

Falmouth MAT - Safeguarding Policy

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Statutory or Optional policy	Statutory
Appendices	None

Meeting your communication needs:

We want to ensure that your needs are met, if you would like this information in Braille, large print, any other format or interpreted in a language other than English, please contact Falmouth MAT, telephone: 01326 372386 or email: MATenquiries@falmouthmat.org.uk

“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility”

Key Information

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are:

Falmouth school – Mr Jem Wallis
King Charles School – Mrs Debbie Byron
St Francis School – Mrs Rachel Marsh

The name of the Designated Teacher for Children in Care are:

Falmouth School – Mr Jem Wallis
King Charles School – Mrs Debbie Byron
St Francis School – Mrs Rachel Marsh

The Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the Prevent agenda is:

Falmouth school – Mr Jem Wallis
King Charles School – Mrs Debbie Byron
St Francis School – Mrs Rachel Marsh

The Child Sexual Exploitation Lead is:

Falmouth school – Mr Jem Wallis
King Charles School – Mrs Debbie Byron
St Francis School – Mrs Rachel Marsh

The named Safeguarding Governors are:

Falmouth MAT Trustee – Mrs Karen Bond

Falmouth School – Mrs Claire Wraith
King Charles School – Mrs Jess Bidgood
St Francis School – Miss Christina Hourigan

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1. Introduction and Context:

Falmouth MAT is committed to creating and embedding a culture of vigilance which:

- Ensures we maintain an attitude of “It could happen here”
- Ensures that our learners are safe and protected
- Ensures that they know who to talk to if they have concerns
- Ensures that they are supported, protected and informed
- Ensures that they are safe from discrimination and bullying
- Ensures that they are supported in their learning to recognise and manage risk and learn about how to keep themselves safe
- Focuses on preventative work in relation to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and takes an ACE aware approach

1.1 Our responsibilities

This policy applies to all staff, students, governors and volunteers working across the Trust/school phases.

We take seriously our statutory and moral responsibilities to protect and safeguard the welfare of the children and young people in their care - “The welfare of the child is paramount.” (Children Act 1989)

We will follow procedures set out by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership, which comprises of the council, and take account of guidance issued by the DFE and the Local Authority (LA). https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/cornwall_scilly/index.html

We recognise that staff, because of their contact with and knowledge of children or young people in their care, are well placed to promote the well-being of children, protect them from harm, and respond to child protection or safeguarding concerns.

As part of the ethos of the Trust and its schools, the staff and governors are committed to:

- ensuring the school practises safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with students;
- ensuring that all staff and volunteers understand, and adhere to, the school’s code of conduct;
- student health and safety
- proving first aid as and when required
- having clear processes regarding intimate care
- meeting the needs of our students with medical conditions
- having pastoral systems which support early identification and early help through the Early Help Hub and CAF process
- developing Inclusive practice which promotes the voice of the child and seeks to reduce the barriers that students from vulnerable backgrounds may have and which may in turn affect their mental health and wellbeing, as well as their ability to share information about maltreatment and abuse
- establishing and maintaining a safe school environment, where all students feel secure, can learn and develop, are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
- including opportunities in the strands of the PSHE, ICT curriculum and whole school approach to care, guidance and support, for students to develop the skills they need to recognise, and stay safe from abuse;

- having regard to the DfE statutory guidance that from 2020 relationships education will be compulsory in all Primary Schools and that relationships and sex education will be compulsory in all secondary schools and reviewing current teaching and learning opportunities to prepare for this;
- ensuring all teaching and support staff are aware of signs and symptoms of abuse, know the correct procedure for referring concerns or allegations against staff and receive appropriate training to enable them to carry out these requirements;
- ensuring all volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated person responsible for child protection;
- exercising their duty to work in partnership with other agencies and to share information with them, including attendance at child protection conferences; core groups and preparation of reports for conferences;
- encouraging and supporting parents/carers, working in partnership with them;
- supporting students in accordance with their agreed child protection plan
- a child centred approach, making it clear what our staff should do to keep children safe. In doing so, seeking to emphasise that effective safeguarding systems are those where
- Ensuring students know they can talk to staff confidentially by reminding them in assemblies, updating the information available (e.g. noticeboards and website)

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

(Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019)

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a duty on local authorities in relation to their education functions, the governing bodies of maintained schools and the governing bodies of further education institutions (which include sixth-form colleges) to exercise their functions with a view of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are either pupils at a school or who are students under 18 years of age attending further education institutions.

The same duty applies to independent schools (which include academies and free schools) by virtue of regulations made under Section 157 of this Act.

In order to fulfil their duty under Sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002, all educational settings to whom the duty applies, should have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All schools should give effect to their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils under the Education Act 2002 and, where appropriate, under the Children Act 1989 by:

- Creating and maintaining a safe learning environment for children and young people.

- Identifying where there are child welfare concerns and taking action to address them, in partnership with other organisations where appropriate.

This policy develops procedures and good practice within our schools, to ensure that there is an understanding of the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people including those who are vulnerable. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children and young people are respected and feel valued. It provides evidence of how this will be implemented within our schools and within multi-agency working arrangements.

This policy has been given to all staff members.

The policy will be accessible to all visitors to the schools, parents and carers through the school's website and a hard copy will be available in the staff room and reception.

1.2 Meeting your communication needs

We want to ensure that your needs are met. If you would like this information in any other format or interpreted in a language other than English please inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

1.3 Terminology

Child - includes everyone under the age of 18 years' old

All staff - refers to all those staff working for or on behalf of the Trust/school, full time or part time, permanent or temporary, in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

Parent - refers to birth parents and other adults in a parenting role, for example step parents, foster carers, and adoptive parents, any other person(s) who have legal parental responsibility for a child.

Governing Body - refers to all forms of governance within the Academy.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to the process of protecting children from maltreatment, preventing the impairment of 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.

