



**St Matthew's Primary School**

**Safeguarding Policy  
2016**



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## **PART ONE: SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Ratified by the Governing Body on 12.12.16.

To be reviewed annually.

### **Ethos**

Our school promotes an ethos where our pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to. Voice their values and beliefs, respect each other's values and support each other.

All adults are expected to model behaviour both in and outside of school that never brings into question their suitability to work with children or harm the reputation of the school or council. Should any incidents occur that may do this, it is the employees duty and responsibility to bring it to the attention of their line manager at the soonest opportunity in line with Luton Borough Council's Code of Conduct for Employees.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness abuse may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth or view the world in a positive way. For such children school may be one of the few stable, secure and predictable components in their life. Other children may be vulnerable because they have a disability or they are in care. We seek to provide all our children with the necessary support to keep them safe and build their self-esteem and self-confidence.

We want children at our school to feel able to talk freely to any member of staff or regular visitor if they are worried or concerned about something.

All staff and volunteers will, through induction and training, know how to recognise concerns about a child and know how to manage a disclosure made by a child.

We will not make promises to a child we cannot keep and we will not keep secrets. Every child will be told, by the adult they have chosen to talk to, what will happen next.

St Matthew's Primary School will endeavour to provide activities and opportunities in the PSHE curriculum that will equip our children with the skills they need to stay safe. This will also be extended to include material that will encourage our children to develop essential life skills.

At all times we will work to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies such as Health or Social Care (Children and Families within the Children and Learning Department).

# 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Safeguarding is defined as –

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

(Working Together, DfE 2015)

This includes, but is not limited to safeguarding children in specific circumstances

Neglect	Physical abuse
Emotional abuse	Sexual abuse
Bullying, including online and prejudice-based bullying	Racist, disability and homophobic or transphobic abuse
Gender based violence / violence against women and girls	Radicalisation and /or extremist behaviour
Child Sexual Exploitation and trafficking	The impact of new technologies on sexual behaviour e.g sexting
Teenage relationship abuse	Substance abuse
Gang / youth violence	Domestic abuse / violence
Female Genital Mutilation	Forced Marriage
Fabricated / induced illness	Poor parenting
Online	Including grooming via Social Networking, online gaming, video messaging

1.2 St Matthew's Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. We believe that:

- All children/young people have equal right to be protected from harm;
- Children/young people need to be safe and to feel safe in school;
- Children/young people need support which matches their individual needs, including those who may have experienced abuse;
- All children/young people have the right to speak freely and voice their values and beliefs;
- All children/young people must be encouraged to respect each other's values and support each other;
- All children/young people have the right to be supported to meet their emotional, and social needs as well as their educational needs – a happy healthy sociable child/young person will achieve better educationally;
- Schools can and do contribute to the prevention of abuse, victimisation, bullying, exploitation, extreme behaviours, discriminatory views and risk taking behaviours; and
- All staff and visitors have an important role to play in safeguarding children and protecting them from abuse.

1.3 St Matthew's Primary School will fulfil their local and national responsibilities as laid out in the following documents:-

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges (DfE September 2016)
- The Procedures of Luton Safeguarding Children Board
- The Children Act 1989
- The Education Act 2002 s175 / s157
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (DfE, 2015)
- Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools: Departmental Advice (DfE 2014)
- Prevent Duty, Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Sexting In Schools and Colleges: responding to incidents and Safeguarding Young People (UK Council for Child Internet Safety, 2016)

## **2. OVERALL AIMS**

2.1 This policy will contribute to safeguarding our children and promoting their welfare by:

- Clarifying standards of behaviour for staff and children;
- Contributing to the establishment of a safe, resilient and robust ethos in the school, built on mutual respect, and shared values
- Creating an organisational culture that is safe for children
- Introducing appropriate work within the curriculum;
- Encouraging children and parents to participate;
- Alerting staff to the signs and indicators that all might not be well;
- Developing staff's awareness of the risks and vulnerabilities children face;
- Addressing concerns at the earliest possible stage in the least intrusive way; and
- Reducing the potential risks children face of being exposed to violence, extremism, exploitation, or victimisation

2.2 This policy will contribute to supporting children by:

- Identifying and protecting the most vulnerable
- Identifying individual needs where possible; and
- Designing plans to meet those needs.

2.3 This policy will contribute to the protection of children by:

- Including appropriate work within the curriculum;
- Implementing child protection policies and procedures; and
- Working in partnership with children, parents and agencies.

### **3. KEY PRINCIPLES**

3.1 The key principle of safeguarding, as stated by Luton Safeguarding Children Board is that Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. This is reinforced within the Statutory Guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016).

3.2 In addition Luton Borough Council has identified the following key safeguarding messages for schools:

- Always see the child first and consider what life is like for the child maintaining a culture of vigilance
- Provide support and intervention at the earliest possible opportunity in the least intrusive way in accordance with Luton LSCB Thresholds Framework
- Have conversations, build relationships and maintain professional curiosity
- Focus on securing improved outcomes for children and consider what difference support or interventions have made on children's lived experiences
- Schools need to build a culture of openness and transparency where all staff are able to demonstrate understanding of their role and responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Every child is entitled to a rich and rounded curriculum.
- Schools operate with public money: this should be spent wisely, targeting resources on the evidenced needs of children at school now.
- Governance is corporate and decisions are collective, but individual governors can and should take the lead on specific aspects of school life such as safeguarding.
- When issues arise, Head Teachers should speak out, addressing them internally where possible and engaging in a multi agency response when required in accordance with interagency procedures

### **4. KEY PROCESSES**

4.1 All staff should be aware of the guidance issued by Luton Safeguarding Children Board Threshold Framework to ensure children in order to secure the support and intervention at the earliest possible opportunity in the least intrusive way.  
(<http://lutonlscb.org.uk/pdfs/threshold-framework.pdf>). This document is integral to safeguarding children in Luton educational establishments and will always be used to underpin decision making.

### **5. EXPECTATIONS**

5.1 All staff and visitors will:

- Be familiar with this safeguarding policy and implement this consistently in the course of their work with children and young people;

- Be subject to Safer Recruitment processes and checks, whether they are new staff, supply staff, contractors, volunteers etc.
- Be involved in the implementation of individual education programmes, Early Help assessments and plans, child in need plans and interagency child protection plans;
- Be alert to signs and indicators of possible abuse (See Appendix One for current definitions and indicators);
- Record concerns and give the record to the Designated Safeguarding Lead Ms Jane Thomas ; and
- Recognise and respond to concerns about the behaviour of staff, students and volunteers which indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children following interagency procedures agreed by the LSCB;
- Deal with a disclosure of abuse from a child in line with the guidance in Appendix Two - you must inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately, and provide a written account as soon as possible
- Our ethos 'All adults are expected to model behaviour both in and outside of school that never brings into question their suitability to work with children or harm the reputation of the school or council'

5.2 All staff will receive single agency level one training at least once every three years. Key staff with designated responsibility for safeguarding will undertake higher level training and will utilise these training opportunities available from the LSCB and other organisations as agreed by the Governing Body.

Staff training needs will be assessed by taking into consideration LSCB priorities and local context. Plans will be put into place to ensure staff have the appropriate training, skills and knowledge in order to undertake their safeguarding responsibilities safely and effectively.

