

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Heart of England School Governing Body

Safeguarding Policy Statement

- This policy sets out how the governing body of Heart of England School is carrying out its statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in accordance with Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 or Section 157 in relation to independent education provisions, academies and post-16 providers
- The safeguarding policy applies to all staff (teaching and non-teaching), governors, volunteers, temporary and supply staff working in the education provision
- This policy will be reviewed annually by the governing body/trust board/management board/proprietor (delete as appropriate) and is in line with the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, August 2018), Keeping Children Safe In Education (DfE, September 2020), Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings Ofsted document (August 2018)
- This policy is made available to parents via the school website

Safeguarding Policy ratified by governing body on:

Governor Lead:	Lesley Markham
Nominated lead member of staff:	Stephen Hawkes
Status and Review Cycle:	Statutory; Annual
Next review date:	December 2021

Chair of Governors: Anne Lycett

Safeguarding Governor: Lesley Markham

Education provision: Heart of England School

HEART OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. The policy applies to all children between the ages of 0-18 whose care and education comes within the remit of this education provision. All children regardless of age, gender, race, ability, sexuality, religion, culture or language have a right to be protected from harm.

Policy Statement:

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play. Children have a right to feel safe and secure and cannot learn effectively unless they do so.

The welfare of our pupils is our paramount concern. Our school is a community and we all (staff, governors, parents, families and pupils) have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure. This includes maintaining an attitude of "it could happen here" where safeguarding is concerned.

We make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment, underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe they are being listened to.

Aims:

To identify key roles and responsibilities for all staff in relation to safeguarding, and emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff (including child protection lead, behaviour lead, attendance lead and special educational needs co-ordinator.)

To provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and in doing so ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities and clear expectations on how this should be adhered to. This demonstrates our commitment to safeguarding; ensuring consistency in practice across the school and links with other relevant policies to safeguard the general welfare of children; (including managing allegations and safer recruitment). This includes appropriate work around safeguarding in the curriculum.

To raise awareness of how we expect all staff and volunteers to respond in the event of a concern about a child or young person, including their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse, in order to safeguard children and young people.

To ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the education provision prospectus. This policy is made available to parents on request and published on Heart of England School's website.

Leadership and Management of Safeguarding

Governing Body

The Governing body is responsible for:

- Ensuring there is a nominated safeguarding governor.
- Liaising with the Principal and/or designated staff over safeguarding matters. This is a strategic role rather than operational; governors will not be involved in concerns about individual pupils
- Supporting the Principal and staff (such as the DSL) in their role by ensuring the allocation of funding and resource is sufficient to meet the current safeguarding activity, through a safeguarding action plan
- Ensuring school leaders report to the governing body at least annually. This should include feedback on self-evaluation activity and the local authority annual review of safeguarding
- Ensure the education provision fully engages with the local authority in their annual review of safeguarding procedures, providing relevant information in a timely manner. The chair of governors should sign to confirm accuracy of the education provisions arrangements, and ensure any concerns are remedied without delay
- Ensure the governing body receive safeguarding training, and the safeguarding governor attends appropriate training in order to guide governors on their strategic responsibilities in order to provide appropriate challenge and support for any action to progress areas of weakness or development in the education provision's safeguarding arrangements
- Ensuring the school has effective safeguarding policies and procedures in place, including a child protection policy and a staff behaviour policy
- Ensuring that training is undertaken at the required frequency by all staff and governors
- Ensuring the school has a broad and balanced curriculum that incorporates safeguarding
- Ensuring the school complies with relevant legislation and local guidance around safeguarding
- Ensuring that there are clear lines of accountability within the school's leadership for safeguarding
- There is a nominated governor (ideally the Chair), who will act as case manager for dealing with allegations of abuse against the Principal, the principal or proprietor or member of the governing body of an independent school. In the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Principal and/or where the Principal is the sole proprietor of an independent school, allegations should be reported to the local authority designated officer (LADO) within one day (see managing allegations policy)
- Under no circumstances should the establishment's governors or trustees be given details of individual cases. Governors or trustees may, however, be provided with a report at the end of the academic year, outlining the number of cases dealt with and other statistics which do not identify individual children

A Governing body checklist is provided in [Appendix 1](#).

