



Safeguarding Policy

Review Date September 2026

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day; Working Together



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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Policy agreed by Governors	24 th September 2025
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Safeguarding Policy

Adapted from the Nottingham City Council Safeguarding Framework Policy

This Policy was written and adopted on 24th September 2025.
It is due for a review in September 2026.

At Crabtree Farm Primary School the staff and governors recognise the contribution the school makes to safeguarding and are fully committed to safeguarding children. It is recognised that the safety and the protection of pupils is of paramount importance and that all staff, including volunteers, have a full and active part to play in providing early help and protecting pupils from harm. It is believed that the school should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment, which promotes all pupils social, physical, emotional and moral development. All staff take all welfare concerns seriously and encourage children to share anything that worries them, always acting in the best interests of the child. In delivering this ambition, the school will adhere to the principles set out in Nottingham's City's Threshold of Needs document June 2023 and NCSCP Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance.

Ultimately, effective safeguarding of children can only be achieved by putting children at the centre of the system, and by every individual and agency playing their full part, working together to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children December 2023 and Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2025.

The policy reflects current legislation, accepted best practice and complies with the government guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children December 2023 and Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2025.

'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children' has been updated in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 to reflect the changes made in Working together to safeguard children, is defined as:

- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, inside or outside the home, including online
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

We also take into account:

- Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships procedures 2020
- Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework 2025
- Nottingham City Threshold of Needs June 2023

Other policies and procedures that may need to be taken into account are:

- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Attendance and Absence Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Confidentiality (found in the Code of Conduct)
- Drugs Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy
- E-safety Policy
- Intimate care
- Mobile phone use and cameras (found in the Code of Conduct)
- Positive Handling Policy
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education
- Remote Learning Policy
- Safer Recruitment and Induction of new staff and volunteers
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- Staff internet use including social media guidelines (found in Code of Conduct)
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Staff Information Policy

The aims of this policy are to:

- confirm that the pupils' development is supported in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence
- raise the awareness of teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Honour Based Violence (HBV).
- confirm the structured procedures to be followed by all members of staff in cases of suspected harm or abuse
- emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff and those with designated responsibility for child safeguarding, health and safety and other safeguarding responsibilities
- emphasise the importance of maintaining and implementing appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and arrangements of those service providers who use the school's premises through extended schools or provide any other before and after school activities
- emphasise the links with the school's policy for safe recruitment of staff and volunteers, and for managing allegations
- confirm the working relationship with Children and Families Direct, the Local Safeguarding Partnership (previously NCSCB) and other agencies and, where appropriate with similar services in neighbouring authorities.

Responsibilities for safeguarding

The Governing Body:

- will ensure a member of the governing body is nominated to liaise with the local authority, and/or partner agencies on issues of child protection in relation to safeguarding and in the event of allegations of abuse made against the Headteacher or member of the governing body.
- will ensure there is no period where there is no appointed safeguarding member, i.e. after a member resigns and before another is appointed. If necessary, a governing body will provide a transition period where there will be two appointed members.
- will ensure that the school has a child safeguarding policy, single central record, staff behaviour policy and procedures in place, operates safer recruitment procedures, makes appropriate checks on staff and volunteers and has procedures for dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers that all comply with Local Safeguarding partnership (Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership)
- will ensure that the school creates a culture of safer recruitment and, as part of that, adopt recruitment procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk to children (Part three: Safer Recruitment, Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2025).
- has appointed a member of staff of the school's leadership team to the role of designated safeguarding lead.
- will ensure the school keeps an up to date single central record of pre-employment checks, specifying when the check was made and when it will be renewed.
- monitors the adequacy of resources committed to child safeguarding, and the staff and governor training profile.
- recognises that neither it, nor individual governors, have a role in dealing with individual cases or a right to know details of cases (except when exercising their disciplinary functions in respect of allegations against staff).
- will make sure that the child safeguarding policy is available to parents and children on request.
- will ensure this policy and practice complements other policies e.g. anti-bullying including cyber bullying, health and safety, to ensure an integrated model of safeguarding operates across the school.

The Head Teacher will ensure that:

- the policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body are followed by all staff.
- the policy will be updated annually and be available publicly either via the school website or by other means.
- designated staff review policy in consultation with Crabtree Farm Primary when the Local Safeguarding Partnership (NCSCP) update their policies and procedures.
- sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the designated persons and other staff to discharge their responsibilities including taking part in strategy discussions and other multi agency meetings, to contribute to the

assessment and support of children and young people, and be appropriately trained.

- a single central database of all staff and volunteers, and their safeguarding training dates is maintained and that this list confirms that all staff and those volunteers who meet the specified criteria have had a DBS check, when this check was made and when it will be renewed.
- all allegations, including those individuals who are not employed by the school, will be dealt with appropriately, inform the relevant parties and supported where required. (See p22 Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025).

At Crabtree Farm we will ensure that:

- all staff and volunteers feel able to raise their concerns about poor and unsafe practice in regard to pupils, and such concerns are addressed in a timely manner in accordance with agreed policies.
- school staff are sensitive to signs that may indicate possible safeguarding concerns. This could include, for example, poor or irregular attendance, persistent lateness, children missing from education, forced marriage or female genital mutilation.
- all staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) should consider whether children are at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence (See part five Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025).
- all members of staff undergo child safeguarding training which is updated regularly, in line with advice from the Local Safeguarding Partnership (NCSCP).
- procedures for managing visitors are in place that put the safeguarding of pupils at the centre and is applied to all visitors irrespective of their status.
- where an allegation is made against a staff member who is not employed by the school e.g. Supply teacher, the Headteacher will immediately contact both the agency concerned and the LADO. The school will continue to support any investigation that is required. (See part four Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025).

All visitors to the school will be asked to bring formal identification with them at the time of their visit (unless they are named on the approved visitors/contractors list as set out below).

- Once on site, all visitors must report to reception first. No visitor is permitted to enter the school via any other entrance under any circumstances.
- At reception, all visitors must state the purpose of their visit and who has invited them.
- They should be ready to produce formal identification upon request.
- All visitors will be asked to sign in using the electronic 'Inventory' system, which is in reception, making note of their name, organisation, who they are visiting

and car registration. This will produce a visitor label that they must wear at all times. The label must remain visible at all times.

