



Safeguarding Policy

Dyddiad Cymeradwyo a Dyddiad Adolygu
Date Approved and Review Date

Gweler Cynllun Adolygu Polisiau
See Policy Review Timetable

Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Safeguarding Personnel and Contact Numbers:

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All staff will have access to this policy which can be found on Google Drive. All staff will sign to the effect that they have read and understood its contents.

Everyone in Education Services shares an objective to help keep children and young people safe.

'Because of their day-to-day contact with individual children during school terms, teachers and other school staff are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop.' (*Working Together under the Children Act 2004*)

Keeping Learners Safe – Welsh Government Circular 158/2015 states:-

'Everyone who works in education should share the same goals to keep children and young people safe'. We do this by:-

- *creating and keeping safe places to learn*
- *Identifying where there are welfare concerns and taking the right action*
- *Helping children and young people to be aware and understand how to stay safe*

We reach these goals by:-

- *Stopping unsuitable people working with children and young people*
- *Having safer practice in place*
- *Challenging poor or unsafe practice*
- *Identifying when there's an issue or concern about a child's welfare and taking actions*
- *Working together with other services*

Welsh Government safeguard children and young people by making sure they follow requirements of:-

- The Children Act 1989
- The Education Act 2002
- The Children Act 2004
- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002
 - Welsh Government Circ 158/2015 Keeping learners Safe
- The Equality Act 2010
- All Wales Child Protection Procedures (2008)
- Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989 – these include 4 key articles relevant to children and education (Article 12/19/28/29)
- The Rights of Children & Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011
- 'Prevent Duty Guidance' for England & Wales – on the duty in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Welsh Government Circular No 002/2020 Safeguarding Children in Education – Handling allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff
- Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019

1. PURPOSE OF A SAFEGUARDING/CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

An effective whole-school child policy is one which provides clear direction to staff and others about their duties and responsibilities in dealing with safeguarding and 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 safeguarding/child protection concerns and referrals may be handled sensitively, professionally and in ways which support the needs of the child.

Our school 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 (e.g. positive school atmosphere, teaching and pastoral, support to pupils).
- b) Protection (by following agreed procedures, ensuring staff 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 staff and volunteers working in the school TO include governors, learning Support Assistants, mid-day supervisors, caretakers, administration as well as teachers, any of whom could be the first point of disclosure for a child.

As well as applying to the list of people set out above, it imposes personal obligation upon them:-

All staff MUST record and report any child protection issues, concerns or suspicions to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the school (RB), as soon as it is identified and Practically possible and in any case, within 24 hours to the Children and Family Service (as per telephone number on the front page of this policy).

3. SCHOOL COMMITMENT

We recognise that for our pupils, high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and clear lines of communication with a trusted adult can help with the prevention and identification of child abuse. Our school will therefore:

- a) Establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- b) Ensure that pupils know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty.
- c) Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE, which equip pupils with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse. Further information about these activities and opportunities can be obtained from the school's PSHE coordinators.
- d) Include in the curriculum material, which will help pupils develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to child care and parenting skills. Further information about this material can be obtained from the school's PSHE coordinators.
- e) Ensure that wherever possible every effort will be made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies.
- f) Ensure compliance with the new Curriculum and Ace Agenda in Wales by attending appropriate training and securing a co-ordinated and evidenced based approach in how we work in our school by making the best use of services available to support the health and wellbeing of our pupils.

4. FRAMEWORK

Schools do not operate in isolation. 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 Regional Safeguarding Children's Board.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. General Safeguarding - All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to protect children. There are, however, key people within schools and the Education Services who have specific responsibilities under child protection procedures. These responsibilities are also outlined in 'Keeping Learners Safe (Circular 158/2015) which is attached. The Headteacher or in his/her absence the Deputy Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) (previously known as the Child Protection Coordinator) have this responsibility within schools. The Headteacher will ensure that all school staff should be aware of who the nominated Designated Safeguarding Persons (DSP's) are, and are aware where the All Wales Child Protection Procedures are situated. All members of staff should also be in receipt of the small Child Protection Leaflet (2010). Any queries regarding procedures or referrals should be directed at the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Education in Conwy.