## 6. THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

6.1 **Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Jane Thomas.** She will provide support to staff members to carry out their safeguarding duties and who will liaise closely with other services such as the early help hub, children's social care, Health, Police etc. This person has lead responsibility and management oversight for safeguarding and child protection. The Head Teacher will be ultimately responsible for coordinating all child protection activity within the school. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is supported by the Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

- Vicki Rayner
- Tina Edwards
- Nicola Powell
- Jon Parker
- Adam Bell
- Rachel Bardon
- Natalie Crawford
- Danielle Brunton

- 6.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will lead regular case monitoring reviews of vulnerable children. These reviews, together with any actions arising from the review and the rationale for decision making will be recorded in case files.
- 6.3 When the school has concerns about a child, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide what steps should be taken in accordance with the LSCB Thresholds Framework and initiate a response accordingly. The Head Teacher will be kept apprised of cases as appropriate.
- 6.4 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that safeguarding and child protection information will be dealt with in a confidential manner and in accordance with the LSCB information sharing guidance. Staff will be informed of relevant details only when the Designated Safeguarding Lead feels their having knowledge of a situation will improve their ability to deal with an individual child and / or family. A written record will be made of what information has been shared with whom, and when.
- 6.5 Safeguarding and child protection records will be stored securely in a central place separate from academic records. Individual files will be kept for each child: the school will not keep family files.
- 6.6 Access to safeguarding and child protection records by staff other than by the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be restricted, and a written record will be kept of who has had access to them and when.
- 6.7 Parents will usually (subject to point 6.8 below) be aware of information held on their children and kept up to date regarding any concerns or developments by the appropriate members of staff. General communications with parents will be in line with any home school policies and give due regard to which adults have parental responsibility.
- 6.8 **Do not disclose to a parent any information held on a child if this would put the child at risk of significant harm.** In such circumstances advice will be sought from Children's Social Care.
- 6.9 If a child moves from our school, child protection records will be forwarded on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the new school, with due regard to their confidential nature and in line with current government guidance on the transfer of such records. Direct contact between the two schools may be necessary, especially on transfer from primary to secondary schools. We will record where and to whom the records have been passed and the date. The practice guidance produced by Luton Safeguarding Children Board will be adhered to in relation to archiving child protection records.
- 6.10 If sending by post, children's records will be sent by "Special/Recorded Delivery". For audit purposes a note of all children's records transferred or received should be kept in either paper or electronic format. This

will include the child's name, date of birth, where and to whom the records have been sent and the date sent and/or received.

- 6.11 If a child is permanently excluded and moves to a Pupil Referral Unit, child protection records will be forwarded on to the relevant organisation.
- 6.13 When a Designated Safeguarding Lead resigns their post or no longer has child protection responsibility, there should be a full face to face handover/exchange of information with the new post holder.
- 6.14 In exceptional circumstances when a face to face handover is unfeasible, the Head Teacher will ensure that the new post holder is fully conversant with all procedures and case files.

## **7. THE GOVERNING BODY**

- 7.1 **The Governing Body will** ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must also have regard to this guidance to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in their schools or colleges are effective and comply with the law at all times
- 7.2 The governing body will ensure that:
- The school contributes to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015. This includes providing a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified and contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support to children subject to child protection plans
  - The school will allow access for children's social care from the host local authority and, where appropriate, from a placing local authority, for that authority to conduct, or to consider whether to conduct, a section 17 or a section 47 assessment
  - The schools safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practice of the local authority as part of the inter-agency safeguarding procedures set up by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
  - The school has an effective Safeguarding Policy in accordance with the procedures of Luton Safeguarding Children Board. These describe the procedures which are in accordance with government guidance and refer to locally agreed inter-agency procedures put in place by the LSCB. The Governing Body will ensure that the Policy is updated annually, and is available publicly either via the school website or by other means.
  - The school initiates appropriate safeguarding responses to children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect including sexual abuse or exploitation and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.
  - That the Head Teacher ensures that safeguarding policies and procedures which have been adopted by the Governing Body are consistently implemented

- The school has a staff Behaviour Policy (sometimes called the Code of Conduct) which should amongst other things include - staff/child relationships and communications including the use of social media
- The school has procedures for managing allegations and concerns about adults that work or volunteer with children and that these include the procedures for making referrals to the DBS in accordance with legal duties
- The school operates, "safer recruitment" procedures and ensures that appropriate checks are carried out on all new staff and relevant volunteers
- At least one senior member of the school's leadership team acts as a Designated Safeguarding Lead which is clearly defined within the role holder's job description and that this person has the appropriate authority, time, training, funding and resources to undertake this role as per Appendix B Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead attends appropriate refresher training every two years
- The school has designated a teacher with appropriate training, skills and knowledge to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children
- The Head Teacher and all other staff who work with children undertake training at three yearly intervals which is informed by the local context of the school together with LSCB local priorities
- Temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities
- The school remedies any deficiencies or weaknesses brought to its attention without delay; and
- The school has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff/volunteers.

7.3 The governing body reviews its policies/procedures annually

7.4 The Nominated Governor for child protection at the school is Emma Green. The Nominated Governor is responsible for liaising with the Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead over all matters regarding child protection issues. The role is strategic rather than operational – they will not be involved in concerns about individual children.

7.5 The Nominated Governor will liaise with the Head Teacher and the Designated Safeguarding Lead to contribute to the production of an annual report for governors and the local authority (Section 175/Section157).

7.6 Ensure a member of the governing body, usually the chair, is nominated to liaise with the designated officer(s) from the relevant local authority and partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse made against the Head Teacher, the principal of a college or proprietor or member of governing body of an independent school

- 7.7 Ensure that procedures are in place to manage allegations against other children that are commensurate with Luton LSCB procedures such as those for sexually problematic and harmful behaviours.
- 7.8 Ensure that there are processes in place which enables children and young people to express their wishes and feelings and provide feedback.

## **8. A SAFER SCHOOL CULTURE**

The culture of this school is one that is safe for children and unsafe for adults that may pose a risk to children. There is a belief that safeguarding is the responsibility of all adults working or volunteering within the organisation and that all concerns will be reported to the designated senior manager (usually the Head Teacher or Principal) in accordance with the procedures of the organisations. Essential to this is professional curiosity, openness and transparency where the focus remains on the children attending the establishment.

### **Safer Recruitment and Selection**

- 8.1 The school pays full regard to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (DfE 2016). Safer recruitment practice includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic or vocational qualifications, obtaining professional and character references, checking previous employment history and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. It also includes undertaking interviews and undertaking appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and prohibition order checks in relation to qualified teachers.
- 8.2 All recruitment materials will include reference to the school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children
- 8.3 Jane Thomas, Vicki Rayner, Rachel Bardon, Adam Bell, Natalie Crawford, Tina Edwards, Jon Parker and Nicola Powell have undertaken CWDC/NCSL Safer Recruitment training. One of the above will be involved in **all** staff / volunteer recruitment processes and sit on the recruitment panel.

### **Staff support**

- 8.4 We recognise the stressful and traumatic nature of safeguarding and child protection work. We will support staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and to seek further support as appropriate.

## **9. OUR ROLE IN THE PREVENTION OF ABUSE**

- 9.1 We will provide opportunities for children to develop skills, concepts, attitudes and knowledge that promote their safety and well-being together with preparing children for life in modern Britain and embedding fundamental British Values.

