



Safeguarding and
Child Protection Policy
2017

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Marden Bridge Middle School fully recognises the responsibility we have regarding arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Those statutory responsibilities are noted within the following legislation:

Section 175 of the **Education Act 2002** states;

- a local education authority shall make arrangements for ensuring that the functions conferred on them in their capacity as a local education authority are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- schools and Further Education (FE) institutions should give effect to their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils.
- the governing body of a maintained school¹ shall make arrangements for ensuring that functions relating to the conduct of the school are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at the school
- an authority or body... shall have regard to any guidance given from time to time by the Secretary of State

This legislation makes child² protection responsibilities clear and places an obligation on schools to ensure that these responsibilities are met in full.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in **Working Together (2015)** 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 outcomes.

In addition, school and college staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for children, and prevent concerns from escalating.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 (KCSE 2016) outlines:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role, to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively all professionals 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.

*School and college staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for children, and prevent concerns from escalating. **All** school staff should be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.*

¹ Maintained school means a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community or foundation special school or a maintained nursery school. The Education Act 2002 does not specifically refer to Academies; however this duty is equally placed onto Academies by subsequent updated legislation.

² Child means a person under the age of eighteen.

At Marden Bridge we have in place both a Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection policies.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

We define safeguarding as being broader than 'child protection'. Safeguarding in our school confirms what we do for all children, applies across the whole school and is linked to our overall culture, ethos and the principles we follow in school. Safeguarding in our school is child centred and ensures that at all times we work in the best interests of the child to ensure that school is a safe place for all of our children and young people to be.

We define Child Protection as what we do for children at risk of significant harm, or who have been significantly harmed and we have separate clear procedures which are understood by ALL in place for this.

We define children and young people in our school as being children within the age ranges of 9 to 13 years, however we are aware that children includes everyone under the age of 18. However, as appropriate we operate in accordance with 'No Secrets' and the previous Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) guidance (now Adult's guidance)³⁴ to ensure that any young person who is over the age of 18 who continues to receive education in our school is provided for within our safeguarding arrangements.

We accept and expect ALL in school to understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 as:

1. protecting children from maltreatment
2. preventing impairment of children's health and development
3. ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and
4. taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

In school we act in the best interest of all children and ensure we take all reasonable steps to prevent them from harm. Having appropriate safeguards in place not only protects and promotes the welfare of children/young people, but also enhances the confidence of pupils, staff, volunteers and parents/carers.

³ No Secrets: guidance on protecting vulnerable adults in care, Department of Health 2010;
www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-secrets-guidance-on-protecting-vulnerable-adults-in-care

⁴ Safeguarding adults: a national framework of standards and good practice and outcomes in adults protection work, Association of Directors of Social Services 2005:
<http://x.iriss.org.uk/content/safeguarding-adults-national-framework-standards-good-practice-and-outcomes-adult-protection>

The Child Protection Policy

Our child protection policy demonstrates our commitment to safeguard children from harm. The essential inclusions within our child protection policy are outlined below:

Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the welfare of the child is paramount ● we are clear on reference to principles, legislation and guidance that underpin the policy ● we are clear that the policy applies to ALL working with or supporting children within our school and ALL are clear on their role and responsibilities ● all concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by governors, staff and volunteers and responded to appropriately - this may require a referral to children's social care services, the Designated Officer for the Local Authority (LADO) and as appropriate the policy ● arrangements are in place for the policies and the supporting procedures and updates to be reviewed regularly to ensure that they reflect good/current practice ● reference to all associated policies and procedures which promote children's safety and welfare e.g. with regards to: health and safety, anti-bullying, protection of children online.
Equality of Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● no child or group of children must be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access education which meets their particular needs ● all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs
Up to Date	our policy is reviewed, approved and endorsed by the Governing Body annually or when legislation changes
Recruitment	we operate an effective safe recruitment, selection and vetting procedure in accordance with Part Three of KCSE2016
Communication	children and parents/carers are informed of the policy and procedures and a copy of placed on the schools website

Child Protection Procedures and Systems

These are the procedures and systems which provide clear step-by-step guidance on what to do in different circumstances and they clarify roles and responsibilities. Systems for recording information and dealing with complaints are also in place to ensure implementation and compliance.

