



# Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy



## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2024/2025

School Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre - Head Teacher Lisa Clarke

### Named Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (Nursery School & Children's Centre) - Lisa Clarke (HT)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Rowan Smith (DHT)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Denise Ramdial (BCM)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Comet Children's Centre) – Saddiqa Begum
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Comet@Thomas Fairchild CC) – Natasha Soares
- Nominated Safeguarding Governor – Maria Endersbee
- Chair of Governors – Fran Paffard

### Named personnel with designated responsibility regarding allegations against staff

- Designated Senior Managers – Lisa Clarke and Rowan Smith
- Chair of Governors – Fran Paffard
- Nominated Governor – Fran Paffard

### Safeguarding & Child Protection policy review dates

Review Date	Changes made/Details of action plan	Review Due Date	By Whom
September 2018	Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018	September 2019	Kerri MacFarland
September 2019	Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019	September 2020	Kerri MacFarland
September 2020	Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020	September 2021	Lisa Clarke
September 2021	Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021	September 2022	Lisa Clarke
September 2022	Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022	September 2023	Lisa Clarke
September 2023	Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023	September 2024	Lisa Clarke
September 2024	Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024	September 2025	Lisa Clarke

## Introduction

Everyone at **Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre** who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. Comet staff are particularly important in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as we are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children, to prevent concerns from escalating. Our staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. Comet will work with Children and Families Service, the police, health services and other relevant agencies to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

This policy applies to all staff, including volunteers, contractors and/or apprentices, working in or on behalf of the school and provides information about the actions the school expect from all staff members, it will be updated annually and known to everyone working at Comet and the governing body. It will be available to parents on request and via our website.

This policy is written in line with statutory guidance for schools and colleges; [Keeping Child Safe in Education \(2024\)](#), [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2023\)](#) and [London Child Protection Procedures \(5<sup>th</sup> Edition\)](#).

Everyone working at Comet shares the objective to help keep children and young people safe by:

- Providing a safe environment for children and young people to learn and develop in our school setting;
- Identifying and responding to 'early help' needs of children and families by providing 'support for children of all ages that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse
- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- Identifying children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home and in our school setting;
- Maintaining a culture of vigilance and an attitude of 'It could happen here'.
- Encouraging good attendance

## Comet's Commitment

Comet is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of our pupils. Each pupil's welfare is of paramount importance. Throughout this document 'children' includes everyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

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

Child Protection refers to:

***Procedures and actions undertaken regarding children who are at risk of being seriously harmed or have been significantly harmed.***

We at Comet recognise that:

- Some children may be especially vulnerable to abuse including those missing education or with a special educational need or disability;
- Children who are abused or neglected may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world in a positive way; subsequently whilst at school their behaviour may be challenging;
- Children can be both victims and perpetrators of abuse;
- Children who harm others may have been maltreated themselves;
- Allegations against staff can be made, however careful and safe our recruitment practices.

## The Comet approach to Safeguarding Children

Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre will ensure all staff are aware of their safeguarding and child protection responsibilities and that they are able to identify children and young people where concerns about their safety and welfare arise. We will ensure all staff and pupils know they can raise issues with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy DSL) and that their concerns will be taken seriously. There will always be a DSL on site or on call and these staff members will have appropriate training and understanding of how to manage concerns in an effective way with the welfare of children and young people as their primary focus.

This policy adheres to the following concepts from the United Nations Convention on The Rights of the Child:

**Non-discrimination** - All the rights apply to all children equally regardless of their race, sex, religion, language, disability, opinion or family background. (Article 2)

**Best interests of child** - When adults or organisations make decisions which affect children, they must always think first about what is best for the child. (Article 3)

**The child's view** - Children have the right to say what they think about anything which affects them. When courts or official organisations make decisions which affect children, they must listen to what children want and feel. (Article 12)

**Comet is a Rights Respecting School Silver award holder and has been successful in gaining the IQM award.**

## Roles and Responsibilities

### All staff and volunteers will:

Fully comply with the school's policies and procedures, attend appropriate training and inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead of any concerns, read Part 1 of [Keeping Child Safe in Education \(2024\)](#)

### Our Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) (DSL) will:

#### With regards to referrals

- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise within our school and have access to the online London Child Protection Procedures;
- Consult with and/or refer cases of suspected abuse or allegations to Children and Families Service and maintain a record of all referrals;
- Liaise with the Headteacher to inform them of any issues and ongoing investigations and ensure there is always cover for this role;
- Attend and contribute to safeguarding and child protection meetings as appropriate;
- Monitor and support Child in Need and Child Protection plans, reporting any unauthorised absences to the child's social worker as soon as possible;
- Keep detailed, accurate and securely stored written or electronic records;

## Training

- Recognise how to identify signs of abuse and know when it is appropriate to make a referral to Children and Families Service;
- Have knowledge of the [CHSCP Escalation Policy](#), the [Local Authority Designated Officer](#) (LADO) role, the conduct of a child protection case conference and be able to attend and contribute to these;
- Ensure that all staff have access to and understand the school's safeguarding policy;
- Ensure that all staff have induction safeguarding training and receive regular updates;
- Access resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses at least every two years.