5.2. It is the role of the designated teacher to ensure that local child protection procedures are followed within the school, and to make relevant referrals to the named agencies according to the guidance given. Additionally, it is their role to ensure all staff employed within the school are aware of the schools internal procedures, to advise staff and to offer support to those requiring this.

5.3It is the role of the Headteacher to make sure that child protection policies are in place, that there are enough resources and time for the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and that all staff and volunteers understand what to do and feel able to raise concerns.

5.4 The roles and responsibilities of the named governor responsible for child protection ensure that the school has an effective policy, that child protection procedures are complied with, and to support the school in this aspect. Governors are not given details relating to specific child protection situations to ensure confidentiality is not breached.

Our Governing Body ensures that the school has a child protection policy and procedures in place that are looked at every year; these are available to parents and carers if they ask; are available in a youth friendly version that pupils can understand; have steps in place to deal with reports against members of staff and support new staff.

5.5. The Education Services Designated Safeguarding Lead provides advice, support, and ensures that appropriate training is undertaken. They can also make referrals to the Regional Safeguarding Children's Board and can raise concerns about procedures on behalf of the school.

5.6 Radicalisation -All members of school are aware of the Welsh Government's published guidance on – **Respect and Resilience; Developing community cohesion – a common understanding for schools and their communities** which sets out the role that schools have in developing and supporting strategic approaches to promoting and maintaining community cohesion and eradicating violent extremism (2011). During 2012 the UK Government launched a refocused **Prevent Strategy – details of which can be found in the 'Keeping Learners Safe Document' (page 51, & 52).**

- As part of our ongoing safeguarding and child protection duties we are fully behind the government's *Prevent Strategy*.
- From 1 July 2015 all schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the *Prevent Duty for Schools*.
 - *The statutory guidance* refers to the importance of *Prevent* awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. The Home Office has developed a core training product for this purpose – Workshop to Raise Awareness of
- Prevent (WRAP). All our Key staff have received WRAP training sessions from North Wales Police on what *Prevent* is about and how to deal with any issues they may see inside or outside school.

5.7 Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) Act - All members of staff are aware of this Act, which has been implemented since April 2016. The Act fundamentally changes the way social services work. Wellbeing underpins the whole system, linking through to the role that early intervention and prevention can play in promoting wellbeing. Safeguarding reforms under this Act include a strengthened legal framework for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Act reinforces existing safeguarding arrangements for children through the introduction of a new duty to report to the local authority any child suspected of being at risk of, or experiencing, abuse or neglect, including vulnerable adults.

Prevention and early intervention are critical to successful outcomes in supporting families, particularly those with complex needs. Co-operation across the school makes a real difference. (added April 18 not translated)

5.8 Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 The Act is a landmark piece of legislation, breaking new ground as the first law of its kind in the UK. The Act received Royal Assent on 29 April 2015 and seeks an improved collective public sector response, stronger leadership and a more consistent focus on the way we tackle these issues in Wales and help victims, but more importantly it seeks to stop the abuse happening in the first place.

The Act has a focus on education; Local Authorities will be required to report how they are tackling these issues, including school, for example through lessons on healthy relationships. The Act also provides Welsh Ministers with powers to publish guidance documents to help relevant authorities meet the aims of the Act. These will include: the National Training Framework, Ask and Act, Commissioning, Perpetrators, Older People and Multi Agency Collaboration.

The Act addresses domestic abuse and sexual violence perpetrated against all people in Wales, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation, it also addresses violence perpetrated against a woman or man arising directly or indirectly from values, beliefs or customs relating to gender or sexual orientation. There is also no age limit on the Act so children who witness or experience such violence or abuse and older people are included.

In our school we have completed HwB modules regarding this topic, these are completed every few years.

6. PROCEDURES

We will follow the procedures set out in the All Wales Child Protection Procedures and the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019, will be implemented in further training to staff.

Adhere to the procedures set out in the Welsh Government circular 002/2013: 'Disciplinary and Dismissal Procedures for School Staff'

Ensure that recruitment and selection procedures are made in accordance with Welsh Government guidance, 'Keeping Learners Safe' Circular 158/2015

Pay due regard to the 'Prevent Duty Guidance' for England & Wales – the duty in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Pay due regard to any other new specific pieces of legislation that come into force.