Our child protection procedures are linked to the [North Tyneside's Safeguarding Children Board's \(NTSCB\) procedures](#). Our procedures and systems include:

Responsibility	a named senior designated safeguarding lead (and deputy/ies) with a clearly defined role and responsibilities in relation to child protection, appropriate to the level at which s/he operates
Clarity of Understanding	a description of what child abuse is, and the procedures for how to respond to it where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare including the need for early help or concerns about the actions of a governor, staff member or volunteer
Responsibilities are clearly understood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● relevant contact details for children's services, police, health, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) for eSafety concerns and NSPCC help lines are made available to ALL ● a code of behaviour for governors, staff and volunteers; the consequences of breaching the code are clear and linked to disciplinary and grievance procedures ● safe recruitment^{5[1]}, selection and vetting procedures that include checks into the eligibility and the suitability of all governors, staff and volunteers who have direct or indirect contact with children ● systems to ensure that all staff and volunteers working with children are monitored and supervised and that they have opportunities to learn about child protection in accordance with their roles and responsibilities; safeguarding induction training is now mandatory for all those who work directly with children, young people, their families and/or carers ● requirements for governors, staff and volunteers to learn about child protection in accordance with and as appropriate to their roles and responsibilities, including the emerging issues of eSafety, domestic violence^{6[2]}, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, children who live away from home or go missing, child sexual exploitation, race and racism and extremism. ● School understands their responsibility in line with the Prevent Duty (2015) and are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. School also builds pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. Pupils are encouraged to debate controversial issues and provides a safe space in which pupils and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the

^{5[1]} In accordance with Part Three of KCSE2016

^{6[2]} Including engagement with the Operation Encompass scheme between police, children's social care and schools

	<p>knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● our safeguarding policy and procedures are tailored to our children and their needs and take into account any particular vulnerabilities of the children with whom we have contact, including those who are at increased risk of abuse due to either their age and/or dependence on adults including being part of the Operation Encompass scheme running in the local authority. Operation Encompass ensure that following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the police will make contact with Children’s Social Care Front Door service who will then communicate relevant and necessary information our nominated school staff the next morning. This will ensure our school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to our pupils in a way that means they feel safe and listened to.
Record Keeping/ Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a process for recording incidents, concerns and referrals and storing these securely in compliance with relevant legislation and kept for a time specified by your insurance company ● guidance on confidentiality and information sharing, legislation compliant, and which clearly states that the protection of the child is the most important consideration

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

There are four main elements to our child protection policy:

1. **PREVENTION** through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils and the creation and maintenance of a whole school protective ethos.
2. **PROCEDURES** for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of harm/abuse.
3. **SUPPORT TO PUPILS** who may have been harmed/abused.
4. **PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN** including staff, agency workers, volunteers (including Governors), community education staff, other professionals and other visitors who may be working in school or coming into contact with children/young people.

1. PREVENTION

The safety and well-being of all of pupils is our highest priority. It is our responsibility to:

- know every child and young person as an individual
- provide a secure and caring environment

so that every child and young person can:

- learn in safety
- develop his/her full potential, and
- feel positive about him/herself as an individual.

To achieve this we recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult helps prevention.

In school we will therefore:

Adults	Children/Young People
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● provide induction which includes school specific information on child protection to ensure that individuals understand and discharge their role and responsibilities. This includes, but will not be limited to, the Child Protection Policy, Code of Conduct/Behaviour Protocol, Section 1 of KCSE 2016, and identification photographs and supplementary information detailing the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and any deputies.● provide induction training that is structured	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● ensure children/young people know that there are adults in school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty● establish and maintain an ethos where children/young people feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to● encourage and reinforce essential skills for every child/young person such as self esteem, confidence building, independent thinking and making assessments of risk

<p>to ensure all new staff, agency workers and volunteers (including Governors) can attend appropriate child protection training as soon as reasonably possible after their appointment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● provide all staff with regular safeguarding and child protection updates (at least annually) which is in line with advice and changing practice – both nationally and from the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board (NTSCB) ● ensure that all staff receive training endorsed by the NTSCB on child protection at least every three (3) years ● ensure that the DSL (s) and/or deputies attend (NTSCB) Multi-Agency Training every two (2) years ● in addition to DSL formal training and any general staff updates, the DSL (and deputies) are supported to update their knowledge and skills (e.g. via e bulletins, meeting other DSL's or taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals but at least annually. 	<p>based on their own judgements and help children/young people develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● include activities and opportunities in the curriculum which equip children/young people with the skills they need to stay safe from harm/abuse and to know to whom to turn for help ● children are taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. This may include covering relevant issues through personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) including sex and relationship education (SRE) ● ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place but that “over blocking” does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.
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2. CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

In school we follow the procedures set out in interagency procedures produced by North Tyneside's Safeguarding Children Board (NTSCB). We are aware of these procedures and ensure that they are incorporated into the practice, policy and procedures that we operate in school.

