



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

1. Policy statement

1.1 Bramfield House School and the NFA Group is committed to ensuring that children and young people are effectively safeguarded in all services including fostering, schools and residential homes.

1.2 All Bramfield House School and NFA Group employees **must** ensure that:

- they are familiar with and have read Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education;
- children and young people feel safe and that they are listened to;
- they create an environment in which children and young people feel valued;
- safer recruitment procedures are rigorously followed (please refer to the NFA Group Safer Recruitment Policy for further details);
- they understand their roles and responsibilities in keeping children and young people safe through ongoing learning, development and supervision;
- they are vigilant in monitoring possible signs of abuse including for those children and young people who have complex learning difficulties or specific communication needs;
- they follow the appropriate procedures in place for sharing safeguarding concerns and that these are shared with relevant professionals in a timely manner;
- they understand and implement local safeguarding procedures as set out in local authority arrangements;
- children and young people have opportunity to learn about appropriate relationships with adults and recognise unacceptable behaviour by adults.

2. What is safeguarding and child protection?

2.1 Safeguarding

Safeguarding relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and young people to protect them from harm. This policy includes the safeguarding of young adult learners within NFA Group schools and other settings.

2.2 Safeguarding is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, July 2018) as:

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



2.3 Bramfield House School and the NFA Group adopts a contextual safeguarding approach to safeguarding and child protection. Contextual safeguarding is: *'...an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.'* (Dr Carlene Firmin)

2.4 Child Protection

Child protection is an important aspect of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, 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.

2.5 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

While local authorities and placing authorities have statutory responsibilities regarding safeguarding, Bramfield House School and the NFA Group believes that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Bramfield House School and the NFA Group expects that staff keep the child or young person at the centre of all that they do and that any actions taken are in the best interests of the child. We also expect that children and young people are listened to and their voices are always heard. This is without exception and regardless of whether the child or young person is being cared for in a residential setting, foster home or being educated within school.

2.6 Defining Significant Harm/Child Abuse

'Children may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their day-to-day lives. These threats can take a variety of different forms, including: sexual, physical and emotional abuse; neglect; exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups; trafficking; online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Whatever the form of abuse or neglect, practitioners should put the needs of children first when determining what action to take' (Working Together to Safeguard Children July 2018)

2.7 The Children Act 1989 introduced the concept of 'Significant Harm' as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. Under Section



47 of the Act, local authorities have 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 is likely to suffer Significant Harm.

2.8 Under s31(9) of the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Adoption and Children Act 2002:

'**harm**' means ill-treatment or the impairment of health or development, including for example, impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another;

'**health**' means physical or mental health; and

'**ill-treatment**' includes Sexual Abuse and forms of ill-treatment which are not physical.

Abuse or neglect is not always easy to identify, staff are more than likely to have some information but not the whole picture.

2.9 There are four defined categories of child abuse, which are assumed to be forms of 'Significant Harm':

- Neglect;
- Physical Abuse;
- Emotional Abuse;
- Sexual Abuse.

2.10 All staff must be aware of the signs and indicators of child abuse.

3. Local Arrangements for the school

3.1 All staff must be aware of the local arrangements for safeguarding relevant to the school in which they work;

3.2 The local arrangements for Bramfield House School are:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Brian Ridley, Deputy Headteacher
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Catherine Fox, Head of Education and Ross Sindell, Team Leader – Pupil Support

If there is a concern or allegation against the Headteacher the staff should inform the Assistant Director for Education – Craig Ribbons on 07912 310052

3.3 Bramfield House School safeguarding arrangements are in line with Suffolk LSCB details. Website: www.suffolkscb.org.uk

3.4 The Local Authority Designated Officers for Suffolk are: Rennie Everett and Dian Campbell. Contact Number: 0300 123 2044; E-mail: LADOCentral@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk



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3.5 All safeguarding referrals must be reported to the local authority, initially by telephone:

- Suffolk – Customer First 0808 800 4005
- Norfolk Mash Team 0344 800 8020
- Essex Safeguarding Children’s Board 01245 435 167
- Cambridge Children’s Services 0345 045 5203
- Camden Children’s Services 020 7974 4444

3.6 The local authority safeguarding referral procedure is as per Suffolk LSCB guidance. Website: www.suffolkscb.org.uk

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility

If you are worried about a child, talk to your Safeguarding Lead within your own organisation to discuss your concerns at the earliest opportunity.

You can also seek advice from the MASH Professional Consultation Line: 0345 606 1499

The MASH consultation line is for you to discuss the most appropriate and effective way of providing or obtaining help and support for a child (or adult) you feel is at risk of abuse. This will include advice and guidance about making a referral where necessary, including how to involve parents.