- All Staff are kept informed about child protection procedures, through induction, briefings and awareness training – and staff are to be kept informed regularly who the nominated person is and his/her deputy in his/her absence

- All staff will have a face to face interview on induction for new staff, outlining safeguarding procedures and responsibilities, and these interviews will be recorded and filed appropriately

- Other adults visiting the school (e.g. peripatetic teachers, learning support staff) will be advised of the schools policy and the named person to whom they should raise any concerns with.
- A statement in the school brochure will inform parents and carers about our school's duties and responsibilities under the All Wales Child Protection Procedures and Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019.
- Notify the local social service team if:-
 - A pupil on the child protection register is excluded either for a fixed term or permanently and • If there is an unexplained absence of a pupil on the child protection register for more than two days from the school (or one day following a weekend)
 - When a pupil on the child protection register leaves we will transfer information to the new school immediately and inform Children & Family & Safeguarding Service.
 - Refer immediately to any child protection concerns to the appropriate Departments. • Refer immediately any concerns in relation to a vulnerable adult (eg parent)
 - Input any safeguarding concerns and information onto our new 'My Concern' safeguarding system, which is used within Conwy schools.

7. TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Our school will ensure that the head teacher (who is normally the senior designated person or named person), one other second nominated member of staff and the nominated governor for child protection attend training relevant to their role on an annual basis. All staff will undertake awareness raising training during their induction (this should be recorded and put on file) into the school and periodically to refresh and update their knowledge and understanding. Support will be available for staff from the headteacher in the first instance, and from other members of the school's management team where there are concerns or queries about child protection. School staff should know their personal responsibilities, and agree to local procedures, be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse, and know how to support a child who discloses abuse.

All front-line staff will be expected to complete e-learning modules via hwb on an annual basis, as directed by Education Services and the Designated Safeguarding Lead. All ancillary staff will be expected to complete training on a three yearly basis to update their knowledge and skills.

Staff working in the school, who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm may find the situation upsetting and/or professionally and morally difficult. Staff will be supported either by their supervision who may consider further support from the school Designated Person, Local Authority Safeguarding Lead and/or Occupational Health and HR.

Designated Senior Persons can also access Peer support via the Community of Good Practice group, which facilitates networking support from other Leads and LA staff.

8. PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENTIALITY

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 only purpose of confidentiality in this respect is to benefit the child. A member of staff must never guarantee confidentiality to a pupil nor should they agree with the pupil to keep a secret, as where there is a child protection concern this must be reported to the named person and may require further investigation by appropriate authorities. This would lead to a breakdown in trust of adults by the pupil and could potentially compromise their wellbeing and safety. The named person (the headteacher or designated senior person in our school) will invoke the local agreed guidelines and procedures, where there is a cause for concern. Staff will be informed of relevant aspects in respect of child protection on a 'need to know basis' only. Any information shared with a member of staff in this way must be held confidentially to themselves.

9. Allegations made against Members of Staff

The school will follow the Welsh Government Circular No:009/2014 Safeguarding Children in education – Handling allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff. The Head Teacher and Designated Senior Person will ensure that they are fully aware of the relevant legislation and guidance in relation to procedures required when an allegation is made against a professional. (Guidance can be found on www.wales.gov.uk).

All staff understand and would follow the procedures if an allegation is made against any member of staff and in the case of the Head Teacher, would alert the Governor responsible for Safeguarding/Chair of Governors.

9. Whistleblowing:

Please adhere to the school's whistle blowing policy.

Whistleblowing Governor: In the event that you do not feel able to follow the school's whistle blowing policy but remain concerned you must discuss your concerns with an appropriate body. In this situation you could contact the Local Authority, the Police, Social Services or the NSPCC helpline.

10. RECORDS AND MONITORING

Well-kept records are essential to good safeguarding child protection practice. Our school is clear about the need to record any concerns held about a child/children, INCIDENT OR DISCLOSURE within our school, the status of such records and when these records should be passed over to other agencies. A RECORD will be made of the concern raised and action taken. These RECORDS are kept in a confidential and SECURE MANNER.

11. SAFER RECRUITMENT

The school is committed to the principles of safer recruitment and, as part of that, adopts recruitment procedures that help deter, reject and/or identify people who might pose a risk to children. Safe recruitment processes are followed as per the Welsh Government's Keeping Learners Safe Guidance 158/2015, chapter 5.

