or determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation of abuse or neglect. All staff, however, have a duty to recognise concerns and maintain an open mind. Accordingly, all concerns indicating possible abuse or neglect will be recorded and discussed with the DSL or backup DSL prior to any discussion with parents.

It must also be stressed that children can be exposed to a range of issues and in the home environment examples of these would be where there is domestic abuse, drug or alcohol misuse, parental mental ill health issues, then children may also be particularly vulnerable and in need of support or protection.

Go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildrenboard/ and click on contents and go to CHILDREN IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

a) Staff must immediately report:

- any suspicion that a child is injured, marked, or bruised in a way which is not readily attributable to the normal knocks or scrapes received in play
- any explanation given which appears inconsistent or suspicious
- any behaviours which give rise to suspicions that a child may have suffered harm (e.g. significant changes in behaviour, worrying drawings or play)
- any concerns that a child may be suffering from inadequate care, ill treatment, or emotional maltreatment
- any concerns that a child is presenting signs or symptoms of abuse or neglect
- any significant changes in a child's presentation, including nonattendance
- any hint or disclosure of abuse or neglect received from the child, or from any other person, including disclosures of abuse or neglect perpetrated by adults outside of the family or by other children or young people
- any concerns regarding person(s) who may pose a risk to children (e.g. staff in school or person living in a household with children present) including inappropriate behaviour e.g. inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities; or inappropriate sharing of images.

b) Responding to Disclosure

Disclosures or information may be received from pupils, parents or other members of the public. School recognises that those who disclose such information may do so with difficulty, having chosen carefully to whom they will speak. Accordingly, all staff will handle disclosures with sensitivity. Any child who has communication difficulties will be given access to express themselves to a member of staff with the appropriate skills.

Such information cannot remain confidential and staff will immediately communicate what they have been told to the DSL and make a contemporaneous record using the school pro forma.

12. SAFER SCHOOLS, SAFER STAFF

The School Staffing Regulations require governing bodies of maintained schools to ensure that at least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training.

In line with part three of KCSiE 2016, governing bodies and proprietors will take steps to prevent people who pose a risk of harm from working with children by adhering to statutory responsibilities to check staff who work with children, taking proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required; and ensuring volunteers are appropriately supervised. The school complies with the appropriate procedures.

In line with part four of KCSiE 2016, governing bodies and proprietors will ensure there are procedures in place to handle allegations against members of staff and volunteers. Such allegations should be referred to the LADO at the local authority. There must also be procedures 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.

If the allegation is against a member of staff/volunteer then the Head Teacher is the Case Manager who deals with this and liaises with the Local Authority. If the allegation is against the Head Teacher then the Case Manager who deals with this is the Chair of Governors.

In all instances, the Case Manager has no role of investigation at the onset of the allegation and advice should be sought from the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer for Allegations) 01772 536694 or Safeguarding in Education Team 01772 531196.

Parents or carers of a child or children involved should be told about the allegation as soon as possible if they do not already know. However, there will be some cases that require a strategy discussion with CSC and/or the police and it will be within the strategy discussion that decisions are made as to what information can be disclosed to parents or carers. (KCSiE 2015 para122, p39)

Confidentiality in relation to allegations.

In the event of an allegation being made, our school/college will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity. Parents and carers will be made aware that under s141F of the Education Act 2011, there is a prohibition on reporting or publishing allegations about teachers, this includes via social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter etc. and if breached this could lead to prosecution. If parents or carers wish to apply to the court to have reporting restrictions removed, they will be advised to seek legal advice.

go to : www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildrenboard/
and click on contents and go to Chapter 6 – Safer Workforce

The level of DBS certificate required, and whether a prohibition check is required, will depend on the role and duties of an applicant to work in a school or college, as outlined in this guidance. It is recognised that for most appointments, an enhanced DBS certificate, which includes barred list information, will be required as the majority of staff will be engaging in regulated activity (as defined in KCSiE 2016)

On induction, all staff and volunteers, will be given the LCC Induction Pack and included in this is the Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Staff who work in Education Settings March 2009. They will sign to say that they have had this document and will work within it.

13. USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND CAMERA'S

- Children have their photographs taken to provide evidence of their achievements and to celebrate success.
- Any images or video footage should be stored securely on the school's designated central network drive (M drive or media drive) and must not be kept anywhere else e.g. u drives, pen drives, desktops, memory cards etc.
- Staff, visitors, volunteers and students should ordinarily avoid using their own mobile devices to take or record any images of children for their own records during session times. However, in exceptional circumstances e.g. a school visit or sports fixture personal devices can be used, but images should be transferred to the secure, central storage at school at the first opportunity and the images deleted from the device immediately after transfer.
- Students are not permitted to use their own mobile phones to take or record any images of children for their own records during session times.
- Students are permitted, under supervision, to use the school's mobile devices to take images / video footage but the member of staff must oversee the transfer to secure storage.
- Staff are expected to behave in accordance with guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with children in educational settings, the school's code of conduct, network use policy and the e-learning policy.
- On admission, parents will be asked to sign the consent for photographs to be taken in school or by the media for use in relation to promoting/publishing the school. This consent will last for a maximum of 5 years only.

14. RELATED SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm (child protection). It includes:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with
- the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes and relates to:
 - pupils' health and safety
 - the use of reasonable force
 - meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions
 - providing first aid
 - educational visits and work experience
 - intimate care
 - internet or e-safety
 - appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the local context.
 - rigour with which absence is followed up
 - decision-making process involved in taking pupils off roll

- care taken to ensure that pupils placed in alternative provision are safe at all times

Safeguarding can involve a range of potential issues such as:

- Child sexual exploitation
- Bullying including cyberbullying
- Domestic abuse
- Drugs and/or alcohol
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Faith abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced marriage and honour based violence
- Gangs and youth violence
- Gender based violence/violence against women and girls
- Mental health
- Private fostering
- preventing radicalisation
- Sexting
- Teenage relationship abuse
- Trafficking.

Go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildrenboard/ and click on contents and go to CHILDREN IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

SCHOOL CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that the school Child Protection policy is made publically available and that parents are aware of the fact that all cases of suspected abuse or neglect will be referred to Children's Social Care and the school/colleges' role within this. That staff know the policy and use it appropriately, it is reviewed and updated regularly along with the governing body/ proprietors/management committee.

1. What Should Staff/Volunteers Do If They Have Concerns About A Child or Young Person in School?

Education professionals who are concerned about a child's welfare or who believe that a child is or may be at risk of abuse should pass any information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (**DSL**) in school; this should *always* occur as soon as possible and certainly within 24 hours (see Flowchart at Appendix 1):

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: I Hemingway

The Back-up Designated Safeguarding Lead is: L Heaton

It is these senior colleagues who are responsible for taking action where the welfare or safety of children or young people is concerned. If staff are uncertain about whether

their concerns are indeed 'child protection' then a discussion with their DSL/back up DSL will assist in determining the most appropriate next course of action²:

Staff should never:

- Do nothing/assume that another agency or professional will act or is acting.
- Attempt to resolve the matter themselves, the process in our school is that all concerns are reported to the DSL/backup DSL, if no one who is DSL trained is contactable, then the concerns are reported to the next most senior member of staff.

What should the DSL consider right at the outset?

- Am I dealing with 'risk' or 'need'? (By definition, a child at risk is also a child in need. However, what is the *priority / level and immediacy* of risk / need?)
- Can the level of need identified be met:
 - In or by the school or by accessing universal services/ undertaking a level 2 or 3 CAF/TAF without referral to Children's Social Care or other targeted services
 - By working with the child, parents and colleagues?
- What resources are available to me / the school and what are their limitations?
- Is the level of need such that a referral needs to be made to Children's Social Care which requests that an assessment of need be undertaken? (**Level 4 on the Continuum of Need (CoN)**)
- Is the level and/or likelihood of risk such that a child protection referral needs to be made (i.e. a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm? (**Level 4 on the CoN**))
- What information is available to me: Child, Parents, Family & Environment?
- What information is inaccessible and, potentially, how significant might this be?
- Who do I/don't I need to speak to now and what do they need to know?
- Where can I access appropriate advice and/or support? (Safeguarding in Education Team 01772 531196)
- If I am not going to refer, then what action am I going to take? (e.g. CAF, time-limited monitoring plan, discussion with parents or other professionals, recording etc.)