## Raising Awareness

- Ensure the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is updated and reviewed annually and work with the Governing Body regarding this;

- Ensure parents are made aware of the safeguarding policy which alerts them to the fact that referrals may be made and the role of the school in this to avoid conflict later;
- Where a child leaves the school, ensure the child protection file is transferred to the new setting to the new school separately from the main pupil file, as well as ensure the pupil's Social Worker is informed.

**Our Head Teacher, Lisa Clarke will ensure that:**

- The policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body or Proprietor are fully implemented, and followed by all staff;
- All pupils are provided with opportunities throughout the curriculum to learn about safeguarding, including keeping themselves safe online, relationship education and extra-familial risks including exploitation;
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the deputy to carry out their roles effectively including the assessment of pupils, the attendance initial child protection conferences, core group and other necessary meetings;
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice regarding children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with the agreed [Whistle Blowing Policy](#);
- They have completed Safer Recruitment training;
- The procedure for managing allegations against staff is known to staff and displayed in staff rooms;
- Operate the procedure for managing allegations effectively and refer relevant concerns to the [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\)](#);
- That anyone who has harmed or may pose a risk to a child is referred to the DBS;
- A senior manager is appointed to deal with allegations against staff in the absence of the Headteacher.

**Our Governing Body will ensure that:**

- The school has a safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures in place that are in accordance with statutory guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures, and the policy is made available to parents on request and via our website;
- The school operates safer recruitment procedures and makes sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on staff and volunteers who work with children;
- The school follows the [5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the London Child Protection Procedures](#) and the statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#) for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers;
- A senior member of the school's leadership team is designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding (and deputy);
- There is a named Governor lead for safeguarding and Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) within the school;
- Staff undertake appropriate safeguarding/child protection training, including online safety at regular intervals and that it is in line with advice from safeguarding partners;
- The school have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and review their effectiveness;
- Ensure the DSL/Deputy DSL takes responsibility for understanding the filtering and monitoring system as part of their role;
- Ensure that staff understand the expectations of filtering and monitoring and that it is part of safeguarding training;
- Comply with the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnerships 11 auditing requirements;
- They remedy, without delay, any deficiencies, or weaknesses regarding safeguarding arrangements;
- A Governor is nominated to be responsible for liaising with the LA and /or partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Headteacher;
- Where services or activities are provided on the school premises by another group or individual, the school will check they have appropriate policies and procedures in place regarding safeguarding children and have 'hire agreements' with external groups and individuals;

- Policies and procedures are reviewed annually and provide information to the Local Authority about them and about how the above duties have been discharged.

### **Supporting Children and Working in Partnership with Parents**

- Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre recognises that children's welfare is paramount. Good safeguarding, child protection practice and securing good outcomes for children relies on a positive, open and honest working partnership with parents/carers;
- Whilst we may, on occasion, need to make referrals to Children and Families Service without consultation with parents, we will make every effort to maintain a positive working relationship with them whilst fulfilling our duties to protect children;
- Children will be given a proper explanation (appropriate to age & understanding) of what action is being taken on their behalf and why;
- We will endeavour to preserve the privacy, dignity and right to confidentiality of the child and parents/carers whilst discharging our statutory duties;
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will determine which members of staff 'need to know' personal information for the purpose of supporting and protecting the child on the principle of those working directly with children will need to know;
- Staff will not be enabled to share this information further without the expressed permission of the DSL.

### **Information about Safeguarding for Pupils**

Through the curriculum pupils are taught to understand and manage risks they may encounter during school life and work out with staff how these risks may be overcome; taking into account their wishes and feelings. They are regularly reminded about online safety and bullying procedures and behave in a responsible and respectful manner. Opportunities are provided for children to learn about democracy and the rule of law, positive relationships and safe choices.

All families know there is Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) responsible for their child's safety and welfare and who this is and that they have a right to speak to this member of staff, or any other, if they are worried or concerned. If a child speaks to a member of staff they are reminded that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, but that they will be listened to, heard and informed of what steps can be taken to protect them from harm and that feedback will be sought, so that their views about actions are known. There is a display in the school identifying the DSLs.

### **A Partnership Approach**

Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre recognises that it is essential to establish positive and effective working relationships with other agencies that are partners of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership. There is a joint responsibility on all these agencies to share information to ensure the safeguarding of all children and work together to secure positive outcomes.

### **Definition of Abuse**

A form of maltreatment. Someone may abuse, neglect or exploit 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. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children can be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children (child on child abuse). Children's Social Care will be notified if any professional suspects that a child is either suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm. Significant harm may constitute a single traumatic event or a build-up of concerns or a series of incidents over time.