Child protection refers to the processes undertaken to protect children who have been identified as suffering, or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

1.4 Acronyms used in this policy:

DSL – Designated Safeguarding Lead

DDSL –Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

MARU –Multi Agency Referral Unit

CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation

FGM – Female Genital Mutilation

KCSIE – Keeping Children Safe in Education (Revised September 2nd 2019)

OSCB – Safeguarding Children Partnership for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer

1.5 Key Documents:

This is an overarching policy and should be read in conjunction with the following legislation and guidance (*this is not an exhaustive list*):

'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2015), which is statutory guidance to be read and followed by all those providing services for children and families, including those in education. The guidance is available via the following link:

<http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/index.html>

"Keeping Children Safe in Education" (Sept 2019), which is the statutory guidance for Schools and Colleges. The guidance is available via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/828312/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf

'What to do if worried a child is being abused: Advice for Practitioner'. March 2015. The guidance is available via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf

"Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers". 2018. The guidance is available via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721581/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf

"The Prevent Duty Departmental, advice for Schools and child care providers June 2015. The guidance is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

Multi agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (pages 59-61 focus on schools). The guidance is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

Children Missing Education – Statutory guidance for local authorities, September 2016. The guidance is available via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550416/Children_Missing_Education_-_statutory_guidance.pdf

Multi agency Statutory Guidance for dealing with Forced Marriage July 2016: This guidance is available via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322307/HMG_MULTI_AGENCY_PRACTICE_GUIDELINES_v1_180614_FINAL.pdf

Child Sexual Exploitation – Further guidance is available via the following link:
<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/cornwall-and-isles-of-scilly-safeguarding-children-partnership/safeguarding-topics/child-sexual-exploitation-and-missing-children/>

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children in schools and Colleges: This guidance is available via the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges>

Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with Children and Young People in Education settings 2015. This guidance is available via the following link:
<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Guidance-for-Safer-Working-Practices-2015-final1.pdf>

The development of appropriate procedures and the monitoring of good practice in Cornwall are the responsibility of the [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership](#). In Cornwall, all professionals must work in accordance with the [South West Child Protection Procedures](#). In accordance with the above procedures, the School carries out an annual audit of its Safeguarding provision (S175/157 Safeguarding Audit, requirement of the Education Act 2002 & 2006) and sends a copy to the Local Authority from which a report is submitted to Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership.

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the following policies linked to safeguarding within the school:

- ✓ **Care, support, relationship and behaviour policy**
- ✓ **E-safety/Online policy**
- ✓ **Anti-bullying policy**
- ✓ **Special Educational needs policy**
- ✓ **Supporting medical needs policy (including first aid management)**
- ✓ **Whistleblowing policy**
- ✓ **Equality policy**
- ✓ **Safer recruitment policy**
- ✓ **Health and safety policy**
- ✓ **Recruitment policy**
- ✓ **Visitors policy**

2. Our Principles:

2.1 Key elements to this policy:

- Establishing positive, supportive, secure working practices that put children first.
- Ensuring we practice safer recruitment in checking the suitability of all staff who work in our school.
- Keeping child protection issues at the forefront of our work and know who the school Designated Safeguarding Leads and where they can be located/contacted in school.
- Ensuring that all staff implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse and regularly reviews them.
- Supporting children and young people in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
- We will follow the procedures set out by the OSCB and take account of all guidance issued by the DfE, OfSTED and other significant bodies.
- Ensure we have DSLs who have received appropriate training and support for their role (see training section).
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written, dated and signed records of concerns about “vulnerable” children including chronologies, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately on My Concern. This includes the use of any screening tool that aids identification of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Radicalisation, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), on-line use or other such issues and that such records are securely placed.
- Follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff and that such procedures are robust to deal with any allegation and that clear records of investigations and outcomes of allegations are held on staff files.
- Risk-assess any off-site activity, led by the school.

3. Early Help:

There are situations which may occur in a family's life where they may benefit from additional support that cannot be provided solely by universal services.

These can include when a child:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs.
- Has special educational needs.
- Is a young carer.
- Is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour.
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health, domestic violence;
- Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect.
- Is showing signs of displaying behaviour or views that are considered to be extreme.

These children are therefore more vulnerable; this school will identify who their vulnerable children are, ensuring **ALL** Staff and Governors know the processes to secure advice, help and support where needed. In the first instance a discussion should take place with the DSL and a record kept of this discussion. If further advice is needed or the school wishes to make a referral, then they would contact the Early Help Hub.

Within Cornwall the Early Help Hub is the first point of contact when considering additional support for children and their families

- Support is provided: from pre-birth to the age of 18 (or 25 when the young person has additional needs) when the child, young person or family has needs that are not met solely by universal services.
- It is single point of access for professionals, families and young people to access Early Help Services in Cornwall.
- The triage team decides which Early Help service best meets the needs identified in the request for help. It is then allocated to the appropriate service within 48 hrs.

Contact details:

- **Telephone: 01872 322277**
- **Email: earlyhelphub@cornwall.gov.uk**
- **Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk/earlyhelphub**

4. Child Abuse:

Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2018) defined abuse as the maltreatment of a child. *"Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children"*

There are four types of child abuse referred to in Keeping Children Safe in Education: -

4.1 Physical Abuse

May involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning/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.

4.2 Emotional Abuse

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

4.3 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 or 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.

4.4 Neglect

Is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development?

It may include a failure to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter.
- 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.

If you are to refer a child or young person because of possible neglect, always check back to see if there have been any previous concerns. The Children Act 1989 talks about how the persistent neglect of very basic needs is likely to cause impairment in the child or young person's development.

Signs and Indicators which may assist in the identification of some forms of abuse can be found in Appendix A.

Our School is aware of the signs of abuse and neglect so we are able to identify children who may be in need of help or protection. All staff are aware of the environmental factors which may impact on a child's welfare and safety and understand safeguarding in the wider context (contextual safeguarding). Staff are aware of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm and understand that behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking, alcohol abuse, deliberately missing from education and sexting put children in danger.

5. Reporting your concerns:

5.1 General Principles

Falmouth MAT Schools works with key local partners to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This includes providing a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified and contributing to inter-agency plans which provide additional support (through a 'child in need' or a 'child protection' plan).

All staff members have a duty to identify and respond to suspected/actual abuse or disclosures of abuse. Any member of staff, volunteer or visitor to the school who receives a disclosure or allegation of abuse, or suspects that abuse may have occurred **must** report it immediately to the designated safeguarding lead (or, in their absence, the deputy designated safeguarding lead).