### **The curriculum**

- 9.2 Relevant issues will be addressed through the PSHE curriculum, for example self-esteem, emotional literacy, assertiveness, power, sex and relationship education, e-safety and bullying. This will be undertaken with reference to guidance around how to promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- 9.3 Relevant issues will be addressed through other areas of the curriculum, for example, Circle Time, English, History, Drama, Art.

### **Other areas of work**

- 9.4 All our policies which address issues of power and potential harm to ensure a whole school approach such as

- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Safe Recruitment            | Physical Restraint |
| • Code of Conduct             | PSHE               |
| • Visitor / External speakers | Disqualification   |
| • E-Safety                    | Social Networking  |
| • Whistleblowing              | Health and Safety  |
| • Children missing Education  | Bullying           |
| • Inclusion                   |                    |

- 9.5 Our safeguarding policy cannot be separated from the general ethos of the school, which should ensure that children are treated with respect and dignity, taught to treat each other with respect, feel safe, have a voice, and are listened to.

## **10. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WHO ARE VULNERABLE TO EXTREMISM**

- 10.1 Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.
- 10.2 St Matthew's Primary School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both children and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion. Essential to this school / academy is fundamental British values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Equality of Opportunity, Freedom of Speech and the rights of all Women and Men to live free from persecution of any kind and it would be expected that views and opinions expressed would be commensurate with these.

- 10.3 The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. St Matthew's Primary School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.
- 10.4 Definitions of radicalisation and extremism, and indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation are in Appendix Four.
- 10.5 St Matthew's Primary School seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

#### **Risk reduction**

- 10.6 The school governors, the Head Teacher and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the school's RE curriculum, SEND policy, assembly policy, the use of school premises by external agencies, integration of children by gender and SEN, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy. In addition, the school Prevent Action Plan template may be used to demonstrate how the organisation is fulfilling the prevent duty.
- 10.7 This risk assessment will be reviewed as part of the annual s175 return that is monitored by the local authority and the local safeguarding children board.

#### **Response**

- 10.8 Our school, like all others, is required to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism: this will normally be the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The SPOC for St Matthew's Primary School is Jane Thomas. The responsibilities of the SPOC are described in Appendix Five.
- 10.9 When any member of staff has concerns that a child may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the SPOC and to the Designated Safeguarding Lead if this is not the same person. If a child or Young Person is thought to be at risk of radicalisation, a referral to Channel Panel will be made using the Early Help Assessment form.
- 10.10 Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most young people do not become involved in extremist action. For this reason the appropriate interventions in any particular case may not have any

specific connection to the threat of radicalisation, for example they may address mental health, relationship or drug/alcohol issues.

- 10.11 Staff have received WRAP training in order to raise awareness of Prevent and to understand their role in ensuring vulnerabilities are recognised and appropriate support or intervention is secured.

## **11. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WHO ARE VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION, FORCED MARRIAGE, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, OR TRAFFICKING**

- 11.1 Our Safeguarding Policy above through the school's values, ethos and behaviour policies provides the basic platform to ensure children and young people are given the support to respect themselves and others, stand up for themselves and protect each other.
- 11.2 Our school keeps itself up to date on the latest advice and guidance provided to assist in addressing specific vulnerabilities and forms of exploitation.
- 11.3 Our staff are supported through training to recognise warning signs and symptoms in relation to specific issues, include such issues in an age appropriate way in their curriculum.
- 11.4 Our school works with and engages our families and communities to talk about such issues.
- 11.5 Our staff are supported to talk to families about sensitive concerns in relation to their children and to find ways to address them together wherever possible. However, if a child is thought to be at risk of significant harm and discussing this with the parent may increase the risk of harm, advice will be sought from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and a referral will be made.
- 11.6 Our Designated Safeguarding Lead knows where to seek and get advice as necessary.

## **12 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES: PEER ON PEER ABUSE**

- The school recognises that children can abuse other children and such behaviours are never viewed simply as 'banter' or as part of growing up. We recognise that peer on peer abuse can take many different forms such as:
  - Cyber-bullying
  - Sending or posting sexually suggestive images including nude or semi-nude photographs via mobiles or over the internet by persons aged under 18 (referred to as Youth Produced Sexual Imagery)
  - Sexual assault
  - Sexually harmful or problematic behaviour
  - Gang initiation or hazing type violence

### **13 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES: SEXUALISED BEHAVIOURS**

- Where children display sexualised behaviours, the behaviours will be considered in accordance with the children's developmental understanding, age and impact on the alleged victim. Tools such as Brook Traffic Light Tool will be used to assist in determining whether the behaviour is developmental or a cause for concern. This will assist in ensuring the child/ren receive the right support at the right time either via an Early Help response or referral to Children's Social Care
- In all cases of peer on peer abuse the school will consider the vulnerability of all children including those alleged to have caused the harm and those alleged to be victims and provide a safeguarding response consistent with the LSCB Thresholds Framework.
- Where necessary, the school behaviour policies will be invoked and any sanctions applied will be consistent with these procedures
- Where issues indicate that a criminal offence may have been committed a report will be made to Bedfordshire police

### **14 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES: GANG RELATED VIOLENCE**

- The school recognises the risks posed to children in relation to involvement in gang related activity which may be street gang, peer group or organised crime. Young people who are involved in gangs are more like to suffer harm themselves, through retaliatory violence, displaced retaliation, territorial violence with other gangs or other harm suffered whilst committing a crime. In addition children may experience violence as part of an initiation or hazing practices.
- The school understands that Early Help can be crucial in the early identification of children who may need additional support due to gang related activity and as such will provide an early help response when concerns are raised about indicators of gang activity
- If, however information suggests a child may be at risk of significant harm due to gang related activity, a referral will be made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub within Children's Social Care.
- Where there are concerns that a child or young person may be, or is at risk of becoming involved in gang related activity, a referral will be made to the MAG panel in accordance with Local procedures as part of the safeguarding response

See Appendix 8 for more information

## **15 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES: YOUTH GENERATED SEXUAL IMAGERY**

- The school recognises the impact of online social communication and the issue of sending or posting sexually suggestive images including nude or semi-nude photographs via mobiles or over the internet. We pay due regard to the Guidance issued by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety in relation to how we respond to incidents.
- In all cases where an incident of youth produced sexual imagery is reporting the following actions will be undertaken:
  - The incident should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.
  - The Designated Safeguarding Lead should hold an initial review discussion or meeting with appropriate school staff.
  - There should be subsequent interviews with the young people involved (if appropriate).
  - Parents should be informed at an early stage and involved in the process unless there is good reason to believe that involving parents would put the young person at risk of harm.
  - At any point in the process if there is a concern a young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm a referral should be made to children's social care and/or the police immediately.
- An immediate referral will be made to the Police and Social care in the following circumstances:
  - The incident involves an adult
  - There is reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed, or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example, owing to special educational needs)
  - the imagery suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the young person's developmental stage, or are violent
  - The imagery involves sexual acts and any pupil in the imagery is under 13
  - There is reason to believe a young person is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of the imagery, for example, the young person is presenting as suicidal or self-harming
- If none of the above applies the school may choose to deal with the incident without involving the police or social care. This will usually be the case where the Designated Safeguarding Lead is confident that they have enough information to assess the risks to the pupils involved and the risks can be managed within the school pastoral support and disciplinary framework. All decisions and rationale for decision making will be recorded. All decisions will be based on the best interests of the child/ren

- The school will pay due regard to the Department for Education guidance: Searching, Screening and Confiscation advice
- Adults in the school will not view youth produced sexual imagery unless there is a good and clear reason to do so. Wherever possible the designated safeguarding lead will respond to an incident based on what they have been told about the imagery.
- All incidents will be recorded.