There may be additional barriers to recognising signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation of children who have additional needs and/or disabilities. We aim to be aware of any potential vulnerabilities of the children in our care and of their families. The law recognises the following categories of abuse under the Children Act (1989).

### **Identifying children who may be at risk or may have been significantly harmed**

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

### **Taking action to ensure that children are safe at school and home**

All staff must read and follow the statutory guidance for schools and colleges; [Keeping children safe in education 2024 - part one \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/912612/Keeping-children-safe-in-education-2024-part-one.pdf)

It is not the responsibility of the school staff to investigate welfare concerns or determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation. Accordingly, all concerns regarding the welfare of pupils will be recorded and discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead prior to any discussion with parents/carers.

### **All School 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;
- Behaviours which give rise to suspicions that a child may have suffered harm;
- Any concerns that a child may be suffering from inadequate care, ill treatment, or emotional maltreatment;
- Concerns that a child is presenting signs or symptoms of abuse or neglect;
- Any significant changes in a child's presentation, including non-attendance;
- Any hint or disclosure of abuse about or by a child or young person;
- Concerns regarding person(s) who may pose a risk to children (e.g. those living in a household with children present);
- Information which indicates that the child is living with someone who does not have parental responsibility for them for a period of more than 28 days ([Private Fostering](#));

### **Responding to Disclosure**

Disclosures or information that a child has been harmed may be received from pupils, parents/carers, other professionals or members of the public. The 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. Such information cannot remain confidential and staff will immediately communicate what they have been told to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and make a record using clear, straightforward language.

Staff will not investigate but will, wherever possible, listen, record and pass on information to the DSL in order that s/he can make an informed decision of what to do next.

### **All staff will:**

- Listen to and take seriously any disclosure or information that a child may be at risk of harm;
- Clarify the information without asking leading or probing questions;
- Use CPOMS to create a report about the disclosure/incident and record what the child has said. Use the Cause for Concern Form (Appendix 2) if the child is not registered in the nursery;
- Try to keep questions to a minimum and of an 'open' nature e.g. 'Can you tell me what happened?' rather than 'Did x hit you?'
- Try not to show signs of shock, horror or surprise;
- Not express feelings or judgements regarding any person alleged to have harmed the child;



- Explain sensitively to the child or young person that they have a responsibility to pass the information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- Reassure and support the child or young person as far as possible;
- Not promise secrecy;
- Explain that only those who 'need to know' will be told;
- Explain what will happen next and that the child will be involved as appropriate.

## Neglect

- Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development.
- Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.
- 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 use of inadequate care givers)
  - ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs

## Emotional Abuse

- Persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development
- May involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person
- Not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or making fun of what they say or how they communicate
- 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
- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another
- May involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying)
- Causing children 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

## 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

## Sexual Abuse

- 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
- May involve physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.
- 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.

## Confidentiality

The school will operate with regard to [Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers \(2018\)](#), and have a clear and explicit Confidentiality Policy. However, where there is a concern that the child may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm, the child's safety and welfare must be the overriding consideration.

The school will ensure:

- Information is shared with Children and Families Service and/or Police where the child/young person is or may be at risk of significant harm;
- Pupil's and/or parent's/carer's confidentiality is respected;
- That any information shared is necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure.

## Pupil Information

The school's Retention policy for child welfare and child protection is consistent with Hackney Education guidance, which is known to all staff.

In order to keep children safe and provide appropriate care for them, our school requires accurate and up to date information regarding:

- Names and contact details of persons with whom the child normally lives;
- Names and contact details of all persons with parental responsibility (if different from above);
- Emergency contact details (if different from above);
- Details of any persons authorised to collect the child from school (if different from above);
- Any relevant court orders in place including those, which affect any person's access to the child (e.g. Residence Order, Contact Order, Care Order, Injunctions etc.);
- If the child is or has been subject to a child in need, child protection or care plan;
- Name and contact detail of GP;
- Any other factors which may impact on the safety and welfare of the child.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will collate, securely store and agree access to this information.

All child protection documents will be uploaded onto CPOMS database. Other paperwork for children or incidents that are not regarding children in the nursery will be kept in a safeguarding file which will be securely stored and only accessible to the Headteacher and the Designated Safeguarding Lead. DSL will keep written/electronic records of all concerns, discussions and decisions, including the rationale for those decisions including instances where referrals were or were not made to another agency such as LA children's social care or the Prevent programme. Safeguarding records will be transferred to the school or setting the child moves too electronically, clearly marked 'Child Protection, Confidential, for attention of Designated Safeguarding Lead or through the CPOMS database.