Specific Safeguarding Roles in School

The nominated safeguarding governor is: Mrs Lesley Markham. She is responsible for safeguarding and to champion good practice; to liaise with the head teacher and to provide information and reports to the governing body.

The lead Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection is Mr Stephen Hawkes and is a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Principal Jacqueline Hughes-Williams leads on safer recruitment work. (In the event of the recruitment of a Principal, governors will lead the recruitment.)

The **case manager for dealing with allegations of abuse made against school staff members** is the Principal, and should be contacted directly and immediately in the event of a concern. The managing allegations policy details procedures.

The **case manager for dealing with allegations against the Principal** is the chair of governors, who should be contacted directly and immediately in the event of a concern. The managing allegations policy details procedures.

The **designated teacher for Looked After Children** is Ms Anna Hoban and will liaise with the DSL as appropriate.

The **Preventing radicalisation lead** is Mr Gethyn Bennett

The **Behaviour and anti-bullying lead** is Mr Stephen Hawkes

The **Health and Safety** lead is Mr Andrew Livingstone.

The **Attendance** lead is Mr Stephen Hawkes

The **Whistleblowing** lead is Helen Clare, Vice Principal / Malcolm Halliday, Vice Chair of Governors.

Our **local police community support officer (PCSO)** is Emma Harkin and Nicola Donaghy is our (DSO) Designates Schools Office.

The **School Nurse** (or contact) is Samantha Parry.

In the event of an emergency, please dial 999 immediately.

Responsibility and Accountability

The **governing body** is collectively responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are fully embedded within the school's ethos and reflected in the school's day to day practice.

All staff members, governors, volunteers and external providers:

- Are subject to Safer Recruitment processes and checks in relation to their role in the education provision
- Are expected to behave in accordance with the code of conduct and act on any breach of the code of conduct or any concern about a member of staff or volunteer
- Should know how to recognise, respond and take appropriate and timely action to a safeguarding concern

The *Teacher Standards 2012* state that teachers, including headteachers, should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

All staff:

- Have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- All staff have a responsibility to identify children who may be in need of extra help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm
- All staff then have a responsibility to take appropriate action, working with other services as needed

Staff Induction, Training and Development

All staff, including new members of staff and volunteers are given appropriate safeguarding training and induction that includes basic child protection training and health and safety training, familiarisation with the suite of safeguarding policies including the child protection policy, staff code of conduct, chapter one of keeping Children Safe In Education (DfE September 2020). This training and induction is proportionate to their role and responsibilities.

Safeguarding in the School Curriculum

As a school we will educate and encourage pupils to keep safe through the provision of a **broad and balanced curriculum which includes a safeguarding curriculum**. The curriculum (for example history, English, drama, and RE) and in particular the personal, social and health and economic education (PSHE) strand of the curriculum, includes an emphasis on relationships (relationships and sex education), building confidence and resilience in pupils, developing preventative strategies to ensure their own protection and that of others whilst promoting fundamental British Values. Opportunities are provided for pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and strategies they need to stay safe from abuse. For example: assessing risk, positive self-esteem, emotional literacy, assertiveness, and understanding of healthy relationships, sex and relationships education (including consent), online safety, preventing radicalisation, female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation and anti-bullying. This should also include broader work around safety including life skills such as hygiene routines and practices, road safety and independent travel. Clear advice and guidance is built into the curriculum to ensure that pupils understand that there are a range of contacts they can turn to for advice and support and that they know where and how to report abuse.

Supporting Staff Working in Difficult Situations

We recognise that staff working in the school who have become involved with a safeguarding issue which they may find stressful and upsetting. By ensuring clear management oversight of work by senior leaders, we will ensure staff appropriate support in relation to their work.

We will further support staff as necessary, by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with their line manager or other appropriate member of staff, and to seek further support as appropriate. This could include:

- Work related stress risk assessment undertaken by the line manager. The Solihull MBC health and safety team can support in the creation of a work related stress risk assessment
- Access to the Employee Assistance Programme - CIC 0800 085 1376, assist@cic-eap.co.uk, well-online.co.uk - username: sbclogin Password: wellbeing
- Referral to Occupational Health for one-to-one counselling

In the event of a violent incident the violence and aggression at work policy <http://intranet/Coredocs/Healthandsafety/PoliciesGuidance.aspx> and risk assessment should be followed.