You may become aware of a concern by:

- Your own observations
- Being told by the child or young person
- Being told by another person
- Being told by the abuser

In Early Help cases no Multi-Agency Referral Form should be sent to the MASH without prior discussion with the Practice Lead or Team manager of the relevant Early Help team. Where a child and family have an allocated Social Worker you will need to contact the named Social Worker directly to discuss any concerns.

Working in partnership across Suffolk to safeguard children

If you have an immediate safeguarding concern you should contact ‘Customer First’ on: 0808 800 4005 24 hours

In an emergency, you can telephone 999 and contact the Police

All referrals should be followed up by completion of a Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) within 24 hours.

The MARF is available on the LSCB website.



Suffolk LSCB has a range of leaflets, guidance, policies and procedures, including the LSCB Thresholds for Intervention document, on their website: www.suffolkscb.org.uk

- 3.7** For all referrals regarding radicalisation Suffolk LSCB offer the following guidance:
<http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/parents-and-carers/radicalisation/>

Radicalisation

Radicalisation is when someone starts to believe or support extreme views. They could be pressured to do things illegal by someone else or they might change their behaviour and beliefs and believe that sexual, religious or racial violence is OK.

Radicalisation can be really difficult to spot but children who are at risk of radicalisation may:

- Have low self-esteem, feel isolated and lonely or wanting to belong.
- Be victims of bullying or discrimination.
- Be unhappy about themselves and what others might think of them.
- Be embarrassed or judged about their culture, gender, religion or race.
- Feel stressed or depressed.
- Feel angry at other people or the government.
- Feel confused about what they are doing.
- Feel pressured to stand up for other people.

If you are worried about a Young Person and feel that they are vulnerable to radicalisation please contact Customer First on 0808 800 4005 for advice

Extremists might target them and tell them they can be part of something special and brainwash them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family.

Early signs of radicalisation may include:

- Showing sympathy for extremist causes and talking positively about people who promote hate.
- Glorifying violence or spending time with people on websites that promote violence, hate, racism, homophobia or islamophobia.
- Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature.
- Unwilling to listen to other people's views.
- Isolating themselves from family and friends.
- Talking as if from a scripted speech.
- Refusal to engage with or becoming abusive to others who are different to themselves, perhaps because of their race, religion, gender or sexuality.
- Changes in appearance and dress.
- Changes in friendship groups and behaviour.
- Increased levels of anger.



- Increased secretiveness, especially about where they are spending their time or what they are doing online.

However, these signs don't necessarily mean a child is being radicalised; it may be normal teenage behaviour or a sign that something else is wrong.

If you are worried about a young person, the NSPCC Helpline offers support to adults and you can call them to discuss your worries.

Children can contact [Childline](#) if they're worried that they're being influenced by other people, or if they're worried about terrorism.

The helplines offer a safe, non-judgmental space where adults and children can talk to them confidentially. However, if a child was thought to be at significant risk of harm, they would alert the appropriate authorities, as they would in any case where a child's safety is in serious question.

- [NSPCC Helpline](#) – 0808 800 5000
- [Childline](#) – 0800 1111

Speaking to children about terrorism

Hearing about the recent terrorist attacks and bombings in London and Manchester may worry children. They might feel unsafe and worry about another attack.

Tips from the [NSPCC](#) about talking to your child about these events include:

- Listening carefully to a child's fears and worries
- Offering reassurance and comfort
- Avoiding complicated and worrying explanations that could be frightening and confusing
- Helping them to find advice and support to [understand distressing events and feelings](#)
- Remember, children can always contact [Childline](#) free and confidentially on the phone and online if they want to talk to someone.

Reporting terrorist or extremist related information

The National [Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit \(CTIRU\)](#) initiative allows anyone with any concerns, about terrorist or extremist-related material found on the internet, to report them anonymously online.

- 3.8** For all referrals regarding Child Exploitation Suffolk LSCB offer the following guidance: <http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/assets/Safeguarding-Topics/Child-Sexual-Exploitation/2016-02-09-Child-Exploitation-Recognition-Referral-Risk-Response-Guidance.pdf>



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- Any professional who is concerned that a child or young person may be at risk of, or is actually suffering, exploitation is able to make a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by completing a Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF). If the risk is imminent a referral can be made by telephone and then followed up with a completed MARF within 24 hours.
- The redesigned MARF lists Child Sexual Exploitation amongst a number of risk factors also including E-safety, Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage, Human Trafficking, Vulnerability to Radicalisation, and Gang Related activity. The Child Sexual Exploitation risk provides a hyperlink to the Child Exploitation area on the Suffolk LSCB website which enables access for professional guidance and the Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment toolkit. The LSCB website also has guidance for professionals in respect of all other forms of exploitation.
- When making a referral, in which child sexual exploitation is thought to be a risk factor, the referrer is prompted to complete the Child Exploitation Toolkit, provide any further information that may be available, and to rate the risk to the child by use of a 'drop down' box at the end of the form. Guidance as to how to proceed with other forms of exploitations is included on the LSCB website
- On review of the form the child may be considered by police colleagues as being a potential victim of a sexual or other crime which would identify them as being potentially vulnerable to exploitation. In such circumstances, the attending officer/s or member of police staff will submit a Police child referral to the MASH. Where the officer identifies indicators of potential CSE they will also flag this on the investigation record.
- Where the referral indicates a risk of CSE the Safeguarding Manager is informed and a safeguarding strategy meeting is arranged involving the "Make a Change" (MAC) Team and the Specialist Team who are allocated the Section 47/Statutory Assessment.