2. Feedback to Staff Who Report Concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead

Rules of confidentiality dictate that it may not always be possible or appropriate for the Designated Safeguarding Lead to feedback to staff who report concerns to them. Such information will be shared on a 'need to know' basis only and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide which information needs to be shared, when and with whom. The primary purpose of confidentiality in this context is to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

3. Thresholds for Referral to Children's Social Care (CSC)

² Detailed information on possible signs and symptoms of abuse can be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildrenboard, or in part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Where a Designated Safeguarding Lead or back up considers that a referral to CSC may be required, there are two thresholds for (and their criteria) and types of referral that need to be carefully considered:

(i) Is this a Child In Need?

Under section 17 (s.17(10)) of the Children Act 1989, a child is in need if:

- (a) He is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity to achieve or maintain, a reasonable standard of health or development, without the provision of services by a local authority;
- (b) His health or development is likely to be impaired, or further impaired, without the provision of such services;
- (c) He is disabled.

(ii) Is this a Child Protection Matter?

Under section 47(1) of the Children Act 1989, a local authority has a duty to make enquiries where they are informed that a child who lives or is found in their area:

- (a) is the subject of an Emergency Protection Order;
- (b) is in Police Protection; or where they have
- (c) reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm.**

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

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will make judgements around 'significant harm', levels of 'need' and when to refer.

4. CSC Responses to Referrals and Timescales

In response to a referral, Children's Social Care may decide to:

- Provide advice to the referrer and/or child/family;
- Refer on to another agency who can provide services;
- Convene a Strategy Meeting (within five working days);
- Provide support services under Section 17;
- Undertake a Statutory Assessment (completed within 45 working days);
- Convene an Initial Child Protection Conference (within 15 working days of a Strategy Meeting)
(see www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildrenboard - click on contents and go to Chapter 3; Managing Individual Cases where there are Concerns about a Child's Safety and Welfare - Procedures)
- Accommodate the child under Section 20 (with parental consent);

- Make an application to court for an Order;
- Take no further action.
- Step down to Early Support