## **16 WHAT WE DO WHEN WE ARE CONCERNED**

- 16.1 All concerns will be viewed alongside the LSCB Thresholds Framework in order to ensure the appropriate support or intervention is provided at the earliest opportunity in the least intrusive way.
- 16.2 Where risk factors are present but there is no evidence of a particular risk then our DSL /SPOC advises us on preventative work that can be done within school to engage the child into mainstream activities and social groups. The DSL may well be the person who talks to and has conversations with the child's family, sharing the school's concern about the young person's vulnerability and how the family and school can work together to reduce the risk.
- 16.3 If, in consultation with the LSCB Thresholds Framework the level on concern sits at Level 2 or 3 an Early Help Assessment should be completed with the consent of the parent / carer. Additional support or advice for this work may be sought from the Early Intervention Hub / Stronger Families team. In cases where it is not possible to obtain consent from the Parent / Carer the school will seek advice from the Early Help Hub.
- 16.4 The school will review each case to ensure that any support or intervention provided has impacted positively on the welfare / safety of the child or young person and that improvement is sustained.
- 16.5 In the event that provision of Early Help has not led to improvements for the child / young person, or concerns escalate, the school will follow the step-up procedures published by the LSCB
- 16.6 In consultation with the LSCB Thresholds Framework, if the concerns about the child or young person indicate that they may be at risk of or suffering significant harm a referral will be made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. The parent will be informed of the referral unless informing the parent may place the child / young person at increased risk of harm.
- 16.7 If the school is concerned that a child / young person has experienced or is at risk of FGM a Child Protection referral will be made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub in accordance with interagency procedures produced by the LSCB

16.8 If the school is concerned that a child may be at risk of significant harm in relation to radicalisation or involvement in violent extremism a child protection referral will be made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

## **17 INVOLVING PARENTS / CARERS**

17.1 In general, we will discuss any safeguarding and child protection concerns with parents / carers before approaching other agencies, and will seek their consent to making a referral to another agency. Appropriate staff will approach parents / carers after consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. However there may be occasions when the school will contact another agency **before** informing parents/carers because it considers that contacting them may increase the risk of significant harm to the child.

17.2 Parents / carers will be informed about our Safeguarding Policy through the school website and newsletters.

## **18. MULTI-AGENCY WORK**

18.1 We work in partnership with other agencies in the best interests of the children. The school will, where necessary, liaise with the school nurse, initiate an Early Help Assessment, and make referrals to children's social care. Referrals and contacts should be made by the Designated Safeguarding Lead to either the Early Help Hub, or the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub depending on the level of need. Where the child already has a social worker, the request for service should go immediately to the social worker involved, or in their absence to their team manager or Duty Worker.

18.2 We will co-operate with any child protection enquiries conducted by children's social care: the school will ensure representation at appropriate inter-agency meetings such as team around the family meetings, initial and review child protection conferences, together with core group meetings.

18.3 We will provide reports as required for these meetings in accordance with the LSCB interagency procedures. If the school is unable to attend, a written report will be sent. The report will, wherever possible, be shared with parents / carers at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

18.4 Where there are concerns about a child who may be at risk of or experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation, in addition to the processes referred to above the school / academy will make a referral to the Child Sexual Exploitation Panel in accordance with Local procedures.

18.5 Where there are concerns that a child or young person may be, or is at risk of becoming involved in gang related activity, a referral will be made to the MAAG panel in accordance with Local procedures

- 18.6 Where a child is subject to an inter-agency child protection plan, child in need plan or early help assessment, the school will contribute to the preparation, implementation and review of the plan as appropriate.
- 18.7 If a child is subject to a referral to a multi-agency safeguarding panel such as MARAC, MAGPAN or CHANNEL, the school will contribute to such arrangements.

## **19. OUR ROLE IN SUPPORTING CHILDREN**

- 19.1 We will offer appropriate support to individual children who have experienced abuse or who have abused others.
- 19.2 An individual support plan will be devised by external agencies, implemented and reviewed regularly for these children. This plan will detail areas of support, who will be involved, and the child's wishes and feelings. A written outline of the individual support plan will be kept in the child's child protection record.
- 19.3 Children and young people who abuse others will be responded to in a way that meets their needs as well as protecting others within the school community. The school will seek support from other agencies in accordance with Local Interagency procedures which may include providing early help or making a child protection referral depending on the nature of the abuse / harmful behaviour. We will ensure that the needs of children and young people who abuse others will be considered separately from the needs of their victims.
- 19.4 We will ensure the school works in partnership with parents / carers and other agencies as appropriate.

## **20. RESPONDING TO AN ALLEGATION OR CONCERN ABOUT A MEMBER OF STAFF**

*The school will comply with the LSCB procedures for managing allegations about adults that work or volunteer with children in all circumstances*

- 20.1 This procedure should be used in any case in which it is alleged that a member of staff, governor, visiting professional or volunteer has:
- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child;
  - Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
  - Behaved in a way that indicates s/he may pose a risk of harm to children
- 20.2 Although it is an uncomfortable thought, it needs to be acknowledged that there is the potential for staff in school to abuse children.
- 20.3 All staff working within our organisation must report any potential safeguarding concerns about an individual's behaviour towards

children and young people immediately. Allegations or concerns about colleagues and visitors must be reported direct to the Head Teacher unless the concern relates to Head Teacher. If the concern relates to the Head Teacher, it must be reported immediately to the Chair of Governors. Alternatively concerns can be reported directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in children's social care, who will liaise with the Chair of Governors and they will decide on any action required.

- 20.4 If the Head Teacher is not available the member of staff should report their concerns to the most senior member of staff available who will make contact with the LADO and discuss the concerns. Contact into the LADO should happen at the earliest possible opportunity within one working day.

**The LADO in Luton can be contacted on 01582 548069.**

- 20.5 The LADO may request a referral, if this is requested the referral will be completed and submitted within 1 working day.
- 20.6 The school will engage with the LADO and HR at all stages of the management of the allegation / concern and comply with the Statutory Guidance contained within Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016) and the local procedures published by the LSCB. In this regard, the school will consider whether it is necessary to suspend the member of staff while the case is being managed, however all reasonable alternatives to manage the risk will be considered.
- 20.7 Should the school dismiss a member of staff/volunteer as a result of a substantiated allegation, or should a member of staff/volunteer resign before an investigation has been completed, in accordance with Statutory Duty a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service will be made. If the member of staff is a qualified teacher, the school will in accordance with published guidance from the Department for Education consider whether a referral to the National College of Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) should be made.
- 20.8 The school will adhere to the Statutory Guidance contained within Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016) with regard to record keeping, references and compromise agreements.