We will contact the Front Door Service (0345 2000 109 (office hours), 0191 200 6800 (evenings and weekends) as the first point of contact for concerns about the safety or welfare of a child/young person in North Tyneside. We understand that the Front Door Service is the access point to the MASCT (Multi Agency Screening and Co-ordination Team) which has a duty team who offer information, support and services, including information about early help, and will respond to concerns.

In school, we ensure that all staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other professionals and agencies in order to safeguard children/young people. All staff are aware of confidentiality protocols, adhere to these and ensure that information is shared appropriately. In school we all understand the need for and respect the appropriateness of the Head Teacher or DSL (or any deputies) or Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (LAC) disclosing any information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.

In school, we ensure that all staff are aware that any information a child/young person discloses regarding harm/abuse of themselves or of another child/young person must be shared as appropriate, and cannot be kept secret. In addition to our overarching principles which operate to ensure child protection is effective we also have 5 areas of focus. We believe as a Governing Body that this ensures child protection

procedures are easier to understand for ALL and better ensures we are operating our child protection procedures effectively. Each area of focus is of equal importance:

- Training & Awareness for All
- Role & Responsibilities of the DSL & Deputy DSLs
- Safeguarding in Practice
- Working with Others
- Teaching & Learning and the Curriculum

Overarching Principles

- Jonny Instone (AHT) is our DSL for Child Protection who is part of the school's senior leadership team.
- The DSL takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection and this is explicitly noted in their job description. Whilst some of the activities of this role may be delegated to appropriately trained and experienced deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSL as this cannot be delegated.
- The DSL and their Deputies will undertake appropriate North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Boards (NTSCB) training every two (2) years
- We have 2 appropriately trained and experienced Deputy DSL's (Dp DSL's) - Helen Glendinning (HoY 5, SENDCO) and Alyson Hall (LSA). These individuals, alongside the DSL, are clearly communicated to staff, parents, supply teachers, agency workers, volunteers and governors through induction materials provided on entrance to the site.
- All staff, agency workers, volunteers and governors are clear where they have a concern or a query relating to a child/young person that they need to contact the DSL/Dp DSL in school.
- All staff, agency workers, volunteers, governors and other adults supporting/working in school knows what to do if they have any concerns about a child, including referring the matter to the DSL/Dp DSL's. They are also aware that irrespective of the arrangements in school, any staff member can make a referral to Children's Social Care.
- All staff, agency workers, volunteers, governors and other adults supporting/working in school are provided with an immediate induction relevant to their role in school. This induction will then increase as appropriate linked to their role in school and the expected duration of that role.
- All staff, agency workers, volunteers and governors will be provided with a copy of our child protection policy, Section 1 of KCSE 2016, safeguarding arrangements, code of conduct/behaviour protocols for staff and the whistle blowing policy and will be supported and then expected to understand how these policies and guidance documents apply to their role in school.
- All staff, agency workers, volunteers and governors will be provided the names and contact arrangements of the DSL/Dp DSL, Children's Social Care and the NSPCC Whistle blowing Help line. This list will be reviewed termly by the DSL to ensure that it remains up to date and any necessary updates notified to ALL immediately (attached as Reference Document A).
- All staff, agency workers, volunteers and governors are aware of the need to maintain appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with pupils and parents. We will support this practice via induction and periodic training/updates to support a practical understanding of the guidance that school provides on safe working practices.
- All staff, agency workers, volunteers and governors will be assigned an 'induction' mentor for a set period of time following their appointment within school. The duration of the 'induction period' set will be tailored to suit the role and the time duration of the role that each individual will be undertaking in school.
- All visitors will be required to sign in at reception in accordance with our visitor's protocol and will

be required to operate within the conditions contained in this document. Part of our 'induction' for visitors includes being provided with clear identification of the DSL/Dp DSL.