Any staff member or visitor to the school will refer any concerns to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy designated safeguarding lead. Where there is risk of immediate harm, concerns will be referred by telephone to the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) and/or the Police. Less urgent concerns or requests for support will be referred to the Early Help Hub. Wherever possible, the school will share any safeguarding concerns, or an intention to refer a child to Children's Social Care, with parents or carers. However, we will not do so where it is felt that to do so could place the child at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. On occasions, it may be necessary to consult with the MARU and/or Devon and Cornwall Police for advice on when to share information with parents/carers.

If a member of staff continues to have concerns about a child and feels the situation is not being addressed or does not appear to be improving, the staff member concerned should press for re-consideration of the case with the designated safeguarding lead.

If, for any reason, the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Safeguarding contact details are displayed in the school to ensure that all staff members have unfettered access to safeguarding support, should it be required. Any individual may refer to Social Care/MARU where there is suspected or actual risk of harm to a child.

When new staff, volunteers or regular visitors join our school they are informed of the safeguarding arrangements in place, the name of the designated safeguarding lead (and deputy) and how to share concerns with them.

If there is an immediate concern about a child or their family **any member** of staff can phone the MARU for advice and guidance if the DSL/DDSL are not available.

Contact details: MARU 0300 123116

If the concerns arise out of office hours contact 01208 251300

5.3 Contacting MARU (for advice or when making a referral)

Ensure that you have as much factual information about the child as possible when you phone include:

- Full name

- D.O.B
- Address
- Family composition details (including names of parent(s) and siblings)
- Any key professionals working with the school
- Factual information about the concerns you have

5.4 Making a referral in writing

You will need to back any phone call up in writing by completing the multi-agency referral form. This is available from the [CIOSSCP](#) this must be sent in by secure email which is clearly highlighted on the referral form:

MARU Secure email: multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gcsx.gov.uk

5.5 Informing Parents

Schools should ensure they have spoken to the family about their concerns and proposed actions unless to do so would place the child at risk or when in exceptional circumstances; the decision not to inform parents/carers must be justified and the details recorded. If a child makes a disclosure or presents with an injury, it is imperative that advice is sought immediately prior to the child returning home and as soon as the school become aware of this.

5.6 Resolution of Professional Differences

In the event that the school disagree with the actions or decisions of another agency we will consider using the Resolution of Professional Differences policy also referred to as the escalation policy. The policy is available via the following link:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/18591637/conflict-resolution-policy-resolving-professional-differences-and-flowchart.pdf>

5.7 If the Child/Family are already known to Social Care

When a member of staff, parent, practitioner, or another person has concerns for a child, and if the school are aware that the case is already open to social care then they should contact the allocated worker. If they do not know the name of the worker, they can contact MARU who will provide contact details of the worker and/or their manager.

6. Specific Safeguarding Issues:

There are specific issues that have become critical issues in Safeguarding that Schools will endeavour to ensure **ALL** their Staff and Governors are familiar with; having processes in place to identify, report, monitor and which are included within teaching:

- Bullying including cyber bullying
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Domestic Violence
- Drugs
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Faith abuse
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage
- Gangs and Youth Violence
- Gender based violence/Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Hate
- Mental Health
- Private Fostering
- Preventing Radicalisation
- Online abuse/Sexting
- Teenage Relationship abuse
- Trafficking
- Missing children and vulnerable adults
- Child sexual abuse within the family
- Poor parenting, particularly in relation to babies and young children

Schools and Colleges can access broad government guidance on the issues listed above via <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education> and local procedures and strategies are available through www.safechildren-cios.co.uk

Falmouth MAT will incorporate signs of abuse and specific safeguarding issues into briefings, staff induction training, and ongoing development training to all Staff and Governors. Annex A of KCSIE (September 2019) provides more detail on the following:

6.1 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact: it can also occur through the use of technology. (KCSIE September 2019)

All suspected or actual cases of CSE are a Safeguarding concern in which Child Protection procedures must be followed; this will include a referral to MARU and where the risk is immediate to the police. If any staff are concerned about a pupil, they will refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/s and the CSE lead within the School.

In addition, the school would access the CSE tool kit on the South West Child Protection Procedures website. www.swcpp.org.uk

Potential indicators of CSE are contained within Appendix A.

6.1.1 Child Criminal Exploitation

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered.

6.2 Radicalisation/PREVENT

Falmouth MAT Schools will ensure **ALL** staff including governors adhere to their duties in the Prevent guidance 2015 to prevent radicalisation (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>)

The HT/Principal and Chair of Governors will:

- Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of extremism
- Ensure staff understand the risk and build capabilities to deal with issues arising
- Communicate the importance of the duty
- Ensure **All** Staff and Governors implement the duty
- Ensure the risks of Radicalisation are referred to within all relevant policies including visitors anti bullying and e-safety.

Falmouth MAT Schools will respond to any concern about Radicalisation/Prevent as a Safeguarding concern and will report in the usual way using local safeguarding procedures. We will seek to work in partnership, undertaking risk assessments where appropriate and proportionate to risk, building our children's resilience to radicalisation.

When reviewing our PREVENT duties we would consider the guidance contained on the safer Cornwall website (link below).

<http://safercornwall.co.uk/preventing-crime/preventing-violent-extremism/>

What can we do to help our children understand these issues and help protect them?

- Provide a safe space for them to debate controversial issues.
- Help them to build resilience and the critical thinking they need to be able to challenge extremist arguments.
- Give them confidence to explore different perspectives, question, and challenge.

The school is committed to providing effective filtering systems and this will include monitoring the activities of children when on-line in the school. We follow the guidance set out in Annex C (KCSIE September 2019) Please refer to Falmouth MAT Schools e-safety/online policy.

All staff in the first instance should contact the SPOC (Single Point of Contact) within the school.

Additional Contact Details:

**Concerns can be discussed with the Prevent Lead for Cornwall:
Steve Rowell email: prevent@cornwall.gov.uk**

MARU can also be contacted for advice: 0300 1231 116

Emergency Out of Hours: Tel No: 01208 251300

If immediate and serious concerns call the police on 999

6.3 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Falmouth MAT Schools recognises and understands that there is a now a **mandatory reporting duty for all teachers to report to the police** where it is believed an act of FGM has been carried out on a girl under 18 in the UK. Failure to do so may result in legal/disciplinary action being taken.