**21. CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

- 21.1 St Matthew's Primary School recognises that while all children have a right to be safe, some children may be more vulnerable to abuse, for example those with a disability or special educational need, those living with domestic violence or drug / alcohol abusing parents, etc.
- 21.2 When the school is considering excluding, either fixed term or permanently, a vulnerable child and / or a child who is the subject of a child protection plan or where there is an existing child protection file, we will consult with a multi-agency colleagues prior to making the decision to exclude. In the event of a one-off serious incident resulting

in an immediate decision to exclude, the risk assessment *must* be completed prior to convening a meeting of the Governing Body

## **23. CHILDREN IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES**

23.1 Guidance on children in specific circumstances is in Luton Safeguarding Children Board / Luton Borough Council procedures as listed below

- Abuse Linked to Spiritual Belief
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Safeguarding Children vulnerable to Gang Activity
- Supporting individuals vulnerable to violent extremism
- Private Fostering
- Children missing from home or care
- Children missing education
- Children of Parents who Misuse Substances
- Children of Parents with Learning Difficulties
- Working with parents/carers with mental health problems
- Working with parents/carers with disabilities
- Disabled Children
- Protocol for dealing with domestic violence when children are involved
- E-Safety – Children Exposed to Abuse through the Digital Media
- Fabricated or Induced Illness
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Forced Marriage / Honour Based Violence
- Practice Guidance & Procedures to distinguish between healthy and abusive sexual behaviours in children and young people
- Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked
- Protocol & Guidance; Working with Sexually Active Young People
- Working with hostile, non-compliant clients and those who use disguised compliance

## APPENDICES

**DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS OF ABUSE****1. NEGLECT**

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

The following may be indicators of neglect (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- Constant hunger;
- Stealing, scavenging and/or hoarding food;
- Frequent tiredness or listlessness;
- Frequently dirty or unkempt;
- Often poorly or inappropriately clad for the weather;
- Poor school attendance or often late for school;
- Poor concentration;
- Affection or attention seeking behaviour;
- Illnesses or injuries that are left untreated;
- Failure to achieve developmental milestones, for example growth, weight;
- Failure to develop intellectually or socially;
- Responsibility for activity that is not age appropriate such as cooking, ironing, caring for siblings;
- The child is regularly not collected or received from school; or
- The child is left at home alone or with inappropriate carers

**2. PHYSICAL ABUSE**

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

The following may be indicators of physical abuse (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- Multiple bruises in clusters, or of uniform shape;
- Bruises that carry an imprint, such as a hand or a belt;
- Bite marks;
- Round burn marks;
- Multiple burn marks and burns on unusual areas of the body such as the back, shoulders or buttocks;
- An injury that is not consistent with the account given;
- Changing or different accounts of how an injury occurred;
- Bald patches;
- Symptoms of drug or alcohol intoxication or poisoning;
- Unaccountable covering of limbs, even in hot weather;
- Fear of going home or parents being contacted;
- Fear of medical help;
- Fear of changing for PE;
- Inexplicable fear of adults or over-compliance;
- Violence or aggression towards others including bullying; or
- Isolation from peers.

### **3. SEXUAL ABUSE**

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

The following may be indicators of sexual abuse (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- Sexually explicit play or behaviour or age-inappropriate knowledge;
- Anal or vaginal discharge, soreness or scratching;
- Reluctance to go home;
- Inability to concentrate, tiredness;
- Refusal to communicate;
- Thrush, persistent complaints of stomach disorders or pains;
- Eating disorders, for example anorexia nervosa and bulimia;
- Attention seeking behaviour, self-mutilation, substance abuse;
- Aggressive behaviour including sexual harassment or molestation;
- Unusual compliance;
- Regressive behaviour, enuresis, soiling;
- Frequent or open masturbation, touching others inappropriately;
- Depression, withdrawal, isolation from peer group;
- Reluctance to undress for PE or swimming; or
- Bruises or scratches in the genital area.

#### **4. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Child sexual exploitation occurs when a child or young person, or another person, receives "something" (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of the child/young person performing sexual activities, or another person performing sexual activities on the child/young person.

The presence of any significant indicator for sexual exploitation should trigger a referral to children's social care. The significant indicators are:

- Having a relationship of concern with a controlling adult or young person (this may involve physical and/or emotional abuse and/or gang activity);
- Entering and/or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults;
- Possessing unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items;
- Frequenting areas known for risky activities;
- Being groomed or abused via the Internet and mobile technology; and
- Having unexplained contact with hotels, taxi companies or fast food outlets.

The intelligence reporting form on the LSCB website will be used to share information with Police and children's social care that raises a concern around CSE.

In addition to making referrals to children's social care, referrals of children thought to be at risk of, or experiencing CSE will be referred to the Child Sexual Exploitation panel.

#### **5. EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may 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 also involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another person. 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

The following may be indicators of emotional abuse (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- The child consistently describes him/herself in very negative ways – as stupid, naughty, hopeless, ugly;
- Over-reaction to mistakes;
- Delayed physical, mental or emotional development;
- Sudden speech or sensory disorders;
- Inappropriate emotional responses, fantasies;
- Behaviours such as rocking, banging head, regression, tics and twitches;
- Self harming, drug or solvent abuse;
- Fear of parents being contacted;
- Running away;
- Compulsive stealing;
- Appetite disorders - anorexia nervosa, bulimia; or
- Soiling, smearing faeces, enuresis.

N.B.: Some situations where children stop communication suddenly (known as “traumatic mutism”) can indicate maltreatment.

## **6. RESPONSES FROM PARENTS**

Research and experience indicates that the following responses from parents may suggest a cause for concern across all four categories:

- Delay in seeking treatment that is obviously needed;
- Unawareness or denial of any injury, pain or loss of function (for example, a fractured limb);
- Incompatible explanations offered, several different explanations or the child is said to have acted in a way that is inappropriate to her/his age and development;
- Reluctance to give information or failure to mention other known relevant injuries;
- Frequent presentation of minor injuries;
- A persistently negative attitude towards the child;
- Unrealistic expectations or constant complaints about the child;
- Alcohol misuse or other drug/substance misuse;
- Parents request removal of the child from home; or
- Violence between adults in the household.

## **7. DISABLED CHILDREN**

When working with children with disabilities, practitioners need to be aware that additional possible indicators of abuse and/or neglect may also include:

- A bruise in a site that might not be of concern on an ambulant child such as the shin, might be of concern on a non-mobile child;
- Not getting enough help with feeding leading to malnourishment;
- Poor toileting arrangements;
- Lack of stimulation;
- Unjustified and/or excessive use of restraint;
- Rough handling, extreme behaviour modification such as deprivation of medication, food or clothing, disabling wheelchair batteries;
- Unwillingness to try to learn a child's means of communication;

- Ill-fitting equipment. for example callipers, sleep boards, inappropriate splinting;
- Misappropriation of a child's finances; or
- Inappropriate invasive procedures.

## DEALING WITH A DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE

### When a child tells me about abuse s/he has suffered, what must I remember?

- Stay calm.
- Do not communicate shock, anger or embarrassment.
- Reassure the child. Tell her/him you are pleased that s/he is speaking to you.
- Never enter into a pact of secrecy with the child. Assure her/him that you will try to help but let the child know that you will have to tell other people in order to do this. State who this will be and why.
- Tell her/him that you believe them. Children very rarely lie about abuse; but s/he may have tried to tell others and not been heard or believed.
- Tell the child that it is not her/his fault.
- Encourage the child to talk but do not ask "leading questions" or press for information.
- Listen and remember.
- Check that you have understood correctly what the child is trying to tell you.
- Praise the child for telling you. Communicate that s/he has a right to be safe and protected.
- Do not tell the child that what s/he experienced is dirty, naughty or bad.
- It is inappropriate to make any comments about the alleged offender.
- Be aware that the child may retract what s/he has told you. It is essential to record all you have heard.
- At the end of the conversation, tell the child again who you are going to tell and why that person or those people need to know.
- As soon as you can afterwards, make a detailed record of the conversation using the child's own language. Include any questions you may have asked. Do not add any opinions or interpretations.