All relevant members of staff and governors who are involved in recruitment will undertake safer recruitment training. The school will ensure that at least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken the above training.

The school will ensure that safer recruitment processes are robust in terms of DBS, risk assessments, publicity materials, recruitment website, advisements, candidate information etc. The school will adhere to the Local Authority Recruitment Procedures and the Welsh Government Safer Recruitment Guidance.

12. SAFE SCHOOL, SAFE STAFF

- Many of our pupils may have difficulty in talking about sensitive issues and some lack the vocabulary for this. Staff must/will be aware of the pupil's preferred style of communication and their individual additional needs if we are to be able to provide a safe environment for our pupils. When engaging with pupils all staff must/will be aware of the potential for misinterpreting our pupils' efforts to raise a child protection concern or issue.
- Staff working in a one-to-one situation with a pupil should ensure that they are positioned so as to be visible and audible to other staff where there may be a possibility of misinterpretation of their interaction with a pupil.
- School staff are informed about counselling and/or giving advice to children/ young people about sexual matters through the school policy on sex and healthy relationships education.
- School staff are familiar with the Signs of Abuse (Appendix 1_)
- School staff are aware of legislation such as the All Wales Protocol for the Management of Young People Engaged in Sexually Harmful Behaviour; the Child Sexual Exploitation Safeguarding Guidance from Welsh Government, and the HM Government – Prevent Duty Guidance: for England & Wales (guidance for specified authorities in England & Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- School staff work hard to maintain effective partnerships with parents and carers, and they should be aware that this policy might affect this working relationship at a given time. However, we will maintain our commitment to working with parents and carers to the benefit of all pupils. Sensitive and supportive handling of these issues, whilst affirming that the pupils in our care are our first priority, will help maintain this working relationship.
- All staff are required to complete a Disclosure and Barring check, which has replaced the Police Records and CRB checks, prior to taking up their appointment, and to sign a declaration regarding convictions relating to the harm of children during their application process. Staff who deliberately seek to mislead the school in respect of this will be subject to dismissal.

- Where a member of staff is subject to an accusation of abuse, this will be fully investigated under the school's disciplinary procedures and All Wales Child Protection Procedures Part 4. Advice should also be sought from a Senior Officer in Education Services and Conwy's Education Designated Safeguarding Lead. Any suspected or alleged abuse must be reported to Children & Family & Safeguarding Service or the Police.

13. STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

All staff (paid and Voluntary) are expected to adhere to a code of conduct in respect of their contact with pupils and their families. Teaching Standards expect all teachers to safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties. Children will be treated with respect and dignity and no punishments, detention, restraint, sanctions or rewards are allowed outside of those detailed in the schools Behaviour Management Policy. Whilst it would be unrealistic and undesirable to preclude all physical contact between adults and children, staff are expected to exercise caution and avoid placing themselves in a position where their actions might be open to criticism or misinterpretation. Where incidents occur which might otherwise be misconstrued, or in the exceptional circumstances where it becomes necessary to physically restrain a pupils for their own protection or others safety this will be appropriately recorded and reported to the Head teacher and Parents immediately.

For their own safety and protection, staff should exercise caution in situations where they are alone with pupils. Other than in formal teaching situations; for example during musical instrument tuition, the door to the room in which the 1:1 coaching, counselling or meeting is taking place should be left open.

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Where this is not practicable because of the need for confidentiality, another member of staff will be asked to maintain a presence nearby and a record will be kept of the circumstances of the meeting. All rooms that are used for the teaching or counselling of pupils will have clear and unobstructed glass panels in the doors.

School staff should also be alert to the possible risks that might arise from social contact with pupils outside of the school. Home visits to pupils and their families should only take place with the knowledge and approval of the Head Teacher. Any unplanned contact or suspected infatuations or 'crushes' will be reported to the Head teacher immediately.

Staff will only use the school's digital technology resources and systems for professional purposes or for uses deemed 'reasonable' by the Head and Governing Body. Staff will only use the approved school email, school learning platform or other school approved communication systems with pupils or parents/carers and only communicate with them on appropriate school business and will not disclose any personal information e.g. email address or telephone numbers. Staff will not use personal cameras (digital or otherwise) or camera phones for taking and transferring images of pupils or staff without permission and will not store images at home.