All suspected or actual cases of FGM are a safeguarding concern in which safeguarding procedures will be followed; this will include a referral to the police and to Children's Social Care via MARU. If any staff are concerned about a pupil, they will refer to the Safeguarding Designated Lead/s within the School unless there is a good reason not to do so.

Potential indicators of FGM are contained within Appendix A.

6.4 Peer on Peer Abuse

Our school may be the only stable, secure and safe element in the lives of children at risk of, or who have suffered harm. Nevertheless, whilst at school, their behaviour may be challenging and defiant, or they may instead be withdrawn, or display abusive behaviours towards other children. Our school recognises that some children may abuse their peers and any incidents of peer on peer abuse will be managed in the same way as any other child protection concern and will follow the same procedures. We will seek advice and support from other agencies as appropriate.

Peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This may include bullying (including cyber bullying), physical abuse, sexual violence / sexual harassment, 'sexting' or initiation/hazing type violence and rituals. We do not tolerate any harmful behaviour in school and will take swift action to intervene where this occurs. We use lessons and assemblies to help children understand, in an age-appropriate way, what abuse is and we encourage them to tell a trusted adult if someone is behaving in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. Our schools understands the different gender issues that can be prevalent when dealing with peer on peer abuse.

Please refer to the school's anti bullying policy.

6.5 Sexual violence and sexual harassment

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.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable. It is important that **all** victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at greater risk.

Staff should be aware of the importance of:

- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and
- challenging behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

Please refer to Falmouth MAT School’s Anti Bullying, Equality and Diversity, e-safety policies/online policies.

6.6 Children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges.

Falmouth MAT recognises that additional barriers can exist when identifying 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;
- That they may be more prone to peer group isolation than others
- The potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

The individual needs of every special educational needs or disabled child will be reviewed regularly and consideration given to any additional vulnerabilities they may have which could lead to safety and welfare concerns arising. Appropriate additional support will be secured where need is identified either within the school or through outside agencies.

Should any concerns arise in relation to any child in relation to their safety and welfare Falmouth MAT will follow the same procedures as outlined within this policy and liaise with the DSL initially.

6.7 E-safety/Online safety

Mobile phones, laptops, iPads, and other on-line type products are integrated into all our lives. Many are used within our school. However, there are those that seek to use these for their own or others gratification. The link below provides more information on on-line safety and cover issues such as:

- Bullying, including online bullying and prejudice-based bullying, racialisation and/or extremist behaviour

- Child sexual exploitation and trafficking
- The impact of new technologies on sexual behaviour, for example sexting.

<http://swgfl.org.uk/news/News/E-Safety/Making-Sense-of-the-New-Online-Safety-Standards>

Falmouth MAT takes online safety very seriously both in terms of our pupils and all of our staff. Please also refer to Falmouth MAT e-safety/online policy and the acceptable user policy for staff.

6.7.1 Filtering

Falmouth MAT schools are adhering to the guidance within the revised KCSIE (September 2019) Annex C and this is reflected within our e-safety policy.

6.8 Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse may take many forms. Witnessing the physical and emotional suffering of a parent may cause considerable distress to children and both the physical assaults and psychological abuse suffered by adult victims who experience domestic abuse can have a negative impact on their ability to look after their children. Children can still suffer the effects of domestic abuse, even if they do not witness the incidents directly. However, in up to 90% of incidents involving domestic violence where children reside in the home, the children are in the same or the next room. Children's exposure to parental conflict, even where violence is not present, can lead to serious anxiety and distress among children.

Children can see school as a safe retreat from problems at home or alternatively not attend school through a perceived need to be at home to protect abused parents or siblings.

Domestic abuse can therefore have a damaging effect on a child's health, educational attainment and emotional well-being and development. The potential scale of the impact on children is not always easy to assess but may manifest itself as behavioural, emotional or social difficulties, including poor self-esteem, withdrawal, absenteeism, adult-child conflict. Children sometimes disclose what is happening or may be reluctant to do so hoping that someone will realise something is wrong.

6.9 Children Missing Education

All children, regardless of their age, ability, aptitude and any special education needs are entitled to a full-time education. Our school recognises that a child missing education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and will follow the school procedures for unauthorised absence and for children missing education. Parents should always inform us of the reason for any absence. Where contact is not made, a referral may be made to another appropriate agency (Missing Education and Child Employment Service, Social Care or Police). Parents are required to provide at least two emergency contact numbers to the school, so we are able to communicate with someone if we need to.

Our schools must inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without school permission for a continuous period of 10 days or more.

6.9.1 EHE- Elective Home Education

When a child is identified as being at risk of Elective Home Education the school will ensure a appropriate support is provided. When appropriate we will advise the Local Authority and other appropriate agencies of any concerns. We will advise the Local Authority of when children leave our school to be electively home educated at the earliest opportunity.

6.9.2 Reduced Time Tables

Should a reduced time table be instigated or be necessary, guidance will be reviewed with the aim the child returns to school full time at the earliest moment or other provision sought to ensure the child/ young person has their full entitlement. Reduced timetables will be reported to the Local Authority at the earlier opportunity.

6.10 Looked after children

The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and/or neglect. Governing bodies should ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep looked after children safe. KCSIE (revised September 2019)

The designated child in care lead will ensure that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility. They are also responsible for ensuring that they also have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the local authority looking after him/her. The designated children in care lead will have details of the child's social worker. They will have drawn up an individual education plan in consultation with the children in care education support service (CICESSE).

The designated child in care lead will attend regular training/briefings provided by Cornwall Council regardless of whether there are currently children within the school who are in care.

6.11 Young Carers

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

6.12 Forced Marriage

The UK Government describe this as taking someone, usually overseas, to force them to marry (whether or not the **forced marriage** takes place) or marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (Coercion may include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure). It may also involve physical or sexual violence and abuse.

However, the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses. Children may be married at a very young age and well

below the age of consent in England. ALL Staff should be particularly alert to suspicions or concerns raised by a pupil. Since June 2014 forcing someone to marry has become a criminal offence in England and Wales under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

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

6.13 Private Fostering

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

If the school are aware of such an arrangement being in place they must advise the family that the school have a responsibility to inform the local authority and encourage the family to advise the local authority themselves.