Suite of Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

Legal Clarification

Where the education provider requires legal advice, for example, in a private family law case a school may be asked to provide information or report in the context of court proceedings. In this case advice should be sought from legal services. The Solihull MBC duty legal team can be contacted by email on legalsocialcare@solihull.gov.uk. If there request for legal advice is pressing or urgent, please contact the duty solicitor on 0121 704 6002/6003. There may be a charge for this service.

Equality and Diversity

Our equality and diversity policy emphasises our inclusive approach and sets clear expectations around equality and diversity.

We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity for every pupil and equality of access to learning through a curriculum that is free from discrimination, prejudice, harm, stereotyping, harassment, victimisation, and any other form of discrimination, whilst raising awareness of these. This is reflected in:

- The organisation of learning
- Our curriculum
- Our approach to teaching and learning
- How we treat each other, including how we manage behaviour

This commitment is in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 which offers legal protection based on a number of characteristics. These protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Any form of behaviour that discriminates against individuals or groups of people based on these protected characteristics will not be tolerated. We recognise that other people experience discrimination or disadvantage because of other characteristics and factors (including political beliefs, trade union status, criminal record, employment status, social class, home address, culture, language, HIV status, or responsibility for dependents) and will work to minimise discrimination on these basis.

Behaviour and Anti-Bullying

All staff are familiar with our behaviour and anti-bullying policy. This is issued at induction and revisited periodically. Our behaviour and anti-bullying policies provide clear guidance to staff, pupils and parents on rewarding positive behaviour and the use of sanctions for inappropriate behaviour.

The school's anti-bullying policy can be found on the school's website.

Child Protection

Our separate child protection policy sets out the education provision's approach to dealing with any child protection concerns. It includes specific safeguarding issues including sexual violence and sexual harassment, contextual safeguarding, children missing from education (which includes attendance), child sexual exploitation, honour based violence (including female genital mutilation and forced marriage), preventing radicalisation, domestic abuse, substance misuse (drugs and alcohol) and extremism and gangs, youth violence (including knife crime) and peer on peer abuse.

- <http://www.solgrid.org.uk/safeguarding>

A handbook to support designated safeguarding leads in their work is available at

- www.solgrid.org.uk/safeguarding

Relationships and Sex Education

Our Relationships and Sex Education policy outlines the school approach to teaching sex and relationships education across the school and meeting the statutory responsibilities in this area. It is underpinned by our values and complements and is supported by a range of other policies including: policies on behaviour, inclusion, respect for equality and diversity, bullying and safeguarding.

Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

The most common reason for children becoming looked after by the local authority is as a result of abuse and/or neglect. We ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep looked after children safe. We ensure that:

- Appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status (this includes 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
- Appropriate staff have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her
- The designated safeguarding lead has the details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual school head in the authority that looks after the child

The designated teacher for looked after children is responsible for ensuring a personal education plan (PEP) is in place for each looked after child in the school, and liaising with the home local authority virtual school for looked after children to ensure the highest expectations around educational attainment. This includes ensuring that the pupil premium plus for looked after children is appropriately allocated to meeting the aspirational objectives in the PEP. The designated teacher works in partnership with the designated safeguarding lead and the social work team of the home local authority around any safeguarding concerns and placement stability issues. The designated teacher receives appropriate training to undertake the role effectively.

"A previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable and all staff should have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep previously looked after children safe. When dealing with looked after children and previously looked after children, it is important that all agencies work together and prompt action is taken when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group." (KCSIE 20, DfE paragraph 119)

Attendance

We ensure all pupils attend school regularly and act swiftly to address any non-attendance and persistent absence in line with our attendance policy which can be found on the school's website.

Safer Recruitment and Safer Working Practice

Education providers have a responsibility to ensure staff are safely recruited and appropriately vetted in line with their roles and responsibilities. Our safer recruitment policy outlines our approach.

We maintain a single central record which is reviewed by the safeguarding governor regularly. The single central record includes:

- Identity check
- Right to work in the UK check
- Disclosure and barring service check
- Barred list check
- Prohibition form teaching check

- Section 128 Check Prohibition from management check (for independent schools and academies)
- European Community Area Check (ECAC Check)
- Overseas check
- Disqualification from childcare check request (where required)
- Uptake of two references

We ensure visitors to the site are appropriately checked in relation to the purpose of their visit. This includes:

- The level of supervision required while on site. The level of vetting in relation to the purpose of the visit. We also have a responsibility to ensure safe working practice in our provision.