- 'Written notification' is a verification of DBS checks for Nottingham City Council employees (Education, Social Care, SEND, Health & Safety Officers, Swimming & Outdoor and Adventure staff) and staff employed in Community Public Health Nursing Service (formerly known as the School Nursing Team)
- All other visitors will be escorted to their point of contact OR their point of contact will be asked to come to reception to receive their visitor. The contact will then be responsible for them while they are on site. The visitor must not be allowed to move about the site unaccompanied unless they are registered on the Approved Visitor List.

Allegations against adults that work in a position of trust.

Any allegation or concern about the conduct or behaviour of a person who works with children and/or young people must be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). This will enable the management of the three strands of the allegations management process (potential safeguarding concerns, criminal investigation and disciplinary procedures).

All agencies have a Named Senior Officer (Headteacher) responsible for allegations and information should go to them in the first instance before a referral is made to the LADO. Referrals must be made to the LADO when information suggests that an adult who has contact with children as part of their employment or voluntary work may have:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- behaved in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

Where an allegation is made against the Headteacher, the Designated Person for Child Safeguarding must inform the Chair of the Governing Body as well as the LADO. The LADO can be contacted on lado@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.

The trained designated safeguarding leads (DSL's) for child safeguarding are:

- Lorna Haskey – Headteacher
- Jodie Round – Deputy Headteacher
- Sam Andrews – SENCO

They will:

- have their roles explicitly defined in their job descriptions.
- given sufficient time, funding, supervision and support to fulfil their child welfare and safeguarding responsibilities effectively.
- undergo updated child safeguarding training every two years.
- liaise with relevant agencies in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Partnership (NCSCP) procedures when referring a pupil where there are concerns about possible abuse, neglect or harm.
- where there are concerns about a member of staff's suitability to work with children, contact the Designated Officer (LADO).

- be able to access the contents of the Local Safeguarding Partnership (NCSCP) procedures and personnel procedures and make these accessible to all staff.

DSL's will:

- be familiar with the full version of KCSIE and implement this in to practise across the school.
- ensure all staff, including supply staff, visiting professionals working with pupils in the school and volunteers are informed of the names and contact details of the designated leads and the school's procedures for safeguarding children.
- offer support to staff to attend strategy meetings, looked after reviews and/or case conferences who may find safeguarding issues upsetting or stressful by enabling them to talk through their anxieties and to seek further support from the school leadership group or others as appropriate.
- ensure involvement of other designated leads e.g. where there are concerns about a pupil who is 'looked after'.
- ensure that electronic records of concerns are kept (using MyConcern), even if there is no immediate need for referral; and monitored.
- ensure that all child protection records are marked as such and any paper files are kept securely locked, and accessible only by the Headteacher/DSLs.
- ensure that pupil records are kept separately, and marked as appropriate to indicate other confidential records are being held elsewhere.
- ensure that all absence records are dated and are similarly logged and dated.
- ensure that the children absent from education- statutory guidance for local authorities August 2024 is adhered to.
- ensure that where a pupil is subject to a Child Protection Plan, and is absent without explanation, their key worker in Children's Social Care is contacted.
- ensure that records are monitored for patterns of what, when taken in isolation, would appear to be low level concerns and appropriate action is taken.
- ensure that where a pupil has a child protection plan or there are on-going safeguarding concerns and transfers to another school; the Designated Lead for Safeguarding is informed immediately. Their child protection file is transferred under confidential cover and separate from the pupil's main file via hand delivery or recorded post within five working days. If the receiving school has MyConcern the files are sent electronically. A receipt is expected from the receiving school.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching, governors, volunteers and others working in school need to:

- read, and sign to say that they have read and understood Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025). Governors will also read Part 2 and the Chair of Governors will also read Part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- be aware that to safeguard children, they have a duty to share information with the designated leads, and through the designated lead, with other agencies.

- be aware that despite the requirement to share information with designated leads they can make their own referral to children's Social Care.
- be alert to signs and symptoms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- know how to respond to their duty when they have concerns or when a pupil discloses to them and to act.
- know how to record concerns and what additional information may be required.
- undergo child safeguarding training which is updated regularly in line with advice from the Local Safeguarding Partnership (NCSCP), (whole staff training every three years and annual refresher).
- maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'.
- familiarise themselves with "What to do if you're worried that a child is being abused: advice for practitioners' guidance." (2015)

Where there are concerns about the way that safeguarding is carried out in the school, staff can refer to the Whistle Blowing Policy. A whistle blowing disclosure must be about something that affects the general public such as:

- a criminal offence has been committed, is being committed or is likely to be committed
- a legal obligation has been breached
- there has been a miscarriage of justice
- the health or safety of any individual has been endangered
- the environment has been damaged
- information about any of the above has been concealed.

The NSPCC runs a whistleblowing helpline on behalf of the Home Office: 0800 0280285 help@nspcc.org.uk www.nspcc.org.uk/whistleblowing. Also, a referral can be made directly to Ofsted: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk or **0300 123 4666**. However, if you believe a child is in immediate danger call 999.

The three safeguarding partners

Schools have a pivotal role to play in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Governing bodies should ensure that the school contributes to multi-agency working in line with statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023).

The three safeguarding partners are:

- the local authority;
- a clinical commissioning group for an area within the local authority;
- and the chief officer of police for an area (any part of which falls) within the local authority area.

The three safeguarding partners will make arrangements to work together with appropriate relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs.

Schools should understand their role in the three safeguarding partner arrangements. Governing bodies, and their senior leadership teams, especially their designated safeguarding leads, should make themselves aware of and follow their local arrangements.

The three safeguarding partners have a shared and equal duty to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. To fulfil this role, they must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies.

The three safeguarding partners should make arrangements to allow all schools in the local area to be fully engaged, involved and included in safeguarding arrangements. It is expected that, locally, the three safeguarding partners will name schools and colleges as relevant agencies and will reach their own conclusions on the best way to achieve the active engagement with individual institutions in a meaningful way.

Working together

The purpose of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is to ensure that, at a local level, organisations and agencies are clear about how they will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. As such, successful outcomes for children depend on strong multi agency partnership working across the whole system of help, support and protection including effective work from all agencies with parents, carers and families.

Reporting concerns

Any concern should be discussed in the first instance with one of the designated leads, as soon as possible.