NB It is not education staff's role to seek disclosures. Their role is to observe that something may be wrong, ask about it, listen, be available and try to make time to talk.

### Immediately afterwards

**You must not deal with this yourself.** Clear indications or disclosure of abuse must be reported to children's social care without delay, by the Head Teacher or the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Children making a disclosure may do so with difficulty, having chosen carefully to whom they will speak. Listening to and supporting a child/young person who has been abused can be traumatic for the adults involved. Support for you will be available from your Designated Safeguarding Lead or Head Teacher.

**ALLEGATIONS ABOUT A MEMBER OF STAFF, GOVERNOR OR VOLUNTEER**

1. Inappropriate behaviour by staff/volunteers could take the following forms:
  - **Physical**  
For example the intentional use of force as a punishment, slapping, use of objects to hit with, throwing objects or inappropriate physical handling.
  - **Emotional**  
For example intimidation, belittling, scapegoating, sarcasm, lack of respect for children's rights, and attitudes that discriminate on the grounds of race, gender, disability or sexuality. Excessive or aggressive shouting
  - **Sexual**  
For example sexualised behaviour towards peers, sexual harassment, sexual communication including via social networking, email, text, grooming behavior, sexual assault and rape.
  - **Neglect**  
For example failing to act to protect a child or children, failing to seek medical attention or failure to meet a child's basic needs
  - **May Pose a Risk**  
Behaviours that may take place outside of the workplace that present a transferable risk in their professional role with children. For example, alleged perpetrator of domestic abuse, offences demonstrating a sexual interest in children, abuse or neglect of their own children or behaviours that are incompatible with a professional role working with children
  
2. If a child makes an allegation or raises a concern about a member of staff, governor, visitor or volunteer the Head Teacher should be informed immediately. If the allegation or concern may fall within the following criteria the LADO will be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity and within one working day:
  - Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child;
  - Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
  - Behaved in a way that indicates s/he may pose a risk of harm to children

**The Head Teacher will not carry out the investigation him/herself or interview pupils.**

3. If a child makes an allegation of physical abuse against an adult that works with children and there are visible bruises, marks or injuries. Or if a child makes an allegation of sexual abuse against an adult that works with children Child Protection procedures will be followed and a referral made to the Rapid Interventions and Assessment Team. The LADO will also be informed.

3. The Head Teacher must exercise, and be accountable for, their professional judgement on the action to be taken, as follows –
  - If the actions of the member of staff, are felt likely to fall within the scope of the interagency allegation management procedures as stated in point 2, the Head Teacher will notify the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) (Tel: 01582 548069). The LADO will liaise with the Head Teacher and advise about action to be taken which will be in accordance with the interagency procedures for managing allegations.
  - If the Head Teacher is uncertain whether the concern or allegation falls within the scope of the allegation management procedures a consultation with the LADO will take place and the advice provided will be acted upon. This consultation and the advice offered will be recorded and held on file.
  
4. Where an allegation has been made against the Head Teacher, then the Chair of the Governing Body takes on the role of liaising with the LADO team in determining the appropriate way forward. For details of this specific procedure see the Section on [Allegations against Staff and Volunteers](#) in the procedures of Luton Safeguarding Children Board

**INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION**

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:  
Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:  
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
  - Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
  - Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
  - Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
  - Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.
4. There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.
5. Children may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.
6. Indicators of vulnerability include:
  - Identity Crisis – the child is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
  - Personal Crisis – the child may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
  - Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the child's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;

- Unmet Aspirations – the child may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
  - Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
  - Special Educational Need – children may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.
7. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.
8. More critical risk factors could include:
- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
  - Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
  - Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
  - Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
  - Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
  - Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
  - Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
  - Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

**PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM -  
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)**

The SPOC for St Matthew's Primary School is Jane Thomas who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting children from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing children from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of St Matthew's Primary School in relation to protecting children from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the school's RE curriculum and assembly policy to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting children from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to children who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information from in relation to referrals of vulnerable children into the Channel\* process;
- attending Channel\* meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel\* Co-ordinator; and
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

- \* Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It is led by the West Midlands Police Counter-Terrorism Unit, and it aims to
- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
  - Safeguard Female individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
  - Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

### **Female Genital Mutilation**

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed, but where there is no medical reason for this to be done.

It is also known as 'female circumcision' or 'cutting', and by other terms such as sunna, gudniin, halalays, tahurm megrez and khitan, among others.

FGM is usually carried out on young girls between infancy and the age of 15, most commonly before puberty starts. It is illegal in the UK and is child abuse.

It is very painful and can seriously harm the health of women and girls. It can also cause long-term problems with sex, childbirth and mental health.

Effects of FGM:

There are no health benefits to FGM and it can cause serious harm, including:

- Constant pain
- Pain and/or difficulty having sex
- Repeated infections, which can lead to infertility
- Bleeding, cysts and abscesses
- Problems passing urine or incontinence
- Depression, flashbacks and self-harm
- Problems during labour and childbirth, which can be life-threatening for mother and baby

Some girls die from blood loss or infection as a direct result of the procedure.

Why FGM is carried out

FGM is carried out for various cultural, religious and social reasons within families and communities in the mistaken belief that it will benefit the girl in some way (for example, as a preparation for marriage or to preserve her virginity).

However, there are no acceptable reasons that justify FGM. It is a harmful practice that is not required by any religion and there are no religious texts that say it should be done. There are no health benefits of FGM. FGM usually happens to girls whose mothers, grandmothers or extended female family members have had FGM themselves or if their father comes from a community where it is carried out.

Where FGM is carried out

Girls are sometimes taken abroad for FGM, but they may not be aware that this is the reason for their travel. Girls are more at risk of FGM being carried out during the summer holidays, as this allows more time for the to 'heal' before they return to school.

Communities that perform FGM are found in many parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Girls who were born in the UK or are resident here but whose families originate from an FGM practising community are at greater risk of FGM happening to them.

Communities at particular risk of FGM in the UK originate from:

Egypt	Yemen	Eritrea	Sudan
Ethiopia	Somalia	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Guinea	Nigeria	Indonesia	Mali
Ivory Coast	Malaysia	Kenya	Liberia

### **The Law and FGM**

FGM is illegal in the UK.

It is an offence to:

- Perform FGM (including taking a child abroad for FGM)
- Help a girl perform FGM on herself in or outside the UK
- Help anyone perform FGM in the UK
- Help anyone perform FGM outside the UK on a UK national or resident
- Fail to protect a girl for whom you are responsible from FGM

Anyone who performs FGM can face up to 14 years in prison. Anyone found guilty of failing to protect a girl from FGM can face up to 7 years in prison.

Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers (along with social workers and healthcare professionals) to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18.

Possible signs and indicators of FGM

A girl or woman who has had FGM may:

- Have difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spend longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet
- Have unusual behaviour after an absence from school or college
- Be particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations
- Ask for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear

Below are some warning signs that MAY indicate a girl is at risk of FGM:

- Parents requesting additional periods of leave around school holiday times
- If the girl comes from a country with a high prevalence of FGM
- Mother and siblings have undergone FGM
- Child may indicate that they are going for a special event

Further information can be obtained from:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/512906/Multi\\_Agency\\_Statutory\\_Guidance\\_on\\_FGM\\_-\\_Final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/512906/Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM_-_Final.pdf)

### **Safeguarding in specific circumstance: Youth produced sexual imagery**

Under 18's sending or posting sexually suggestive images, including nude or sem-nude photographs via mobile devices or the internet.