3.9 The local authority procedure for an early help referral is as per the Suffolk Early Help Teams Engagement Guidance: <http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/assets/Working-with-Children/Early-Help/2017-08-24-Engagement-Guidance.pdf>

Are you concerned about a child or young person?

Contact **Customer First** on **0808 800 4005**

If you're worried that a child or young person is at risk of abuse, harm or neglect, please call Customer First on the number above and explain that you have a child protection concern.

The service is staffed by a team of professional people with a legal duty to safeguard children.

They will listen to your concerns and take appropriate action.

Lines are open from 8am to 6:45pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours, calls to this number are automatically diverted to the Emergency Duty Service.



If you need to contact social services with a non-urgent enquiry, please send an email to customer.first@suffolk.gov.uk.

3.10 The Chair of Governors for Bramfield House School is: Craig Ribbons, Assistant Director - Education. Contact Number: 07912 310052. E-mail: craig.ribbons@acorncare.co.uk

3.11 The NFA Group National Quality & Audit Officer for Safeguarding is Hannah Bates:-

Address: NFA Group, 1, Merchants Place, River Street, Bolton, BL2 1BX.

Mobile: 07384 257019

Email: HBates@nfa.co.uk

4. Safeguarding Training and Updates

4.1 This policy **must** be read in conjunction with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018). **All staff are expected to follow this policy and statutory guidance including KCSIE 2018.**

4.2 This policy is written so as not to replicate information contained within KCSIE Part 1 (2018).

4.3 All staff must read the following documents:

- Part 1 of KCSIE (2018)
- The school's Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy
- The school's Anti-bullying policy
- NFA Group's Exploitation policy
- NFA Group's Protecting Children from Radicalisation policy
- NFA Group's Harmful Sexual Behaviours policy
- NFA Group's Safer Recruitment policy
- NFA Group's Data Protection policy
- NFA Group's Web Filtering policy
- The school's Whistle blowing and complaints policy
- The school's staff behaviour policy (Code of Conduct)
- The school's description and guidance of the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- The school's description and guidance of the role of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- DfE guidance on sexual violence and harassment between children in schools and colleges
- DfE guidance on children missing in education
- DfE guidance on Promoting the Education of Looked After Children

4.4 Safeguarding updates must be regularly provided to staff, either through face to face training, meetings or through regular written updates.



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- Face to face safeguarding training must be provided (and recorded) to all staff at least annually.
- Designated Safeguarding Leads must refresh their advanced training at least every two years.

4.5 All members of school leadership teams, including the Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead should also be familiar with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

5. Partnership working and sharing information

5.1 Partnership working and the sharing of information is key in keeping children safe. Everyone who has a role to play in caring for children has a duty to share good quality information with the relevant professionals in a timely manner.

5.2 **General Data Protection Regulations**

All schools must ensure that they comply with the NFA Group's Data Protection Policy which incorporates the GDPR requirements. The GDPR works around the principles of consent and assumes the automatic right of privacy to all individuals. This applies to children and young people's personal information, as well as that of staff and parents/carer's.

5.3 **All staff must complete the GDPR training. All staff have a responsibility to ensure that they comply with the GDPR requirements.**

5.4 Schools must ensure that they inform pupils, parents and carers of how their personal information will be stored and used.

5.5 **The GDPR is not a barrier to sharing safeguarding information. Safeguarding concerns must always be passed on.**

5.6 Schools must ensure that they hold emergency contact details of the parents/carers of pupils. This is to be done with the agreement of the parents/carers. In line with KCSIE (2018) schools must hold more than one set of contact details for pupils.

Data breaches must be reported immediately to the Data Protection manager as set out in the Data Protection Policy.