If at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child, a Multi Agency Request Form (MARF) should be made to Children's Social Care - CityMASH@nottinghamcity.gov.uk via the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0115 876 4800/5600 or the police immediately. Anybody can make such a referral. If this is the case, it may be necessary to speak with one of the designated leads or in their absence the Headteacher, as soon as possible.

‘When to call the police (guidance for schools and colleges)’, published by National Police Chief’s Council

This advice covers incidents on school and college premises where students have potentially committed a crime. It provides guidance on what schools and colleges should bear in mind when considering contacting the police. This advice covers the following situations:

- Assault
- Criminal damage
- Cyber crime
- Drugs
- Harassment
- Sexual offences
- Theft
- Weapons

This advice aims to support schools and college to make defensible decisions when considering whether to involve the police.

This advice does not cover safeguarding incidents. Where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from significant harm, information may be shared without consent and

it is important that a referral to children's social care (and if appropriate the police) is made immediately. Referrals should follow the local referral process.

Immediate response to the pupil

It is vital that our actions do not harm the pupil further or prejudice further enquiries, for example:

- listen to the pupil, if you are shocked by what is being said, try not to show it.
- if a disclosure is made, accept what the pupil says to stay calm, the pace should be dictated by the pupil without them being pressed for detail by asking leading questions such as "what did s/he do next?" **It is your role to listen – not to investigate.**
- use open questions such as "is there anything else you want to tell me?" or "yes?" or "and?"
- be careful not to burden the pupil with guilt by asking questions like "why didn't you tell me before?"
- acknowledge how hard it was for the pupil to tell you.
- do not criticise the perpetrator, the pupil might have a relationship with them.
- do not promise confidentiality, reassure the pupil that they have done the right thing, explain whom you will have to tell (the designated safeguarding lead) and why; and, depending on the pupil's age, what the next stage will be. It is important that you avoid making promises that you cannot keep such as "I'll stay with you all the time" or "it will be all right now".

Recording information

- All concerns should be reported using MyConcern. Those unable to access MyConcern i.e. Midday Supervisors to continue to use paper forms.
- Record the date, time, place and context of disclosure or concern, facts and not assumption or interpretation. Your name and role should be included.
- If it is observation of bruising or an injury, try to record detail, e.g. "right arm above elbow".
- Do not take photographs. Use the body maps provided on MyConcern.
- Note the non-verbal behaviour and the key words in the language used by the pupil (try not to translate into 'proper terms').
- It is important to keep these original notes and pass them on to the designated member of staff who may ask you to write a referral.
- If the concern is urgent then this should be recorded promptly and flagged as urgent on MyConcern.
- All concerns should be followed up with a conversation with a DSL, urgent concerns should be followed up with a conversation immediately.
- All concerns should be logged before you leave the premises on that day.
- All concerns should be categorised consistently with the agreed MyConcern categories.

Supporting pupils

There are occasions (including supporting children with SEND) when it is entirely appropriate and proper for staff to have physical contact with pupils, but it is crucial that they only do so in ways appropriate for their professional role:

- Staff supervision of children during changing should be appropriate to the needs and age of the children concerned and sensitive to the potential for embarrassment.
- If a distressed pupil needs comfort and reassurance, then age-appropriate physical contact may be provided by staff, but this contact must not be threatening, intrusive or subject to misinterpretation.
- All children have a right to safety, privacy and dignity when contact of an intimate nature is required (e.g. assistance with toileting).
- Staff must adhere to the school's Health and Safety Policy, Intimate Care Policy and Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy.
- The staff and governors recognise that a child or young person who is abused or witnesses, hears or experiences violence may find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self-worth. We recognise that in these circumstances pupils might feel helpless and humiliated, and that they might feel self-blame.
- We recognise that this school might provide the only stability in the lives of pupils who have been abused, neglected, exploited or are at risk of harm.
- We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a pupil in these circumstances might range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.
- The school will support all pupils by: discussing child protection cases with due regard to safeguarding the pupil and his or her family, supporting individuals who are or thought to be in need or at risk in line with Local Safeguarding Partnership (NCSCP) procedures, encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness, challenging and not condoning aggression, bullying or discriminatory behaviour, promoting a caring, safe and positive environment
- We are aware that mental health problems can be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Where staff have concerns about a child's mental health immediate action should be taken in line with safeguarding policy. (Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2025) Advice and guidance are available:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools; www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/

Confidentiality

The personal information about all pupils' families is regarded by those who work in Crabtree Farm Primary as confidential. All staff and volunteers need to be aware of the confidential nature of personal information and will aim to maintain this confidentiality.

Staff understand that they need to know only enough to prepare them to act with sensitivity to a pupil and to refer concerns appropriately. The designated leads and head teacher will disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis only. It is inappropriate to provide all staff with detailed information about the pupil, incidents, the family and the consequent actions.

Staff must be aware that:

- They cannot promise a pupil complete confidentiality – instead they must explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the pupil or other pupils safe.
- Where there are concerns about a pupil's welfare relevant agencies need to be involved at an early stage. If a member of staff or a volunteer has concerns about a pupil's welfare, or if a pupil discloses that s/he is suffering abuse, neglect, exploitation or reveals information that gives grounds for concern, the member of staff should speak to their designated person with a view to passing on the information.

Consent

All professionals are expected to follow consent guidance from the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2017, the Children Act 1989 and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. To make a referral, parents/carers must give their **explicit and informed consent** for information to be shared with other agencies to enable holistic support and access to services. Recorded consent should be gained by referring agency, with clarity about why and with whom information will be shared. Services cannot accept a referral without consent, unless there are safeguarding concerns whereby there is a statutory duty to intervene and seeking consent may put the child at further risk or cause a delay. In situations where there are concerns that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, information may be shared without consent.

Circumstances may include:

- Suspicion that a child will be forced into marriage or removed from the country against their will
- Suspicion that a child is at risk of female genital mutilation
- A disclosure of sexual or physical abuse putting the child at immediate risk
- Suspicion that illness is being fabricated

Permission to share information with the City MASH should always be sought from an adult with parental responsibility for the child/young person before passing information about them to Children's Social Care, **UNLESS** seeking permission would place the child at immediate risk of significant harm or may lead to the loss of evidence, for example destroying evidence of a crime or influencing a child about a disclosure made.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children. (Page 19, paragraph 55 – Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025)

Further details on information sharing can be found: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, Data protection: toolkit for schools, Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners providing safeguarding services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers.