Staff Code of Conduct

All staff are familiar with the code of conduct. This is issued at induction and revisited periodically. Any breach of the code of conduct should be brought to the attention of the Principal where:

- A staff member self-reports that they have breached the code of conduct
- A staff member is concerned by the behaviour of another member of staff who has breached the code of conduct
- It has come to the attention of a member of staff via another source that a staff member has breached the code of conduct

A copy of the policy can be found on the school's U Drive.

Managing Allegations

All staff are familiar with the provisions procedures for managing allegations against staff and volunteers (including governors/trustees), and the provision follows the local authority managing allegations policy.

- An allegation about a member of staff or a volunteer should be brought to the immediate attention of the Principal.
- An allegation about the Principal should be brought to the immediate attention of the chair of governors.
- Allegations can be brought directly to the attention of the local authority duty office.

All concerns should be recorded and a chronology of concerns kept by the case manager (Principal or chair of governors), an example chronology is provided in [Appendix 4](#). We ensure parents are clear about how to raise a concern about a member of staff, volunteer or a pupil (e.g. details on school website, letters to parents, parent induction meetings).

The Principal (allegation against a member of staff or volunteer) or chair of governors (allegation against the Principal) should ensure a timely response, and as case manager, maintain oversight of allegations, including oversight of LADO referrals and ensure a timely response to any allegations raised. A template to support this is provided in [Appendix 5](#).

Whistleblowing

Whistle-blowing is the mechanism by which adults can voice their concerns, made in good faith, without fear of repercussion. 'Whistleblowing' is the term ordinarily used to describe the disclosure of information by an employee about malpractice that is occurring within the organisation. This will include any illegal, immoral, irregular, dangerous or unethical activity under their employer's control. This can cover a broad range of matters, including mismanagement, bribery, fraud and health and safety failures.

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 amended the Employment Rights Act 1996 to protect workers from being dismissed or subjected to a detriment because they have made a 'protected disclosure'.

Protected disclosure is information that, in the reasonable belief of the worker, tends to show that one of the following has occurred, or is occurring, or is likely to occur:

- A criminal offence
- Breach of any legal obligation
- Miscarriage of justice
- Danger to the health and safety of any individual
- Damage to the environment
- Deliberate concealing of information about any of the above

All staff and volunteers are able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the provision's safeguarding regime through the school's whistleblowing policy.

Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels are identified in the whistleblowing policy. The NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline has been developed to provide support to employees wishing to raise concerns over how child protection issues are being handled in their own or other organisations. The NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line can be reached on **0800 028 0285**. (The Home Office and Department for Education commissioned the NSPCC to manage the advice line after a firm commitment to do so was made by the Government in its Tackling CSE report in March 2015. The advice line is *not* intended to replace any current practices or responsibilities of organisations working with children. The helpline advisors would encourage professionals to raise any concerns about a child to their own employer in the first instance. However, the advice line offers an alternative route if whistleblowing internally is difficult or professionals have concerns around how matters are being handled.) Further advice about whistleblowing is available at:

- www.gov.uk/whistleblowing

Domestic Abuse Workplace Policy

Our domestic abuse workplace policy provides guidance for staff on how to act if they are concerned about domestic abuse.

- http://intranet/Portals/0/dmx/2014/file_20140911_122545_nhnhz_0.pdf

Online and digital safety

Keeping children safe in education

Our online safety policies and procedures are framed within Keeping Children Safe in Education (appendix C) available at:

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

We have a whole school approach to online and digital safety which empowers us to protect our community and educate using technology safely. We have mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any online or digital safety incident where appropriate.

Online and digital safety in the curriculum

Online and digital safety is a focus in all areas of the curriculum and our staff reinforce safety messages throughout the curriculum. Our online safety curriculum is broad, relevant and provides progression, with opportunities for creative activities.

Working with parents and carers

We work with parents and carers to raise awareness of online and digital safety, including them as much as possible in this process so that parents and carers can help ensure their children are also safe at home.

Online safety policy

We have an overarching online safety policy, that applies to all members of our community (staff, students and visitors) – anyone who has access to any of our digital technology systems, both inside and outside Heart of England School. Visitors also includes parents and carers, governors and community users.