- The DSL and Dp DSL's are issued with an appropriate job description/role clarity for this role which incorporates Annex B of Keeping Children safe in Education (KCSE 2016).
- Staff understand and recognise the importance of the role of the DSL/Dp DSL. In addition to this all staff understand their own professional and personal duties and responsibilities in relation to this role.
- The DSL/Dp DSL takes advice from the North Tyneside Front Door service when managing cases where there is or may be a concern that warrants further support or intervention in line with the [North Tyneside Threshold Guidelines](#).
- This policy is accessible to all, is placed on both the schools internet and paper copies will also be available in the staff room for colleagues to access who do not have day-to-day access to a school network/PC.
- This policy and its associated guidance is reviewed by the governing body annually and/or following a required review and the lead responsibility for ensuring that this happens is assigned to the DSL.
- As a Governing Body, we receive a confidential annual report from the DSL and the Safeguarding Governor to provide updates of the practice that operates in school. This includes any changes linked to legislation/good practice, and our school's own developments/feedback from staff and to provide assurance to the Governing Body that both safeguarding and child protection is operating effectively at all levels in school. The school will also complete the NTSCB Section 11 audit to further evidence that safeguarding arrangements are effective.
- Parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on school and staff for child protection, this is achieved in school as we clearly communicate our policy information provided to parents and ensure our Child Protection Policy is published on the website.

Training & Awareness for ALL

The DSL for child protection in school will ensure all **relevant** persons (who we define to include all staff, agency workers and volunteers, including Governors) who have contact with children/young people:

- will know the name of the DSL/DP DSL's, their roles, contact details and who they are – to achieve this the DSL will as a minimum issue contact details outlined at the end of this policy to ALL and will ensure that this information is reviewed/updated and re-issued termly as appropriate.
- will be provided with child protection training, immediately following their appointment/placement in school. This will be arranged by the induction coordinator at the induction meeting.
- All staff will receive training endorsed by the NTSCB on child protection at least every three (3) years.
- The 3 yearly training offered to all staff will also be made available to volunteers and governors who have direct contact with children/young people. This will also include any agency workers (including kitchen staff) who are on placement with school at the point of time the training is delivered. Their names will be included in the attendance register.
- All staff will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates (at least annually) from the DSL and the Dp DSL's which is in line with advice and changing practice – both nationally and from NTSCB.

- The DSL and the Dp DSL's will attend NTSCB Multi Agency Training every two (2) years for the child protection.
- The DSL/Dp DSL are supported to update their knowledge and skills on a periodic basis. This will be achieved by them accessing e-bulletins, network meetings, and in taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments.
- Opportunities are provided for staff to contribute to and shape safeguarding arrangements and child protection policy and protocols.
- All staff are provided with additional reference documents – included within our policy to ensure that they understand:
 - Key concepts and definitions relating to significant harm, the categories of harm and abuse, Early help and signposts to further reading on specific safeguarding issues (attached as [reference document B](#)).
 - guidance for staff on receiving a disclosure (attached as [reference document C](#)).
 - information relating to the other policies that operate in school which support safeguarding and child protection (attached as [reference document D](#)).
 - actions to take when there are concerns about a child (attached as [reference document E](#)).
- in accordance with KCSE 2016 ⁷ (linked to research from Serious Case Reviews where it has been shown the dangers of failing to take corrective action) poor practice has included failing to act on and refer the early signs of abuse and neglect, poor record keeping, failing to listen to the views of the child, failing to re-assess concerns when situations do not improve, sharing information too slowly and a lack of challenge to those who appear to be taking action does not occur in school; We have in place practices to ensure that all concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for those decisions are recorded in writing. Where staff have doubts they are clear that they must talk to the DSL or the Dp DSL's who will ensure that information is appropriately recorded, reviewed and any necessary actions taken.

⁷ new learning from serious case reviews: a two year report for 2009-2011

Role & Responsibilities of the DSL

The DSL is clear on their role and responsibilities for safeguarding and child protection, understands that they cannot delegate this responsibility. In carrying out this role they are clear on what they are responsible for, which ensures that all **relevant** persons in school are also clear on the role of the DSL and Dp DSL's.