Safeguarding as part of the curriculum

The school recognises the importance of developing pupils' awareness of behaviour that is unacceptable towards them and others, and how they can help keep themselves and others safe.

Through many curriculum opportunities, pupils are helped to talk about their feelings, know their rights and responsibilities, understand and respond to risks, to deal assertively with pressures and know who they can turn to for advice and help both in and out of the school, if their safety is threatened, and how to make a complaint.

As part of developing a healthy, safer lifestyle, pupils are taught to, for example:

- safely explore their own and others' attitudes.
- recognise and manage risks in different situations and how to behave responsibly.
- judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable and unacceptable.
- recognise when pressure from others (including people they know) threatens their personal safety and well-being and develop effective ways of resisting pressure.
- know when and where to get help.
- use assertiveness techniques to resist unhelpful pressure.
- how to keep safe online
- the risks associated with sharing indecent images of, or information about, themselves. This is something that is often referred to as Sexting. Research indicates that this is increasingly associated with concerns such as sexual exploitation. Our work in this area is based on the guidance set out in Sexting in Schools and Colleges: Responding to Incidents and Safeguarding Young People. School staff should be aware of the school's position statement on Sexting (also referred to as Youth Produced Imagery).

The following areas are also addressed within Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, computing and in the wider curriculum:

- Bullying, including cyber bullying, child on child abuse and up skirting
- E-safety
- Road, fire and water safety
- Inter-personal relationships and domestic abuse
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE), online and offline
- Honour based abuse and forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Radicalisation and extremism (Education against Hate)

This may include covering relevant issues through Relationships, Sex and Health Education. The Government has made regulations which will make the subjects of Relationships Education (for all primary pupils) and Relationships and Sex Education (for all secondary pupils) and Health Education (for all pupils in state funded schools) mandatory from September 2020.

Online Safety (KCSiE 2025 Page 38-42)

It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. An effective whole school and college approach to online safety empowers a school or college to protect and educate pupils, students and staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.

When children use the school's network to access the internet, they are protected from inappropriate content by our filtering and monitoring systems, see e-safety policy. We acknowledge that many pupils may have access to the internet using their own devices and therefore our wider curriculum and linked policies (for example mobile phone policy) ensure that pupils have an awareness and understanding of online risks.

Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure their school or college has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness (Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 Page 38) with clear identified role and responsibilities for all involved in this area of safeguarding.

SLT are responsible for:

- Procuring filtering and monitoring systems
- Documenting decisions on what is blocked or allowed and why
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the school's provision
- Overseeing reports

DSLs are responsible for:

- Safeguarding and online safety
- Safeguarding concerns
- Filtering and monitoring reports
- Checks to filtering and monitoring systems

The IT service provider (Schools IT and Wolvern IT) have technical responsibility and are responsible for:

- Maintaining filtering and monitoring systems
- Providing filtering and monitoring reports
- Completing actions following concerns or checks to systems

The IT service provider will work closely with SLT and DSLs to:

- Procure systems
- Identify risk
- Carry out reviews and checks

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring any devices being used by the pupils are logged, linking the devices reference number and the child's name; as well as the date and time it was used
- Monitoring usage of devices during lessons

- Informing the IT provider and/or DSL for any breaches and follow the safeguarding policy in relation to child protection

At Crabtree Farm Primary we ensure that we meet the Digital and Technology Standards as detailed in the DFE publication 'Meeting digital and technology standards in school' 2024. Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges – Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges – Guidance – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). We complete an annual audit of the filtering and monitoring provision in school, in line with the guidance.

The filtering set up at Crabtree Farm is as follows:

- The internet filtering services are provided and supported by Ekte with emPSN.
- The main internet filtering used on desktops, staff laptops and iPads is provided by Ekte using a Netsweeper platform. The filtering is split into two levels (staff and students) and controlled by a lockdown policy. All shared iPads have student level filtering applied to them.
- There is a pool of DfE supplied laptops provided for revision purposes to Year 6/identified pupils, which have internet filtering in place provided by Ekte using the iBoss platform. The iBoss product is installed to provide filtering on these laptops whilst being used at home or on infiltrating internet connections outside of the school network.

The monitoring set up at Crabtree Farm is as follows:

- Daily and weekly safeguarding reports for students and staff are generated by Ekte through the Netsweeper platform and are emailed to the deputy headteacher.
- Ekte generates alert emails to the safeguarding team from the iBoss product, in relation to any laptops.
- The deputy headteacher/DSL Team checks the reports and the DSL Team address any concerns, following the safeguarding policy.
- Staff delivering any lessons/activities involving online platforms carry out ongoing monitoring when children are using devices.
- Monitoring 'tester' checks of the filtering system are carried out periodically by the IT support and DSL Team; and logged. Any issues are addressed as appropriate.

Working with parents/carers

Parents/carers play an important role in protecting their children from harm. In most cases, the school will discuss concerns about a pupil with the family and, where appropriate, seek their agreement to making referrals to the MASH. Where there are any doubts, the designated lead should clarify with Children and Families Direct whether, and if so when and by whom, the parents should be told about the referral.

The pupil's views will be considered in deciding whether to inform the family, particularly where the pupil is sufficiently mature to make informed judgments about the issues, and about consenting to that.

(Working Together to Safeguard children 2023)

- Vigilance: to have adults notice when things are troubling them.

- Understanding and action: to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have understanding acted upon.
- Stability: to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them.
- Respect: to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not.
- Information and engagement: to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans.
- Explanation: to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response.
- Support: to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family.
- Advocacy: to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views.
- Protection: to be protected against all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if a refugee.

The school aims to help parents/carers understand that the school, like all others, has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. The school may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a pupil's welfare.

Family Help

If family help is appropriate, the DSL will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an assessment, in some cases action as the lead professional.

Professionals should be alert to the need for family help for a child who:

- Is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care.
- Has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from schools, colleges and in alternative provision or a pupil referral unit.
- Has a parent or carer in custody or is affected by parental offending.