Acceptable use policies

We have acceptable use policies for pupils, staff and visitors.

Filtration and monitoring

We do all that we reasonably can to limit users' exposure to online risks when using our IT systems and we ensure we have appropriate filtration and monitoring systems in place. We take into account the age range of our pupils, the number of pupils, how often they access the IT system and the proportionality of costs balanced against risks. We include risk assessments as required by the Prevent Duty. We have procedures that support filtering and monitoring and also to help us deal with incidents where there has been potential misuse or inappropriate/illegal activities.

Use of social media

We have a social media policy for our staff which makes clear what standards are expected of anyone who works for us and uses social media. It also explains what actions will be taken when it is considered a member of staff may have breached this policy. The policy covers social media use: on behalf of school; as part of working with pupils; in their wider professional work; and in their personal life. We have a code of conduct and a social media policy for our governors which makes clear what standards are expected of governors and their use of social media. It also explains the consequences of inappropriate behaviours. Mobile technologies – using connected and recording devices

These include (as examples) mobile phones, smartphones, tablets, cameras (still and video), audio recording devices, wearable technology and IOT devices.

All mobile technology used on our premises or by our staff and students on Heart of England School's activities elsewhere is covered by our mobile technology policy.

Media recordings – audio, image and video (including digital files)

Appropriate media recordings are taken (including students) to capture curriculum activities, wider activities or as celebrations of Heart of England school life. We have separate guidelines that must be

followed when making media recordings on our premises or as part of our activities elsewhere. However, for clarity:

- Written permission from parents or carers must be obtained before media recordings of pupils are published on the school website/social media or in the press. Staff and volunteers are allowed to take media recordings to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of the media or files. Those media recordings should only be taken on school equipment unless there is prior agreement with the Principal
- All school media recordings will only be stored, edited or archived onto school systems and equipment unless there is prior agreement with the Principal]
- Pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute media recordings of others without their permission

Information and data security

We take information and data security seriously. We have a separate data protection policy, setting out how we comply with data protection legislation.

Alternative Provision

“Where a school places a pupil with an alternative provision provider, the school continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil. Schools should obtain written confirmation from the alternative provision provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at the establishment i.e. those checks that the school would otherwise perform in respect of its own staff.” (KCSIE 20, DfE)

Where we contract with an alternative provider to provide part of or all of a pupil's education, we ensure:

- That the provision has been subject to a robust Quality Assurance process and has been deemed to be both generally suitable for Solihull pupils and suitable for the needs of a specific pupils The Quality assurance process checks that all appropriate health and safety and safeguarding arrangements are in place;
- Appropriate vetting procedures for staff, volunteers and visitors are in place and leaders at the provision have provided up-to-date, detailed, written confirmation of this;
- The provision is a registered where the threshold for required registration with the DfE has been met (providers must be registered if five or more full time pupils are on roll, or one such pupil with and Education, Health and Care Plan or who is looked after;
- That pupils are visited frequently in their provision and listened to so that we can be sure that they are safe and well cared for;
- Clarity on the contractual arrangements;
- That pupils attend the provision regularly and that there are clear arrangements in place for swiftly reporting non-attendance;
- Clear plans are in place around behaviour, recording and reporting inappropriate or declining behaviour;
- That systems are in place to report on pupils' learning and achievements.

Health and Safety Safeguarding

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Risks

Public health advice to minimise coronavirus (COVID-19) risks. Schools must comply with health and safety law in order to minimise coronavirus (COVID-19) risks, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. Schools should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessments and draw up plans for the autumn term that address the risks identified using the system of controls set out below. These are an adapted form of the system of protective measures that will be familiar from the summer term. Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

Further information is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Site and Premises Security and Site Safety including fire risk assessment, fire drills, and first aid

Our health and safety policy outlines our procedures in ensuring the site and premises are safe and secure.

This includes our risk assessment procedures, including:

- The safety of staff, pupils and visitors to the school site
- Fencing and boundary security
- Procedures around the security of external doors (such as the external kitchen door) and access to the site
- Storage of hazardous substances

We ensure an annual fire risk assessment takes place and any actions are swiftly addressed. Regular fire evacuation drills take place and logged on the fire evacuation log. Any actions identified through fire evacuation drills are addressed.