- The DSL/DpDSL are responsible for ensuring that all staff are issued with a copy of KCSE 2016 - Information for all school and college staff (Part One) upon their appointment/placement in school. The DSL and DpDSL will ensure that individuals have read, understood and are able to discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in this document.
- The DSL/DpDSL will issue to all staff, as part of the induction procedure, a copy of the safeguarding induction materials upon their appointment/placement in school. They will ensure that individuals have read, understood and are able to discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in this referral guide
- The DSL/DpDSL will ensure that all policies, procedures, guidance and practice are in place in school to ensure effective safeguarding and child protection and to ensure that those policies, procedures, guidance and practice are updated and implemented in a timely way.
- The DSL/DpDSL will work with the Local Authority, NTSCB and other agencies to ensure that we are able to fulfil our duties and responsibilities in relation to Safeguarding and Child Protection arrangements, which will include but not be limited to completion of an annual return e.g. including a Section 11 audit.
- The DSL/DpDSL will work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding welfare and child protection matters. This includes attendance and submission of written reports at Initial Child Protection Conferences, core groups/care team meetings, Child Protection Review Conferences and Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings which are part of the early help process.
- The DSL/DpDSL will ensure that clear detailed written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Children's Services immediately, are maintained appropriately in school.
- The DSL/DpDSL will ensure all records are kept to the required standard/guidance, are secure, have limited access and in locked locations
- The DSL/DpDSL will work closely with the Safeguarding Governor to ensure that they are clear on their role and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and to work within them throughout the year and in production of the annual report to Governors and the Section 11 audit

Safeguarding in Practice

The DSL will ensure all **relevant** persons:

- know that they have a professional responsibility for sharing concerns about a child's safety and welfare with the DSL/Dp DSL in school and understand their personal responsibility with regards to safeguarding and child protection matters in school.
- understand that school staff are in an important position to identify concerns early and provide help for children, where relevant and linked to the NTSCB thresholds document to prevent concerns escalating.
- ensure that all staff know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected and how to maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality whilst at the same time liaising with the DSL, the Dp DSL's or children's social care. Staff should be aware that they should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about an allegation – as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.
- for teaching staff - the DSL and Dp DSL's will ensure that each teacher understands their professional duties linked to Teachers Standards and what is expected of them as a teaching professional.
- know that if a child/young person's situation does not appear to be improving the adult with concerns should press for 'reconsideration' – and should clearly understand what this means and how this operates within the context of the child protection policy.
- understand the need to be vigilant in identifying cases of harm/abuse and are able to **immediately** report concerns when they arise.
- know that information a child/young person discloses regarding harm/abuse of themselves or another child/young person must be shared as appropriate, and cannot be kept secret.
- know how to support and to respond to a child/young person who tells of harm/abuse or other matters that have the potential to be a cause for concern/harm.
- ensure confidentiality protocols are adhered to and information is shared appropriately.
- understands that the Head teacher, DSL or the Dp DSL in school will disclose any information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.
- recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children/young people and know that those concerns will be:
 - addressed
 - managed sensitively and effectively
 - dealt with in a timely manner
 - dealt with in accordance with schools agreed policies/practices, including Whistle blowing Policy.
- understand that if they have a concern about another adult in school (including agency workers, volunteers, governors, other staff/adults – including but not limited to Local Authority, Health, etc) they must refer the matter to the Head Teacher. Where the concerns are about the Head Teacher, they should refer the matter to Chair of Governors - as outlined in Part 4 of KCSE 2016 and as noted to all adults in school as part of induction and training protocols.
- ensure that staff are able to recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers and ensure that the child protection arrangements in school have in place procedures to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse and how such allegations are managed. The policy in school reflects the different forms peer on peer abuse can take, is clear that this abuse is and will not be tolerated. The policy also notes how victims of peer on peer abuse will be supported in school

Working with Others

The DSL for child protection in school will co-ordinate and lead on the following:

- undertaking appropriate discussion with parents prior to involvement of another agency unless doing so would place the child/young person at risk of further significant harm.
- contacting the North Tyneside Front Door service for information, advice, guidance (including the early help pathway) or to make a referral where there are concerns about harm a child/young person.
- ensuring that all **relevant** persons who have contact with children/young people know what to do if they have any concerns about a child, including referring the matter to the DSL or the Dp DSL.
- ensuring that any staff member is aware that they can make a referral to Children's Social Care.
- reporting an unexplained school absence to the child/young person's Social Worker or Front Door where there is a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan or a Looked After Child. The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (LAC) must also be informed, and confirm that this will operate as a first day response or as agreed as part of any inter-agency plan in place.
- ensuring that the school have in place a Designated Teacher for LAC - Helen Glendinning (HoY 5, SENDCO).
- work with the Virtual School Head within the Local Authority to discuss and agree how funding can best be used to support the progress of LAC in school and meet the needs identified in the child's personal education plan.
- recognise that children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. The child protection procedures and practices which operate in school reflect the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children.
- operational policy and practice in school reflects and provides for children to have learning experiences including care and accommodation, for short periods of time, by a host family to which they are not related as set out in Annex E of KCSE 2016.