6. Designated Safeguarding Lead

6.1 *'Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure an appropriate senior member of staff, from the school or college leadership team, is appointed to the role of designated safeguarding lead. The designated safeguarding lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. This should be explicit in the role-holder's job description.'* (KCSIE 2018)



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- 6.2** The Headteacher must appoint one individual to be the lead Designated Safeguarding Lead, and make arrangements for there to be deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads in place who will manage any immediate safeguarding incidents in the Designated Safeguarding Lead's absence. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) will receive DSL training every two years.
- 6.3** The Headteacher must ensure that job descriptions for Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are kept on personnel files and clearly state their responsibilities.
- 6.4** The DSL (or deputy) must always be available during school hours for staff to discuss any concerns. The DSL must be an appropriate senior member of the leadership team.
- 6.5 The main responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead are to:**
- provide support to staff regarding safeguarding concerns;
 - lead on advising staff of any action to be taken due to a safeguarding concern;
 - ensure that children and young people are immediately safeguarded from harm and abuse;
 - ensure that there is appropriate cover during their absence, and that staff know who to approach if the Designated Safeguarding Lead is unavailable;
 - liaise with local authorities and other professionals, sharing information and fully assisting with any enquiries;
 - adopt a child focused and holistic approach to deciding on further action;
 - refer allegations to the Local Authority Designated Officer;
 - refer safeguarding concerns to placing and host local authorities;
 - refer suspected cases of radicalisation to Channel;
 - refer suspected case of Female Genital Mutilation to the police;
 - refer suspected cases of Child Sexual Exploitation and trafficking to the police;
 - refer cases to the Disclosure and Barring Service after staff have been dismissed or there is suspected harm having been caused to children and young people;
 - liaise with NFA Group Quality Assurance Team and HR Team of any allegations or suspected harm having been caused to a child by a member of staff or employee of NFA group;
 - ensure that the school complies with LSCB procedures;
 - ensure that all staff receive regular update training in relation to safeguarding;
 - provide safeguarding updates to senior managers and school governors;
 - ensure that there is effective monitoring and oversight of all safeguarding concerns;
 - promoting the educational achievements of Looked After Children in line with the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

It is important that all staff understand the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead on their appointment within the school and as part of their induction. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring that all staff understand their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding children and that a child focused approach is taken. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess safeguarding concerns within the context of young people's



environments. This is known as contextual safeguarding. The Designated Safeguarding Lead must ensure that clear, concise and good quality documents are kept of all allegations or safeguarding concerns. Data protection is not a barrier to record keeping or information sharing.

6.6 When young people move schools or move into further or higher education, the Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring that the necessary information is shared with the new school or college. It is the Designated Safeguarding Lead's responsibility to ensure that a pupil's child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as quickly as possible and as securely as possible. Confirmation of receipt must be obtained. **Files must be transferred securely.**

6.7 Consideration must be given to sharing information verbally with the new school or college prior to the child or young person leaving. The Designated Safeguarding Lead must ensure that confidentiality of any third parties is not breached and that they comply with GDPR. Records must contain factual information and must not be speculative. These documents must be kept confidential with the exception of sharing them with relevant professionals as part of safeguarding and protecting the child or young person. Records must be updated and any actions must be followed up and completed. It is the responsibility of the Designated safeguarding Lead to ensure that a safe and satisfactory outcome has been reached and that all actions have been completed.

7. Roles and Responsibilities of Staff

7.1 NFA Group recognises that it is not just one person's role to safeguard children but that it requires a collective response to safeguarding. All NFA group employees must understand their roles and responsibilities regarding keeping children safe and reporting concerns.

7.2 During staff induction, staff will receive safeguarding training. Staff must be familiar and understand the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead, the LSCB and the individual systems relating to safeguarding within the school. Staff must also know, understand and implement the school's behaviour management policy, the child protection policy, the school's code of conduct, the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018, Part 1.

7.3 Staff are responsible for:

- compliance with NFA Group policies, statutory guidance and legislation including Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018);
- understanding the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- helping to develop and deliver a curriculum which helps children and young people to understand about abuse, appropriate and safe relationships with adults and peers, and keeping safe both online and off line;
- helping to provide an environment where children and young people feel safe and valued;
- attending training and meetings;



- ensuring that they fully understand how to report concerns and if not, asking for further training and support;
- understand the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education;
- listening to children and young people;
- supporting children and young people if they disclose safeguarding information;
- ensuring that they are alert to signs of abuse by peers or adults;
- ensuring that they are aware of indicators or possible signs of neglect;
- ensuring that they closely monitor any possible signs of abuse or harm for those children who are unable to communicate verbally or who have complex health and care needs;
- keeping sensitive information confidential and sharing it only with those professionals for whom it is relevant;
- helping to identify those children or young people who may benefit from Early Help;
- helping to implement Child Protection Plans.

7.4 Staff are in a close position to children and young people within schools as they know the children and young people. They have regular contact with them and so are in the best position to know if a child or young person is behaving in a way which could possibly indicate that they are being hurt or harmed. Any concerns, whether these are nagging doubts, worries, concerns or based on information told to them, must be reported **immediately** to the Designated Safeguarding Lead both verbally and in writing. **It is the staff member's responsibility to ensure that this information is acted upon. They have a duty to follow up with the Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure that action has been taken.**

7.5 Early Help

'A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled. Local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989' (KCSIE 2018)

7.6 It is important that staff take swift and effective action to safeguard children and young people and to stop concerns from escalating. It may be that some children and young people will benefit from Early Help.