## Action by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in their absence)

Following any information raising concern, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will:

- Consider the child's wishes and feelings, but not promise confidentiality;
- Consider any urgent medical needs of the child;
- Make an immediate referral to Hackney Children and Family Services MASH team if there has been a disclosure and/or allegation of abuse or there are clear grounds for concerns about the child's safety and well-being;

- Consult with a member of the MASH team if uncertain whether or not a referral is required or review action when a child has suffered or is likely to suffer harm or [Early help and threshold criteria for intervention](#).

In consultation with Hackney Children Social Care [If you're worried about a child or young person | Hackney Council](#) MASH team (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) or children's social care in the borough the child resides, decide:

- Wherever possible, to talk to parents, unless to do so may place a child at risk of significant harm, impede any police investigation and/or place the member of staff or others at risk;
- Whether to make a child protection referral to social care because a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm and if this needs to be undertaken immediately;
- Contact the designated officer for safeguarding in another agency if that agency is working with the family;

**OR**

- Not to make a referral at this stage, but retain the information in CPMS;
- If further monitoring is necessary agree who and how this will be undertaken;
- If it would be appropriate to undertake an assessment and/or make a referral for other services.

All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented. All referrals to Social Care for children living Hackney needs to be completed using the [MASH referral form \(google.com\)](#). For children living outside Hackney the local authority where the child is resident will be contacted.

### **Action following a Safeguarding Referral**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead or other appropriate member of staff will:

- Maintain contact with the child's allocated Social Worker;
- Contribute to any Strategy Discussion and/or Strategy Meeting as required;
- Provide a report for, attend and contribute to any [Initial and Review Child Protection Conference](#);
- Report to and attend the [Extra-Familial Risk Panel](#) as appropriate;
- Share the content of this report with the parent/carer, prior to the meeting;
- Attend Core Group Meetings for any child subject to a Child in Need Meeting for any child subject to a Child in Need Plan or Child Protection Plan;
- Where a child on a Child Protection Plan moves from the school or goes missing, immediately inform the child's Social Worker.

### **Dealing with Disagreements and Escalation of Concerns**

Effective working together depends on an open approach and honest relationships between agencies and professionals. Problem resolution is an integral part of professional co-operation and joint working to safeguard children. Occasionally situations arise when workers within one agency feel that the actions, inaction or decisions of another agency do not adequately safeguard a child. The [CHSCP Escalation Policy](#) defines the process for resolving such professional difference and should be read alongside the London Child Protection Procedures and relevant internal policies on escalating matters of concern.

Professional disagreements can arise in a number of areas, but are most likely to arise around:

- Levels of need;
- Roles and responsibilities;
- The need for action;
- Progressing plans and communication.

Where professionals consider that the practice of other professionals is placing children at risk of harm, they must be assertive, act swiftly and ensure that they challenge the relevant professionals in line with this policy and be aware that:

- The safety of children and young people is the paramount consideration in any professional activity;
- Resolution should be sought within the shortest timescale possible to ensure the child is protected;
- As a guide, professionals should attempt to resolve differences through discussion within one working week or a timescale that protects the child from harm (whichever is shortest);
- Disagreements should be resolved at the lowest possible stage.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead or other appropriate member of staff will:

- Contact the line manager in Children and Families Service if they consider the response to a referral has not led to the child being adequately safeguarded and follow this up in writing;
- Contact the line manager in Children and Families Service if they consider that the child is not being adequately safeguarded by the child protection plan and follow this up in writing;
- Use the [CHSCP Escalation Policy](#) if this does not resolve the concern.

### **Safer Recruitment and Selection**

Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre pays full regard to the statutory guidance for schools and colleges; [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2024\) – Part Three: Safer Recruitment](#). We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works in the school and who is therefore likely to be perceived and experienced by the children as a safe and trustworthy adult. This includes volunteers, supervised volunteers and staff employed by contractors. We follow the Hackney Safer Recruitment and DBS policy.

Safer recruitment practice includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic/vocational qualifications, obtaining professional references, checking previous employment history and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. It also includes undertaking interviews and checks with the [Disclosure and Barring Service](#) (DBS). Shortlisted candidates will be informed that the school may carry out online checks as part of the due diligence process.

See Appendix 5: Flowchart of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal record checks and barred list checks.

In line with statutory changes, underpinned by regulations, the following will apply:

- DBS and barred list checks will be undertaken for all posts that are deemed regulated activity, and for all other posts an enhanced DBS check will be undertaken unless they are supervised roles that are deemed not to meet the definition of regulated activity;
- This school is committed to keeping an up to date [Single Central Record](#) detailing a range of checks carried out on our staff;
- All new appointments to our school workforce who have lived outside the UK will be subject to additional checks as appropriate;
- Our school ensures that supply staff have undergone the necessary checks and will be made aware of this policy;
- Identity checks that must be carried out at interview and on all appointments to our school workforce before the appointment is made, in partnership with the Local Authority (LA);
- Staff responsible for recruiting and appointing must be suitably qualified.