Advice or a referral can be made via MARU

7. Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

Confidentiality needs to be discussed and fully understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of child protection. No adult must ever guarantee confidentiality to any individual including parents, children and colleagues. Staff should make children aware that if they disclose information that may be harmful to themselves or others, then certain actions will need to be taken.

Wherever possible, consent should be obtained before sharing personal information with third parties. In some circumstances, obtaining consent may not be possible or in the best interest of the child or young person, e.g., where safety and welfare of that child or young person necessitates that the information should be shared. The law permits the disclosure of confidential information necessary to safeguard a child or children. Disclosure should be justifiable in each case, according to the particular facts of the case, and legal advice should be sought if in doubt.

If the information given relates directly to the safety and welfare of a child, then the DSL must be informed immediately. They should then contact MARU.

Information on individual child protection cases may be shared by the designated lead (or deputy) with other relevant staff members. This will be on a 'need to know' basis only and where it is in the child's best interests to do so.

8. Record Keeping:

Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. Our school is clear about the need to record any concern held about a child or children within our school and when these records should be shared with other agencies. Safeguarding concerns are recorded on My Concern and may be linked to securely help paper files for each individual student.

Where there are concerns about the safety of a child, the sharing of information in a timely and effective manner between organisations can reduce the risk of harm. Whilst the Data Protection Act 2018 places duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully, it is not a barrier to sharing information where the failure to do so would result in a child or vulnerable adult being placed at risk of harm. Similarly, human rights concerns, such as respecting the right to a private and family life would not prevent sharing information where there are real safeguarding concerns. Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at risk of abuse or neglect. Generic data flows related to child protection are recorded in our Records of Processing Activity and regularly reviewed; and our online school privacy notices accurately reflect our use of data for child protection purposes.

Any member of staff receiving a disclosure of abuse or noticing signs or indicators of abuse, will record it as soon as possible, noting what was said or seen (if appropriate, using a body map to record) giving the date, time and location. All records will be dated and will include the action taken. This is then presented to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy), who will decide on appropriate action and record this accordingly.

Any records related to child protection are kept in an individual child protection file for that child (which is separate to the pupil file). All child protection records are stored securely and confidentially and will be retained for 25 years after the pupil's date of birth, or until they transfer to another school/educational setting.

Where a pupil transfers from our school to another school/educational setting (including colleges), their child protection records will be forwarded to the new educational setting. These will be marked 'Confidential' and for the attention of the receiving school's designated safeguarding lead, with a return address on the envelope so it can be returned to us if it goes astray. We will obtain evidence that the paperwork has been received by the new school and then destroy any copies held in our school. Where appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead may also make contact with the new educational setting in advance of the child's move there, to enable planning so appropriate support is in place when the child arrives.

Where a pupil joins our school, we will request child protection records from the previous educational establishment (if none are received).

9. Interagency working

It is the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure that the school is represented at and that a report is submitted to any child protection conference called for children on the school roll or previously known to them. Where possible and appropriate, any report will be shared in advance with parents/ carers. Whoever attends should be fully briefed on any issues or concerns the school has and be prepared to contribute to the discussions at the conference.

If a child is made subject to a Child Protection or Child in Need Plan, it is the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure the child is monitored regarding their school attendance, emotional well-being, academic progress, welfare and presentation. If the school are part of the core group then the Designated Safeguarding Lead should ensure that the school is represented and contributes to the plan at these meetings; that there is a record of attendance and issues discussed. Any concerns about the Child Protection plan and / or the child's welfare will be discussed and recorded at the core group meeting, unless to do so would place the child at further risk of significant harm. In this case the designated safeguarding lead will inform the child's key worker immediately and then record that they have done so and the actions agreed.

10. Allegations against staff:

Allegations against staff are covered in all basic training and induction training that takes place within our school.

Never let allegations by a child or young person go unrecorded or unreported, including any made against you. If you receive a disclosure, about an adult colleague, it is important to reassure the child that what he says will be taken very seriously and everything possible done to help.

In all instances the Headteacher must be informed. If the head teacher is not available, then the DSL should be advised.

If the allegation concerns the head teacher, then the CEO and Chair of the Trust must be informed.

In all situations regarding an allegation of abuse against a member of staff/volunteer/governor the school must not act alone and must seek advice and make a referral where necessary.

In such circumstances our Headteacher, or Chair of Governors (if the allegation is against the Headteacher) will:

- contact the LADO for advice;
- consider the safeguarding arrangements of the child or young person to ensure they are not in contact with the alleged abuser;
- contact the parents or carers of the child/young person **if** advised to do so by the LADO;
- consider the rights of the staff member for a fair and equal process of investigation; ensure that the appropriate disciplinary procedure is followed, including whether
- suspending a member of staff from work until the outcome of any investigation is deemed necessary;
- act on any decision made in any strategy meeting; and
- advise the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and any other appropriate regulatory or professional body where a member of staff has been disciplined or dismissed as a result of the allegations founded, or would have been if they have resigned.

Contact details LADO: 01872 326536

If a referral needs to be made, then this must go through MARU who will then pass it on to the LADO team. The referral form can be found at: -

<https://www.safechildren-cios.co.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/cornwall-and-isles-of-scilly-safeguarding-children-partnership/working-together/professional-allegations-lado/>

11. Whistleblowing:

Where there are concerns about the way that safeguarding is carried out in the school, staff should refer to the Falmouth MAT Whistle-blowing Policy.

A whistleblowing 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
- an 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 government, the number is **0800 028 0285** or you can contact them by emailing them directly using help@nspcc.org.uk

12. Key Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities: (see Appendix D)

12.1 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

There is a legal obligation under the Education Act 2002 S175/157 for all schools to have a designated safeguarding lead. Falmouth MAT follows the guidance in Annex B of KCSIE (revised September 2019) which outlines the key responsibilities of the DSL.

12.2 Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

As above we follow the guidance in Annex B of KCSIE (revised September 2019) which outlines the key responsibilities of the DSL and DDSL.

12.3 Governing Body including the role of the Safeguarding Governor

The roles and responsibilities of the governing body are outlined in Part 2 of KCSIE (revised September 2019). In addition, we have outlined these responsibilities in Appendix D.

