



Keelman's Way School

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Designated Safeguarding lead: Head Teacher Mrs Selby
Deputy for Child Protection: Deputy Head Mrs King
Designated Teacher for Looked after Pupils: Mrs Selby
Deputy for Looked after Pupils: Mrs King
Designated Governor: Mr P Johnson

Keelman's Way School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection. Our policy applies to all pupils in school including our EYFS and post 16 students.

Everyone is responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge.

Protecting children from maltreatment at home, whether that's within or outside the home, including online.

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

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- **Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge**
- **Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online**
- **Preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development**
- **Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care**
- **Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.**

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children.

These include:

- Safeguarding information shared with all staff
- The management of safeguarding in school structure
- Safer recruitment
- Allegations of abuse made against teachers and other staff

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

Early help includes children that

- Frequently go missing from education, home or care.
- Have experienced multiple suspensions or are at risk of permanent exclusion.
- Have a parent or carer in custody or are affected by parental offending.

Additional information can be accessed through the following documents: Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2024), the school's code of conduct, the school's safeguarding training updates.

Further policies relating to specific aspects of Safeguarding can be found on the schools network.

Only those people who need to be involved should be involved when a child makes a disclosure around being abused or neglected.

When staff have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of children, they should act on them immediately and speak to staff identified above.

Parents should be aware that we will work with families to support all of our pupils but the child's interests will always take priority. We aim to share information with parents and professionals but will always report any concerns we have to the contact and referral team.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in Keelman's Way School.

Our responsibilities include:

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. Reporting children missing from education who may be vulnerable.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
- Reporting any issues or concerns directly to the safeguarding lead in verbal and written format
- All documentation can be accessed via the school website and Google drive
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.
- Up to date DBS are a requirement and is required to be updated on a 3 yearly basis

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. This is particularly important given the complex physical, educational and emotional needs of our pupils. Many of our pupils have significant medical needs that require nursing support or staff to deal with intimate care needs. The policy for dealing with intimate care should be one of those read alongside this policy.

Absence from school or a child missing from education can be a warning sign. Attendance is monitored weekly in school and staff are aware that they should raise concerns around any unusual patterns of attendance. All absence should be explained. Unexplained or persistent absence should be explained as well as those deliberately missing education.

Staff should be aware of the possibility of child on child abuse and report any concerns around pupil behaviour. DFE offer additional advice through their Sexual Violence and Harassment advice 2021.

Managers and staff work to:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in Keelman's Way School who they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the PSHE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

We will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board

- Ensure we have a designated senior person for child protection and deputy, who have received appropriate training and support for this role.
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection.
- Governors and Trustees will be involved in Safeguarding training and updates shared through termly meetings
- Ensure every member of staff, volunteer and governor knows the name of the designated senior person responsible for child protection and their role.
- Volunteers will not be asked to help with the personal care of a child. This would include help with eating and drinking, washing, bathing or dressing for reasons of age, illness or disability.
- Ensure staff training is up to date and reflects current local and national policies.
- Staff concerns are recorded on CPOM and this is monitored weekly by the CP panel. Staff with concerns around abuse are aware they must also report directly to DSL
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on Keelman's Way School and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in Keelman's Way School brochure and website.
- Notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of a pupil who is on the child protection register. Monitor closely the attendance of all children and be aware of those who may become missing from education especially LAC children.
- Develop effective working links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately. Maintain an appropriate chronology of events. Via CPOMs
- Ensure all records are kept securely; separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations. (Locked cabinet in admin room). These will not be accessed without discussion with the Head or Deputy. Records will be sent to the receiving school promptly when a child transfers.
- Follow local authority procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer. Reporting directly to LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- **Staff are aware that the school will carry out online checks during the recruitment process, inline with LA policy for Safer Recruitment**
- **Where incidents occur on site involving another agency or organization school Safeguarding Policy should also be followed and where necessary, the LADO informed.**
- Ensure cause for concern is reported via referral and assessment, 0191 4245010.
- When school staff become aware that a child younger than 16 (or 18 if disabled) is being privately fostered, the local authority will be notified to check if the arrangement is suitable and safe for the child.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. Possible indicators of concern may include:

- Continual self-deprecation
- Fear of new situations
- Inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations
- Self-harm or mutilation
- Compulsive stealing/ scrounging
- Drug/ solvent abuse
- 'Neurotic' behaviour — obsessive rocking, thumb-sucking
- Air of detachment 'don't care' attitude
- Social isolation
- Attention-seeking behaviour
- Eating problems
- Depression, withdrawal

Staff should be mindful that children that witness domestic abuse in the home may not be fully of what they witness. Pupils will be taught about healthy relationships in the RSHE curriculum and made aware that abuse can be psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. Staff should be aware that witnessing this can impact pupils' own relationships.

The complex needs of our pupils make it vitally important that change in behaviour and attitude is carefully monitored to establish or act upon concerns. Keelman's Way School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. Keelman's Way School will endeavor to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum and the Keelman's Way School ethos that promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- Keelman's Way School behaviour policy is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in Keelman's Way School. Keelman's Way School will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison and good working practices with other agencies that support the pupil such as social services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, education welfare service and educational psychology service.
- Ensuring that, when a pupil on the child protection leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed. This will ensure the risk of 'Missing Children' is minimized.
- All staff are trained to listen to pupils concerns and where necessary offer a safe space for their conversation whatever the topic

It is important to note:

- you cannot promise confidentiality
- where a child feels safe to talk, listen without making judgments or asking for additional information that could be seen as misleading the child.
- information should only be shared with those who need to know
- staff are aware that it is important to stay calm and reassuring
- the needs and safety of the child must always come first
- seek further advice from identified staff with responsibility for child protection

Information for those who are new to school is available at the school reception and attention will be drawn to this for any new staff to school.