Teaching & Learning and Curriculum

The DSL will be required to ensure:

- children are taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. This may include covering relevant issues through personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) including sex and relationship education (SRE).
- that as we increasingly work on line we ensure that our children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. We have appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place.
- the appropriate filters and monitoring systems that we have in place do not “over block”, nor do they lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.
- in accordance with Annex C of KCSE 2016 we have in place a policy that recognises that technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. We have in place an effective approach to online safety which empowers school to protect and educate the whole school community in the use of technology and have established mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate any incident where appropriate.
- staff have an awareness of risk taking behaviours linked to the likes of drug taking, alcohol abuse, truanting and sexting which put children in danger.
- staff have an awareness that issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but not limited to: bullying (including cyber bullying), gender based violence/sexual assaults and sexting.
- staff are clear as to the school policy and procedures for managing allegations made against other children/young people including peer on peer abuse.

3. SUPPORTING PUPILS

In school we recognise that children/young people, who are harmed, abused or witness violence/abuse may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth, they may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of self-blame.

School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children/young person at risk. Nevertheless, when at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. We recognise that some children/young people actually adopt abusive behaviours and that these children/young people must be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.

In school we will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- the content of the curriculum to encourage self esteem and self motivation.
- the school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive, and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- the school's behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in school.
- ensuring all staff are aware of their responsibility to provide a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the offence committed by the child/young person, but does not damage the pupil's sense of self worth.
- endeavouring to ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but that s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any harm/abuse, which has occurred
- liaison with other agencies which support the pupil such as Children's Services, Integrated Locality Team within the LA, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), the Educational Psychology Service, Behaviour Support Services and the Education Welfare Service
- a commitment to develop productive and supportive relationships with parents whenever it is in a pupil's best interest to do so
- recognition that children/young people living in a home environment where there is risk, e.g. domestic abuse, drug or alcohol abuse, other health or wellbeing concerns, are vulnerable and in need of support and protection.
- Responding to Operation Encompass referrals sent to key workers by Police attending domestic incidents inside and outside school hours.
- vigilantly monitoring children's/young people's welfare, keeping records (separate to child/young person's school record and in accordance with the school's record management practices) and notifying Children's Services as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern.
- ensuring that when a pupil subject to a child protection plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new school immediately – in accordance with KCSE 2016 – this will be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt will be obtained.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability

We recognise that statistically children/young people with disabilities and/or behavioural difficulties are more vulnerable to harm/abuse. School staff who deal with children/young people with disabilities, sensory impairments and/or emotional and behaviour problems are therefore particularly sensitive to signs of harm/abuse.

To support the operation of this policy we have in place guidance which ensures:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviours, mood and injury automatically relate to a child's disability without further exploration
- recognises that children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying – without outwardly showing any signs; and
- support is provided so that communication barriers and difficulties are not a barrier to children being able to raise concerns and being supported to voice those concerns

4. PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE

In school we will:

- operate Safe Recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate Data Barring Service (DBS) and reference checks are undertaken according to KCSE 2016 for all staff, agency workers and volunteers (including Governors) before individuals are appointed or placed into school.
- ensure that at least one member of the governing body and the Head teacher is trained in Safe Recruitment Practices.
- with effect from 1st April 2016 all Governors appointed before this date have an Enhanced DBS certificate in place. All Governors appointed after the 21st April 2016 will undertake an Enhanced DBS check within 21 days of their appointment.
- ensure all other relevant NTSCB, DfE and Ofsted safeguarding requirements, advice and guidance are adhered to.
- Allegations Management:
 - implement Guidance for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse Against Staff and Safer Working Practices for Adults who work with Children and Young People and all other relevant Safeguarding and Child Protection policies.
 - in the event of an allegation against staff, school will consult with the Designated Officer in the Local Authority – see the information attached for contact details
- ensure that any proceedings against staff relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even where the member of staff is no longer employed at the school and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities, professional bodies and included in references where applicable.
- ensure that all staff, agency workers and volunteers (including Governors) are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with pupils and parents.
- ensure that staff, agency workers and volunteers (including Governors) are aware that sexual relationships between them and pupils aged under-18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of position of trust).