Staff should be aware of the schools whistleblowing procedures and all Wales Child Protection Procedures and share immediately any disclosure or concern that relates to a member of staff with the Head teacher or one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads and if the issue is in regards to the Head teacher, then the Chair of Governors should be contacted.

14. Extended school and off-site arrangements:

All extended and off site activities are subject to a risk assessment to satisfy health and safety and safeguarding requirements. Where extended school activities are provided by and managed by the school, our own safeguarding/ child protection 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 and residential visits, we will check that effective safeguarding/ child protection arrangements are in place.

15. VOLUNTEERS

A volunteer is defined as a person who performs an activity which involves spending time, unpaid (except for travel and other approved out of pocket expenses) doing something which aims to benefit someone (individuals or groups).

Any parent or other person/organisation engaged by the school to work in a voluntary capacity with pupils will be subject to all reasonable vetting procedures. Volunteers will be subject to the same code of conduct as paid employees of the school.

16. OUTSIDE PROVIDERS

If the school is calling on the Services of outside providers either within the school or sending pupils off site. The school will ensure that all safeguarding arrangements are robust e.g. that they have checked that the providers have staff who have a current DBS, have undertaken child protection training, the staff know who to contact if an allegation is made, that all health and safety requirements are complied with together with ensuring that any identified risk assessments are adhered to.

17. ATTENDANCE AT CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

The headteacher (or designated senior person/s) will attend a child protection conference called in respect of a pupil. He/she may be accompanied by other relevant staff (eg the pupil's pastoral teacher) if this is of benefit to the pupil. Staff attending such conferences will be offered support and access to appropriate counselling if they wish to receive this.

18. SUPPORTING PUPILS AT RISK OR WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

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. 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 support.

This school will endeavour to support pupils through:

- a) The curriculum to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- b) The school ethos 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 management policies (required under the Code of Practice, 2002 Education Act – currently under revision)
- 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.

- e) Regular liaison with other professionals and agencies that support the pupils and their families.
- f) A commitment to develop productive, supportive relationships with parents, whenever it is in the child's 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. These are the policy for the teaching of PSE, the policy on sex and relationships education, the policy/guidelines for privacy and dignity of our pupils, the policy for management of pupils' behaviour, the health and safety policy, alcohol and substance misuse policy, anti-bullying policy, and food & fitness policy/guidelines, and the duty on schools to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

We recognise that, statistically, children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most 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. It must also be stressed that in a home environment where there is domestic violence, drug or alcohol abuse, children may also be vulnerable and in need of support or protection.

• **Child in Need of Care and Support Plan**

The law about assessment of needs of children in Wales is now in Parts 3 and 4 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. **Sections 37-39 Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014; Care and Support (Eligibility) (Wales) Regulations 2015 and Care and Support (Care Planning (Wales) Regulations 2015; Part 4 Code of Guidance**

A child will be eligible for a service if:

1. the need arises from circumstances such as their age or health
2. and it relates to their personal well-being outcomes
3. and it cannot be met by their parents, wider family or community services
4. And it can only be met by their local authority arranging or providing the service or making direct payments.

If the child is eligible for a service, a **Care and Support Plan** will be agreed.

As a school we will refer as appropriate to Children Services if it is recognised that a child would benefit from a Child in Need of support plan with the permission of the parent/carer.

• **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

CSE is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. Children or young people may be tricked into believing they are in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed online. Some indicators of children being sexually exploited are: going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late, regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education, appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions, associating with other young people involved in exploitation, having older

boyfriends or girlfriends, suffering from sexually transmitted infections, mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing, drug and alcohol misuse and displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.

A Child under the age of 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sex (it is statutory rape) or any other type of sexual touching. Sexual activity with a child under 16 is also an offence. It is an offence for a person to have sexual relationship with a 16 or 17 year old if that person holds a position of trust or authority in relation to the young person. Non consensual sex is rape whatever the age of the victim. If the victim is incapacitated through drink or drugs, or the victim or his or her family has been subject to violence or the threat of it, they cannot be considered to have true consent and therefore offences may have been committed. CSE is therefore potentially a child protection issue for all children under the age of 18.