Training and support

- Governor will update training at least annually and review school Safeguarding issues through the termly meetings and through school standards committee
- All staff will be given regular training to raise awareness of child protection responsibilities attached to their role.
- All staff will be given training on at least a three year cycle.
- Designated teacher and Deputy Designated teacher will attend training at on a two year cycle with current or additional issues being addressed as they arise

Staff are aware of the opportunity to enhance their own development through the online modules offered by LSCB.

Recent whole staff training currently being undertaken (Sept 24) in relation to

- FGM
- Child Exploitation and Gangs
- Child and adult exploitation
- Child on child abuse

School office manager has completed safer recruitment training as have the Head and Deputy Safeguarding leads.

Records are centrally held to evidence this and staff are regularly reminded of the school reporting system at staff briefings.

Staff, students and parents are now working actively within the Relationships and Sex Education policy and anti-bullying policy is in place following additional training from the Healthy Schools Advisor.

Mental health for staff and pupils is supported in school and is protecting factor for all.

Policy will be reviewed at least annually and in light of any additional information or

guidance as required.

Categories of 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 or children.

Physical abuse

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

Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and 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 cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

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

Neglect and exploitation

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.

Staff are aware that operation encompass may raise issues that require support in school around domestic abuse.

Additional definitions

Child on Child abuse

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer on peer abuse). It is important that pupils understand that staff act to ensure they are protected as are their families if necessary following any incident.

This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying);
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault;
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse; For further information about sexual violence.

(For further information about sexual harassment see Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in education)

- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. This is now illegal and must be reported.
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery);
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

Child exploitation

When someone uses a child for financial gain, sexual gratification, labour or personal advantage. Using cruel and violent treatment to force a child to take part in criminal or sexual activities often leads to physical and emotional harm to the child, to the detriment of their physical and mental health, education, and moral or social development.

“The exploitation of children can take a number of different forms and perpetrators may subject children and young people to multiple forms of abuse at the same time, such as criminal exploitation (including county lines) and sexual exploitation.”

Child criminal exploitation

Child criminal exploitation “occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in... criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence.”

“They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to.”

Child sexual exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse. In return for gifts, money, drugs, affection, and status, children and young people are coerced, manipulated and deceived into performing sexual activities. It is not just something that affects teenage girls or specific groups and can happen in and out of school. Children and young people can be tricked into believing they are part of a loving and consensual relationship that could be framed as friendship, mentoring or romantic. Children as young as 8 have been sexually exploited.

County lines

County lines are illegal drug dealing networks between large urban centres, small towns and rural locations. Children and young people are coerced, using intimidation, blackmail and violence, to transport and sell drugs, cash and weapons across the country via dedicated mobile phone lines which may be referred to as “deal lines”.

Trafficking

The movement of humans from one place to another for the purposes of forced labour, slavery or sexual exploitation is understood to be one of the fastest-growing areas of transnational criminal organisations, and has devastating effects on the victims.

Modern slavery

Modern slavery can affect anyone, regardless of age and gender. Research in March 2022 reported an increase of 27% in the number of modern slavery offences involving a child victim recorded by the police in England and Wales. Modern slavery is mostly a hidden crime, and getting a true picture of its prevalence is very challenging. Modern slavery is seen as an umbrella term.

Child financial exploitation

There is evidence to suggest that teenagers are being targeted by criminals intending to use the teenager's bank accounts to launder money, and in return, they get to keep some of the money themselves.

Recruitment is often via social media with handles such as "free" or "easy money", and offers of being able to make money "working from home". It is sold as a simple process, just putting money into their account and then transferring it to someone else, keeping a cut. Research by CIFAS (Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System) in September 2019 identified a 73 percent rise over two years of children and young people aged 14-18 being financially exploited. The research suggests that teenagers often do not realise that what they are being asked to do is illegal.

Children who are caught will face criminal investigations, lose any of the money that they kept as their "fee", have their bank accounts closed and often find it difficult to open an account anywhere else. This will then impact their chances of getting loans, lines of credit, and mobile phones, etc. in the future.

Useful link

<https://safeguarding.network/content/safeguarding-resources/child-criminal-exploitation#definition-of-child-exploitation>

Serious violence

All staff are aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

All staff are aware of the associated risks and understand the measures in place to manage these. Advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance.

The school is aware of the Operation Encompass goals and are active in promoting the understanding of safe relationships in and out of school.

Staff are aware that they need to report any concerns around FGM (Female Genital Mutilation). Staff training has been completed to ensure r1 staff are knowledgeable in this area. The policy is available for further reference.

There is a legal duty on teachers who discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl younger than 18 to report this to the police.

The Governing body ensures that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety. As part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. This includes covering issues relevant to the age and stage of pupils through Relationships and Sex Education , through Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education.

School ensures appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place for staff and pupils working online. Smoothwall software ensures up to date information is available to managers and any concerns are promptly addressed. Staff are aware of how the system works and that managers monitor. They know they can report any concerns they have to DSL.

Staff have full regard to their duty around PREVENT and report accordingly.

The Governor for Child protection will be updated as and when necessary, full Governing Body on termly basis

This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies relating to pupils' well being. All are to be found in Keelman's Way School resources area in our network and the school website.

Date.....Head Teacher

Date.....Chair of Governors

To be reviewed: September 2025