13. Safer Recruitment

Our school operates safer recruitment procedures including making sure that:

- statutory duties to undertake required checks on staff who work with children are complied with in line with the Disclosure and Barring Service requirements for Regulated Activity; Teachers' Prohibition Orders; the Child Care Act 2006 and Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009
- statutory guidance relating to volunteers is followed
- at least one member of the recruitment panel members has undertaken safe recruitment training through an accredited training programme

We hold a Single Central Record (SCR) which demonstrates we have carried out the range of checks required by law on our staff.

Our school complies with the requirements of KCSIE, September 2019 - Part 3

Our school complies with the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006 and the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009.

14. Attendance at Child Protection Conference:

If a child or young person becomes the subject in a Child Protection Conference as a school, we may be asked to share information about the child or young person and his/her family. Usually this will be in the form of a written report, the contents of which will be shared with parents/carers prior to the meeting.

Child protection conferences will be attended by the DSL. In exceptional circumstances another member of staff may attend with them. The reason this responsibility is not delegated is because the DSL has the overall training and accountability to act on behalf of the school including agreeing their role in any child protection plan as well as the possible allocation of resources.

Occasionally, there may be information which is confidential and which will be shared in a closed meeting prior to the conference. If this is necessary, the chair of the conference will discuss the matter with parents/carers beforehand.

When any child becomes the subject of a conference, local procedures require all other children in the family are considered. It may well be that staff will be required to provide information on children with whom there appear to be no direct concerns.

Staff may contribute to the process of risk assessment and the decision about the child being in receipt of a child protection plan.

15. Training:

All members of our workforce have been provided with, and signed to say that they have read and understood, Part 1 of KCSIE, and ANNEX A (September 2019) and governors have been provided with and signed to say they have read and understood Part 2 of KCSIE (September 2019)

All staff members will receive appropriate annual safeguarding and child protection training. In addition, all staff members will receive safeguarding and child protection updates via a MAT safeguarding newsletter as well as staff briefings where necessary to update staff on safeguarding or child protection developments.

All staff will also, as part of our induction, be issued with information in relation to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, Part 1 of KCSIE and ANNEX A (September 2019).

Our DSLs will undertake further level 3 multi-agency safeguarding training in addition to the whole school training. This will be undertaken yearly and will update their awareness and understanding of the impact of the wider agenda of safeguarding issues. It will support the DSLs to be able to better undertake their role and support the school in ensuring our safeguarding arrangements are robust and achieving better outcomes for the pupils in our school.

Our Governing Body will have access to basic safeguarding training within the school. We will recommend and encourage them to undertake training specifically on the safeguarding responsibilities of the governing body in line with Part 2 of KCSIE, in particular the role of the Safeguarding Governor. In addition to this training the safeguarding governor may wish to access multi-agency safeguarding training at least every two years.

At least one member of our recruitment panel will have undertaken safer recruitment training. Best practice is that this is updated every 3 years to ensure that the school are keeping up with changes made to recruitment processes and changes in safeguarding requirements when recruiting staff.

16. Extended school and off-site arrangements:

All extended and off site activities are subject to a risk assessment to satisfy health and safety and safeguarding requirements. Where extended school activities are provided by and managed by the school, our own safeguarding/ child protection policy and procedures apply. If other organisations provide services or activities on our site we will check that they have appropriate procedures in place, including safer recruitment procedures.

When our pupils attend off-site activities, including day and residential visits, we will check that effective safeguarding/ child protection arrangements are in place.

17. Photography and images in school, including EYFS:

We understand that parents/carers like to take photos of or video record their children in the school play, or at sports day, or school presentations; this is a normal part of family life, and we will not discourage parents/carers from celebrating their child's successes. However, if there are Health and Safety issues associated with this, e.g. the use of a flash when taking photos could distract or dazzle the child, and cause them to have an accident, we will encourage parents/carers to use film or settings on their camera that do not require flash. Headteachers are fully supported in not permitting the use of mobile phones in EYFS settings, by staff, visitors and parents.

We will not allow images of students to be used on school websites, publicity, or press releases, without express permission from the parent/carer, and if we do obtain such permission, we will not identify individual children by name.

The school cannot however be held accountable for photographs or video footage taken by parents/carers or members of the public at school functions.

Photography will be used across the school as a tool to support assessment and to provide evidence of, and celebration of, curriculum coverage. However, staff will not use personal cameras or mobile phones to take photographs of children; all photographs will be taken on school cameras.

Staff are not permitted to use their own mobile devices to take pictures of students in the school.

Staff can bring their mobile devices into school but these must be locked away during student contact time

18. Supporting Staff:

Our school recognise that all staff may find dealing with safeguarding and child protection concerns very difficult and upsetting. It may trigger memories of their own difficult childhood, or be an experience they have had as an adult, or a member of their family, or close friendship group has experienced.

The school hopes in such situations that the individual staff member would be able to talk to a member of the senior leadership team in school who can make enquiries into what support may be available for the individual member of staff.

There are many organisations within Cornwall who offer support services to individuals on a range of very sensitive issues e.g. Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse (current and historic) drug and alcohol misuse, mental health. More information can be accessed via MARU or the Early Help Hub.

In addition, the member of staff should be able to access support through:

- **Their own GP.**
- **The Samaritans Telephone: 116 123**
- **NSPCC HELPLINE Telephone: 0808 800 5000 (not just there for children)**

The DSL and Safeguarding Governor will take responsibility for updating this policy and information all staff and the Governing Body of key changes

The use of 'reasonable force'

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff in schools and colleges to use reasonable force to safeguard children and young people. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a young person needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'. The use of force may involve either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of the classroom.

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. Should 'reasonable' force be used a record is made within 24 hours of the incident.

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 recognise 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 behaviour 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 behaviour and the need to use reasonable force.

Appendix A: Signs and Indicators of Abuse:

A more comprehensive list will be considered within staff training however this will give staff some indication of what to look out for.

Although these signs do not necessarily indicate that a child has been abused, they may help staff recognise that something is wrong.

If you have any concerns, you must pass these to your DSL immediately.

Physical Abuse

Most children will collect cuts and bruises and injuries, and these should always be interpreted in the context of the child's medical / social history, developmental stage and the explanation given. Most accidental bruises are seen over bony parts of the body, e.g. elbows, knees, shins, and are often on the front of the body. Some children, however, will have bruising that is more than likely inflicted rather than accidental.