We will undertake to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation with regard to the provision of first aid for pupils, staff and visitors and will make sure that procedures are in place to meet that responsibility.

Driving at Work

Our driving at work policy provides staff with clear guidance on driving at work.

Educational Visits

Our educational visits policy provides staff with guidance on planning educational visits and undertaking risk assessments.

Emergency Advice and Support for Educational Establishments (EASEE)

Incidents and emergencies can occur at any time. Our education settings and young people are not immune from such incidents and often the impact of an incident can have far reaching effects in the wider community. For this reason we have utilised the 'Emergency Advice and Support for Educational Establishments' (EASEE) guidance and produced: school Emergency and Business Continuity Plan templates and used EASEE guidance material to plan for a range of critical incidents.

This includes emergency school lockdown procedure guidance and bomb and suspicious package information.

Procedures for uncollected children

In the event of a child not being collected at the end of the school day, every effort should be made by the school to contact the parents and emergency contacts. In the event that contact with parents and emergency contacts cannot be established and the child remains uncollected, the police should be contacted.

If non-collection or late collection is a regular occurrence, early help should be offered by the school in the first instance through a formal meeting with parents. If the situation does not improve, engagement with the early help service or a referral to Solihull multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) might be considered if a wider picture of neglect is emerging. The child protection policy should be followed in such an event.

Complaints

Our procedures for dealing with complaints are clearly set out in our complaints policy and are available to parents via the school website. In the first instance we work to resolve any misunderstanding or concern.

The local authority can provide an additional stage to review how schools have followed their own procedures in accordance with their provisions. Further advice can be sought through head of audit services on 0121 704 6282. This service is chargeable.

Barring of individuals from school premises

On extremely rare occasions, school leaders do need to seek to bar a person from the school site. The DfE (2012 advice on school security: access to and barring from school premises) should be followed.

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-security>

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. The child protection policy 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
- Being more prone to peer group isolation than other children
- The potential for children with SEN and disabilities being proportionally impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers

To address these additional challenges schools and colleges should consider extra pastoral support for pupils with SEN and disabilities.

The special education needs co-ordinator works closely with the designated safeguarding lead and medicines in schools lead to ensure vulnerable pupils are safeguarded.

The Use of Reasonable force

We recognise that it is important to allow children to do what they can for themselves, but depending on age and circumstances (i.e. a child who is hurt, who needs instruction in the use of a particular instrument / piece of equipment, safety issues such as the need to prevent a child hurting themselves, running into the road etc.), it may be necessary for some physical contact to take place. The School has a policy on the use of reasonable force.

Behaviour and Discipline in Schools (DfE, January 2016), advice for headteachers and school staff states:

- Members of staff have the power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline in the classroom.
- Head teachers and authorised school staff may also use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search without consent for knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks, pornographic images or articles that have been or could be used to commit an offence or cause harm.
- Schools can also identify additional items in their school rules which may be searched for without consent. Force **cannot** be used to search for these items.

Additional local guidance includes:

- Guidance on the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions for Staff Working with Children and Adults who display Extreme Behaviour in Association with Learning Disability and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorders (Circ. LEA/0242/2002)

- <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/g/guidance%20on%20the%20use%20of%20restrictive%20physical%20interventions.pdf>; and
- Guidance on the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions for Pupils with Severe Behavioural Difficulties (Circ. LEA/0264/2003)
- http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/g/guidance%20on%20the%20use%20of%20restrictive%20physical%20interventions%20for%20pupils%20with%20severe%20behavioural%20difficulties_2003.pdf
- The circular entitled Guidance on the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions for Staff Working with Children and Adults who display Extreme Behaviour in Association with Learning Disability and /or Autism Spectrum Disorders applies to all special education provision settings.
- Section 246 of the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 requires the governing body / trust board / management board / proprietor (delete as appropriate) to ensure that a procedure is in place for recording each significant incident in which a member of staff uses force on a pupil; and reporting each such incident to each parent of the pupil as soon as practicable after the incident. The member of staff must not report the incident to a parent if it appears to that member of staff that doing so would be likely to result in significant harm to the pupil. If that is the case, or if there is no parent of the pupil to whom the incident could be reported, then the incident must be reported to the local authority where the pupil normally lives.