Where it comes to our notice that a child under the age of 13 is, or may be, sexually active, whether or not they are a pupil of this school. This will result in immediate referral to Children's Services. In the case of a young person between the ages of 13 and 16, an individual risk assessment will be conducted in accordance with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

• **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

The Serious Crime Act 2015 introduces a mandatory reporting duty which requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. Section 130 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act applies to cases covered by the FGM reporting duty. FGM is illegal in the UK.

FGM is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act for the victim and can cause harm in many ways. The practice can cause severe pain and there may be immediate and/or long-term health consequences, including mental health problems, difficulties in childbirth, causing danger to the child and mother and /or death.

FGM is a deeply embedded social norm, practiced by families for a variety of complex reasons. It is often thought to be essential for a girl to become a proper woman and to be marriageable. The practice is not required by any religion. FGM is an unacceptable practice for which there is no justification. It is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls.

• **Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (Sexting)**

Sharing images has become commonplace with the ease of modern technology. Photos and videos can be shared very simply through text messages, email, social media or increasingly via mobile messaging apps, such as Snapchat, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger.

This increase in the speed and ease of sharing imagery has brought concerns about young people producing and sharing sexual imagery of themselves. This can expose them to risks, particularly if the imagery is shared further, including embarrassment, bullying and increased vulnerability to sexual exploitation. Importantly, producing and sharing sexual images of under-18s is illegal.

Guidance has been produced to support schools, colleges and other educational settings in

developing procedures to respond to incidents involving youth produced sexual imagery. It also signposts sources of resources and support. This advice is non-statutory and should be read alongside the Welsh Government's statutory guidance Keeping Learners Safe and our school will adhere to this guidance when responding to incidents of this nature. (The LA has a model policy that can be used if required)

- **BULLYING**

Our Policy on bullying is set out in (a separate document/the school's behaviour policy) and is reviewed annually by the governing body.

- **PHYSICAL INTERVENTION**

Our policy on physical intervention is set out in (a separate document)- the schools behaviour management policy and is reviewed annually by the governing body.

- **Children Missing Education**

Attendance, absence and exclusions are closely monitored. A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. The DSP will monitor absence and take appropriate action including notifying the local authority and following local procedures, particularly where children go missing on repeated occasions and/or are missing for periods during the school day.

- **EHE- Elective Home Education**

When appropriate we will advise the Local Authority of when children leave our school to be electively home educated at the earliest opportunity via the correct form.

- **Young Carers**

As a school we recognise the needs of young carers in that they can be more vulnerable or placed at risk. We aim to be able to identify young carers and ensure they are supported to
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help reach their potential with an understanding that staff and volunteers may need to refer into early help services for an assessment of their needs.

- **Forced Marriage**

The UK Government describe this as taking someone, usually overseas, to force them to marry (whether or not the **forced marriage** takes place) or marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (Coercion may include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure). It may also involve physical or sexual violence and abuse. However the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses. Children may be married at a very young age and well below the age of consent. All Staff should be particularly alert to suspicions or concerns raised by a pupil. Since June 2014 forcing someone to marry has become a criminal offence in England and Wales under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

If at any time the school had a concern regarding a child who this may apply too immediate contact will be made with the relevant agencies for guidance and advice.

- **Private Fostering**

A private fostering arrangement is when a child is cared for consecutively for 28 days or longer by someone who is not a member of that child's immediate family. In such a case the

local authority should be informed. If the school are aware of such an arrangement being in place they must advise the family that the school have a responsibility to inform the local authority and encourage the family to advise the local authority themselves. Advice or a referral can/will be made to relevant agencies when appropriate.

• **Looked after children**

The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and/or neglect. Governing bodies should ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep looked after children safe. Our school has its own designated LAC person. This designated lead will ensure that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility. They are also responsible for ensuring that they also have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the local authority looking after him/her. The designated children in care lead will have details of the child's social worker. They will have drawn up an individual education plan and the designated LAC lead will attend regular training/briefings regardless of whether there are currently children within the school who are in care.

• **Peer on Peer Abuse**

All staff should be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. The reasons for this are complex and are often multi-faceted. We understand that we need as a school to have clear mechanisms and procedures in place to identify and report incidents or concerns. We aim to reduce this behaviour and any related incidents with an expectation to eliminate this conduct in the school.