7.7 Staff must be aware and alert to the possibility of Early Help being needed for those children and young people who have particular vulnerabilities, such as those who:

- are disabled or who have specific additional needs;
- have special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan);
- are young carers;



- are showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups;
- are frequently missing/going missing from care or from home;
- are misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- are at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- are in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse;
- have returned home to their family from care;
- are showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect;
- are at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- are a privately fostered child.

7.8 When a child or young person has been referred for Early Help, it is the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead to set up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead professional. Any such cases should be kept under constant review and consideration must be given to a referral to children's social care for assessment for statutory services, if the child's situation does not appear to be improving or is getting worse.

8. Reporting concerns

8.1 What to do if a child or young person discloses

If a child or young person discloses information to a member of staff, they must ensure that they:

- listen to the child or young person;
- do not dismiss what the child or young person tells them. All concerns must be acted upon rigorously;
- do not promise to keep it a secret. They must explain that they have a duty to share information to keep them safe and protect them;
- write down what the child or young person tells them. This must be accurate and in the child's words;
- immediately report the concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy. If neither is available, the member of staff must report the information to the Headteacher, Principal or Assistant Director for Education;

8.2 Staff must be alert to not just potential familial abuse, but also to children and young people making allegations against staff, volunteers or peers.

8.3 All concerns, however small or trivial they may seem, **must** be immediately reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This must be done verbally and then followed up **on the same day**. An *Initial Record of Concern Form* must also be completed and submitted to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/deputy for action. The member of staff has a responsibility to



ensure that action has been taken with regards to the concerns on the **following day** and that the concern is documented on an *Initial Record of Concern Form*. If action is not taken in a timely way as the member of staff sees fit, they have a duty to escalate their concerns to the Headteacher or the Assistant Director for Education.

- 8.4** Staff must prioritise the child or young person's immediate safety. They must remain professional and adhere to all safeguarding and confidentiality procedures. After sharing the information with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy, they must not share it with anyone else.
- 8.5** On receipt of the information, the Designated Safeguarding Lead must consider all information and then report this within **one working day** to the host authority, placing authority and where relevant the Local Authority Designated Officer.
- 9. Peer on Peer Abuse and Bullying**
- 9.1** **KCSIE (2018) states; ' ... abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as banter', "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up"'.**
- 9.2** Staff must ensure that they create a school environment where children and young people's safety is paramount and where unacceptable or unsafe behaviour will not be tolerated. Staff must be aware and alert to incidents of on line abuse, sexting, sexual violence and sexual harassment between pupils and bullying. Staff must be alert to possible signs of peer on peer abuse. Inappropriate language must be rigorously and consistently challenged.
- 9.3** A contextual safeguarding approach must be taken when considering possible peer on peer abuse. Children and young people who display harmful behaviours must be seen as potential victims themselves, and the wider environmental risks must be taken into account. Staff must challenge any gender bias or derogatory language used by staff or pupils. Staff must not dismiss any concerns brought to them by pupils. Staff can report concerns verbally but they must ensure that all concerns are recorded on an *Initial Record of Concern Form* and submitted to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/deputy by the end of the school day.
- 9.4** **Staff must act immediately and report any concerns regarding peer on peer abuse to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.**
- 9.5** When making decisions about how to deal with allegations, the age and understanding of the young person who has displayed harmful behaviour must be taken into consideration, as well as any relevant personal circumstances and how this relates to their behaviour. Schools must consider any disparity in age between the young person who has displayed harmful behaviour and the victim, the impact the behaviour has had on the victim, and any element of coercion or violence.



9.6 What to do if there are concerns

Designated Safeguarding Leads must deal with any concerns of peer on peer abuse immediately and sensitively. As much information as possible must be gathered from the victim and the young person who has allegedly displayed harmful behaviour in order to gain the facts of what has happened.

9.7 The language used must be sensitive, non-judgemental and must not blame the victim. Victims must be supported and reassured that their safety and welfare within the school is the priority. Risk assessments must be implemented where necessary.

9.8 Where the Designated Safeguarding Lead believes that there has been significant harm caused to the pupil, a referral must be made to the local authority immediately. In agreement with the local authority, parents/carers must be informed. Where possible, as best practice, parents/carers are to be informed face to face.

9.9 If the local authority do not believe it meets their threshold for further action and the Designated Safeguarding Lead is not in agreement, this must be challenged with the local authority.