“The DfE believes that the adoption of a ‘no contact’ policy at a school or college can leave staff unable to fully support and protect their pupils and students. It encourages headteachers, principals, governing bodies and proprietors to adopt sensible policies, which allow and support their staff to make appropriate physical contact. The decision on whether or not to use reasonable force to control or restrain a child is down to the professional judgement of the staff concerned and should always depend on individual circumstances.

“When using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving children with SEN or disabilities or with medical conditions, schools and colleges should in considering the risks carefully recognize the additional vulnerability of these groups. They should also consider their duties under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to making reasonable adjustments, non-discrimination and their Public Sector Equality Duty. By planning positive and proactive behavior support, for instance through drawing up individual behaviour plans for more vulnerable children, and agreeing them with parents and carers, schools and colleges can reduce the occurrence of challenging behavior and the need to use reasonable force.”
 (KCSIE 2020, DfE, paragraphs 127-130).

Medicines in School/Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

This school is an inclusive community that welcomes and supports pupils with medical conditions. We provide all pupils with any medical condition the same opportunities as others at school. All staff understand the medical conditions that affect pupils at this school. Staff receive training on the impact medical conditions can have on pupils. Further information can be found in our Medicines in School Policy.

Intimate Care

The Governing Body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010 which requires that any pupil with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

Other Providers Operating on Education Provision Site (Lettings and Contracted Arrangements)

Where other providers operate on the school site, through lettings or contracted arrangements, the school ensures that robust safeguarding procedures are in place.

Evaluating and Monitoring Process

Our Safeguarding Policy will be monitored and evaluated by:

- Line management and task management of staff
- Audits of safeguarding records
- Discussions with staff involved in safeguarding work
- Pupil surveys, questionnaires and evidence of the pupil voice in safeguarding work
- Scrutiny of data sets
- Scrutiny of range of risk assessments and information (including attendance, bullying logs, behaviour records, health and safety risk assessments, fire risk assessment, educational visit risk assessment, safer recruitment information, to ensure a coordinated approach)
- Review of parental concerns and parent questionnaires

Success Criteria:

1. Staff, when questioned feel confident that they know what to do, or who to contact, when they have safeguarding concerns
2. Scrutiny of safeguarding records confirms that safeguarding procedures set out in this policy are being consistently followed
3. Staff, when questioned believe that safeguarding procedures set out in the policy are being consistently followed throughout the education provision
4. Content of the policy remains up to date with reference to relevant legislation and local guidance
5. School self-evaluation activity including local authority safeguarding compliance procedures

APPENDIX 1: Governors' Safeguarding Responsibilities Checklist

KCSIE Governing Body / Proprietor responsibilities from KCSIE (September 2020)

Statement	Evidence
Legislative Frameworks	
All governors and school leaders have read Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2020) Part 2.	
Governors ensure the school or college contributes to inter-agency working in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing a coordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified - Contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support to children subject to child protection plans - Allowing access for children's social care staff to carry out their work 	
School ensures safeguarding arrangements take account of the procedures and practice of Solihull Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership.	
A member of the governing body (usually the chair) is nominated to liaise with the local authority and/or partner agencies on issues of child protection and in the event of allegations of abuse being made against the headteacher/principal/proprietor or member of governing board of an independent school.	
School has effective policies in place which are provided to all staff including temporary staff and volunteers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding policy - Child protection policy - Staff behaviour policy - Pupil behaviour policy - Attendance policy 	
School's child protection policy describes procedures and reflects current government guidance (KCSIE 2020) and locally agreed LSCP procedures.	
School's child protection policy is updated (at least annually) and made available publicly on the school website (or by other means).	
Head teachers and principals fully adopt these policies and procedures which are ratified by governing bodies and proprietors.	
Governors hold school leaders to account for pupil attendance rates for: all pupils, disadvantaged pupils, disadvantaged free school meal pupils, pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, Gypsy Roma Traveller Pupils and persistently absent pupils.	
Governors hold school leaders to account for off-rolling. "Off-rolling is the practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without a formal permanent exclusion or encouraging a parent to remove their child from the school roll, when the removal is primarily in the interests of the school not the child"	
Governors hold school leaders to account for pupil behaviour, ensuring the pupil behaviour policy is fully implemented, rewards and sanctions are consistently implemented.	