Children in Care

Also known as Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children

Supporting children in care or previously in care is a key priority for our school. We recognise that the needs of this group of children can only be effectively met when all agencies work together. To ensure we have a co-ordinated approach to meeting the needs of children in care or previously in care who attend our school we have a Designated Safeguarding Lead, who has the responsibility of Designated Teacher for Children in Care Teacher (Deputy Head, Jodie Round).

Vulnerable Groups

Some children and young people may be particularly vulnerable to abuse, neglect, exploitation and harm (Section 35 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006). This includes for example privately fostered children, children with a disability, children with communication needs. Certain forms of behaviour can also increase the vulnerability of a young person such as drug or alcohol misuse. The designated safeguarding lead should be aware of the range of guidance that is available and vigilant to concerns being raised by staff and children, which need to be reported in accordance with national (Government) and local (Nottingham City Safeguarding Partners) procedures without delay. The lead should also ensure staff working with children are alert to signs which may indicate possible abuse or harm.

At Crabtree Farm Primary we recognise that some pupils with protected characteristics may require reasonable adjustments and positive action to be taken to deal with particular disadvantages which may affect them (KCSiE Page 26).

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The NSPCC website describes Child sexual exploitation (CSE) as a type of sexual abuse. When a child or young person is exploited, they're given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities. Children and young people are often tricked into believing they're in a loving and consensual relationship. This is called grooming. They may trust their abuser and not understand that they're being abused.

Children and young people can be trafficked into or within the UK to be sexually exploited. They're moved around the country and abused by being forced to take part in sexual activities, often with more than one person. Young people in gangs can also be sexually exploited.

Sometimes abusers use violence and intimidation to frighten or force a child or young person, making them feel as if they've no choice. They may lend them large sums of money they know can't be repaid or use financial abuse to control them. Anybody can be a perpetrator of CSE, no matter their age, gender or race. The relationship could be framed as friendship, someone to look up to or romantic. Children and young people who are exploited may also be used to 'find' or coerce others to join groups.

CSE can happen in person or online. An abuser will gain a child's trust or control them through violence or blackmail before moving onto sexually abusing them. This can happen in a short period of time.

When a child is sexually exploited online they might be persuaded or forced to:

- send or post sexually explicit images of themselves
- film or stream sexual activities
- have sexual conversations.

Once an abuser has images, video or copies of conversations, they might use threats and blackmail to force a young person to take part in other sexual activity. They may also share the images and videos with others or circulate them online.

Gangs use sexual exploitation:

- to exert power and control

- for initiation
- to use sexual violence as a weapon.

Children or young people might be invited to parties or gatherings with others their own age or adults and given drugs and alcohol. They may be assaulted and sexually abused by one person or multiple perpetrators. The sexual assaults and abuse can be violent, humiliating and degrading.

In all its forms, CSE is child abuse and should be treated as a child safeguarding issue. Child sexual abuse includes any act of 'forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities'.

Sexual exploitation can take many forms ranging from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for affection or gifts, to serious organised crime by gangs and groups. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power in the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim, which increases as the exploitative relationship develops. Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming.

Who is at risk?

Child sexual exploitation can happen to any young person from any background. Although the research suggests that the females are more vulnerable to CSE, boys and young men are also victims of this type of abuse.

The characteristics common to all victims of CSE are not those of age, ethnicity or gender, rather their powerlessness and vulnerability. Victims often do not recognise that they are being exploited because they will have been groomed by their abuser(s). As a result, victims do not make informed choices to enter into, or remain involved in, sexually exploitative situations but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or fear. Sexual exploitation can happen face to face and it can happen online. It can also occur between young people.

Staff should also be aware that many children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation do not recognise themselves as such.

Preventing Radicalisation

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from the risk should be a part of schools or colleges safeguarding approach.

- Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values
- Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups
- Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people causes serious damage to property

Preventing violent extremism by countering the ideology of extremism and by identifying those who are being drawn into radicalism has for some time formed part

of our approach to safeguarding. The Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015 now imposes a duty on a wide range of bodies including all schools to respond when they become concerned that a child is being, or is at risk of, becoming radicalised. Compliance will be monitored through various inspection regimes such as Ofsted that will be looking to see that organisations have assessed the level of risk and that staff are appropriately trained to look out for signs of radicalisation. Also, schools will be monitored to ensure they are aware of the process for making referrals to Channel, the panel that reviews and refers individuals to programmes to challenge extremist ideology. Statutory guidance has been published and is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

If you have any concerns about individuals who may be being drawn into support for extremist ideology, please contact the Prevent Team **prevent@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk** who will then contact you to discuss whether a referral should be made. Although a police team, their role is to support early intervention so that vulnerable children or adults do not end up facing criminal sanctions. Louise Cox, is Nottingham City's Schools Prevention Officer louise.cox@nottinghamcity.gov.uk who supports schools with training and advice.

Where staff are concerned that children and young people are developing extremist views or show signs of becoming radicalised, they should discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Designated Safeguarding Lead has received training about the Prevent Duty and tackling extremism and is able to support staff with any concerns they may have. Schools are able to share the personal data of someone susceptible to radicalisation, it does not need to rely on that person's consent to share it if there is a lawful basis for doing so. In addition, schools can also share information about someone's susceptibility to radicalisation without the consent of parents/carers if necessary.

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referral may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from the school or college may be asked to attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

We use the curriculum to ensure that children and young people understand how people with extreme views share these with others, especially using the internet. We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. Teaching the school's core values alongside the fundamental British Values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures

- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent.)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

Honour Based Abuse (HBA)

So-called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving 'honour' often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All form of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA.

If staff have a concern regarding a child who might be at risk of HBA or who has suffered from HBA, they should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. As appropriate, the DSL will activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with the police and children's social care.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK. FGM typically takes place between birth and around 15 years old; however, it is believed that the majority of cases happen between the ages of 5 and 8.

Risk factors for FGM include:

- low level of integration into UK society
- mother or a sister who has undergone FGM
- girls who are withdrawn from PSHE
- visiting female elder from the country of origin
- being taken on a long holiday to the country of origin

- talk about a 'special' procedure to become a woman
- symptoms of FGM

FGM may be likely if there is a visiting female elder, there is talk of a special procedure or celebration to become a woman, or parents wish to take their daughter out-of-school to visit an 'at-risk' country (especially before the summer holidays), or parents/carers who wish to withdraw their children from learning about FGM.