9.10 After the outcome/conclusion of the incident:

- a contextual safeguarding approach must be taken;
- schools must take all necessary action to learn from the incident and prevent future incidents from occurring, such as through targeted education around specific types of peer on peer abuse;
- support for the victim must be offered and provided where possible. If necessary, appropriate risk assessments must be implemented to provide reassurance and safety for the victim;
- schools must ensure that they **do not** adopt a victim blaming approach;
- the Designated Safeguarding Lead must complete an investigation into the incident; The investigation must consider the occurrence of the incident itself as well as whether it is an isolated incident, and the personal circumstances of the young person who is alleged to have displayed harmful behaviour;
- if necessary, appropriate referrals must be made to support services for the young person who has displayed harmful behaviours;
- a risk assessment to be completed and implemented for the young person who has displayed harmful behaviours in order to safeguard them and other pupils.

9.11 Bullying

Severe or persistent forms of bullying can result in Significant Harm, which is why those providing services for children should have adequate policies, procedures and training to counter bullying. Bullying occurs when a person or group of people behave in ways which are designed to cause distress or to hurt a person or group of people. Bullying can be overt and



plain for all to see. It can be subtle and insidious. Bullying can become part of the culture, recognised or believed by all or a significant number of people as 'acceptable'; it can even be encouraged and rewarded.

- 9.12** Bramfield House School and the NFA Group has a zero tolerance approach to bullying. All staff have a responsibility to challenge bullying even at a low level. Staff must help children and young people to understand what bullying is and how to report it. Bullying must be dealt with as a safeguarding matter. Staff must report any bullying concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead **on the same day**. The concerns must be documented on Sleuth.
- 9.13** Schools have a responsibility to ensure that those children and young people who bully, are supported and helped to understand the impact of their actions.
- 9.14** For further information please refer to the school's anti-bullying policy, child protection policy, the Web Filtering policy, and the DfE guidance 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges' December 2017.
- 9.15** **All staff have a responsibility to report any suspicions or concerns that a child has or may be mistreated or harmed.**

9.16 **Preventative Strategies**

The school will take all appropriate action to ensure that children and young people learn about appropriate relationships with adults, keeping safe, online safety as well as sex and healthy relationships. PSHE lessons will focus on important age appropriate issues in line with Government guidance. Staff must ensure that children and young people have opportunity to learn about safe relationships between peers as well as who they can talk to if they have any concerns.

- 9.17** Children should be supported by staff to understand what abuse is. Children must be listened to and enabled to report any abuse or neglect at the earliest opportunity. They should be given information about how to report abuse or any concerns about possible abuse. This should include being able to access in private, relevant websites or help lines such as Childline to seek advice and help.
- 9.18** The school recognises that some children and young people are more vulnerable by virtue of their complex health or behavioural needs, or disabilities. In these instances, all staff have a responsibility to be the 'eyes and ears' and report all concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- 9.19** For further information, refer to Part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018) 'Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment'.



10. Children Missing Education

10.1 All staff must be aware of the risks associated with children who go missing from education, and particularly that very often missing incidents are a warning sign of other safeguarding concerns such as exploitation, forced marriage, FGM, substance misuse or mental health problems. The risk of exploitation and abuse increases for those children and young people who go missing from home and school.

Early identification and intervention is a priority. Schools must have appropriate procedures in place for monitoring the attendance of children and young people in school. Children and young people's attendance must be monitored through Senior Leadership Team Meetings and Governance.

10.2 The Headteacher must ensure that there are two forms of contact details on a pupil's file. The Designated Safeguarding Lead must contact the main emergency contact as detailed on the pupil's file should there be concerns regarding the pupil missing education.

Staff must report all unauthorised absences to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Designated Safeguarding Lead must make contact with the child or young person's parent/carer immediately to establish the child or young person's whereabouts. The Designated Safeguarding Lead must inform the placing authority of a pupil's poor attendance.

10.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for investigating any unexplained absences. Reasonable enquiries must be made to locate a child or young person who is missing from education. The Designated Safeguarding Lead **must** refer any safeguarding concerns regarding the absence of a pupil to the local authority. In cases where there are immediate concerns regarding forced marriage or FGM, the Designated Safeguarding Lead must refer to the police immediately. All information **must** be documented on an *Initial Record of Concern Form* and submitted to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/deputy.

10.4 Children and young people who are repeatedly missing from education are at particular risk of harm. Attempts must be made to talk to the child or young person about why they are missing from education. Records must be kept of those discussions. Any safeguarding information which the child or young person discloses must be shared **immediately** with the local authority. If the child or young person discloses immediate safeguarding concerns, the Designated Safeguarding Lead must share this information with the police.

11. Exploitation

11.1 Exploitation of children and young people is a form of child abuse and can include sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation. Schools must write and implement a local exploitation procedure which staff must be familiar with.

11.2 All staff **must** know the definitions, signs and indicators of CSE and County Lines. Designated Safeguarding Leads must provide ongoing training and learning to staff around exploitation. All staff **must** have training in exploitation.