Statement	Evidence
Isolation units appropriately supervised so that pupils welfare and dignity is maintained and they have access to appropriately skilled teachers who can ensure they make good progress.	
Effective multi-agency support is sought to de-escalate behaviour concerns and address issues, eg, working with the youth offending service, support through a police intervention. Concerns are escalated if support is not effective.	
Impact known of fixed term exclusions on improving pupil behaviour?	
Governors hold leaders to account on rates of exclusion and adherence to policy.	
The school has appointed a member of staff for the school/college leadership team to the role of DSL. A deputy DSL is also nominated in the event of the DSL not being available.	
The role of the DSL is explicit in the role holder's job description, and in the role of deputy DSLs	
The DSL (and deputy/ies DSL) is appropriately trained by attending LSCP module 2 multi-agency training (formerly level 2 training) and refreshing by attending at least biannual (preferably annual) the DSL Education Training Conference, and you write this after refreshing.	
Governors hold DSL to account and evidence how young people in school are safe:	
<p>In addition, the DSL has attended LSCP multi-agency training on local priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child sexual exploitation - Early help - Neglect 	
The headteacher and all staff members undergo child protection training which is updated regularly.	
All staff and governors have read and understood Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020).	
Children are taught about safeguarding in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum: personal, social, health education; relationships and sex education.	
A single central record is maintained in line with Part 3 Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020).	
Safe recruitment processes are in place in line with Part 3 Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) entitled "Safer Recruitment".	
Managing allegations policy and procedures are in place to handle allegations against members of staff and volunteers. Allegations must be referred to the LADO. This is outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) Part 4 "Allegations of Abuse made against Teachers and other staff".	
Procedures are in place to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns.	
All staff and governors have received safeguarding awareness training	

Statement	Evidence
All staff and governors have been trained by the DSL on contextual safeguarding, incorporating peer on peer abuse, county lines, sexting and fake news, following the 2018 autumn DSL Education Conferences.	
Procedures are in place to handle allegations against other children (peer on peer abuse).	
The child's wishes or feelings are taken into account when determining actions or providing services.	
Staff members do not promise confidentiality to the child and always act in the interest of the child.	
A designated teacher is appointed to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after and ensure this person has been appropriately trained.	
The DSL for child protection and designated teacher for looked after children share information about the child's social worker and name of the virtual school head in the authority that looks after the child.	
An effective attendance policy and procedures are in place.	
The school has systems in place to ensure safeguarding responses to children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions.	
A supervision policy is in place and supervision arrangements for all staff involved in child protection work are in place.	
School leaders have responded to the joint communication from West Midlands Police and SMBC in June 2018	
The governor/trustee code of conduct been issued to all governors/trustees and read by all governors/trustees and revisited annually?	

APPENDIX 2:

Barring an individual from a school site

Dear

Following discussions with the head teacher, xxxx, at xxxx, I am writing to inform you that from (insert date) until (insert date) (in the first instance), you are not allowed to enter the school premises and site.

This is in accordance with Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 because

The Local Education Authority and School have a duty to ensure the health and safety of staff and pupils, and this will be achieved if you do not enter the school site.

For the duration of this decision you may bring your child/children to school and collect at the end of the school day, but you must not go beyond the school gate. Arrangements have been made for your child/children to be collected, and returned to you, at the school gate by a member of staff.

The School and Local Authority will review this decision at the end of The withdrawal of permission for you to enter the school premises takes effect straightaway. However, I still need to decide whether it is appropriate to confirm this decision. Before we do so, I wish to give you an opportunity to give me in writing any comments of your own in relation to this incident. These comments may include any expressions of regret on your part and any assurances you are prepared to give about your future good conduct.

Yours sincerely

APPENDIX 3:

Chronological Record of Actions – Allegations against Employees

Name of Employee:

Job Title:

Name of Manager overseeing investigation:

(This form is to assist with recording activity and discussions in relation to the case and ensuring planned actions/responsibilities are recorded.)

Date	Record of activity	Action to be taken	Comments

APPENDIX 4: Referrals to the Local Authority Duty Officer (LADO):

Please ensure any minutes from POT or similar meeting are received within 15 days (note below) and any actions followed up.

Name of Member of Staff or Volunteer	Date concern raised with LADO	Outcome	Date case closed with LADO	Learning for school.