Important indicators of physical abuse are bruises or injuries that are either unexplained or inconsistent with the explanation given; these can often be visible on the 'soft' parts of the body where accidental injuries are unlikely, e.g. cheeks, abdomen, back and buttocks. Occasionally a 'pattern' may be seen e.g. fingertip or hand mark. A delay in seeking medical treatment when it is obviously necessary is also a cause for concern.

The physical signs of abuse may include:

- Unexplained bruising, marks or injuries on any part of the body.
- Multiple bruises- in clusters, often on the upper arm, outside of the thigh.
- Cigarette burns.
- Human bite marks.
- Broken bones.
- Burns- shape of burn, uncommon sites, friction burn

Changes in behaviour that can also indicate physical abuse:

- Fear of parents being approached for an explanation.
- Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts.
- Flinching when approached or touched.
- Reluctance to get changed, for example in hot weather.
- Depression.
- Withdrawn behaviour.
- Running away from home.

Neglect

It can be difficult to recognise neglect, however its effects can be long term and damaging for children.

It is also impossible to recognize that aspects of neglect can be very subjective. We may need to challenge ourselves and others and remember that people can have different values and that there will be differences in how children are cared for which may be based on faith or cultural issues that our different to ours.

In respecting these differences, we must not be afraid to raise our concerns if we believe the care being given to the child may be impacting on its safety and welfare.

The physical signs of neglect may include:

- Being constantly dirty or 'smelly'.
- Constant hunger, sometimes stealing food from other children.
- Losing weight, or being constantly underweight (obesity may be a neglect issue as well).
- Inappropriate or dirty clothing

Neglect may be indicated by changes in behaviour which may include:

- Mentioning being left alone or unsupervised.
- Not having many friends.
- Complaining of being tired all the time.
- Not requesting medical assistance and/or failing to attend appointments

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse can be difficult to identify as there are often no outward physical signs. Indications may be a developmental delay due to a failure to thrive (also known as faltering growth) and grow, however, children who appear well-cared for may nevertheless be emotionally abused by being taunted, put down or belittled. They may receive little or no love, affection or attention from their parents or carers. Emotional abuse can also take the form of children not being allowed to mix or play with other children.

Changes in behaviour which can indicate emotional abuse include:

- Neurotic/anxious behaviour e.g. sulking, hair twisting, rocking.
- Being unable to play.
- Fear of making mistakes.
- Sudden speech disorders.
- Self-harm.
- Fear of parent being approached regarding their behaviour.
- Development delay in terms of emotional progress.
- Overreaction to mistakes.

Sexual Abuse

It is recognised that there is underreporting of sexual abuse within the family. All Staff and Governors should play a crucial role in identifying / reporting any concerns that they may have through, for example, the observation and play of younger children and understanding the indicators of behaviour in older children which may be underlining of such abuse.

All Staff and Governors should be aware that adults, who may be men, women or other children, who use children to meet their own sexual needs abuse both girls and boys of all ages. Indications of sexual abuse may be physical or from the child's behaviour. In all cases, children who tell about sexual abuse do so because they want it to stop. It is important, therefore, that they are listened to and taken seriously.

The physical signs of sexual abuse may include:

- Pain or itching in the genital area.
- Bruising or bleeding near genital area.
- Sexually transmitted disease.
- Stomach pain
- Discomfort when walking or sitting down.

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate sexual abuse include:

- Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour e.g. becoming aggressive or withdrawn.
- Fear of being left with a specific person or group of people.
- Sexual knowledge which is beyond their age, or developmental level.
- Sexual drawings or language.
- Eating problems such as overeating or anorexia.
- Self-harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts.
- Saying they have secrets they cannot tell anyone about
- Acting in a sexually explicit way towards adults.

Note: A child may be subjected to a combination of different kinds of abuse. It is also possible that a child may show no outward signs and hide what is happening from everyone.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Many aspects of CSE take place on line so it may be difficult to identify this within school. However, abuse indicators may include:

- Children talking about having lots of 'friends' online whom when asked they do not know personally
- Disengagement from education
- Using drugs or alcohol
- Unexplained gifts/money
- Repeat concerns about sexual health
- Decline in emotional wellbeing
- Talking about physically meeting up with someone they met online
- Posting lots of images of themselves online
- Going missing
- Talking about friendships with older young people/adults
- Engagement with offending

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Although situations of FGM may be unusual it is important that you do not assume it could not happen here.

Indicators may include:

- Days absent from school
- Not participating in physical education
- In pain/has restricted movement/frequent and long visits to the toilet/broken limbs
- Confides that she is having a special procedure, cut or celebration

- Unauthorised and or extended leave, vague explanations or plans for removal of a female in a high risk category especially over the summer period
- Plans to take a holiday which may be unauthorised, unexplained or extended in a country known to practice FGM
- Parents from a country who are known to practice FGM

Appendix B: Dealing with a Disclosure of Abuse

It is extremely important that if a child discloses that you know what to do. This will be explained by the DSL/DDSL during induction and will form a key part of any safeguarding training undertaken within school. These are the key principles:

If:

- A child or young person discloses abuse, or
- You suspect a child may have been abused, or
- You witness an abusive situation involving another professional.

You **RECORD AND REPORT:**

- Respond without showing any signs of disquiet, anxiety or shock.
- Enquire casually about how an injury was sustained or why a child appears upset. E.g. How did you?
- Confidentiality must never be promised to children, young people, or adults in this situation.
- Observe carefully the demeanour or behaviour of the child.
- Record in detail what has been seen and heard in the child's own words (after you have spoken to them, not during a disclosure).
- Do not interrogate or enter into detailed investigations: rather, encourage the child to say what she/he wants until enough information is gained to decide whether or not a referral is appropriate.
- Ensure if the child is complaining of being hurt/unwell this is reported immediately

Asking questions is fine to help understand what the issue is **BUT** you must ensure the questions are open and give the child the ability to clarify.

- It is important NOT to ask leading questions e.g. Did ----- Was it -----?
- It is important to know when to stop asking questions and listen.
- It is important not to interrogate.

Types of Questions you can ask:

- Tell me? (tell me what happened)
- Explain? (explain what you meant by)
- Where did this happen/where were you?
- When did this happen?

Remember you are only clarifying with the child if something concerning did happen or could have happened from the information they give you.