5. Feedback from Children's Social Care

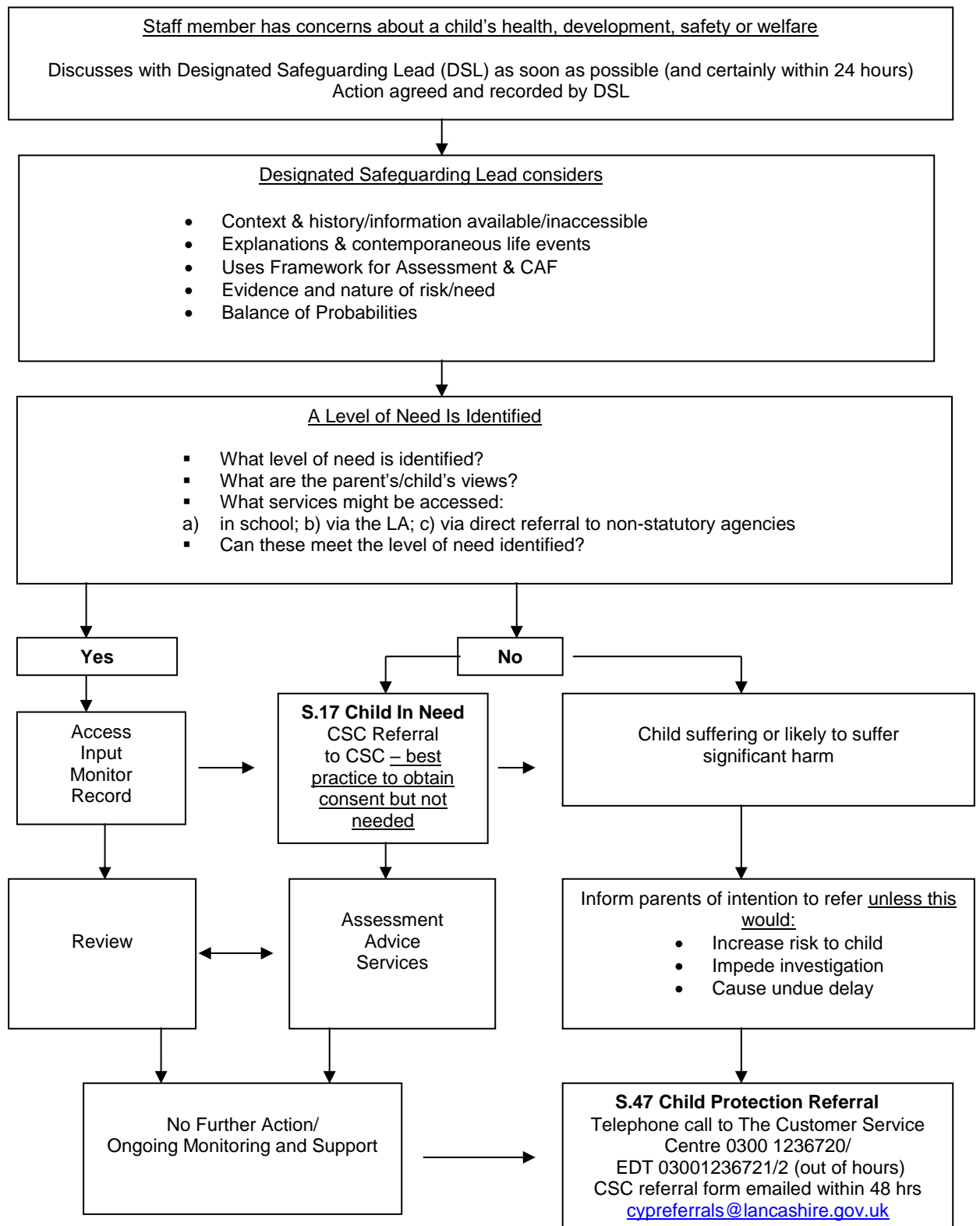
Upon receiving referral, Children's Social Care will decide on a course of action. They should acknowledge receipt of a written referral within **ONE** working day. If the referrer has not received an acknowledgement within **THREE** working days they should make contact with the relevant manager in the Children's Social Care Team. The Children's Social Care manager is responsible for ensuring that the referrer and the family (provided this does not increase any risk to the child) are informed of the outcome of the referral and reasons for supporting the decision. This will be done as soon as possible and, in all cases, within a **maximum of 7 working days**

6. Risk Assessment 'Checklist'

- Does/could the suspected harm meet the LSCB definitions of abuse?
- Are there cultural, linguistic or disability issues?
- I am wrongly attributing something to impairment?
- Does the chronology indicate any possible patterns which could/do impact upon the level of risk?
- Are any injuries or incidents acute, cumulative, episodic?
- Did any injuries result from spontaneous action, neglect, or intent?
- Explanations consistent with injuries/behaviour?
- Severity and duration of any harm?
- Effects upon the child's health/development?
- Immediate/longer term effects?
- Likelihood of recurrence?
- Child's reaction?
- Child's perception of the harm?
- Child's needs, wishes and feelings?
- Parent's/carer's attitudes/response to concerns?
- How willing are they to cooperate?
- What does the child mean to the family?
- What role does the child play?
- Possible effects of intervention?
- Protective factors and strengths of/for child (i.e. resilience/vulnerability)
- Familial strengths and weaknesses?
- Possibilities?
- Probabilities?
- When and how is the child at risk?
- How imminent is any likely risk?

- How grave are the possible consequences?
- How safe is this child?
- What are the risk assessment options?
- What are the risk management options?
- What is the interim plan?

APPENDIX 1: TAKING ACTION ON CHILD WELFARE/PROTECTION CONCERNS IN SCHOOL



APPENDIX 2: TALKING AND LISTENING TO CHILDREN

If a child wants to confide in you, you *SHOULD*

- Be accessible and receptive;
- Listen carefully and uncritically, at the child's pace;
- Take what is said seriously;
- Reassure children that they are right to tell;
- Tell the child that you must pass this information on;
- Make sure that the child is ok;
- Make a careful record of what was said (see *Recording*).