Peer on peer abuse is a Safeguarding concern and will require a discussion with the DSL who will seek advice from agencies and professionals including reference to the

safeguarding procedures. This will involve in the first instance having a conversation with relevant agencies, e.g. Police, Social Services and Youth Justice Service. Peer on peer is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- Language seen as derogatory, demeaning, inflammatory;
- Bullying, including cyberbullying;
- Gender based violence
- Sexual assaults and harassment
- Sexting

We are working hard as a school to be proactive and to challenge this type of abuse. We aim to use approaches in the curriculum to address and tackle peer on peer abuse.

APPENDIX 1 - Signs of Abuse

These definitions and indicators are not meant to be definitive, but only serve as a guide to assist you. It is important too, to remember that many children may exhibit some of these indicators at some time, and that the presence of one or more should not be taken as proof that abuse is occurring. There may well be other reasons for changes in behaviour such as a death or the birth of a new baby in the family or relationship problems between parents/carers. In assessing whether indicators are related to abuse or not, Social Services will always want to understand them in relation to the child's development and context.

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child either

directly by inflicting harm, or indirectly, 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 a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. There are four types of child abuse. They are defined in the All Wales Child Protection Procedures and Welsh Government guidance *Safeguarding Children: Working Together Under the Children Act 2004* as follows:

Physical abuse

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.

The physical signs of abuse may include:

- unexplained bruising, marks or injuries on any part of the body
- multiple bruises- in clusters, often on the upper arm, outside of the thigh
 - cigarette burns
 - human bite marks
 - broken bones
 - scalds, with upward splash marks
 - multiple burns with a clearly demarcated edge.

N.B. Most children will collect cuts and bruises as part of the rough-and-tumble of daily life. Injuries should always be interpreted in light of the child's medical and social history, developmental stage and the explanation given. Most accidental bruises are seen over bony parts of the body, e.g. elbow, knees, shins, and are often on the front of the body. Important indicators of physical abuse are bruises or injuries that are either unexplained or inconsistent with the explanation given, or visible on the 'soft' parts of the body where accidental injuries are unlikely, e.g. cheeks, abdomen, back and buttocks.

Changes in behaviour that can also indicate physical abuse:

- fear of parents being approached for an explanation
- aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts
- flinching when approached or touched
- reluctance to get changed, for example in hot weather
- depression or withdrawn behaviour
- running away from home.

Emotional Abuse

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 feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger (i.e. living in a domestic abuse environment) 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.

Changes in behaviour which can indicate emotional abuse include:

- neurotic behaviour e.g. sulking, hair twisting, rocking
- being unable to play
- fear of making mistakes
- sudden speech disorders
- self-harm
- fear of parent being approached regarding their behaviour
- developmental delay in terms of emotional progress

Sexual Abuse

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) and through Child Sexual Exploitation.

The physical signs of sexual abuse may include:

- pain or itching in the genital area
- bruising or bleeding near genital area
- sexually transmitted disease
- vaginal discharge or infection
- stomach pains discomfort when walking or sitting down
- Pregnancy

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate sexual abuse include:

- sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour e.g. becoming aggressive or withdrawn
- fear of being left with a specific person or group of people
- having nightmares
- running away from home
 - sexual knowledge which is beyond their age, or developmental level
- sexual drawings or language

- bedwetting
- eating problems such as overeating or anorexia
 - self-harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts
- saying they have secrets they cannot tell anyone about
- substance or drug abuse
- suddenly having unexplained sources of money not allowed to have friends (particularly in adolescence)
- acting in a sexually explicit way towards adults

Neglect

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. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

The physical signs of neglect may include:

- constant hunger, sometimes stealing food from other children
- constantly dirty or 'smelly'
- loss of weight, or being constantly underweight
- inappropriate clothing for the conditions.

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate neglect may include:

- complaining of being tired all the time
- not requesting medical assistance and/or failing to attend appointments ➤
having few friends
- mentioning being left alone or unsupervised

In addition to the types of abuse mentioned above, members of staff will also be alert to specific safeguarding issues AS PER THIS POLICY (see staff handbook).

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Safeguarding Audit tool is completed each year with an action plan to address any outstanding areas.
 - A copy of the Safeguarding Quality Assurance Document should also be read in conjunction to this document.
 - A Child Protection poster highlighting the key designated staff including photographs should be visible around the school.