### **Safe Practice**

Our school will comply with the current [Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children](#)



[and Young People](#) and ensure that information in this guidance regarding conduct, is known to all staff, visitors and volunteers who come into the school.

Safe working practice ensures that pupils are safe and that all staff:

- Are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions;
- Work in an open, honest and transparent way;
- Work with other colleagues where possible in situations that could be open to question;
- Discuss and/or take advice from school management over any incident which may give rise for concern;
- Record any incidents or decisions made;
- Apply professional standards respectfully in relation to diversity issues;
- Be aware of information-sharing and confidentiality policies;
- Are aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in criminal or disciplinary action being taken against them.

### **Positive Handling**

School staff, including volunteers, are empowered to physically restrain pupils with 'reasonable force' only to prevent them from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder. Most of the classroom staff have been trained in the Team Teach approach

School staff will familiarise themselves with the Department for Education's guidance [files \(hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk\)](https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk) follow the school's Behaviour Policy. The school will offer training to staff in appropriate use of physical intervention and/or restraint.

### **School Training and Staff Induction**

The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and Governor with designated responsibility for safeguarding will undertake appropriate safeguarding and child protection training, which includes online safety training and refresher training at two yearly intervals.

All other school staff, including non-teaching staff, will undertake appropriate induction training and safeguarding/child protection training to enable them to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding effectively, which will be updated regularly, including a yearly update. The school will maintain a register of who has undertaken training and when.

All staff (including temporary staff, volunteers, supervised volunteers and staff employed by contractors) are provided with the school's safeguarding policy and informed of school's safeguarding arrangements on induction. The school will maintain a register of who has received this information and when.

### **Support, Advice and Guidance for Staff**

Staff will be supported by Lisa Clarke (DSL), Rowan Smith (DSL), Denise Ramdial (Deputy DSL), Cihan Oral (CC Deputy DSL) and Saddiqa Begum (CC Deputy DSL). The DSL will be supported Fran Paffard (CoG).

The DSL will know how to access the online London Child Protection Procedures, be aware of the CHSCP's work and policies alongside HLT's guidance.

If you are not sure whether or not to make a safeguarding referral you can contact the MASH team to discuss your concerns on **020 8356 5500** during office hours and **020 8356 2710** out of hours.

### **Allegations regarding person(s) working in or on behalf of the school (including volunteers)**

[Keeping children safe in education 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)

Where an allegation is made against any person working in, or on behalf of, the school that he or she has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children (refer to statutory guidance for schools and colleges);

Whilst we acknowledge such allegations may be false, malicious or misplaced, we also acknowledge they may be founded. It is, therefore, essential that all allegations are investigated properly, in line with agreed procedures and outcomes are recorded. All school staff will maintain a culture of vigilance based on the notion that 'it could happen here'. Staff are expected to maintain highly professional behaviours and appropriate professional boundaries at all times in line with the [Code of Conduct](#). Staff will be encouraged to use the [Whistle Blowing Policy](#) if they have concerns regarding the conduct or behaviour of a colleague and they feel that matter has not been addressed appropriately by the school.

#### **Initial Action by person receiving or identifying an allegation or concern**

- Treat the matter seriously and keep an open mind;
- Make a report on CPOMS of the information, including the time, date and place of incident/s, persons present and what was said;
- The Headteacher or designated person (unless the allegation is against the Headteacher or designated person, in which case the Chair of Governors must be reported to) will be alerted through the CPOMS database.

#### **Initial Action by the Headteacher**

- Obtain written details of the concern or allegation, but do not investigate or interview child, adult or witnesses;
- Contact the [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\)](#) within 1 working day through an online form;
- Discuss with the DO next steps using the London Child Protection Procedures Flow Charts Allegations/Concerns Against Staff (Appendix 4,5,6);
- Inform the Chair of Governors of the allegation.

#### **Subsequent Action by the Headteacher (or designated person)**

- In consultation with the LADO conduct a disciplinary investigation, if an allegation indicates the need for this;
- Contribute to the child protection process by attending professional strategy meetings;
- Maintain contact with the LADO;
- Ensure clear and comprehensive records regarding the allegation, and action taken and outcome are retained on the staff member's personnel file;
- Consider along with Human Resources and the LADO whether a referral to the DBS should be made.

#### **Further Information on Safeguarding Issues**

Safeguarding covers more than the contribution made to child protection in relation to individual children. It also encompasses issues such as pupil health and safety, bullying, arrangements for meeting the medical needs of children providing first aid, school security, drugs and substance misuse, gang related activity and promoting positive behaviour. Determining the most appropriate agency to consult with or refer to should be made by referring to the [Children and Young People's Services Resource Guide for Professionals](#).

#### **Bullying**

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text

messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical.

While bullying between children is not a separate category of abuse and neglect, it is a very serious issue that can cause considerable anxiety and distress. At its most serious level, can have a significant effect on a child's wellbeing and in very rare cases has been a feature in the suicide of some young people.