Reference Document A

Contact Details for Child Protection and Safeguarding as of June 2017*

(*these details will next be reviewed in July 2018 to ensure that they remain relevant)

Designation/Role	Individual(s)	Contact Details
Head Teacher	Name: Email: Telephone(s): Mobile(s):	John Newport john.newport@mbms.org.uk 0191 200 8725 (ext 204) On request
Chair of Governors	Name: Email: Telephone(s): Mobile(s):	Colin Marsh colin.marsh@mbms.org.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Name: Email: Telephone(s): Mobile(s):	Jonny Instone jonny.instone@mbms.org.uk 0191 200 8725 (ext 240) On Request
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Name: Email: Telephone(s): Mobile(s): Name: Email: Telephone(s): Mobile(s):	Helen Glendinning helen.glendinning@mbms.org.uk 0191 200 8725 (ext 228) On Request Alyson Hall alyson.hall@mbms.org.uk 0191 200 8725 (ext 227) On Request
Designated Teacher for Looked After Children	Name: Email: Telephone(s): Mobile(s):	Helen Glendinning helen.glendinning@mbms.org.uk 0191 200 8725 (ext 228) On Request
Designated Safeguarding Governor:	Name: Email: Telephone(s): Mobile(s):	Dai Bryson gov.bryson@mbms.org.uk
Designated Officer – Local Authority	Contact:	Contactable through the Front Door Service-See below
Front Door	Telephone:	0345 2000 109 Out of hours: 0191 200 6800
Integrated Locality Teams:	North West 6438966 The Coast 6438210 South West 643 6262 Central 643 8266	Locality manager: Nicky Garner Based at Shiremoor Children's Centre Locality manager: Lesley Davies Based at Whitley Bay Customer First Centre Locality manager: Julie Connolly Based at Howdon Children's Centre Locality manager: Toni Clarke-Brown/Bev Marrs Based at Riverside Children's Centre
Police	Emergency and non-emergency number	999 or 101, non-emergency number
Prevent Duty	Dedicated DFE Prevent	020 7340 7264
NSPCC National Whistleblowing Help Line		0800 028 028 5 help@nspcc.org.uk

Reference Document B

Key concepts and definitions

Child Protection – is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity, which is undertaken, to protect specific children who are suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm.

Effective child protection is essential as part of wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However all agencies and individuals should aim to proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.

Children in need – Children who are defined as being 'in need', under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, are those whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services (section 17(10) of the Children Act 1989), plus those who are disabled. The critical factors to be taken into account when deciding whether a child is in need under the Children Act 1989 are what will happen to the child's health or development without services being provided, and the likely effect the services will have on the child's standard of health and development. Local Authorities have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need.

The concept of significant harm – Some children are in need because they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. The Children Act 1989 introduced the concept of significant harm as the threshold that justifies the compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children, and gives local authorities a duty to make enquiries to decide whether they should take action to safeguard or promote the welfare of a child who is suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm.

There are no absolute criteria on which to rely when judging what constitutes significant harm. Consideration of the severity of ill-treatment may include the degree and extent of physical harm, the duration and frequency of harm/abuse and neglect, the extent of premeditation, and the presence and degree of threat, coercion, sadism, and bizarre or unusual elements. Each of these elements has been associated with more severe effects on the child, and/or relatively greater difficulty in helping the child overcome the adverse impact of the maltreatment. Sometimes, a single traumatic event may constitute significant harm, e.g. a violent assault, suffocation or poisoning. More often, significant harm is a compilation of significant events, both acute and longstanding, which interrupt, change or damage the child's physical and psychological development. Some children live in a family and in social circumstances where their health and development are neglected. For them, it is the corrosiveness of long term emotional, physical or sexual harm/abuse that causes impairment to the extent of constituting significant harm. In each case, it is necessary to consider any maltreatment alongside the family's strengths and supports.