- 11.3** All staff **must** read NFA Group's Child Exploitation policy as well as refer to Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018).
- 11.4** Staff **must** report concerns regarding exploitation **immediately** to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Staff must document their concerns on an *Initial Record of Concern Form* **on the same day**. Where there are immediate concerns relating to children and young people's safety due to exploitation, Designated Safeguarding Leads must make a same day referral to the local authority and report the concerns to the police.
- 11.5** Where there are low level concerns, Designated Safeguarding Leads must document the concerns on a chronology in order to establish a full picture of what is happening for the child or young person.
- 11.6** It is everyone's responsibility to help children and young people know about grooming and exploitation. Schools must ensure that children and young people know who to talk to if they are concerned about child exploitation.
- 11.7 Female Genital Mutilation**
- In line with KCSIE (2018), teachers have a legal duty to share concerns regarding FGM; 'If a **teacher**, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher **must** report this to the police'.
- 11.8** Staff must read and be familiar with statutory guidance regarding reporting FGM 'FGM Fact sheet' as outlined within KCSIE 2018 page 81.
- 11.9** Teaching staff have a legal duty to share concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and to report any concerns. In suspected cases of FGM, staff must refer to the local authority as well as the police. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will assist and support staff with this.
- 11.10** The Designated Safeguarding Lead must ensure that immediate concerns regarding potential abuse, harm, FGM, CSE and Trafficking or Radicalisation are shared **immediately** with the relevant Assistant Director for Education (chair of governors) and that staff have documented them onto an *Initial Record of Concern Form*.

12. Preventing Radicalisation

- 12.1** NFA Group fully recognises its responsibility to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote children from radicalisation. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory responsibility on schools to 'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This is known as the 'Prevent' duty.
- 12.2** All staff must be aware of the signs and indicators of radicalisation. Staff must be proactive in reporting any concerns, regardless of how small they may be, to the Designated Safeguarding



Lead. Designated Safeguarding Leads must assist staff to report all concerns regarding radicalisation to the Police. Staff must document their concerns onto *Initial Record of Concern Form*.

12.3 All staff must be aware of the local procedures relating to reporting radicalisation concerns.

13. Physical Interventions

13.1 While every school creates an atmosphere of nurturing, unconditional positive regard and warmth, NFA Group recognises that on occasion it may be necessary to use physical intervention to keep a child or young person safe. Physical intervention must be a last resort.

13.2 **All staff must read and know the school's individual Physical Intervention Policy.**

13.3 If a child or young person makes an allegation after a physical intervention, it is important that the member of staff writes down as much information as possible. Staff must complete body maps immediately after the event and record onto an *Initial Record of Concern Form*. Staff must also verbally inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead/deputy as well as recording it onto an *Initial Record of Concern Form*. **Medical attention must always be sought for the young person.** Staff must inform their parents or carers. Allegations of harm relating to physical interventions must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer.

14. Allegations against Staff

14.1 All allegations must be treated seriously. Staff must maintain an open mind and suspend all judgement. Allegations must never be dismissed. When managing allegations, it is important that staff maintain a level of professional curiosity. Staff have a responsibility to look after themselves and not to place themselves into situations which could present as unsafe. Staff must report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

14.2 When a child makes an allegation about a member of staff, the member of staff receiving the complaint must write everything down and document it on an *Initial Record of Concern Form*. The member of staff must immediately report the allegation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy. The Designated Safeguarding Lead has a responsibility to take all allegations seriously regardless of whether a child or young person has made previous allegations. The Designated Safeguarding Lead may wish to speak with the LADO and seek advice about next steps on the same day. Allegations must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer within one working day.

14.3 If the allegation is regarding the Headteacher/Principal then the Assistant Director for Education must be informed immediately. They will then seek advice from the LADO.

14.4 **All allegations made against staff must be reported to NFA Group's HR Team as well as the Quality Assurance Team within 24 hours. NFA Group recognises that managing allegations can be challenging and so will support with the process.**



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14.5 It is the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure that all allegations are managed in line with LSCB procedures.

15. Working with the Local Authority Designated Officer

15.1 In all referrals, the Designated Safeguarding Lead is the lead professional within the school for ensuring that a timely response is received from the local authority or LADO. If a response is received which the Designated Safeguarding Lead believes is inappropriate and does not prioritise the child or young person's safety, this must be escalated to the Headteacher or Governors of the school to agree further action.

16. Whistleblowing

16.1 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. NFA Group recognises that on occasion staff may feel that they are unable to tell someone within their immediate place of work about any safeguarding concerns that they may have. NFA group also recognises that children will be unable to voice their concerns if they are in an environment where staff also fail to voice their concerns.