All incidences of bullying, including cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying must be reported and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. If the bullying is particularly serious, or the anti-bullying procedures are deemed to be ineffective, the Headteacher and the DSL will consider implementing safeguarding procedures. For further information please see the [DfE's Guidance](#).

### **Online Safety**

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

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material;
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users;
- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.

The school recognises that its pupils will have access to mobile phones at home and computers at some time at school. They are a source of fun, entertainment, communication and education. However, we know that some men, women and young people will use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts and emails, to enticing children to engage in sexually harmful conversations, behaviours, web cam photography or face-to-face meetings. The school has an E-Safety Policy.

All staff will have training for online safety which includes the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities of filtering and monitoring. Including the risk of abuse both online and offline.

### **Filters and monitoring**

Governing bodies should be doing all that they reasonably can to limit children's exposure to the above risks from the school IT system. As part of this process, governing bodies should ensure their school has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place. Whilst considering their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and provide them with a safe environment in which to learn, governing bodies should consider the age range of their pupils, the number of pupils, how often they access the IT system and the proportionality of costs vs risks. The appropriateness of any filters and monitoring systems are a matter for individual schools and colleges and will be informed in part by the risk assessment required by the Prevent Duty.

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published guidance as to what "appropriate" might look like: [UK Safer Internet Centre](#). Whilst filtering and monitoring are an important part of the online safety picture for schools and colleges to consider, it is only one part. Governors should consider a whole school approach to online safety. This will include a clear policy on the use of mobile technology in the school. Whilst it is essential that governing bodies ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place, they should be careful that "over blocking" does not take place.

The DSL (Deputy DSL) is responsible for the filtering and monitoring process and provide staff training of this area.

### **Staff training**

Governors should ensure that, as part of the requirement for staff to undergo regularly updated safeguarding training (paragraph 74) and the requirement to ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including online (paragraph 78), that online safety training for staff is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the



overarching safeguarding approach. Information and support.

There is a wealth of information available to support schools and colleges to keep children safe online. The following is not exhaustive but should provide a useful starting point:

- [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- [www.disrespectnobody.co.uk](http://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk)
- [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)
- [www.childnet.com/cyberbullying-guidance](http://www.childnet.com/cyberbullying-guidance)
- [www.pshe-association.org.uk](http://www.pshe-association.org.uk)
- <http://educateagainsthate.com/>

### **Photography and Images**

The vast majority of people who take or view photographs or videos of children do so for entirely understandable and acceptable reasons. However, some people abuse children through taking or using images, so we must ensure that we have safeguards in place.

To protect pupils we will:

- Seek their consent for photographs to be taken (for e.g. on our website or in newspapers or publications);
- Seek parental consent;
- Use only the pupil's first name with an image;
- Ensure pupils are appropriately dressed;
- Only use school equipment to make images of children (no personal devices are permitted for this purpose);
- Encourage pupils to tell us if they are worried about any photographs that are taken of them.

### **Children who are absent from Education**

A child who has unexplainable and persistent absence from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. School staff will follow the [Safeguarding Children Practice Guidance: Children Missing from School from the London Child Protection Procedures](#) for dealing with children that are absent from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of being absent in the future. We will refer all cases of concern to the MASH team as our provision is non-statutory however as a school we will monitor attendance and follow our school procedures to keep children safe.

### **Children who harm others**

Our school recognises that the harm caused to children by the harmful and bullying behaviour of other children can be significant. Children who harm others should be held responsible for their harmful behaviour and the school staff alerted to the fact that they are likely to pose a risk to other children in the school, home and community.

Where this harm involves sexual abuse, serious physical or serious emotional abuse, the safeguarding procedures set out in this policy will be applied. This school recognises that children who harm others are likely to have considerable needs themselves and may have experienced or be experiencing significant harm themselves.

Where a child has caused significant harm to another child, through sexual abuse or serious physical or emotional abuse, the school will make separate referrals to Children and Families Service of the victim(s) and perpetrator(s).

Such children and young people are likely to be children in need, and some will, in addition, be suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm, and may themselves be in need of protection. Children and young people who abuse others should be held responsible for their abusive behaviour, while being identified and responded to in a way that meets their needs as well as protecting others.

The London Borough of Hackney have produced [guidance regarding Multi-agency Planning \(MAP\) Meetings for children and young people who present a risk of demonstrating harmful sexual behaviour](#).

Our school will be mindful of the sections in the [London Child Protection Procedures concerning 'Harming Others'](#) and work closely with social care, the police and other agencies following a referral.