Potential indicators that FGM may have already taken place may include:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may even look uncomfortable.
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating.
- Spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems.
- Frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems.
- Prolonged or repeated absences from school or college, especially with noticeable behaviour changes (e.g. withdrawal or depression) on the girl's return.
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations.
- Confiding in a professional without being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.
- Talking about pain or discomfort between her legs

The Serious Crime Act 2015 sets out a mandatory duty on professionals (including teachers) to notify police when they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. In schools, this will usually come from a disclosure.

Teachers must personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out; and discuss any such cases with the safeguarding lead and Children's Social Care. Although the duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases never the less this is still something that must be reported to social care.

Mental Health

All staff are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indication that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriate trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of mental health. However, staff are well placed to make day to day observations and identify whose behaviour suggests that may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Where children have suffered abuse, neglect, exploitation or other potentially adverse childhood experiences (ACES), this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescent and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern immediate action should be taken, record on my concern and share with a DSL. Crabtree Farm's Mental Health First Aider is Louise Carlton.

Where a child or parent has raised that bullying is impacting their child's mental health, **please see the bullying policy for direction.** Appropriate referrals will be completed with consent to on site counselling service, CAMHS, Sharp and Kooth.

Private Fostering (PFA)

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. A close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes halfsiblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.

Parents and private foster carers both have a legal duty to inform the relevant local authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is due to start; not to do so is a criminal offence.

Whilst most privately fostered children are appropriately supported and looked after, they are a potentially vulnerable group who should be monitored by the local authority, particularly when the child has come from another country. In some cases, privately fostered children are affected by abuse and neglect, or be involved in trafficking, child sexual exploitation or modern-day slavery.

Schools have a mandatory duty to report to the local authority where they are aware or suspect that a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement. Although schools have a duty to inform the local authority, there is no duty for anyone, including the private foster carer or social workers to inform the school. However, it should be clear to the school who has parental responsibility.

School staff should notify the designated safeguarding lead when they become aware of private fostering arrangements. The designated safeguarding lead will speak to the family of the child involved to check that they are aware of their duty to inform the LA. The school itself has a duty to inform the local authority of the private fostering arrangements.

On admission to the school, relationship of the adults to the child who is being registered must be verified.

Children who Self-harm

Staff should always be mindful of the underlying factors, which may lead a child or young person of any age to self-harm. This is particularly the case for children of primary school age as self-harm in this age group is uncommon. Where information comes to the attention of practitioners, which suggests that a primary age child has self-harmed, or shares threats to self-harm, serious consideration must be given to whether there are other underlying factors, including abuse, neglect or exploitation. All such cases should be discussed with children's social care.

Even in those unusual cases where a primary age child is thought to have self-harmed it is important to recognise that this behaviour is an indicator of emotional distress and the child will need support to address this.

Child on Child Abuse

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as child on child abuse). And that it can happen both inside and outside of school or online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of child on child abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports.

All staff should understand that even if there are no reports in our school it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported. As such, it is important if staff have any concerns regarding child on child abuse they should speak to their designated safeguarding lead.

It is essential that **all** staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviour's between peers, many of which are listed below, that are actually abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviour's, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" can lead to a culture of unacceptable behavior's, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse, leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

Child on child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse);
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence);
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party;
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery);
- up skirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm; and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).

Occasionally, allegations may be made against pupils by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Where this is the case we will follow the processes set out in the policy above. In addition, we will be mindful of the fact that the pupil against whom the allegation has been made may also be vulnerable and need additional support and that their behaviour could be an indicator that they themselves are experiencing abuse, or have done so.

All staff should be clear as to the school's policy and procedures with regard to child on child abuse and the important role they have to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it.

At Crabtree Farm we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other pupils. We recognise that some students will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

All staff will be aware of indicators that may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, a significant increase in self harm, significant change in well-being or signs of assault or unexplained injuries.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable. Some groups are potentially more at risk: girls, children with SEND and LGBT children.

Through our work in school, it will be made clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment are not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an acceptable part of growing up. This includes not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or harassment as "banter", "part of growing up", "just having a laugh" or "boys being boys". Behaviours (potentially criminal in nature) will be challenged, such as grabbing bottoms, breast and genitalia, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

The response to a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment: It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Contextual Safeguarding

Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside of school and/or can occur between children outside the school. In responding to safeguarding concerns the DSL Team will consider the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur. This is known as contextual safeguarding, which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. Children's social care assessments should consider such factors so it is important that we, as a school, provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the evidence and the full context of any abuse.

Child criminal exploitation (County Lines)

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". This activity can happen locally as well as across the UK - no specified distance of travel is required. Children and vulnerable adults are exploited to move, store and sell drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims.

Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools (mainstream and special), further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, children's homes and care homes.

Children are also increasingly being targeted and recruited online using social media. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs can manufacture drug debts which need to be worked off or threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

A number of the indicators for CSE and CCE as detailed above may be applicable to where children are involved in county lines. Some additional specific indicators that may be present where a child is criminally exploited through involvement in county lines are children who:

- go missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their home;
- have been the victim or perpetrator of serious violence (e.g. knife crime);
- are involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs;
- are exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection;
- are found in accommodation that they have no connection with, often called a 'trap house or cuckooing' or hotel room where there is drug activity;
- owe a 'debt bond' to their exploiters;
- have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing.

All staff should be aware that children can become involved in any aspect of criminal exploitation and should be able to recognise the indicators of this abuse. Children can be at risk of exploitation in a geographically widespread form of abuse relating to

drug and gang cultures. Children are moved around the area and in some cases across the country to carry drugs, money and other illegal activities. Further information is available in the document produced by the Home Office - *Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County-Lines guidance*

Domestic Abuse

Operation Encompass is a reporting system which enables the police and schools to work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that following an incident of domestic abuse, where the children have been present or affected by the incident, that the police/social care will inform a DSL at the school within 24 hours. Further advice is available from;

- The National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247
- NSPCC - UK Domestic-abuse Signs Symptoms Effects
- Refuge - What is domestic violence/effects of domestic violence on children
- Safe Lives - Young People and domestic abuse.