16.2 All staff have a duty first and foremost to the children in their school. Any concerns, regardless of how small they may seem, must be reported. Designated Safeguarding Leads and Headteachers have a responsibility to ensure that they create an environment where staff feel safe to openly voice any concerns and that they feel listened to. It is also important that staff feel supported if concerns are raised about them. If staff see or heard about other colleagues practice which they are concerned about, which potentially may cause emotional or physical harm to a pupil, or if the standard of care being provided falls short of expectations, they must report this.

16.3 NFA group has an anonymous telephone support system (Safecall) where staff are able to share any concerns that they may have, safely and without fear of reprisal. All whistleblowing concerns will be taken seriously and treated as such.

16.4 Staff can call Safecall on **08009151571**, report online www.safecall.co.uk/reports, or email acorngroup@safecall.co.uk

17. The role of Senior Manager and Governor

17.1 Like teaching staff and volunteers, senior managers and Governors must be safely recruited and have all relevant checks on file. Please see the Safer Recruitment policy for further information.

17.2 Governors must have oversight of safeguarding policies and procedures that they are being effectively implemented within the school and that training is effective. In line with KCSIE (2018), which states that; '*Governing bodies and proprietors should have a senior board level*



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(or equivalent) lead to take **leadership** responsibility for their schools or college's safeguarding arrangements'. The named Governor for Bramfield House School is: Craig Ribbons, Assistant Director - Education.

17.3 It is the Governors' responsibility to ensure that there is a named Designated Safeguarding Lead and that the school contributes to multi-agency working in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).

18. Safer Recruitment

18.1 The NFA Group Safer Recruitment Policy sets the processes which must be followed for the recruitment of staff and volunteers.

18.2 It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that the Single Central Record is compliant with legislation and statutory guidance and kept up to date and is stored confidentially.

19.0 **Managing Referrals to Disclosure and Barring Service, Health & Care Professions Council, or other professional bodies including the Care Council for Wales (CCW), and/or the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC) or Teacher Regulation Authority.**

19.1 A Sub-Committee of the NFA Group Safeguarding & Quality Committee takes an overview of all professional conduct issues to ensure the Group is compliant and consistent with all legal duties relating to referrals to professional bodies and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

19.2 NFA Group managers must notify the Safeguarding Sub-Committee of all possible referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service or any relevant professional body in the UK.

19.3 All professional conduct issues which may require a referral to a professional body, whether they relate to safeguarding children or not, must be referred to this sub-committee. For example, a teacher may be prohibited from teaching for a wide range of reasons which do not relate to the safety of children or young people.

19.4 The Safeguarding Sub-Committee will support the decision-making process to refer an employee to a professional body / DBS and make it clear who is responsible for the submission of any relevant documentation. This will normally be delegated to a senior manager within the division.

Author	Hannah Bates
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APPENDIX A

Role of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies at Bramfield House School

The DSL should:

- work with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure safeguarding is at the heart of the school ethos and that all staff are supported in knowing how to recognise and respond to potential concerns;
- liaise with the Headteacher to keep them informed of any safeguarding of issues especially ongoing enquiries and police investigations;
- As required, liaise with the local authority case manager or the designated officer at the local authority if a concern has arisen regarding a member of staff;
- liaise with staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies;
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff.

Managing referrals: The DSL should:

- refer cases of suspected abuse to Children's Social Care, and support staff who have raised concerns about a child or have made a referral to Children's Social Care;
- where there are concerns about radicalisation, to make referrals to the Channel programme and offer support to other staff who have concerns about radicalisation;
- refer cases to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS);
- refer cases to the police where a crime has been or may have been committed.

Policies and procedures - the DSL must:

- Ensure the safeguarding / child protection policies and procedures are reviewed and up dated at least annually, and that any changes during the year are incorporated into policies, procedures and practice and staff advised;



- Make safeguarding policies and procedures available to parents/carers as a hard copy or on the settings website;
- Ensure that all staff, volunteers, students and governors have a copy of safeguarding policies and procedures and ensure these are both understood and practised by staff, volunteers, students and committee members;
- Ensure that safer recruitment practice is followed in line with current guidance.

Undertake training and develop knowledge

- In addition to formal training, the DSL (and deputies) should keep knowledge and skills up to date via online training, e-bulletins, opportunities to network with other DSLs, and attend locally arranged briefings. These opportunities should be taken up at least once a year but more regularly if possible so that the DSL:
 - understands the referral and assessment process for early help and intervention;
 - knows about child protection case conferences and reviews and can contribute to these effectively when required;
 - ensures that all staff have access to and understand the school's child protection policy;
 - is aware of the needs of any vulnerable children i.e.; those with special educational needs, young carers and those receiving support from the local authority including a child in need, a child on a child protection plan or a looked after child;
 - keeps detailed, accurate and secure records of concerns and referrals;
 - understands the role of the school in terms of the Prevent duty where required;
 - attends refresher and other relevant training;
 - encourages a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings in terms of what the school does to protect them.