Definitions from Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

Abuse – a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child. (KCSE 2016 Page 11, types of abuse or neglect).

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

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

Sexual Harm/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 harm/abuse (including via the internet). Sexual harm/abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual harm/abuse, as can other children.

Neglect - The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

What is the Early Help Assessment (EHA)?

An EHA provides an assessment when a child or young person and their family are identified as needing some additional help and it is thought they would benefit from coordinated support from more than one agency. An EHA provides an opportunity for the whole family to consider and prioritise their needs and build on their strengths within the context of their own family.

The approach is one where practitioners come together to;

- share information
- find out what support is required
- work as a team around the family
- create a single SMART action plan
- contribute to and the support required
- identify who else might be asked to help
- regularly review progress

It is an assessment tool and as such it is not about making referrals, requests for additional services or used to pass families to another practitioner or team. It is not about form filling; it is about having a meaningful conversation with a family about their strengths and challenges, working out what they need and identifying the right people to provide the right support at the right time.

When concerns arise, school should consider the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Threshold document, and where a child's needs are thought to be at an appropriate level for early help, the school should undertake an EHA to identify what help the child and family require and prevent the needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed via a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989.

If at any stage during the EHA process, there are worries that a child or young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm, normal safeguarding procedures must be followed and school must contact the Front Door

The lead person for engaging in the process of EHA will be determined in each school with a named staff member being identified, however this does not exclude other members of school staff being asked to contribute to the assessment or becoming the lead worker in the early help process.

Professionals can ring the Early Help and Co-ordination Team or the Front Door to find out if an EHA already exists for a child/family and for further information on the early help process. Each school is also linked to an Integrated Locality team. Contacts can be found in the school's full child protection policy.

Further reading

To ensure understanding of key concepts and definitions and specific safeguarding issues,

- all staff ***must*** read **Part One of Keeping Children safe in Education (KCSE) 2016**

and,

- all staff working directly with children, must also read **Annex A of Keeping Children safe in Education (KCSE) 2016**

Annex A of KCSE 2016 outlines further information on specific safeguarding issues including;

- a child missing from education
- child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- so called 'honour based' violence (HBV) which includes but is not limited to,
 - Female genital mutilation (FGM) which now has a mandatory reporting duty placed on teachers
 - Forced marriage
 - Breast ironing
- Preventing radicalisation including
 - The Prevent Duty
 - Channel guidance

Reference Document C

Guidance for staff on receiving a disclosure/allegation

RECEIVE

- React calmly; be aware of your non verbal messages.
- If you don't understand the child's communication method, reassure the child, and find someone who can.
- Don't interrogate the child, observe and listen, use active listening techniques.
- Don't stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- Keep responses short, simple, slow, quiet and gentle.
- Don't end the conversation abruptly.

REASSURE

- Tell the child they are not to blame; and have done the right thing by telling you.
- Tell the child what will happen next; be honest about what you can and can't do.
- Don't promise confidentiality; say to the child, 'Some things are so important I might have to tell them to somebody else'.

REACT

- Explain what you have to do next and whom you have to tell.
- Inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy DSL immediately.

Reference Document D

Links to other procedures in School

This policy does link to other school procedures and therefore must be read in conjunction with other related policies in school. This includes, but is not limited to the following, all of which can be found on the Marden Bridge Middle School website www.mbms.org.uk/information/policies.html

- Anti-bullying (including racist, disability, and homophobic or transphobic abuse)
- Attendance management
- Allegation management - adults
- Allegation management – made against other children/young people including peer to peer abuse
- Arrangements for those educated in alternative provisions
- Behaviour policy
- Complaints
- Confidentiality, data protection and information sharing
- E-safety, use of the internet, photography and mobile phones
- Exclusions
- Early Help/Early Intervention and Prevention
- First aid
- Health & Safety
- Inclusion and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- Induction procedures
- Intimate care policy
- Lettings & school security
- Looked after children policy
- Medication policy
- Missing children policy
- On line and e-safety
- Physical intervention & use of reasonable force
- Promoting equality & diversity
- PSHE policy, including SRE policy (Sex and Relationship Education)
- Recruitment and Selection
- School trips and visits
- Staff behaviour policy (code of conduct)
- Visitors, agency workers and volunteers (including Governors)
- Whistle blowing

Reference Document E

Actions where there are concerns about a child (from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016)