Children who are absent from Education

Knowing where children are during school hours is an extremely important aspect of Safeguarding. Missing school particularly repeatedly, and/or for prolonged periods, and for children missing education can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect such as sexual abuse or exploitation and can also be a sign of child criminal exploitation including involvement in county lines and may also raise concerns about child sexual exploitation.

Attendance is monitored carefully and poor or irregular attendance is addressed without delay.

In response to the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 each school has:

1. Staff who understand what to do when children do not attend regularly.
2. Appropriate policies, procedures and responses for pupils who go missing from education (especially on repeat occasions).
3. Staff who know the signs and triggers for travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.
4. Procedures to inform the local authority when we plan to take pupils off-roll when they:
 - leave school to be home educated,
 - move away from the school's location,
 - remain medically unfit beyond compulsory school age,
 - are in custody for four months or more (and will not return to school afterwards); or
 - are permanently excluded.

Schools will ensure that pupils who are expected to attend the school, but fail to take up the place will be referred to the local authority. When a pupil leaves a school, it will record the name of the pupil's new school and any expected start date.

Sexting

In cases of 'sexting' we follow guidance given to schools and colleges by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) published in August 2016: 'Sexting in schools and colleges, responding to incidents, and safeguarding young people.'

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2025 goes further than the guidance from 2016 and underlines what it means by taking into account the safeguarding needs of children with SEND. School will ensure that children with SEND have a greater availability of mentoring and support. Children and young people with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges because:

- it could be assumed that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- children with SEND can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying without outwardly showing any signs;
- there is a higher risk of peer group isolation;
- difficulties may arise in overcoming communication barriers;
- their SEN or disability needs are seen first, and the potential for abuse second.

To ensure that all of our children receive equal protection, we will also give special consideration and attention to children who are:

- Living in a known domestic abuse situation
- Affected by known parental substance (drugs and/or alcohol) misuse
- Living in a household with adult mental health issues
- Asylum seekers/refugees
- New communities
- Vulnerable to being bullied, or engaging in bullying
- Living in temporary accommodation
- Living transient lifestyles
- Living in chaotic, neglectful and unsupportive home situations
- Vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion or sexuality
- Young carers
- Looked after children
- Do not have English as a first language

Special consideration includes the provision of safeguarding information, resources and support services in community languages and accessible formats.

Professional Development

The Governors recognise that all staff and volunteers who work with pupils aged up to 18 years need to have appropriate child safeguarding training that equips them to recognise and respond to pupil welfare concerns.

We will ensure staff are given mandatory induction, which includes familiarisation with child safeguarding policy, part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, staff code of conduct, the designated leads in the school, their responsibilities and procedures to be followed.

The training, including multi-agency training, in the last three years undertaken by staff and Governors to ensure their knowledge and skills are up to date includes:

- Prevent Training
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
- Hays Online Learning
- CSE
- FGM
- Online safety
- Domestic Abuse
- GDPR
- DSL Part 1& 2
- DSL Update
- Safer Recruitment
- Train the Trainer
- Paediatric First Aid

A report of the school's training needs assessment is presented to the Governors annually so that they can ensure that training is appropriately provided for all staff. This report is also shared with staff to enable them to contribute to the development of safeguarding practice in the school.

A training register is kept to indicate when staff and Governors have been trained and this in turn informs the annual report to Governors.

Safer recruitment training has been attended by:

- Lorna Haskey - Headteacher
- Jodie Round - Deputy Headteacher
- Melanie Smith - Business Manager

Training

Regular training and discussion within the school environment is important and should be led by the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Timelines for training:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead training: refreshed **every two years** (statutory requirement).
- All staff, schools and Governing bodies should be open to new learning and keep up to date with changes made to national and local safeguarding policy, procedure and guidance, including that by Nottingham City safeguarding partners. Training will be refreshed annually, using either face to face briefings or online training through Hays: Online safeguarding and child protection training (certified CPD) or equivalent.

- Safer recruitment training, through Hays: Online safeguarding and child protection training (certified CPD) or equivalent.
- All staff will receive regular updates throughout the school year which will be recorded in the schools training log.
- DSL's to attend termly network meetings run by the Local Authority
- DSL's will attend annual PREVENT training run by the Local Authority.

Safer Recruitment and DBS checks – policy and procedures

We will record all information on the checks carried out in the school's single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals' personnel files. We follow requirements and best practice in retaining copies of these checks, as set out below. The safeguarding governor will have oversight of this on an annual basis.

Confidentiality, sharing information and record keeping

Information will be shared in line with UK GDPR.

Staff should only discuss concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Headteacher or Chair of Governors (depending on who is the subject of the concern). That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

Wherever possible consent will be sought to share information however where there are safeguarding concerns about a child, information will be shared with the appropriate organisations such as the MASH. In most cases concerns will be discussed with parents/carers prior to the referral taking place unless doing so would increase risk.

The school's policy on confidentiality and information-sharing is available to parents and pupils on request.

A pupil's safeguarding records will be kept in line with the school's retention policy (until the child's 25th birthday, 27th birthday if they have a SEND or 75th birthday if the record includes sexual abuse).

Education at home

Crabtree Farm Primary School has taken guidance from the DFE: safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers and safeguarding-and-remote-education to ensure that children who are being asked to learn online at home are safe.

Whilst learning from home, weekly contact will be made with any child already identified as vulnerable or who normally receive support through school or other agencies such as targeted family support or priority families. This contact will normally be by phone each week, but may also include a home visit if necessary. A record of the contact is logged on MyConcern and will be shared with any appropriate outside agencies.

Appendix 1: Signs and symptoms of abuse

Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025)

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. (Further information relating to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 below).

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnerships have adapted the Neglect Toolkit which was initially developed by Jane Wiffin on Behalf of Hounslow LCSB and then revised by North Somerset; to offer a 'Structured Judgement Approach' to the identification of child neglect and the tools for the agency to work in partnership with families to improve outcomes for the children and young people.