### **Child on child Abuse**

[Child on child abuse](#) is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised between children and within children's relationships (both intimate and non-intimate). Child on child abuse can take various forms, including: serious bullying (including cyber-bullying), relationship abuse, domestic violence, child sexual exploitation, youth and serious youth violence, harmful sexual behaviour, and/or gender-based violence.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse 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 clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

The definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:

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

Child sexual exploitation is a complex form of abuse and it can be difficult for those working with children to identify and assess. The indicators for child sexual exploitation can sometimes be mistaken for 'normal adolescent behaviours'. It requires knowledge, skills, professional curiosity and an assessment which analyses the risk factors and personal circumstances of individual children to ensure that the signs and symptoms are interpreted correctly and appropriate support is given. Even where a young person is old enough to legally consent to sexual activity, the law states that consent is only valid where they make a choice and have the freedom and capacity to make that choice. If a child feels they have no other meaningful choice, are under the influence of harmful substances or fearful of what might happen if they don't comply (all of which are common features in cases of child sexual exploitation) consent cannot legally be given whatever the age of the child.

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

One of the key factors found in most cases of child sexual exploitation is the presence of some form of exchange (sexual activity in return for something); for the victim and/or perpetrator or facilitator.

Where it is the victim who is offered, promised or given something they need or want, the exchange can include both tangible (such as money, drugs or alcohol) and intangible rewards (such as status, protection or perceived receipt of love or affection). It is critical to remember the unequal power dynamic within which this exchange occurs and to remember that the receipt of something by a child/young person does not make them any less of

a victim. It is also important to note that the prevention of something negative can also fulfil the requirement for exchange, for example a child who engages in sexual activity to stop someone carrying out a threat to harm his/her family.

Whilst there can be gifts or treats involved in other forms of sexual abuse (e.g. a father who sexually abuses but also buys the child toys) it is most likely referred to as child sexual exploitation if the 'exchange', as the core dynamic at play, results in financial gain for or enhanced status of, the perpetrator. Where the gain is only for the perpetrator/facilitator, there is most likely a financial gain (money, discharge of a debt or free/discounted goods or services) or increased status as a result of the abuse. If sexual gratification, or exercise of power and control, is the only gain for the perpetrator (and there is no gain for the child/young person) this would not normally constitute child sexual exploitation, but should be responded to as a different form of child sexual abuse.

If, as a school, we are concerned a child is being sexually exploited we will follow the procedures set out in this document and make reference to the [guidance provided by CHSCP](#). This further [Governmental guidance](#) can be useful when considering cases of CSE.

### **Child Criminal Exploitation**

As set out in the [Serious Violence Strategy](#), published by the Home Office, criminal exploitation is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

### **County Lines**

As set out in the Serious Violence Strategy, published by the Home Office, County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money, and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

### **Operation Encompass**

Operation Encompass operates in all police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the police will inform the key adult (usually the designated safeguarding lead) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can enable immediate support to be put in place, according to the child's needs. Operation Encompass does not replace statutory safeguarding procedures. Where appropriate, the police and/or schools should make a referral to children's social care if they are concerned about a child's welfare. More information about the scheme and how schools can become involved is available via Hackney Education Safeguarding Team.

### **Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges**

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any sex. They can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual

harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable. It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. Schools and colleges should consider the following:

- It is more likely that girls will be the victims of sexual violence and more likely that sexual harassment will be perpetrated by boys. Schools and colleges should be aware of the importance of:
- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and
- challenging behaviours (which are potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts, vaginas and penises. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them. • Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can be especially vulnerable. Disabled and deaf children are three times<sup>103</sup> more likely to be abused than their peers. Additional barriers can sometimes exist when recognising abuse in SEND children;

‘Upskirting’ has now become a criminal offence and therefore requires a safeguarding responses if happening in school.

When, we as a school, consider issues of sexual violence and harassment between children we will consult the [governmental guidance](#) and seek support from our Children and Families Service partners.

### **Contextual Safeguarding**

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

Therefore Children and Families Service practitioners and school staff need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.

If, as a school, we are concerned a child is being exploited in an extra-familial context, as previously outlined, we will follow the procedures set out in this document and consult or refer to Children and Families Service.

### **Extra-Familial Risk Panel**

Hackney [Extra Familial Risk Panel \(EFRP\)](#) co-ordinates safeguarding intervention in cases where a child, or a group of children are:

- At risk of, or already experiencing harm caused by people outside their family and/or;
- At risk of, or already causing harm to young people outside their family.

### **Domestic Abuse**

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. The statutory definition of domestic abuse, based on

the previous cross-government definition, ensures that different types of relationships are captured, including ex-partners and family members. The definition captures a range of different abusive behaviours, including physical, emotional and economic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour. Both the person who is carrying out the behaviour and the person to whom the behaviour is directed towards must be aged 16 or over and they must be “personally connected” (as defined in section 2 of the 2021 Act).

Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of sexual identity, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home. The government will issue statutory guidance to provide further information for those working with domestic abuse victims and perpetrators, including the impact on children.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of peer on peer abuse is sometimes referred to as ‘teenage relationship abuse’. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of ‘domestic abuse’ (if one or both parties are under 16). However, as with any child under 18, where there are concerns about safety or welfare, child safeguarding procedures should be followed and both young victims and young perpetrators should be offered support. The Act’s provisions, including the new definition, will be commenced over the coming months.

As a school, if we are concerned about the life lived experience of children who are, or may be, living in a household where domestic violence and abuse are present, we will adhere to our safeguarding procedures and consult with Hackney MASH. To inform our decision making we will consult with the [information provided by Hackney Council](#).

### **Children with special educational needs and disabilities**

Children with special educational needs (SEND) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges, with [research stating](#) that SEND children can be up to four times more likely to be abused due to additional vulnerabilities. As a school we will ensure a culture of vigilance that reflects the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These can include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child’s disability without further exploration;
- The potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

### **Female Genital Mutilation**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM.

If, we as a school, are concerned we will follow the procedures set out in this document and make reference to the [guidance provided by CHSCP](#).

Where a teacher discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl who is aged under 18, there is a mandatory duty upon that individual to report it to the [police](#).

### **FGM Mandatory Reporting Duty**

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers, along with social workers and healthcare professionals, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies.

#### **Further information on so-called ‘honour-based’ violence**

So-called ‘honour-based’ violence (HBV) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving “honour” often involves a Draft for consultation 67 wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. If in any doubt, staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV, or already having suffered HBV.

#### **Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism**

We as a school will fulfil our responsibilities under the [Prevent Duty](#), it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools’ wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

We aim to build pupils’ resilience to radicalisation by [promoting fundamental British values](#) and enabling them to challenge extremist views. The Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, the school will provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments. We will be mindful of the risk of children being exposed to extremist materials via the internet.

If, as a school, are concerned we will follow the procedures set out in this document and make reference to the [guidance provided by CHSCP](#).

#### **Extended School and Off-Site Arrangements**

Where extended school activities are provided by and managed by the school, our own safeguarding policy and procedures apply. If other organisations provide services or activities on our site we will check that they have appropriate procedures in place, including safer recruitment procedures.

When our pupils attend off-site activities, including day visits and/or other activities, we will check that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place. We will also undertake appropriate and robust risk assessments for the venue, location and activity to be undertaken in accordance with the school’s Risk Assessment procedures.

Organisations using the school premises must follow the school’s safeguarding procedures and inform the LADO if there is a safeguarding allegation made.

#### **Hackney Key Contacts and Guidance**

Useful Contact Details:

- MASH: 020 8356 4844/5500
- Hackney Out of Hours: 020 8356 2710
- Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) @ Police: 020 8217 6537

- Hackney Education Safeguarding in Education Team: 020 8820 7255
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 020 8356 4569
- City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership: 020 8356 4183
- NSPCC- 24-hour Helpline: 080 8800 5000
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS): [www.gov.uk/db](http://www.gov.uk/db)

#### **Useful guidance documents:**

Hackney Well-being Framework and Resource Guide:

<https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/system/files?file=extranet/Children%20and%20Young%20Peoples%20Services%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>

London Child Protection Procedures:

<http://www.londoncp.co.uk/>

Working Together to Safeguard Children:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419595/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)

Keeping Children Safe in Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

What to do if you are worried a child is being abused:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419604/What\\_to\\_do\\_if\\_you\\_re\\_worried\\_a\\_child\\_is\\_being\\_abused.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)

Information Sharing Guidance for Practitioners:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419628/Information\\_sharing\\_advice\\_safeguarding\\_practitioners.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419628/Information_sharing_advice_safeguarding_practitioners.pdf)

London Borough of Hackney Code of Conduct:

[http://staffroom.hackney.gov.uk/code\\_of\\_conduct\\_policy\\_booklet.pdf](http://staffroom.hackney.gov.uk/code_of_conduct_policy_booklet.pdf)

HLT Whistle Blowing Policy:

[Whistleblowing Policy | Hackney Services for Schools](#)

#### **Monitoring Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to monitor the effective deployment of this policy. This has been delegated to the Learning and Development Committee. We have a duty to review the child protection and safeguarding policy, including online safety, annually, and to make sure the procedures and implementation are reviewed and monitored regularly.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Governors

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Head teacher

Review Date: September 2025

## Appendix 1

### Safeguarding Alert Form (Page 1):



**To be used for children and incidents who do not attend the nursery school.**

Name of child:	Date & time of incident:
Location of incident:	Date & Time of record:
Name of person reporting:	Signature of person reporting:



Concern/Incident – Describe your concern using clear, straightforward language:

Opinion: How does this fit with what you know about the child?

Next Step

No action

Monitor

Speak to parents

Referral

**Appendix 1****Safeguarding Alert Form (Page 2) – Body Map**

This body outline can be used to record marks and/or bruises and the date of occurrence or observation and should be kept in the Child Protection File of the child.