You should *NEVER*

- Investigate or seek to prove or disprove possible abuse;
- Make promises about confidentiality or keeping 'secrets' to children;
- Assume that someone else will take the necessary action;
- Jump to conclusions, be dismissive or react with shock, anger, horror etc.;
- Speculate or accuse anybody;
- Investigate, suggest or probe for information;
- Confront another person (adult or child) allegedly involved;
- Offer opinions about what is being said or the persons allegedly involved;
- Forget to record what you have been told;
- Fail to pass this information on to the correct person (the Designated Senior Leader).

Children with communication difficulties, or who use alternative/augmentative communication systems

- While extra care may be needed to ensure that signs of abuse and neglect are interpreted correctly, any suspicions should be reported in exactly the same manner as for other children;
- Opinion and interpretation will be crucial (be prepared to be asked about the basis for it and to possibly have its validity questioned if the matter goes to court).

The LA's Child Protection Information Pack (2004) provides guidance on these issues insofar as children with disabilities/complex needs are concerned – See Document C4.

Recordings should

- State who was present, time, date and place;
- Be written in ink and be signed by the recorder;
- Be passed to the DSL or backup immediately (certainly within 24 hours);
- Use the child's words wherever possible;
- Be factual/state exactly what was said;
- Differentiate clearly between fact, opinion, interpretation, observation and/or allegation.

What information do you need to obtain?

- Schools have **no investigative role** in child protection (Police and Children's Social Care will investigate possible abuse very thoroughly and in great detail, they will gather evidence and test hypotheses – leave this to them!);
- Never prompt or probe for information, your job is to listen, record and pass on;
- Ideally, you should be clear about what is being said in terms of **who, what, where and when**;
- The question which you should be able to answer at the end of the listening process is 'might this be a child protection matter?'
- If the answer is yes, or if you're not sure, record and pass on immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead /Head Teacher/line manager.

If you do need to ask questions, what is and isn't OK?

- **Never** asked closed questions i.e. ones which children can answer yes or no to e.g. Did he touch you?
- **Never** make suggestions about who, how or where someone is alleged to have touched, hit etc. e.g. top or bottom, front or back?
- If we must, use only '**minimal prompts**' such as 'go on ... tell me more about that ... tell me everything that you remember about that'
- Timescales are very important: '**When was the last time this happened?'** is an important question.

What else should we think about in relation to disclosure?

- Is there a place in school which is particularly suitable for listening to children e.g. not too isolated, easily supervised, quiet etc.?
- We need to think carefully about our own body language – how we present will dictate how comfortable a child feels in telling us about something which may be extremely frightening, difficult and personal;
- Be prepared to answer the 'what happens next' question;
- We should never make face-value judgements or assumptions about individual children. For example, we 'know that [child.....] tells lies';
- Think about how you might react if a child DID approach you in school. We need to be prepared to offer a child in this position exactly what they need in terms of protection, reassurance, calmness and objectivity;
- Think about what support **you** could access if faced with this kind of situation in school.

APPENDIX 3: Children's Social Care

Referrals

Lancashire

The Customer Service Centre 0300 123 6720
email address for referrals cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk
Emergency Duty Team (Out of Hours) 0300 123 6721/3

Customer Service Contact Numbers in neighbouring Local Authorities:-

Blackburn with Darwen 01254 666400 EDT 01254 587547

Blackpool 01254 477299

Cumbria 0333 240 1727

North Yorkshire 01609 536993 EDT 0845 0349417

St Helens 01744 676600 or 0300 6500 148 EDT 0845 0500 148

Wirrell 0151 606 2008 EDT 0151 604 63501

Sefton 0845 140 0845 EDT 0151 9208234

Rochdale 0300 303 0440 EDT 0300 303 8875

Bradford 01274 437500 EDT 01274 431010

Wigan 01942 828300 EDT 0161 834 2436