Signs and symptoms of physical abuse:

Bruises

- commonly on the head, but also on the ear or neck or soft areas - the abdomen, back and buttocks
- defensive wounds commonly on the forearm, upper arm, back of the leg, hands or feet
- clusters of bruises on the upper arm, outside of the thigh or on the body
- bruises with dots of blood under the skin
- a bruised scalp and swollen eyes from hair being pulled violently
- bruises in the shape of a hand or object

Burns or scalds

- can be from hot liquids, hot objects, flames, chemicals or electricity on the hands, back, shoulders or buttocks;
- scalds may be on lower limbs, both arms and/or both legs
- a clear edge to the burn or scald
- sometimes in the shape of an implement for example, a circular cigarette burn
- multiple burns or scalds

Bite marks

- usually oval or circular in shape
- visible wounds, indentations or bruising from individual teeth.

Fractures or broken bones

- fractures to the ribs or the leg bones in babies
- multiple fractures or breaks at different stages of healing

Other injuries and health problems

- scarring
- effects of poisoning such as vomiting, drowsiness or seizures
- respiratory problems from drowning, suffocation or poisoning

Things you may notice:

Withdrawn, suddenly behaves differently, anxious, clingy, depressed, aggressive, problems sleeping, eating disorders, wets the bed, soils clothes, takes risks, misses school, changes in eating habits, obsessive behaviour, nightmares, drugs, alcohol, self-harm, thoughts about suicide.

Signs and symptoms of emotional abuse

There often aren't any obvious physical symptoms of emotional abuse or neglect, but you may spot signs in a child's actions or emotions. Changes in emotions are a normal part of growing up, so it can be really difficult to tell if a child is being emotionally abused.

Babies and pre-school children who are being emotionally abused or neglected may:

- be overly-affectionate towards strangers or people they haven't known for very long.

- lack confidence or become wary or anxious.
- not appear to have a close relationship with their parent, e.g. when being taken to or collected from nursery etc.
- be aggressive or nasty towards other children and animals.

Older children may:

- use language, act in a way or know about things that you wouldn't expect them to know for their age.
- struggle to control strong emotions or have extreme outbursts.
- seem isolated from their parents.
- lack social skills or have few, if any, friends.

Things you may notice:

Withdrawn, suddenly behaves differently, anxious, clingy, depressed, aggressive, problems sleeping, eating disorders, wets the bed, soils clothes, takes risks, misses school, changes in eating habits, obsessive behaviour, nightmares, drugs, alcohol, self-harm, thoughts about suicide.

Signs and symptoms of sexual abuse

Children who are sexually abused may:

- stay away from certain people.
- they might avoid being alone with people, such as family members or friends.
- they could seem frightened of a person or reluctant to socialise with them.

Show sexual behaviour that are inappropriate for their age:

- a child might become sexually active at a young age.
- they might be promiscuous.
- they could use sexual language or know information that you wouldn't expect them to.

Have physical symptoms:

- anal or vaginal soreness
- an unusual discharge
- sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- pregnancy

Things you may notice might include:

Withdrawn, suddenly behaves differently, anxious, clingy, depressed, aggressive, problems sleeping, eating disorders, wets the bed, soils clothes, takes risks, misses school, changes in eating habits, obsessive behaviour, nightmares, drugs, alcohol, self-harm, thoughts about suicide.

Appendix 2: Further guidance

To support the work around child protection and safeguarding, links to statutory, national and local guidance are below:

- Child Sexual Exploitation 'What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-you-suspect-a-child-is-beingsexually-exploited>
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/f/fgm%20guidance.pdf>
- Children who may have been trafficked <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-who-may-have-beentrafficked-practice-guidance>
- Gang and Knife Crime DCSF – 00064-2010 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288804/Safegu arding children Gang activity.pdf
- Homophobic, Transphobic Bullying <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/homophobic-bullying-in-schools-project-gets-underway>
- Guidance is also available on the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership Website for children with Looked After Status and Children Missing from Home and Care.
- Private fostering arrangements - www.privatefostering.org.uk
- Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, parents and Carers.
- Nottingham City Threshold of Needs – June 2023
- Written Notification from Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People dated 02.09.2024
- [Multi Agency Safeguarding Children Hub \(MASH\) - Nottingham City Council – Online Multi Agency Referral form \(MARF\)](#)
- Early Years Statutory Framework – September 2025

Appendix 3: Legislation related to safeguarding in schools

Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (December 2023)

Education

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Education Act 2002
- The Education (Health Standards) (England) Regulations 2003
- The Further Education (Providers of Education) (England) (Regulations) 2006
- The Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) (England) Regulations
2007 as amended by SI 2010/1919, SI 2012/1201, SI 2012/1825, SI 2012/3158
- The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 as amended by SI 2012/1740 and SI 2013/1940
- The Education (Non-Maintained Special Schools) (England) Regulations 2011 as amended by SI 2015/387
- The Education (School Teachers' Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
- Early Years Statutory Framework – September 2025

Appendix 4: Body Map Guidance for Schools

Body Maps should be used to document and illustrate visible signs of harm and physical injuries.

Always use a black pen (never a pencil) and do not use correction fluid or any other eraser.

Do not remove clothing for the purpose of the examination unless the injury site is freely available because of treatment.

At no time should an individual teacher/member of staff or school take photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person, the body map below should be used.

Any concerns should be reported and recorded without delay to the appropriate safeguarding services, e.g. Social Care direct or child's social worker if already an open case to social care.

When you notice an injury to a child, try to record the following information in respect of each mark identified e.g. red areas, swelling, bruising, cuts, lacerations and wounds, scalds and burns:

- Exact site of injury on the body, e.g. upper outer arm/left cheek.
- Size of injury - in appropriate centimetres or inches.
- Approximate shape of injury, e.g. round/square or straight line.
- Colour of injury - if more than one colour, say so.
- Is the skin broken?
- Is there any swelling at the site of the injury, or elsewhere?
- Is there a scab/any blistering/any bleeding?
- Is the injury clean or is there grit/fluff etc?
- Is mobility restricted as a result of the injury?
- Does the site of the injury feel hot?
- Does the child feel hot?
- Does the child feel pain?
- Has the child's body shape changed/are they holding themselves differently?

Importantly the date and time of the recording must be stated as well as the name and designation of the person making the record. Add any further comments as required

Ensure First Aid is provided where required and record

A copy of the body map should be kept on the child's concern/confidential file.



Crabtree Farm Concerns – Body Map

Date	Child's Name	Date of Birth
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Body Map	Head Map

Hand Map	Feet Map

	Print Name	Signature	Role	Date
Reported By				
Received By				

Appendix 5: Flowchart for raising safeguarding concerns