Incidents covered by this policy:

- Person under 18 creates a sexual image of themselves and shares it with another person under 18.
- A person under 18 shares an image of another under 18 with another person under 18 or an adult.
- A person under 18 is in possession of sexual imagery created by another person under 18.

Incidents not covered by this guidance:

- Under 18s sharing adult pornography
- Under 18 sharing sexual texts without sexual imagery
- Adults sharing sexual imagery of under 18s (this is child sexual abuse and must always be reported to the police).

### The Law

Making, possessing and distributing any imagery of someone under 18 which is indecent is illegal.. This includes imagery of yourself if you are under 18.

Indecent is not definitively defined in law, but images are likely to be considered indecent if they depict:

- A naked young person
- A topless girl
- An image which displays genitals, and
- Sex acts including masturbation
- Indecent images may also include overtly sexual images of young people in their underwear.

These laws were not created to criminalise young people but to protect them. Although sharing sexual images of themselves is illegal and risky, it is often the result of curiosity and exploration. We believe young people need education, support and safeguarding, not criminalisation. National Police Chiefs Council has made clear that incidents of youth produced sexual imagery should be treated primarily as a safeguarding issue. However, the Police may need to be involved in cases to ensure thorough investigation including collection of evidence.

If a young person has shared imagery consensually, such as when in a romantic relationship, or as a joke, and there is no intended malice, it is usually appropriate for the school to manage the incident directly. In contrast any incidents with aggravating factors, for example, a young person sharing someone else's imagery without consent and with malicious intent, should generally be referred to police and/or children's social care.

If you have any doubts about whether to involve other agencies, you should make a referral to the police.

## **Assessing the risks**

The circumstances of incidents can vary widely. If at the initial review stage a decision has been made not to refer to police and/or children's social care, the DSL should conduct a further review (including an interview with the young people involved) to establish the facts and assess the risks.

- When assessing the risks the following should be considered:
- Why was the imagery shared? Was the young person coerced or put under pressure to produce the imagery?
- Who has shared the imagery? Where has the imagery been shared? Was it shared and received with the knowledge of the pupil in the imagery?
- Are there any adults involved in the sharing of the imagery?
- What is the impact on the young people involved?
- Do the young people involved have additional vulnerabilities?
- Does the young person understand consent?
- Has the young person taken part in this kind of activity before

## **Informing parents (or carers)**

Parents (or carers) should be informed and involved in the process at an early stage unless informing the parent will put the young person at risk of harm. Any decision not to inform the parents would generally be made in conjunction with other services such as children's social care and/or the police, who would take the lead in deciding when the parents should be informed.

DSLs may work with the young people involved to decide on the best approach for informing parents. In some cases DSLs may work to support the young people to inform their parents themselves.

## **Searching devices, viewing and deleting imagery**

### **Viewing the imagery**

Adults should not view youth produced sexual imagery unless there is good and clear reason to do so. Wherever possible responses to incidents should be based on what DSLs have been told about the content of the imagery.

If a decision is made to view imagery, the DSL would need to be satisfied that viewing:

- is the only way to make a decision about whether to involve other agencies (i.e. it is not possible to establish the facts from the young people involved)
- is necessary to report the image to a website, app or suitable reporting agency to have it taken down, or to support the young person or parent in making a report
- is unavoidable because a young person has presented an image directly to a staff member or the imagery has been found on a school device or network

If it is necessary to view the imagery then the DSL should:

- Never copy, print or share the imagery; this is illegal
- Discuss the decision with the Headteacher
- Ensure viewing is undertaken by the DSL or another member of the safeguarding team with delegated authority from the Headteacher
- Ensure viewing takes place with another member of staff present in the room, ideally the Headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team. This staff member does not need to view the images.
- Wherever possible ensure viewing takes place on school or college premises, ideally in the Headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team's office.
- Ensure wherever possible that images are viewed by a staff member of the same sex as the young person in the imagery
- Record the viewing of the imagery in the school's safeguarding records including who was present, why the image was viewed and any subsequent actions and ensure the safeguarding recording procedures for the school are followed

The Education Act 2011 amended the power in the Education Act 1996 to provide that when an electronic device, such as a mobile phone, has been seized, a teacher who has been formally authorised by the Headteacher can examine data or files, and delete these, where there is good reason to do so. This power applies to all schools and there is no need to have parental consent to search through a young person's mobile phone.

If during a search a teacher finds material which concerns them and they reasonably suspect the material has been or could be used to cause harm or commit an offence, they can decide whether they should delete the material or retain it as evidence of a criminal offence or a breach of school discipline. They can also decide whether the material is of such seriousness that the police need to be involved.

Further details on searching, deleting and confiscating devices can be found in the DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation advice (note this advice is for schools only)

### **Safeguarding in Specific Circumstances: Gang involvement**

There are particular risk factors and triggers that young people experience in their lives that can lead to them becoming involved in gangs. Many of these risk factors are similar to involvement in other harmful activities such as youth offending or violent extremism.

Risk indicators may include:

- Becoming withdrawn from family;
- Sudden loss of interest in school - decline in attendance or academic achievement;
- Starting to use new or unknown slang words;
- Holding unexplained money or possessions;
- Staying out unusually late without reason;
- Sudden change in appearance - dressing in a particular style or 'uniform';
- Dropping out of positive activities;
- New nickname;
- Unexplained physical injuries;
- Graffiti style tags on possessions, school books, walls;
- Constantly talking about another young person who seems to have a lot of influence over them;
- Broken off with old friends and hanging around with a new group;
- Increased use of social networking sites;
- Starting to adopt codes of group behaviour e.g. ways of talking and hand signs;
- Expressing aggressive or intimidating views towards other groups of young people some of whom may have been friends in the past;
- Being scared when entering certain areas;
- Being concerned by the presence of unknown youths in their neighbourhood.

This is not an exhaustive list and should be used as a guide, amended as appropriate in light of local knowledge of the risk factors in a particular area.

**Safeguarding in Specific circumstances: Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation takes different forms - from a seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for attention, affection, accommodation or gifts, to serious organised crime and child trafficking. Child sexual exploitation involves differing degrees of abusive activities, including coercion, intimidation or enticement, unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying (including cyber bullying), and grooming for sexual activity. There is increasing concern about the role of technology in Sexual Abuse, including via social networking and other internet sites and mobile phones. The key issue in relation to child sexual exploitation is the imbalance of power within the 'relationship'. The perpetrator always has power over the victim, increasing the dependence of the victim as the exploitative relationship develops.

Many children and young people are groomed into sexually exploitative relationships but other forms of entry exist. Some young people are engaged in informal economies that incorporate the exchange of sex for rewards such as drugs, alcohol, money or gifts. Others exchange sex for accommodation or money as a result of homelessness and experiences of poverty. Some young people have been bullied and threatened into sexual activities by peers or gangs which is then used against them as a form of extortion and to keep them compliant.

The key indicators of child sexual exploitation include:

**Health**

- Physical symptoms (bruising suggestive of either physical or sexual assault);
- Chronic fatigue;
- Recurring or multiple sexually transmitted infections;
- Pregnancy and/or seeking an abortion;
- Evidence of drug, alcohol or other substance misuse;
- Sexually risky behaviour.