Then report to your DSL or DDSL immediately. **If they are not available, contact MARU.**

Staff **MUST NOT**

- Investigate suspected/alleged abuse themselves;
- Evaluate the grounds for concern;
- Seek or wait for proof;
- Discuss the matter with anyone other than the designated staff or MARU
- Speak to the parents until you have had a conversation with your DSL/MARU
- Ask the child to repeat the information to anyone including the DSL/DDSL

- Promise to keep it a secret

APPENDIX C: Procedures if an allegation is made against a school's staff member (including volunteers and governors).

Never let allegations by a child or young person go unrecorded or unreported, including any made against you. There are very clear procedures that are there to protect children but also to ensure as much protection as possible against a potential false allegation involving a member of staff.

Any allegations should be reported to the head teacher regardless as to whether they are the designated safeguarding lead as they are ultimately responsible for all staff within the school.

If the allegation concerns the head teacher, then the Chair of Governors or the Chair of the Trust should be informed immediately.

In all situations there should be a discussion with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or if they are not available then MARU can be contacted for advice and guidance. If they feel a referral should be made, then they will advise you to complete the appropriate referral form. Please follow the link to:

<http://www.safechildren-cios.co.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/cornwall-and-isles-of-scilly-safeguarding-children-board/policies-procedures-and-referrals/>

This should then be sent in via MARU

If you receive a disclosure, about an adult colleague, it is important to reassure the child that what she/he says will be taken very seriously and everything possible done to help

Appendix D: Key Roles and Responsibilities:

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs):

The school follows the guidance within Annex B: KCSIE which includes:

- Being a central point of contact for all staff
- Confident in knowing what to do and where to go if you have concerns
- Ensure records are kept up to date, safely and securely
- That all staff are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities
- Be the initial point of contact for external agencies in relation to safeguarding issues
- Promote awareness of safeguarding in relation to the children, all staff, the governing body and parents

Governing Body

You should adapt to meet the requirements of your own governance but ensure you are still meeting the requirements of Part 2 of KCSIE (September 2018) this includes:

- Taking leadership responsibility for the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection arrangements; this includes assisting the DSL with the S175/157 safeguarding self-assessment on an annual basis
- That they are up to date with emerging issues in Safeguarding and recognise the strategies by the Local Authority in trying to keep children safe in Cornwall
- Ensuring that we have a nominated link Governor for Child Protection and Safeguarding and this person has received appropriate training for their role.
- The designated safeguarding governor visits the school regularly to review safeguarding within the school and includes within visits regular discussions with children
- Ensuring that we have a DSL for Child Protection, appointed from the Senior Management Team and one who oversees and line manages the activities and the activities of all other leads in the school. The number of DDSL's needs to be sufficient in number depending upon the size and demands of the school.
- That the DSL/DDSLS are fully equipped to undertake the Safeguarding role and that they have access to the appropriate training and that this is updated with certified training every two years.
- That a DSL is on the premises and available during school hours, where this is not available there is cover in place. Therefore, ensuring there is cover at all times.
- That we have a nominated link Governor for CIC (Children in Care) and SEND alongside other nominated leads in the School on these issues;
- We have an appointed teacher who is responsible for Children in Care who understands his/her Safeguarding responsibilities and is fully aware of the Local Safeguarding procedures and attends regular training and briefings in relation to children in care.
- Safeguarding is an agenda item at every full governing body meeting
- That there are procedures in place in handling allegations against Staff, Volunteers and Governors and any concerns staff and volunteers have (including concerns about the school) are brought to the attention of the Local Authority Designated Lead (LADO) in every case.
- The governing body have appointed a whistle blowing governor.
- That all Staff, (including volunteers and frequent visitors) who will be working in the school are given a mandatory induction which includes knowledge regarding abuse, neglect, staff code of conduct specific safeguarding issues and familiarisation with Child Protection responsibilities. The induction will also include procedures to be

followed if anyone has any concerns about a Child's Safety or welfare, and knowledge about Falmouth MAT's policies and procedures.

- That all Staff have regular reviews of their own practice to ensure ongoing personal/professional development.
- That all Staff receives the appropriate training which is regularly updated. Safeguarding briefings and updates are given to all staff including governors a minimum of yearly.
- To ensure that children are taught about Safeguarding, including on line, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum including PSHE.
- We have in place an on-line/e-safety Policy equipped to deal with a widening range of issues associated with technology.
- That we understand the need to identify trends and patterns regarding Children Missing from Education (CME) and to respond to/refer where required.
- That we notify Children's Social Care if there is an unexplained absence of a pupil who is the subject of a Child Protection Plan.
- That we notify Children's Social Care if it is thought or known that a child or young person may be Privately Fostered.
- Making sure that the Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy is available to parents and carers as appropriate including displaying on the school's website.
- That all relevant safeguarding policies are reviewed on a regular basis (safeguarding policy should be annually) and that all legislative changes as well as changes to mandatory national guidance and local processes are reflected within the relevant policies and procedures within school.

Appendix E: Key Messages from Serious Case Reviews (SCR)

When children die or are seriously injured consideration is given as to whether there needs to be a serious case review (SCR). The purpose is to identify what information we had, what actions were taken, and what if anything we can learn from this that may improve practice in the future.

Messages from serious case reviews nationally and locally are published on a regular basis and the following are some of the key messages, which from a school perspective we need to be aware of, they include:

- You can never age bruising
- Ensure you observe children as much as you can in natural light if you are concerned about bruising or marks
- If you see an injury to one child always consider the siblings
- Cases where Interpreters/culture/communication/travellers/language/religion were involved
- Parents with a mental health problem/ leaning disability/stress/postnatal depression
- Where Domestic Abuse is present
- Disguised compliance/resistant families/hard to reach families/professional challenge
- Children with chronic illness/serious health conditions
- Unsupported and socially isolated parents
- Poor information gathering, sharing and recording within schools as well as with other agencies.
- Assessing the complete circumstances of the child and family, including their history.
- Critically analysing all information.
- Ensuring the needs of the child are paramount above those of the parents.
- Appropriate representation is needed at key meetings- Child Protection Case Conferences
- Effective multi-agency working
- Staff to be curious, inquisitive and ask more questions
- Reflection and constructive challenge for staff when working with vulnerable children and young people