**Education**

- Truancy/disengagement with education or considerable change in performance at school.

## **Emotional and Behavioural Issues**

- Volatile behaviour exhibiting extreme array of mood swings or use of abusive language;
- Involvement in petty crime such as shoplifting, stealing;
- Secretive behaviour;
- Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults;
- Reports of being seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation, including public toilets known for cottaging or adult venues (pubs and clubs).

## **Identity**

- Low self-image, low self-esteem, self-harming behaviour, e.g. cutting, overdosing, eating disorder, promiscuity.

## **Relationships**

- Hostility in relationships with staff, family members as appropriate and significant others;
- Physical aggression;
- Placement breakdown;
- Reports from reliable sources (e.g. family, friends or other professionals) suggesting the likelihood of involvement in sexual exploitation;
- Detachment from age-appropriate activities;
- Associating with other young people who are known to be sexually exploited;
- Known to be sexually active;
- Sexual relationship with a significantly older person, or younger person who is suspected of being abusive;
- Unexplained relationships with older adults;
- Possible inappropriate use of the Internet and forming relationships, particularly with adults, via the Internet;
- Phone calls, text messages or letters from unknown adults;
- Adults or older youths loitering outside the home;
- Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation;
- Returning after having been missing, looking well cared for in spite of having no known home base;
- Missing for long periods, with no known home base;
- Going missing and being found in areas where they have no known links.

Please note: Whilst the focus is often on older men as perpetrators, younger men and women may also be involved and staff should be aware of this possibility.

### **Social Presentation**

- Change in appearance;
- Going out dressed in clothing unusual for them (inappropriate for age, borrowing clothing from older young people).

### **Family and Environmental Factors**

- History of physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse; neglect; domestic violence; parental difficulties.

### **Housing**

- Pattern of previous street homelessness;
- Having keys to premises other than those known about.

### **Income**

- Possession of large amounts of money with no plausible explanation;
- Acquisition of expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions without plausible explanation;
- Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding.

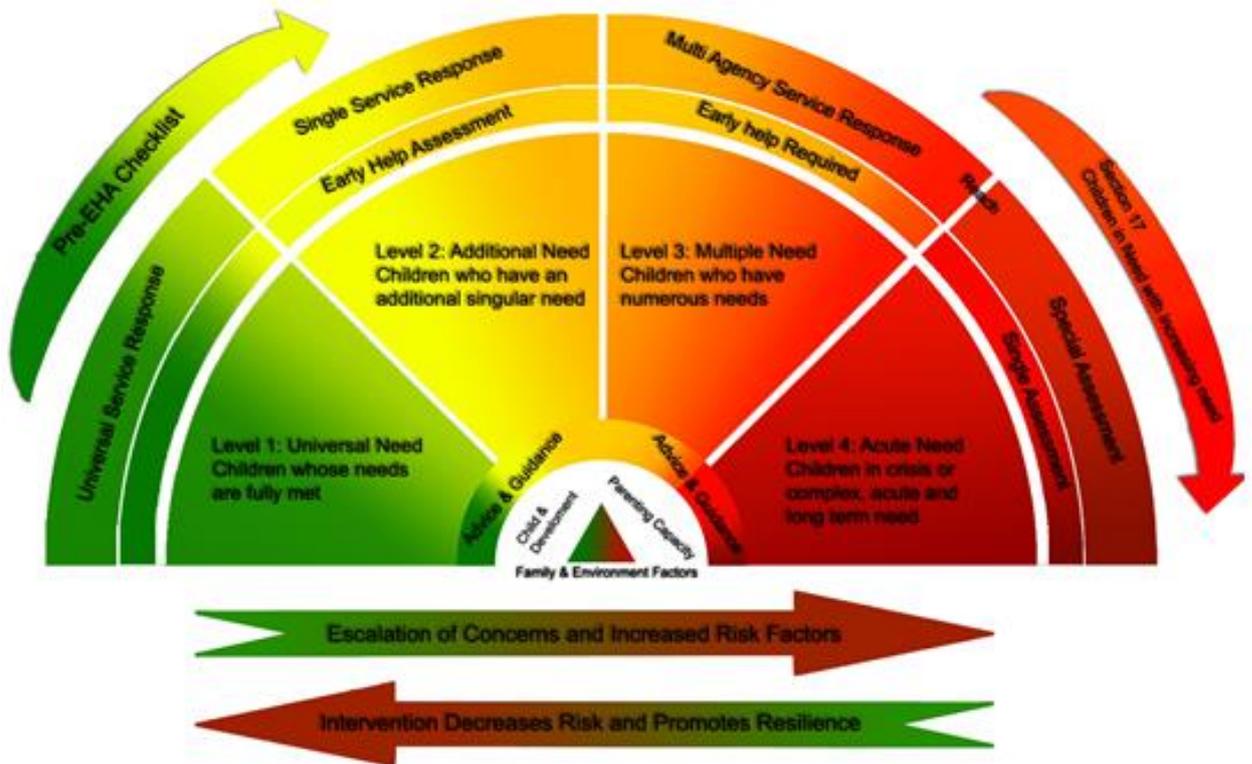
This list is not exhaustive.

Staff and foster carers should be aware that many children and young people who are sexually exploited do not see themselves as victims. In such situations,

RECORDING PROCEDURE

	Who	Action	Detail
1.	Person with concern	Complete a recording form	Any member of staff, volunteer or visitor who identifies or receives a concern about the safety or welfare of a child should complete a Safeguarding Children Recording Form (unless the concern is of an urgent nature in which case appropriate action should be taken immediately and the form completed afterwards).
2.	Person with concern	Take the form to the Designated safeguarding Person	On completion of the form the person should take it to the setting's Designated Senior Member of Staff for Child Protection. If this person is unavailable the form should be taken to whoever acts in his or her absence. <b>Important: The form is designed to facilitate a discussion about the concern or incident. The form <u>must not</u> be left for the Designated Person to access at a later date, for example in their pigeonhole or post tray. This may cause a critical delay in dealing with the concern and impact on confidentiality</b>
3.	Person with concern <u>and</u> Designated CP Person	Discuss concern with the Designated Person and agree actions	The person who has made the recording should discuss the concern with the Designated Person. They should agree together, in conjunction with the LSCB Inter-Agency Safeguarding Procedures and Thresholds Framework what action should be taken and by whom (see Suggested Actions). These actions should be recorded on the Concerns Chronology Form, and all parties should agree how and when the actions will be reviewed.
4.	Designated CP Person	Add a summary to the Child Concerns Chronology	A summary of the concern and the actions agreed should be added to the chronology of concerns sheet and the recording form placed behind this chronology
5.	Person with concern and Designated CP Person	Review the actions	The review discussion should consider if the previously agreed actions have been completed and if further action or review is required. The key points of this discussion should be recorded on the back of the original Safeguarding Recording Form.

Multi Agency guidance: Working in partnership to help children and families improve their lives



## APPENDIX 12

MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	01582 547653
MASH	Emergency duty	0300 300 8123
EHA	Early Help Assessment	01582 548231
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer	01582 548069
LSCB	Luton Safeguarding Children's Board	01582 547590
	Safeguarding Children in Education Manager	01582 548984
	Police Child Abuse Investigation Team	01234 846960
	Channel Co-ordinator	07718 695640
MAAGS	Multi Agency Allocation Groups (LSCB)	01582 547590